

## ShaOut Leadership Europe Summit

# VIP Dinner

April 25, 2023

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### OVERVIEW

For this year's Europe Summit VIP Dinner & Reception, guests will join in celebrating and reflecting on the great progress that has been made for the LGBTQ+ community while also discussing the many challenges that lie ahead. Sponsored by two of Out Leadership's longest-standing supporters, **Hogan Lovells** and **HSBC**, we will be celebrating a decade of HSBC as a global sponsor of Out Leadership's work. The event will include a special guest performer and remarks from Colin Bell, CEO of HSBC Bank plc and HSBC Europe.

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### EVENT LOGISTICS

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 6:00-9:00 PM**

Searcys at the Gherkin

Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose St, London EC2A 2RS, United Kingdom

### EVENT AGENDA

**6:00 pm:** Guests arrive

**6:00 pm:** Cocktail Hour | Live Music

**7:00 pm:** Welcome: Colin Bell

**7:05 pm:** Welcome from Sharon Lewis

**7:10 pm:** 12th-anniversary video

**7:17 pm:** Todd opening and remarks

**7:30 pm:** Mains served

**7:55 pm:** Fireside chat with Hannah and Jake Graf

**8:25 pm:** Closing remarks from Todd

**8:30 pm:** Coffee and dessert served on level 39

**9:00 pm:** Event concludes

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS

### Todd Sears



Todd Sears is the founder and CEO of Out Leadership, the first company in history whose sole product is LGBTQ+ equality. Out Leadership connects leaders across the world's most influential industries to foster business growth, cultivate talent, and drive equality forward, and currently counts nearly 100 of the world's most powerful companies in the world as its members.

To advance economic benefits and talent dividend derived from inclusion, Out Leadership convenes three trailblazing accelerators: OutNEXT, the first global leadership development program for the next generation of LGBTQ+ leaders; Quorum, which seeks to advance the conversation around LGBTQ+ diversity in corporate governance; and OutWOMEN+, which convenes and celebrates LGBTQ+ women in business.

Sears has spent over 20 years working at the intersection of finance and equality. He began his career as an investment banker before joining Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. There, he created the first team of financial advisors in Wall Street focused on the LGBTQ+ community and brought almost \$2 billion of new assets to the firm from LGBTQ+ couples and nonprofit organizations. Subsequently, expanding his leadership in Diversity, Todd pioneered award-winning diversity initiatives as Head of Diversity Strategy at Merrill Lynch and then at Credit Suisse as Head of Diversity and Inclusion. Sears started Out Leadership in 2010.

A Duke University graduate, Sears serves on various nonprofit boards, including the Williams Institute of UCLA, the Palette Fund, the Global Equality Fund of the U.S. Department of State, Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, The North Carolina Community Foundation, and the National Advisory Council of the Stonewall National Archives & Museum. Additionally, he is the founding chair of Jeffrey Fashion Cares, which raised over \$8mm for LGBTQ+/HIV causes over the decade he led it.

Originally from Tarboro, North Carolina, Sears is driven by his confidence that businesses have the power to advance LGBTQ+ equality and generate a high return on equality. He currently lives in New York City.

## Sharon Lewis



Sharon is a partner, based in Paris and London and the Sector Group Leader of the Finance, Insurance, and Investment at Hogan Lovells. Sharon is also the Global Head of Financial Institutions and Insurance Sector, and she co-head the Digital Assets and Blockchain practice.

Sharon advises on the full range of capital markets transactions, including several award-winning and industry firsts in debt capital markets, derivatives, securitization, repackaging, and other structured products, and corporate bonds. She has extensive banking experience, particularly in the fields of structured finance, secured lending, loan

restructuring, and debt trading. Sharon also advises clients across digital assets, automotive-related financing, insurance-linked securities, energy-related lending, and debt restructuring.

Sharon is proudly the co-architect of Hogan Lovells LIBOR Solution, awarded 'Innovation in Collaboration' by the Financial Times Innovative Lawyers in North America. Sharon has been recognized by 'IFLR1000 Women Leaders' for four consecutive years for Capital Markets and France; named one of the 2021 Best Lawyer Award for France; been listed in Innovate Finance's Women in FinTech 2020 Powerlist under 'Professional and Finance Services' and listed in 'Senior Leaders' category since 2019; Listed as '2021's Leading Legal Advisor' by CORPTODAY; and was named a leading individual by Chambers for her expertise in English and French law for banking and finance and structured finance. Sharon was recently listed in 'IFLR1000 Women Leaders 2022', won the 'Lifetime Achievement award at the IFLR Europe Awards 2022, and was listed in Forbes 40 of 40 Lawyers 2022.

Her interests include jewelry design, and as part of a social enterprise project, she set up [www.thepearlladies.com](http://www.thepearlladies.com). Sharon is also a supporter of the French AFM-Téléthon, organized by the French association against the neuromuscular disease, which raises funds for research projects into rare genetic diseases.

### **Colin Bell**

Colin Bell is Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bank plc and HSBC Europe. He joined HSBC in July 2016 and was appointed a Group Managing Director in March 2017. He held the role of Group Chief Compliance Officer until February 2021.

Mr Bell previously worked at UBS, where he was Head of Compliance and Operational Risk Control. He has more than 10 years of experience in managing risk and financial crime, following 16 years in the British Army.



During his time in the Army, Mr Bell held a variety of command and staff appointments, including operational tours of Iraq and Northern Ireland, time in the Ministry of Defence, a NATO appointment and completion of the Advanced Command and Staff Course.

He joined UBS Investment Bank in January 2007, becoming the Global Head of Operational Risk Control in 2011. In January 2014, he was appointed the Global Head of Compliance (Regulatory and Financial Crime Compliance) and Operational Risk Control for UBS.

### **Hannah and Jake Graf**



Hannah is a Captain in the British Army. She was commissioned in 2010 and, since that time, has commanded soldiers across the world, including in Germany, Canada, Kenya, and Afghanistan. Hannah is also a transgender woman, and her personal story of transition captured the imagination of the nation in 2015.

A true advocate for equality, she used her public profile to promote a realistic portrayal of transgender individuals in the UK, becoming an inspiration to many. Outside the Army, she acts as Patron for the charity Mermaids and is an ambassador for LGBT Sports in Wales.

Her work in diversity has won her several accolades, including Cosmopolitan Woman of the Year, an honorary fellowship from Cardiff University, and in June 2019, an MBE for her work updating LGBTQ policy in the British Army.

Inspiring, compelling, and engaging speakers, Hannah and her Partner Jake share passionate talks on gender, equality, and diversity.

They have presented keynote speeches, fireside chats, and Q&As both in person and virtually and are best known for their documentary 'Our Baby: A Modern Miracle', which was on Channel 4 following their journey on starting a family through surrogacy.

Whether you'd like to book them together or individually, they share their personal accounts and unique perspective, demonstrating the importance of supporting trans and LGBTQ colleagues within the workplace and beyond.

Hannah's experience as a decorated Officer who transitioned within the Army perfectly places her to speak with confidence on all aspects of the military, diversity, and inclusive leadership.

Jake and Hannah Graf have spoken at events for companies including Warner Brothers, Herbert Smith Freehills, Stonewall Workplace Conference, Army LGBT Conference, NBC Universal, InterComms, InterMedia, InterBank, InterLaw, Pride in London Gala, BNP Paribas, Barclay's , Lloyds, Citi Bank, Allen and Overy, HSBC, BP, PWC, P&G, and TTG.