

Introducing DealBook Dialogue

The New York Times: DealBook

By Andrew Ross Sorkin

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Andrew Ross Sorkin and the DealBook staff invite readers to DealBook Dialogue, our first online round table. The topic is “Too Soon to Rethink? Assessing the Financial Crisis,” and the discussion will be moderated by the Deal Professor, Steven M. Davidoff.

Regulators are seeking to restructure our capital markets in a manner unprecedented since the Great Depression. This new regulation would be based on a conventional wisdom that the current financial crisis was set off by the collapse of housing, credit and commodities bubbles. It is presumed that these bubbles themselves were caused by, among other things, deregulation, excessive risk-taking, trade and savings imbalances, inordinate compensation incentives, social decay and the use of derivatives. But is it all, or even any part of it, true?

We at DealBook want to challenge or confirm the emerging consensus about the financial crisis. To bring together 12 top academics, market participants and regulators with Professor Davidoff to write something original that really makes us think. To inform the public at this critical time in our history about where things are, how they got this way and where we, as a country, should go.

Beginning Monday, we will have a weeklong round table discussing this topic. The participants will post articles to DealBook throughout the week. They will also be posting responses to the articles of other participants and to commentators. We invite you to join with your own comments.

The round table will conclude on Oct. 12 or 13 with any remaining responses and a round-table wrap-up by Professor Davidoff.

The participants include:

Lucian A. Bebchuk, the William J. Friedman and Alicia Townsend Friedman professor of law, economics and finance, and director of the program on corporate governance, at Harvard Law School.

Isaac D. Corre, managing director at Eton Park Capital Management.

Steven M. Davidoff, associate professor of law at the University of Connecticut School of Law and author of “Gods at War: Shotgun Takeovers, Government by Deal and the Private Equity Implosion.”

Gary Gorton, the Frederick Frank Class of 1954 professor of management and finance at the Yale School of Management.

Joseph A. Grundfest, the W. A. Franke professor of law and business, and co-director of the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Center for Corporate Governance, at Stanford Law School.

Jonathan A. Knee, senior managing director at Evercore Partners and an author of “The Curse of the Mogul: What’s Wrong With the World’s Leading Media Companies,” coming from Portfolio later this month.

Howard Marks, chairman of Oaktree Capital Management.

Lee A. Meyerson, senior corporate partner specializing in mergers and acquisitions and in capital markets transactions for financial institutions at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett.

David A. Skeel, S. Samuel Arsht Professor of Corporate Law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law

David J. Sorkin, general counsel and a member of the management committee at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company.

Lynn A. Stout, the Paul Hastings professor of corporate and securities law at the University of California, Los Angeles, Law School.

Leo E. Strine Jr., vice chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery; the Austin Wakeman Scott lecturer in law, Harvard Law School; adjunct professor of law, University of Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt law schools, and a Crown fellow with the Aspen Institute.

David Zaring, assistant professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.