In February 2018, Usman Sheikh of Gowling WLG and John Lee of TMX Group spoke at Ryerson University on the subject of blockchain and cryptocurrency. Topics covered in their engaging discussion include:

- Blockchain regulation
- Impacts of blockchain on business and government
- How individuals and companies can protect themselves in cryptocurrency transactions

To hear their insights on these issues and more, watch the video below.
Ralph: Welcome everybody. Today we're going to talk about blockchain. We have got more files in blockchain in the last six months. It's unbelievable.

John: I always get asked this question about the adoption of blockchain and how long that's going to take, and it's funny you picked five years because I actually think five years is the right timeline. There's a tremendous amount of inertia right now in trying to understand just the sheer implications of what blockchain can do. One of the challenges that the TMX had was, really, to: (a) understand the technology. You really need to understand the merits of what the technology can do and the benefits of what it can yield. Then you need to go and actually look at specific use cases around what that blockchain can actually solve. A lot of times over the last, I'll call it two maybe three years, where there's been a tremendous amount of proliferation to try and understand how this could be applied - one of the things that was very clear was it doesn't solve absolutely everything. Is blockchain going to completely change the world completely in five years? Probably not. But will it change the world? Absolutely, yes. What I mean by that is in the world of finance, when you go and pay for something - if you go downstairs and you go to Starbucks and you order your coffee, and you tap with Apple Pay, or your credit card, whatever it might be - on the backend rails there's a whole slew of steps in getting the money that you just tapped, from your bank account to Starbucks. It's not a simple thing. If you think about what blockchain can do, it can streamline that. So the implications of that are quite massive and large. Meaning that a whole whack of industries going to evolve and mature, and a lot of the inefficiencies that you see today are ultimately going to be gone.

Usman: Picture yourself in the early 1990's, well maybe half of you were not even born at that time, but - trying to exercise that prophetic insight as to where the internet was going to go - and that's really the moment at which we're at with blockchain technology. We're all trying to figure out where's this all going and what's the implication of all of this. If you talk to the purists in the blockchain world, they would say that particularly with platforms like Ethereum...
Speakers

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