

FUND FINANCE FRIDAY

FFA Next Generation – Inaugural Event

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By Nathan Parker
Special Counsel | Fund Finance

The Next Generation in Fund Finance sub-group of the FFA formally launched in Europe with a panel session at Cadwalader’s offices in London earlier this week. Following a welcome from Cadwalader partner Jeremy Cross, the breakfast panel session, titled “What can a career in fund finance look like for you?,” was introduced by Jeff Johnston as Chairman of the FFA Board and attended by nearly 100 participants from the fund financing sector. The program marked an impressive start for the Next Generation initiative in Europe.

The panellists (moderated by Billal Malik of Citi) had experience from across the industry and comprised George Cherry (Citi), Thomas Rapp (Wells Fargo), Bethany Walker (Pemberton Capital Advisers) and Samantha Hutchinson (Cadwalader).

The panel provided an informative and enjoyable session, with discussions ranging from their personal career history and development to views on the market and industry trends. Panelists agreed that one of the key points of distinction for the fund finance market is the fact that it requires a diverse skill base with professionals needing to maintain and develop client relationships and to look for and create business opportunities and products while at the same time understanding the technical detail of the fund and lending documents and the industries in which fund clients operate.

There were also extensive discussions regarding: general advice for junior members of the industry; where the next generation should be focusing given market movements; what industry employers look for in candidates; and how the industry is working to bridge perceived and actual generation gaps.

Billal explained that this was the first of many events to be arranged as part of the Next Generation initiative, with future events including networking and educational sessions.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Next Generation in Funds Finance group details are available [here](#). Billal Malik and Rob McClean would be happy to hear ideas for

future events or to hear from volunteers who would like to share some of your time to assist with the initiative.