



2024 BREAKING BARRIERS: A DISCUSSION INSPIRED BY BLACK WALL STREET

Featured Panelists



Frank Holland, Host/Anchor, CNBC Worldwide Exchange

Frank Holland is anchor of CNBC's "[Worldwide Exchange](#)" (M-F, 5AM-6AM ET), which broadcasts from CNBC Global Headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. He is also a Transports & Tech Correspondent for the network. Holland focuses on reporting and executive interviews for cloud computing, enterprise software and cybersecurity companies in the technology sector as well as trucking, e-commerce and shipping companies in the supply chain sector.

During his time at the network, Holland has covered a wide range of national stories including: the first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine, the death of George Floyd, Hurricane Ida and the first Kentucky Derby after the pandemic.

Holland also covers Diversity, Equity and Inclusion under CNBC's Equity and Opportunity brand including the 100th Anniversary of

Black Wall Street, diversity in tech and various network specials.

Before joining CNBC, Holland was an anchor and reporter at NBC Boston and WCVB in Boston covering national stories and major local news including the famous "28-3" Patriots Super Bowl victory, The "Texting-Suicide" trial and the Boston Marathon. Holland also enterprise original series and hosted live events, including "Black in Boston", a weekly business segment and the NBC Education Town Hall in Boston.

Prior to Boston, Holland spent three years as an anchor/reporter at WGN-TV in Chicago, where he covered the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama, the Republican and Democratic national conventions, as well as the National College Football Championship. He also held positions at NBC Affiliate WDIV in Detroit, News 12 in New York, and spent several years in television news in both the Virgin Islands and Alaska.

Holland holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Bentley University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Urban League and the National Association of Black Journalists.

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Adeola Adejobi, Founder & CEO, Avant-Grade Network

Adeola Adejobi is the Founder and CEO of the Avant-Garde Network (AGN) and is a nationally recognized speaker and leader in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in business, entrepreneurship, and real estate.

Through AGN she created, the Women of Color and Capital Conference, the only conference of its kind where diverse women entrepreneurs & professionals come together to learn about money, finance, capital and investing from a 360-degree lens and the Diversity in Commercial Real Estate Conference, the largest conference in the nation that specifically focuses on diversity in the commercial real estate industry.

Since 2011, Adeola's work has created a long-standing impact over several multiple sectors. Over the course of twelve years, Adeola organically grew the company to engage thousands of professionals hosting events, conferences, and forums in the U.S. and internationally, including New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Georgia, Austin Texas, Lagos, Nigeria, Johannesburg, South Africa and more.

AGN also advocates for professionals of color and diversity and inclusion through business education, recruiting, career development, consulting thought leadership and partnerships.

Adeola was a co-host of Raising the Bar with the MBBA, a TV show where legal experts discuss issues such as criminal justice, immigration, and affordable housing and provide legal commentary, and offer solutions on issues affecting everyday citizens. She is the recipient of several awards, including the GlobeSt. Real Estate Forum - Women of Influence, Crain's New York Notable Black Leaders Award, the New York Women's Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence Award, National Bar Association's 40 under 40 Nation's Best Advocates Award, TOP 35 Millennial Influencers Award, Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke's Shining Star Award, and the New York State Bar Association's Empire State Counsel Award.

She is a Council of Urban Professionals Fellow, a member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Council of Urban Real Estate, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She received her B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Comparative Women's Studies from Spelman College. She obtained her law degree from Cornell Law School with a specialization in International Legal Affairs.

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Michael Green, Founder & CEO, Sophy Companies

Michael L. Green is an accomplished real estate and community development entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist. Specializing in developing mixed-use, mixed-income communities, Michael is the founder and CEO of Atlanta-based Sophy Companies, where he leads the acquisition and development of public and private real estate, commercial retail properties, and real estate technologies.

Michael serves as vice chairman and formerly treasurer of the Atlanta Fulton County Recreation Authority (AFCRA). During his tenure with the Authority, Michael worked on the financing and redevelopment plan for the \$200M renovation of Atlanta's State Farm Arena (formerly Phillips Arena), the \$50M Zoo Atlanta facility expansion, and the \$30M sale of Turner Field to Georgia State University.

Michael received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College and two graduate degrees from The Georgia Institute of Technology: a master's in business administration focused on the Management of Technology and a Master's in Real Estate Development, and he studied Real Estate Law at Emory Law School.

Michael Green holds certificates from Beijing University P&T and General Assembly and is an alumnus of the Urban Land Institute's Center for Leadership, LEAD Atlanta, Leadership Buckhead, and United Way's Volunteer Training Program.



Gary Bickham, Financial Advisor, Citizens Wealth Management

Gary Bickham joined Citizens Wealth Management in 2022 as a Financial Advisor and has more than 28 years of experience working with families and individuals to plan for their financial goals. He uses a consultative based approach to develop customized plans that incorporate asset allocation, wealth management, retirement, income, and succession planning, along with protection strategies.

Gary currently has FINRA licenses 7, 63 and 65. He also holds a Retirement Income Certification Professional (RICP®) designation for his dedication to helping his clients with their retirement needs. He is affiliated with America's First H.B.C.U.-Cheney University Guest Speaker-New Student Council - "Brightest Future", F4-Volunteer Organization-Comcast Spotlight Speaker - "Creating World Without Hunger", and the Ronald H. Brown Charter Schools-Guest Speaker on "Financial Planning for Your Child's Future" in

2002 and 2003, and the Black Golfer's Association-Group Member.

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