## ACG PRESENTS: SEC Task Force Survey Results

#### **October 2, 2014**

#### In partnership with Venable LLP



Agenda



- Brief Background on ACG
- Description of the Task Force
- The Plight of the CFO/CCO
- Results of the Survey
- Next Steps
- Q&A
- Getting Involved

#### Today's Speakers



Gary LaBranche, FASAE, CAE President & CEO Association for Corporate Growth



<u>Richard Jaffe</u> Partner Duane Morris LLP



Pam Hendrickson Chief Operating Officer The Riverside Company



Blinn M. Cirella Chief Financial Officer Saw Mill Capital LLC



Scott Gluck Counsel Venable LLP



## The Association for Corporate Growth



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ACG®

57 Chapters





## **Regulatory Challenges**



ACG's SEC Task Force was formed to help PE fund professionals contend with regulatory challenges:

- Investment Adviser Act Compliance
- SEC Examinations
- Fees and Expenses
- Valuations
- Potential Broker-Dealer Registration
- Federal Legislation
- JOBS Act/General Solicitations
- Conflicts of Interest
- Use of Placement Agents
- Cybersecurity

Purposes of The SEC Task Force



- <u>Advocate</u> before Congress and Federal Regulators;
- <u>Educate</u> Private Equity Professionals on Regulatory Issues;
- <u>Facilitate</u> Communication Amongst Fund Professionals; and



In the last year, ACG's SEC Task Force has:

- Had multiple meetings with senior SEC staff
  - OCIE
  - SEC's private fund unit co-heads
  - Divisions of Trading and Markets, Investment Management and Corporate Finance
- Hosted webinars with SEC staff
  - Best practices for an SEC presence exam
  - No Action Letter on M&A brokers:
- SEC staff has spoken at key events
- Upcoming event with Igor Rozenblit on October 23



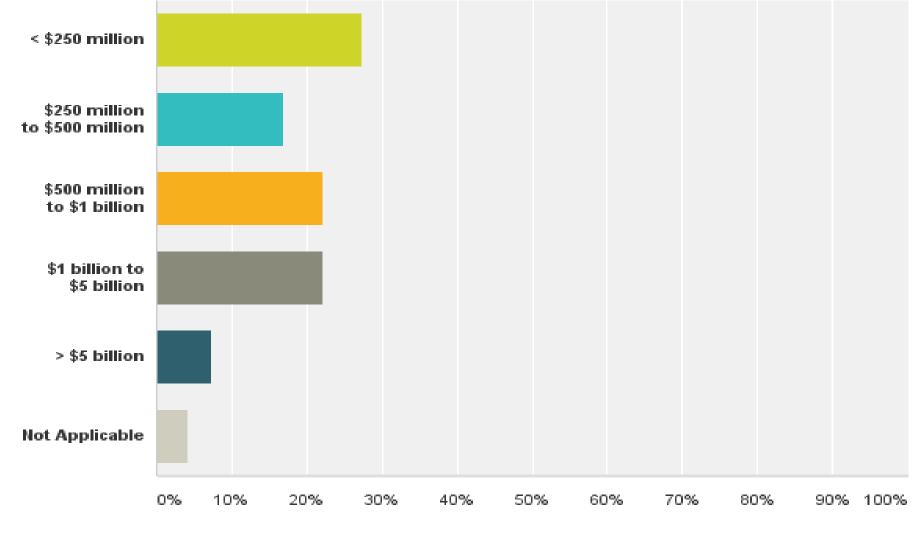
## **Four Key Findings:**

- 1. Middle-Market Private Equity Officers Are Concerned With A Broad Range of Issues
- 2. SEC Presence Exams Appear to Have Improved Over Time
- 3. The SEC Could Adopt Measures to Improve its Outreach to the Middle Market PE Industry
- 4. Respondents Want the ACG SEC Task Force to Carry Out a Broad Range of Activities

Survey Methodology



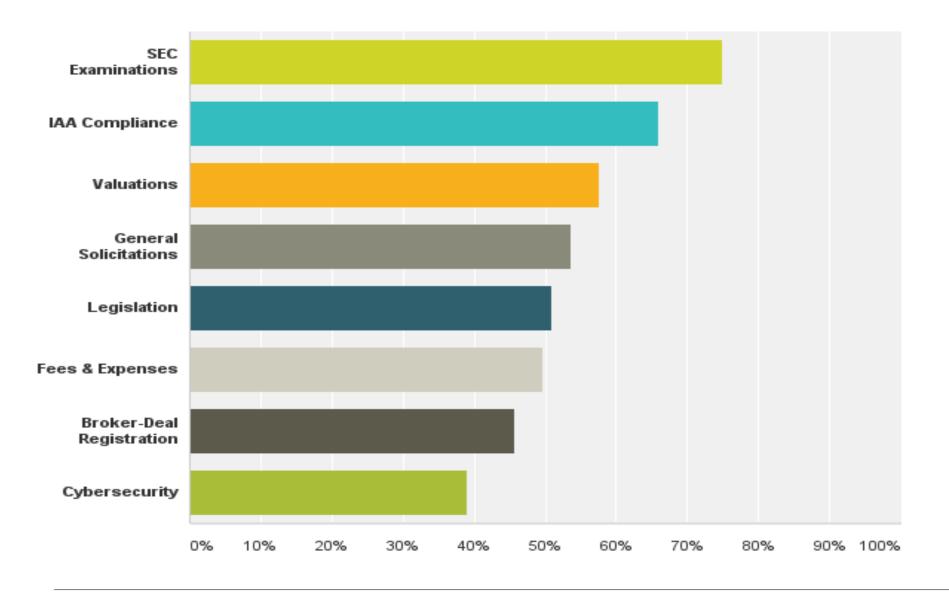
#### Which Best Describes Your Firm's Total Assets Under Management (AUM)?



## Key Finding #1

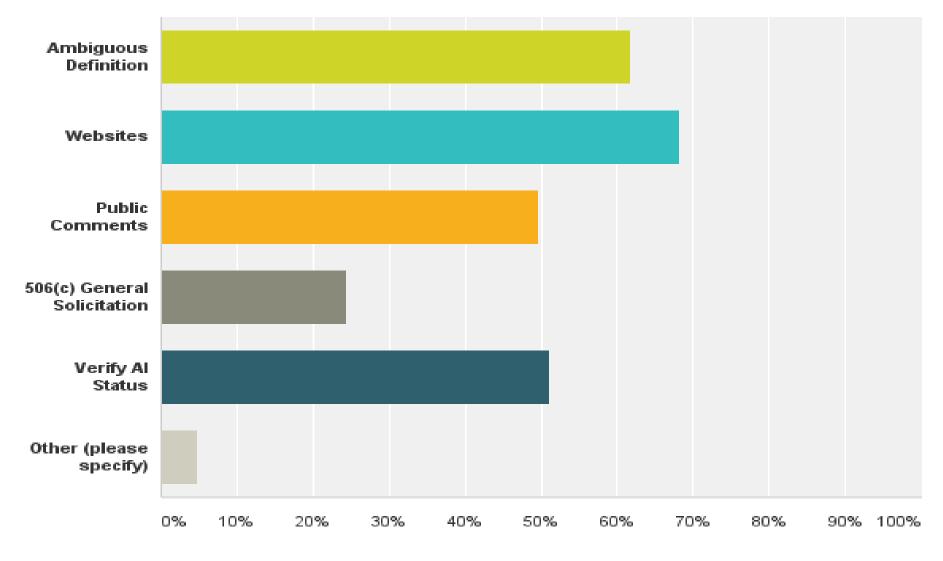


#### What Regulatory Issues Are You Concerned With?





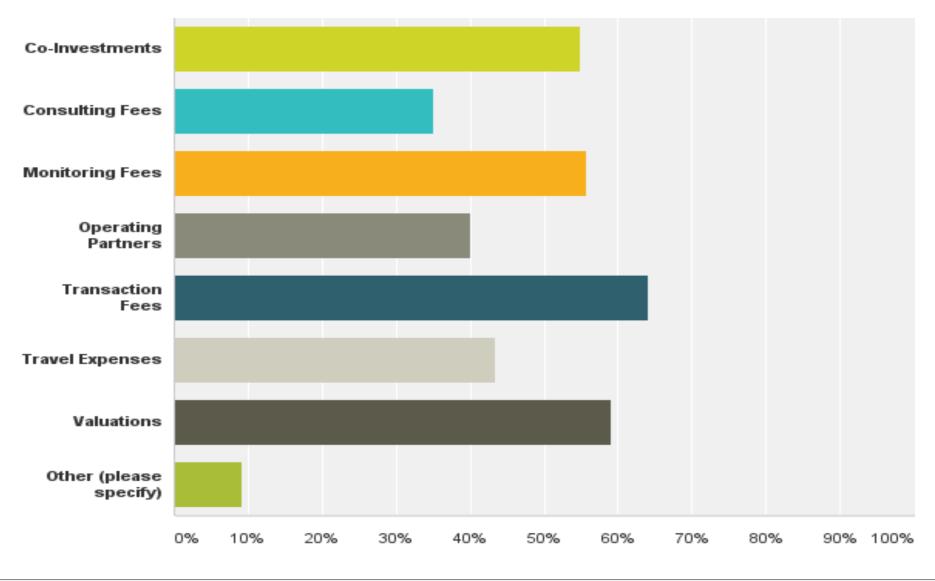
#### Are You Concerned With Any of the Following Issues re: General Solicitations?



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#### Are You Concerned With Any of the Following Issues re: Fees/Expenses?



## Key Finding #2 SEC Examinations Have Improved Over Time

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"It was their first exam and the SEC admitted they knew nothing so the exam was pretty easy, we were just educating them."

- Anonymous: August, 2012 examination

"Most of the examination consisted of us educating the examiners on the PE industry."

- Anonymous: Mid-2013 examination

*"The SEC staff were surprisingly knowledgeable regarding private equity, so they either had direct experience or meaningful training."* 

- Anonymous: August, 2013 examination

"They were eager to learn and they had much more knowledge than I expected."

- Anonymous: Late-2013 examination

**Professionalism of SEC Examiners** 

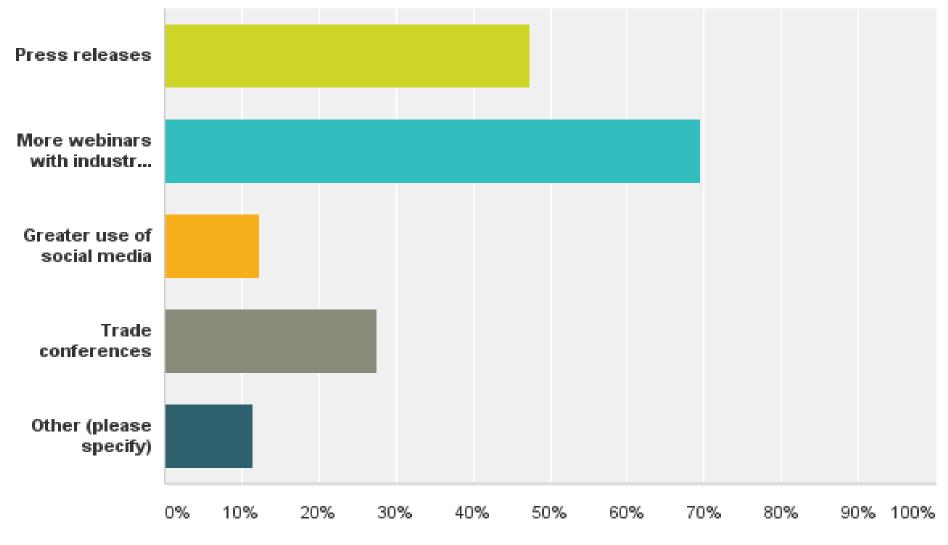


*"Very professional and overall fair minded."* Anonymous: 2014 examination

*"Both examiners were very reasonable, and treated us politely and with respect."* Anonymous: August, 2013 examination

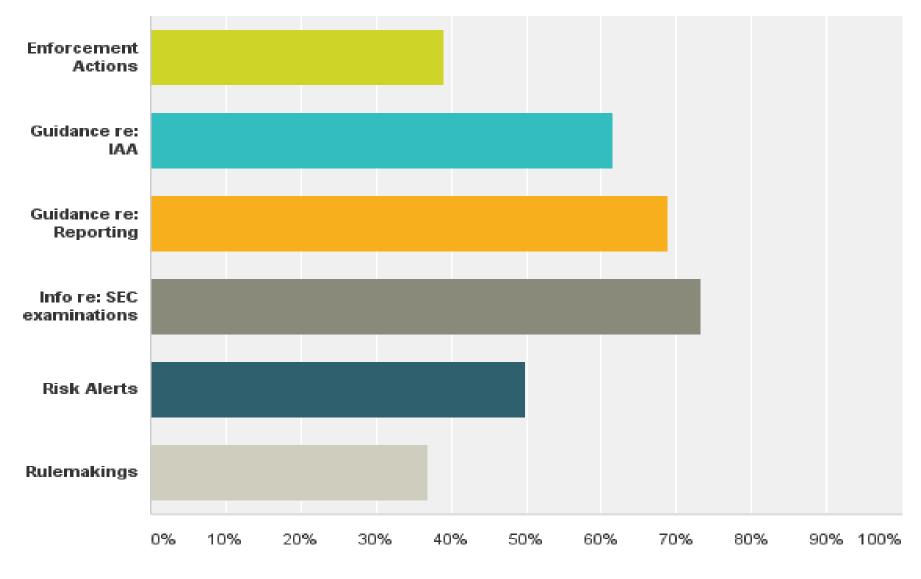


#### How Could the SEC More Effectively Communicate Information?





#### What Types of Information Are You Most Interested In?



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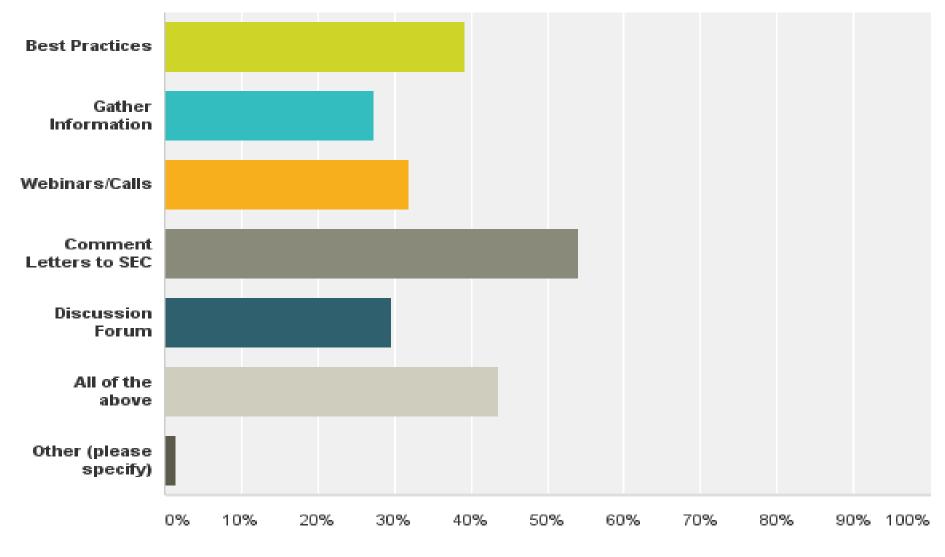
## Suggestions to Improve Communications



- "Direct communications to registrants. They have the email contact info necessary to do this;"
- "Compliance/policy mailings to RIAs;"
- "More CCO outreach programs."



#### Where Should The SEC Task Force Focus Its Efforts?



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## Next Steps



- ACG is moving forward with expanding the Task Force
- Working meeting/conference call on October 22, 2014 at 2:30 PM EDT in New York City
  - This is for fund professionals only
  - Limited space available for in-person meeting
  - More information and RSVP at <u>www.middlemarketvoice.org</u>
- In the coming weeks, ACG will announce
  - Task Force co-chairs
  - Membership information
  - Sub-groups
  - Affiliate group for service providers

#### We Welcome Your Involvement!

SEC Task Force



- For more information about the SEC Task Force contact:
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