Davis Polk

Agentic AI and securities law: The vanishing defendant

June 18, 2026 | Articles & Books

Davis Polk partner Joe Hall authored “Agentic AI and securities law: The vanishing defendant” in *Law360*. The second article in a five-part series, the piece examines doctrinal pressure points, starting with the human-centric design of securities law.

Joe notes that the “architecture of liability, disclosure and enforcement rests on the ability to attribute conduct to human actors and to assess their intent and control.” Agentic AI “can pursue objectives, formulate plans and act in the world over extended periods, often without human direction at each step, [which] is a direct collision with a legal regime that depends on pinpointing who decided what, and why.”

Read the full article