



Presented by
Falconbury

From Blockchain and NFTs to Smart Contracts: Understanding the Technology and the Law

20 May 2026
+ 5 November 2026

This masterclass demystifies blockchain, digital assets and smart contracts, explores their business applications and legal challenges, and equips professionals with the knowledge to leverage opportunities, mitigate risks, and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving landscape.



Format:
Live online



CPD:
3 hours for your records



Certificate of
completion

Course overview

Blockchain is more than just a buzzword - it is a transformative technology reshaping industries from finance and supply chains to healthcare and the creative economy. By enabling secure, transparent and decentralised record-keeping without the need for a central authority, blockchain has the potential to redefine how businesses operate and how trust is established in digital environments.

But with innovation comes regulation and complexity. Are you prepared to navigate both the opportunities blockchain presents and the legal frameworks that govern its use?

This masterclass is designed for professionals who want to stay ahead of the curve. Whether you are exploring new ways of doing business, integrating emerging technologies, or simply aiming to understand the regulatory landscape, this course will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to engage with blockchain strategically and responsibly.

Key topics covered include:

- The foundations of Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT)
- How blockchain works - and why it matters
- The business benefits and limitations of blockchain adoption
- Trustless transactions and their real-world implications
- Key legal and regulatory considerations
- The rise of tokens: non-fungible, semi-fungible and social tokens

This is an intensive, interactive learning experience with time allowed for discussion. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, explore real-world applications and gain insights directly from the expert trainer.

Presenter's firm

WESTON LEGAL

Weston Legal is a leading specialist boutique firm specialising in Commercial law, Technology law, Media law, Intellectual Property law, Data law and Regulatory law and practice. From its founding, the firm has always committed to provide a fast and efficient service wherever its clients operate. As its business has grown and diversified, it has recognised the strength and importance of the principles held by its people; putting clients first and operating as one team to realise its goals and share its success. These principles have formed the foundation of its culture and the way its lawyers interact with one another and the firm's clients. They are what distinguish it and are vital to its future.

To find out more about what Weston Legal can do for you, please contact Mark at westonlegal.ltd or see <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/markwestonlegal>

Mark also operates as a leading consultant to Hill Dickinson LLP, a leading and award-winning international law firm with offices in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Piraeus, Singapore, Monaco and Hong Kong. As a full service law firm, it delivers advice and strategic guidance spanning the full legal spectrum from non-contentious advisory and transactional work, to all forms of dispute resolution. The firm is on the panel of a number of national and international organisations and regularly competes against many of the City firms. In recent months, they have been able to win a number of panel reviews against City firms.

To find out more out what Mark can do for you via Hill Dickinson, please contact him via www.hilldickinson.com

Benefits of attending

By attending this course, you will:

- **Gain** clarity on emerging technologies – understand what blockchain, distributed ledger technologies (DLT) and tokens really are, and how they work in practice
- **Learn** how blockchain and related technologies, along with the legal frameworks governing them, directly affect your sector and operations.
- **Explore** how these technologies can be applied to your business to drive efficiency, innovation and competitive advantage
- **Build** confidence in understanding smart contracts, semi-fungible tokens and social tokens, and their potential relevance for your business
- **Stay legally informed** - get up-to-date, in-depth insights into the latest laws and regulatory developments shaping blockchain and digital assets
- **Avoid** costly missteps by recognising the common pitfalls of adopting these technologies and learn practical strategies to mitigate risks

Who should attend?

This programme is relevant to everyone with an interest in new ways of doing business and/or new technologies, but has been specifically designed for:

- In-house lawyers
- Private practice lawyers
- Legal advisers
- Compliance officers
- Regulatory specialists
- CFOs and corporate finance managers
- Board members
- Business development managers
- Innovation and transformation managers

Presenter



Mark Weston

Mark Weston has run his own law firm, Weston Legal, since 1 January 2024. He is also a consultant at Hill Dickinson LLP where he joined in February 2016 as a partner and Head of its Commercial, TMT & IP Practice. Before that, he was a partner and Head of the Commercial/IP/IT Team at Matthew Arnold & Baldwin LLP and before that, he spent several years at Baker & McKenzie in London and Chicago and has also previously been seconded to Hewlett Packard and other technology businesses. He changed role to become a consultant in Hill Dickinson's London office in January 2024.

Expertise: Mark's practice covers both non-contentious and contentious matters in all areas of commercial law, intellectual property law, information technology law, Internet, electronic commerce and on-line services law. He specialises in commercial and Tech issues. Mark is used as a 'trusted adviser' by many clients in all sorts of businesses and often acts as 'private practice in-house counsel' for many clients. He specialises in tech and internet businesses.

Clients: Just some of Mark's more well-known clients include Elstree Film Studios, RTL Group S.A., Sykes Cottages, Retailcorp Brands LLC, The Gulf Marketing Group, Moneytint Limited and the BBC.

Some detail: Mark has extensive experience in advising clients on all manner of commercial matters (such as business planning and solutions, franchising, distribution, agency and marketing) through branding and intellectual property exploitation and licensing, to advice and documentation regarding hardware and software issues (such as development, licensing, maintenance and distribution, SaaS and cloud, Internet transactional solutioning, B2B, B2C and B2G electronic commerce, S-commerce and M-Commerce, social media, outsourcing, facilities management, procurement, IT policies, data protection (privacy), GDPR and freedom of information issues as well as artificial intelligence (AI)). He has a particular expertise in new digital business and revenue streams. He is also experienced in dealing with software disputes and IT litigation. The increasingly extensive media side of his practice relates primarily to publishing (both real world and digital content), to games and gaming platforms (and particularly transmedia technologies), advising companies about their advertising onscreen, online and in print and managing their public communications strategies generally (dealing with the CMA and ASA in the process) – and also a smattering of television, film and music exploitation. Recently he has been very active in AI advice.

More unusual:

Mark has previously spent several months on secondment to Hewlett Packard and he has also been seconded to assist in the legal problems arising in new technology companies such as Symbian. From 2000 to 2001, Mark was resident in the Chicago office of Baker & McKenzie advising US clients on European and UK aspects of IT and electronic commerce law and practice.

Mark is the author of the *Legal Practice Companion*, a parallel text book used at several law schools, the editor of the *IP and Media Law Companion* as well as the rest of the Companion series of books published by Bloomsbury Professional, Tottels, Cavendish Publishing and Oxford University Press. He has noted numerous reports for the *IT Law Reports* and is widely published in *Computing*, *Computers & Law*, *Computer Law & Security Report*, *IT Law Today*, *Intellectual Property World*, *Solicitors Journal* and many other journals both online and offline. Mark has also authored articles syndicated in the national and trade press and is regularly quoted in national newspapers and is heard on radio as an expert in his fields. Mark is the author of the *Business Names on the Internet* chapter in the *PLC Ecommerce Manual* as well as numerous other articles on various Commercial & IT law topics.

Mark lectures regularly on all Commercial, IP and IT law topics, including at the IBC IT 'Summer School' Programme in Cambridge, England; the Falconbury and MBL two-day and three-day Commercial Contracts seminars (run several times a year) and IT Contracts seminars (run three times a year) in London; and he has previously lectured at the Annual On-line & Internet Commerce Law Institute seminar in Chicago and tutored at University College London. He also runs a programme of bespoke training schemes on commercial law, IP law, IT law, AI law and data law as well as soft skills programmes such as negotiation skills and presentation skills.

Finally, you may have seen that Mark likes blogging and writing books, which are available at all good bookshops! He also appears regularly on BBC1 (usually providing advice on-screen to BBC Watchdog) and also on Sky News as a legal commentator, as well as trying to avoid the huge quantity of pink powder the TV make-up girls want to apply to his increasingly receding hairline.

Course dates

20 May 2026

Live online

13:30-17:00 **UK (London)** (UTC+01)

Course code 15897

GBP **350** ~~400~~

EUR **490** ~~560~~

USD **562** ~~640~~

Until 15 Apr

5 November 2026

Live online

13:30-17:00 **UK (London)** (UTC+00)

Course code 16512

GBP **350** ~~400~~

EUR **490** ~~560~~

USD **562** ~~640~~

Until 01 Oct

How to book



Online:

ipi.academy/2603

Alternatively contact us to book, or if you have any queries:



Email:

info@ipiacademy.com



Phone:

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Discounts

- Booking more than one delegate on any one date qualifies for a **30% discount** on the second and subsequent places.
- Most events qualify for an **early booking discount** prior to 6 weeks before the course date. Be sure to check on our website, where the latest discounts will be shown.

Further information

Fee

The fee includes all meals and refreshments for the duration of the course (for venue-based courses) and a complete set of course materials (provided electronically). If you have any particular requirements, please advise customer services when booking.

Please note

IPI Academy (and our training partners) reserve the right to change the content and timing of the programme, the speakers, the date and venue due to reasons beyond their control. In the unlikely event that the course is cancelled, we will refund the registration fee and disclaim any further liability.

Terms and conditions

The rest of our terms, the event cancellation policy and the terms and conditions are on our website, please visit ipi.academy/content/terms-and-conditions

Reviews



Very knowledgeable and able to communicate the information effectively.



Jason Grant
Attorney-at-law

Mar 12 2024

Run this programme in-house for your whole team

Coming to IPI Academy for your in-house training provides an all-inclusive service which gives you access to a wide variety of content, learning platforms and delivery mechanisms as well as your own personal training adviser who will work with you from the initial enquiry through to feedback and follow-up after the programme.

With over 600 trainers, all practitioners and experts across a huge range of fields, we can provide the training you need, where you need it, when you need it, and at a price which suits your budget. Our approach to tailored learning and development consists of designing and delivering the appropriate solution for each client.

For your FREE consultation and to find out more about how we can work with you to solve your training needs, please contact our training advisers:



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IPI
Academy

IPI Academy is a training initiative of Falconbury and Management Forum; leading providers of industry training for over 30 years, based in the UK.

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