

SPOTLIGHT

Palm Springs shines

This year's Global Partner Meeting in Palm Springs, California, was well worth the wait – it was our first since London 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit Europe. More than 750 partners gathered for networking, learning and conversations in the Golden State.

Here are just a few of the highlights from a packed GPM.

Look...

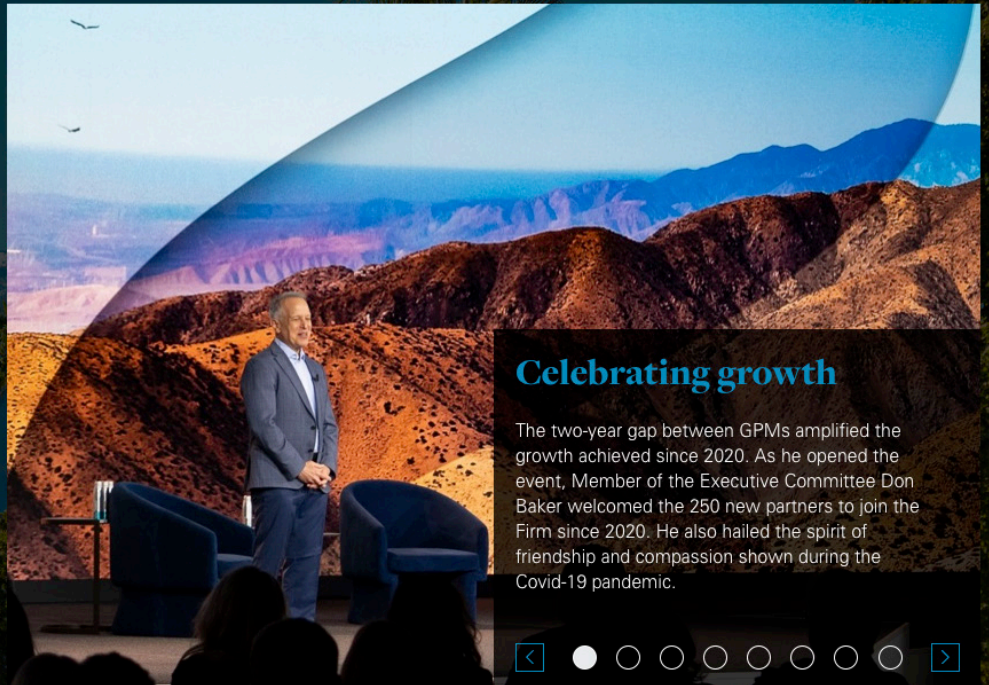
at some of the biggest moments from a memorable GPM

Watch...

videos from the event

Read...

the views of partners who attended



Celebrating growth

The two-year gap between GPMs amplified the growth achieved since 2020. As he opened the event, Member of the Executive Committee Don Baker welcomed the 250 new partners to join the Firm since 2020. He also hailed the spirit of friendship and compassion shown during the Covid-19 pandemic.



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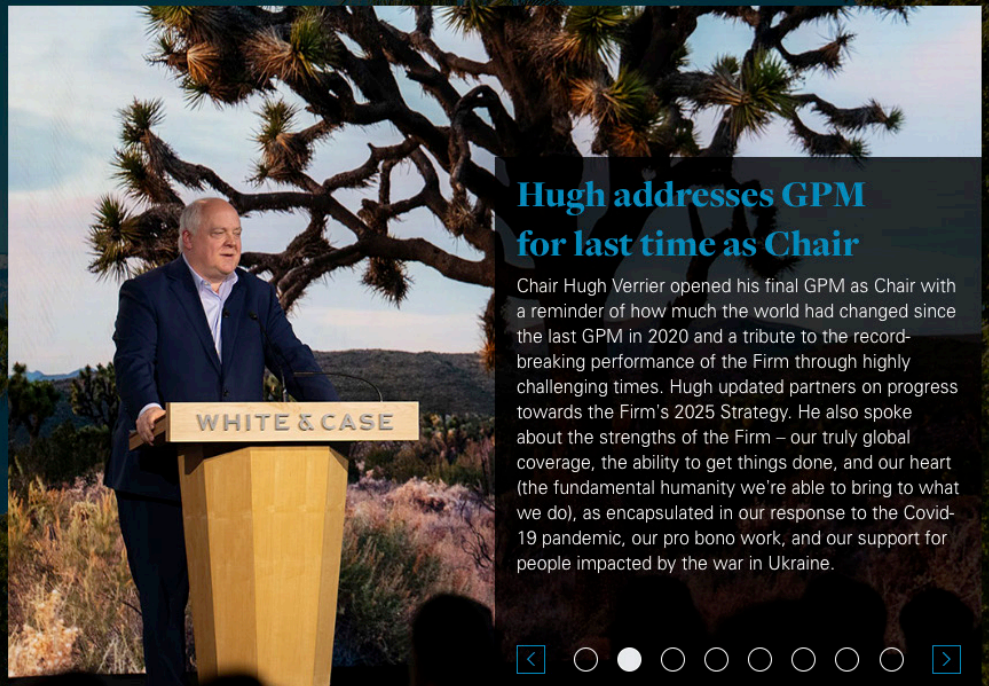
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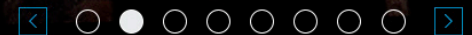
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Hugh addresses GPM for last time as Chair

Chair Hugh Verrier opened his final GPM as Chair with a reminder of how much the world had changed since the last GPM in 2020 and a tribute to the record-breaking performance of the Firm through highly challenging times. Hugh updated partners on progress towards the Firm's 2025 Strategy. He also spoke about the strengths of the Firm – our truly global coverage, the ability to get things done, and our heart (the fundamental humanity we're able to bring to what we do), as encapsulated in our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, our pro bono work, and our support for people impacted by the war in Ukraine.



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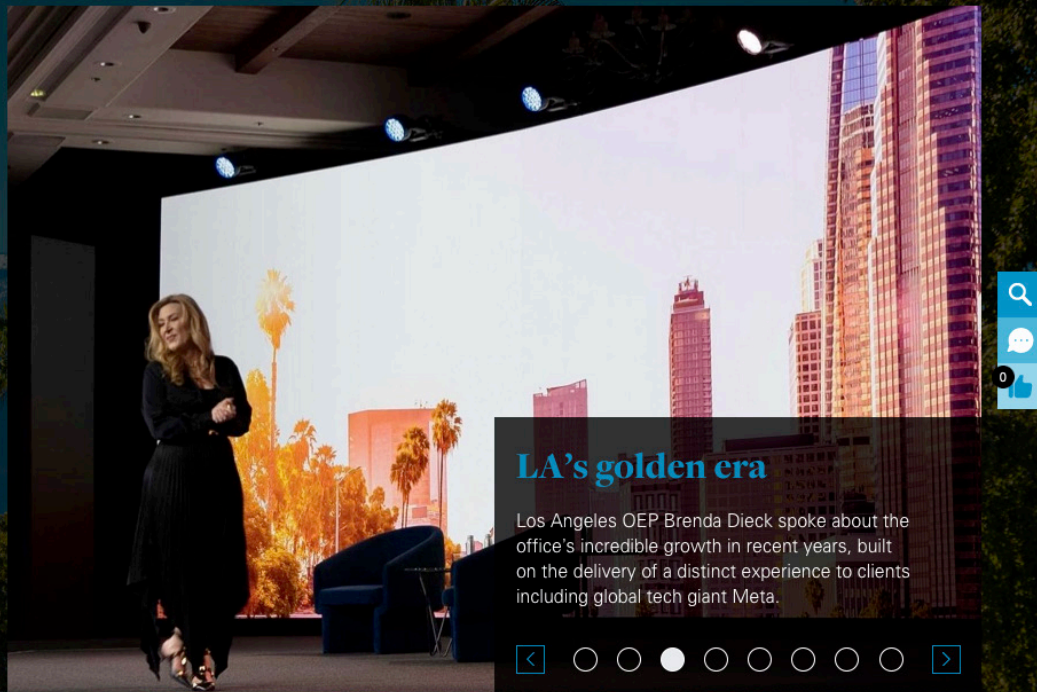
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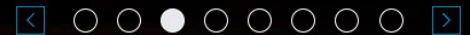
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LA's golden era

Los Angeles OEP Brenda Dieck spoke about the office's incredible growth in recent years, built on the delivery of a distinct experience to clients including global tech giant Meta.



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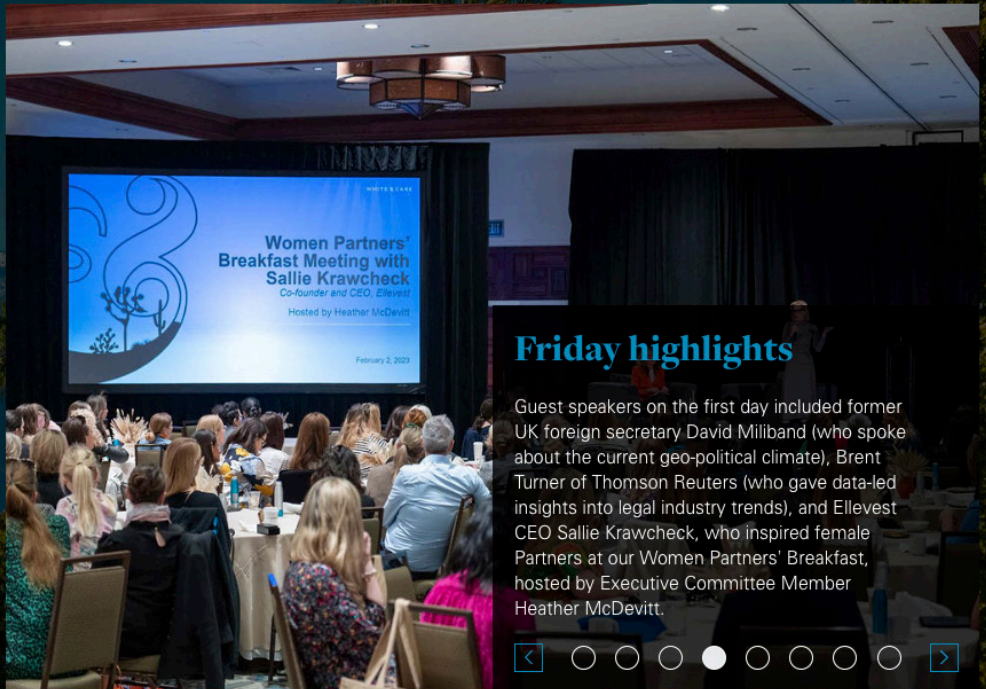
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Friday highlights

Guest speakers on the first day included former UK foreign secretary David Miliband (who spoke about the current geo-political climate), Brent Turner of Thomson Reuters (who gave data-led insights into legal industry trends), and Ellevest CEO Sallie Krawcheck, who inspired female Partners at our Women Partners' Breakfast, hosted by Executive Committee Member Heather McDevitt.



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Saturday spotlight on leadership

Day two had a focus on leadership, with Vice Chair Dave Koschik reminding partners of the upcoming Firm leadership elections. Other speakers on the day included former TIAA president and CEO Roger Ferguson, who spoke about effective leadership. Former NBA player turned organizational psychologist John Amaechi took part in a Q&A with Silicon Valley OEP Heather Burke on the move towards more human, learning-based business cultures. Ursula Burns (former Xerox CEO and the first black woman to lead a fortune 500 company) was interviewed by Partner Aalok Sharma with the pair discussing family, professional success and mentorship of diverse talent.



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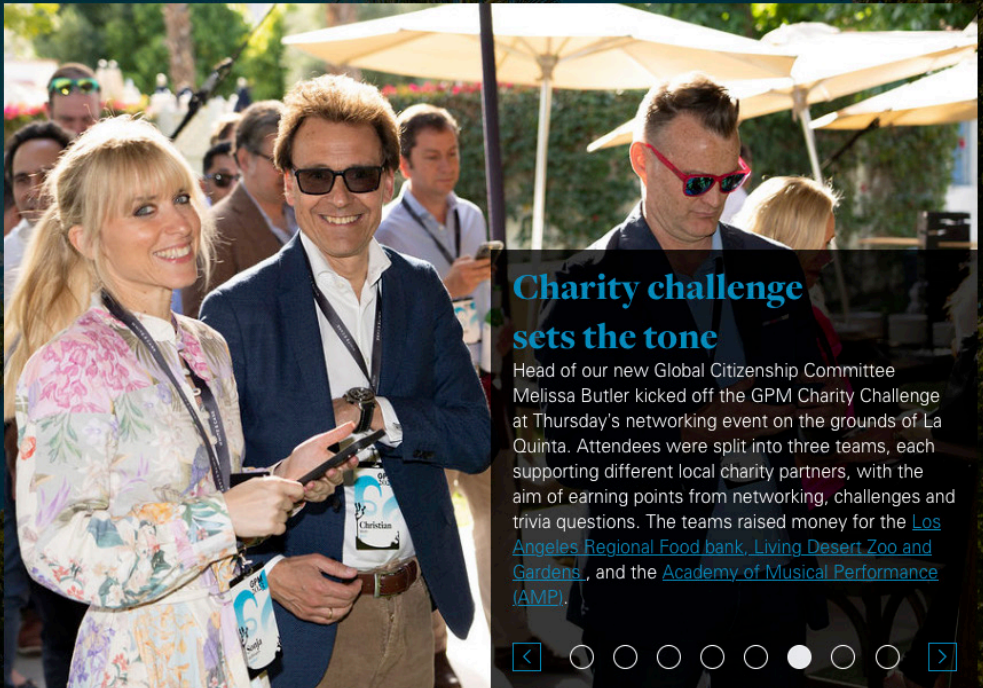
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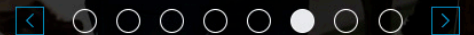
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Charity challenge sets the tone

Head of our new Global Citizenship Committee Melissa Butler kicked off the GPM Charity Challenge at Thursday's networking event on the grounds of La Quinta. Attendees were split into three teams, each supporting different local charity partners, with the aim of earning points from networking, challenges and trivia questions. The teams raised money for the [Los Angeles Regional Food bank](#), [Living Desert Zoo and Gardens](#), and the [Academy of Musical Performance \(AMP\)](#).



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Awards inspire

Partner David Hille hosted the Distinguished Achievement Awards, always an emotional and inspiring feature of any GPM. The awards recognized three former partners: Jacquelyn MacLennan, Jim Hayden and Tony Kahn. Jacqui was recognized for her grace, composure and mentorship over the years, Jim was commended for his positive attitude, deep love of family and hard working ethic, and Tony was noted for his gregarious nature, often blunt honesty and many years of service. The awards also remembered Partners Vicente Corta and Asli Basgoz, who passed away in recent years.



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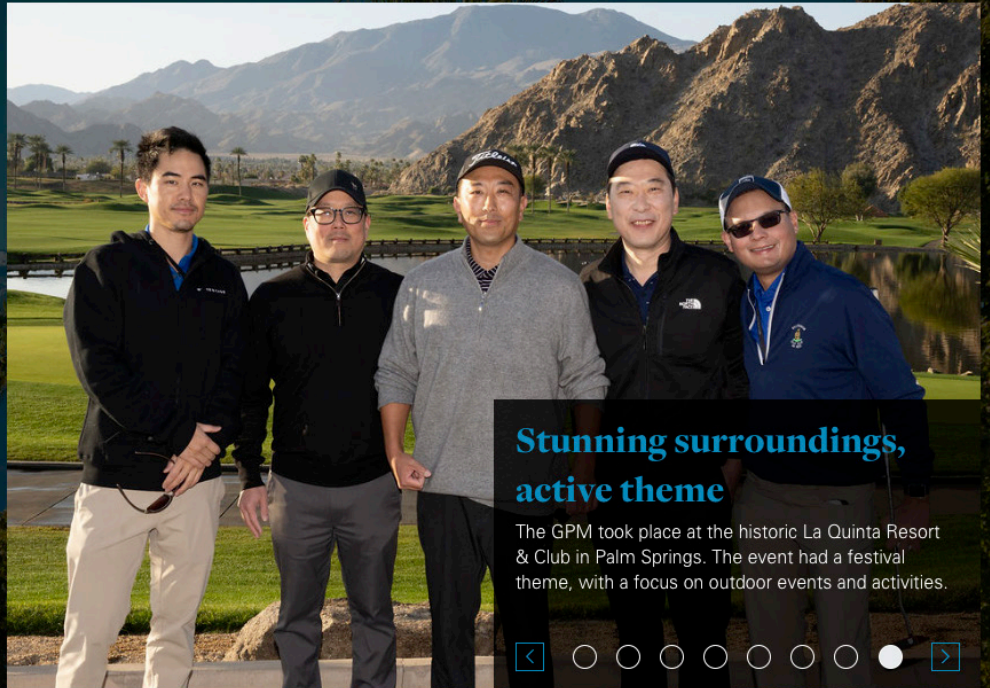
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Stunning surroundings, active theme

The GPM took place at the historic La Quinta Resort & Club in Palm Springs. The event had a festival theme, with a focus on outdoor events and activities.



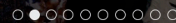
The views of partners who attended

“It was a great GPM providing opportunities to reunite and collaborate with partners from around the network”



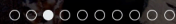
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“I really enjoyed the weather, the quality of the resort and the focus on outdoor activities and sports. The retreat was restorative and made me feel so proud to be part of W&C. I came back to the office more engaged than I’ve felt since before the pandemic started”



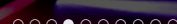
The views of partners who attended

“A++. Fantastic event. Most of the partners I spoke to also loved it and, like me, returned energized and more engaged than ever”



The views of partners who attended

“Hugh’s and Dave’s segments were inspiring. Hugh’s speech really put things into perspective and made me proud to be a part of the W&C story”



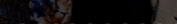
The views of partners who attended

“I met many new partners to figure out how to integrate our practices. It was a huge success”



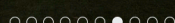
The views of partners who attended

“We should do this more often. I was inspired to connect more broadly with colleagues across the Firm and to talk with clients about our capabilities”



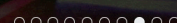
The views of partners who attended

“I loved the open environment and being able to chat with other partners in the sun”



The views of partners who attended

“It was an extraordinary event, extremely well organized with a full range of support and assistance”



The views of partners who attended

“I thought the combination of structure and informal networking opportunities was spot on”



The views of partners who attended

“I found the presentations on topics that are of relevance to the Firm very inspiring”

