



Shirley Hambelton

*General Counsel, Managing Director, Benefit Street Partners,
New York*

As General Counsel, Shirley Hambelton has a hand in managing all aspects of legal and regulatory risk and product development/structuring for Benefit Street Partners (BSP). She manages a global team based out of New York and London that encompasses legal, compliance, fund execution and tax product structuring. Her team works across all the investment strategies of BSP – direct lending, special situations, structured credit, CLOs, commercial real estate and liquid credit – and covers all product and investor types. She finds the most surprising and rewarding part of this position is the creativity involved. While creative is not a word most associate with lawyers, Shirley says when you are part of a business that is growing and evolving, at a time when the world around you is constantly shifting with the development of AI and the introduction of new entrants into the market both in terms of participants and investors, you have to evolve and innovate or you cannot be an effective partner to your business teams. This past year alone, her team has supported BSP's first continuation vehicle, created a slate of new products to provide access to private credit to a whole realm of investors that have never previously had access, as well as built custom investment solutions for long-time institutional investors. Prior to joining BSP, Shirley was an associate at Ropes & Gray, working in their investment funds practice. Shirley is a member of the firm's Operating Committee and Co-Head of BSP's Inclusion Committee. She is also an active mentor to more junior team members across many groups. Shirley has a BA from Tufts University, majoring in political science, and a JD from St. John's University School of Law.