



# John Lash, PhD

FOUNDER | FIXER | STRATEGIST

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- Greater Pittsburgh Region
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*“John delivers pragmatic guidance in complex regulatory situations when a company needs steady and decisive leadership” – Technology Company CEO*

## EXPERTISE

- Global Business Strategy
- Geopolitics & Cybersecurity
- National Security Investment Reviews
- Compliance Strategy & Risk Management

## EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
*Robert Morris University (RMU)*  
*Dissertation: The Feasibility of Game Theory*  
*Approaches: An Investigative Study of Threats to U.S. National Security from Foreign Investment*
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)  
*University of North Carolina (UNC)*
- Bachelor of Science (BS), Accounting  
*Juniata College*
- Advanced Computer Security Certificate  
*Stanford University Center for PD*
- Living in China’s World*  
*NYU School of Professional Studies*
- Coursera: Peking University - Chinese, Level 1*

## Transformation, Innovation, and Profitable Growth

A global expert in national security strategy, John provides businesses with the key insights necessary to make the right strategic decisions to proactively manage geopolitical, geo-economic, and regulatory risk.

Having advised on national security strategy, integration, and enforcement for M&A assignments totaling over USD 86 billion in transaction value, John performs critical evaluations that assimilate divergent information, providing transparent and meaningful interpretations to use for decision making in high-risk high-reward contexts. His work focuses on compliance strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and performance transformation across a variety of high tech and advanced-industrial subsectors, including semiconductors, telecommunications, and renewable energy.

## EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

### Darkhorse Global

#### **Founder & President**

*Greater Pittsburgh Region / Washington DC*  
*November 2020 - Present*

Darkhorse Global is a specialized geoeconomics and national security strategy firm focusing on maximizing opportunity and mitigating risks in global capital markets. Significant expertise in CFIUS and FOCI regulations.

#### Select Transaction Experience 2020-2021:

- Emerging Technology - Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC): USD 3B+ Market Cap
- Telecommunications: USD 150B+ Market Cap
- Semiconductor Manufacturing: USD 28B+ and 20B+ Market Cap
- Renewable Energy: USD 10B+ Market Cap
- Software Development and Cloud Data Management: Private

### Sourcereer

#### **Independent Director & Board Advisor**

*Ebensburg PA / Washington DC*  
*January 2021 – Present*

Sourcereer is a high-tech government contractor aiming to foster innovation and collaboration across the government, military, and private sector.

- Sourcereer supports programs across offices in the US Department of Defense and Intelligence Community, including efforts specific to cybersecurity, intelligence, and software development.



## CHRONOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

### **Control Risks Group**

*Greater Pittsburgh Region / Washington DC*

#### **Senior Advisor - National Security & Geopolitical Analysis**

*Nov 2020 – Mar 2021*

#### **Practice Leader - National Security & Geopolitical Analysis**

*Jan 2019 – Nov 2020*

- Founded, developed, and directed all aspects of practice management for market-leading national security practice focused on investment reviews.
- Delivered strategic and tactical experience in threat management, cybersecurity, and business strategy to advise clients on evaluating and mitigating global trade risk.

### **BDO Advisory, a Division of BDO USA, LLP**

*Greater Pittsburgh Region / Washington DC*

#### **Director - National Security Compliance**

*2017 – 2019*

- Co-founded BDO's National Security Compliance practice, specializing in Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) advisory services.
- Led a team to advise clients during cross-border mergers and acquisitions, specializing in CFIUS preparation, submission, and review.
- Provided guidance with pre-filing evaluation and impact studies (operational and economic), enhanced corporate security governance, and comprehensive mitigation, implementation, and assessment models.

#### **Senior Manager - National Security Compliance**

*2015 – 2017*

- Performed strategic service model assessments to evaluate current market position and new market opportunities through the Transformation and Growth Practice.

#### **Manager – Governance, Risk, and Advisory Services**

*2013 – 2015*

- Provided diagnostic and process / control enhancement services for forensic and regulatory processes at domestic and international businesses.

### **Cowheard, Singer, & Company PA**

*Miami, FL / New Orleans, LA*

#### **Manager - Forensic Services**

*2010 – 2013*

- Recognized by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce as one of the top financial and accounting advisors Under-35 (Next-Gen Award). Specialized in White Collar Criminal Defense and Prosecution, Fraud and Forensic Investigations, Commercial Litigation, and Insurance Claims.
- Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) – British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
  - Performed analysis to value various business sectors for large business interruption claims as required for allocation of payments from a federally mandated USD 20B compensation fund.
  - Analyzed financial statements and synthesized qualitative data efficiently to evaluate historical operating patterns, business capital requirements and debt loads, prospective general industry and specific business growth, and to forecast potential operating levels.

### **Kaufman, Rossin, & Company**

*Miami, FL*

#### **Consultant – Forensic Accounting & Regulatory Compliance**

*2008 – 2010*

- Performed financial statement audits, BSA/AML compliance, and forensic accounting investigations.



## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP):** *El Paso, TX*

**Adjunct Faculty - National Security Studies / Criminal Justice**

*2019 – 2021*

**Courses:**

- **INSS 3348: Cyberspace and National Security** (Spring 2021 & Summer 2020): This course examines critically the ubiquitous nature of the cyber domain in U.S. national security. Fundamental principles and case studies in cyber warfare are covered in order to explain the importance of cyber power in national military strategy and in joint/combined operations, including defensive and offensive operations in cyberspace. There is an emphasis on Russian and Chinese cyber warfare capabilities and operations in addition to newly emerging threats from non-state actors.
- **INSS 3302: Seminar in Intelligence and National Security** (Summer 2021): This seminar examines the process of intelligence and its role specifically in U.S. national security. Students are exposed to the theory and practice of intelligence. Special emphasis is placed upon understanding the major issues and challenges associated with the various intelligence disciplines and the organization of the U.S. Intelligence Community.
- **INSS 2302: Security Studies** (Fall 2020): This undergraduate survey course examines security from a global perspective and discusses security issues that transcend borders, and which can only be adequately addressed through global security cooperation. Most of these global security issues are non-traditional in the sense that they are not directly related to traditional nation state competition and interstate war. The course introduces the concept of "global security" and discusses the key theories, concepts, and issues that fall under its domain, such as realism, liberalism, great power politics, regional issues, and asymmetric conflict.

**Juniata College:** *Huntington, PA*

**Adjunct Faculty - Accounting, Business, & Economics**

*2019 – 2021*

**Courses:**

- **MBA 590 International Business Strategy** (Spring 2021 & Spring 2020): This course is an advanced level international business strategy course that focuses on the development of skills to understand a variety of business issues that professional managers face when managing organizations in international markets.
- **AC 538: Forensic Accounting** (Spring 2019): This course covers specific fraud schemes and crimes, the indicators of fraud, theories of fraud detection and prevention, and forensic accounting investigative techniques.

**Waynesburg University:** *Waynesburg, PA*

**Adjunct Faculty – Business Administration**

*2019 – 2021*

**Courses:**

- **BUS 209: Introduction to Forensic Accounting** (Fall 2020 & Fall 2019): This course develops a foundation of knowledge for forensic accounting by examining what forensic accounting is and how forensic accounting principles are applied in both civil and criminal legal proceedings. This course covers specific fraud schemes and crimes, the indicators of fraud, theories of fraud detection and prevention, and forensic accounting investigative techniques.
- **BUS 426: Fraud Examination** (Spring 2021 & Spring 2020): An advanced review of strategies and tactics essential to the fraud examination process.



## PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:**

Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs): CFIUS Risks and Mitigation, The Capitol Forum, Panelist 04/29/21  
SMU Cox School of Business, MBA Direct Speaker Series – Industrial Competitiveness, 02/23/21  
The Convergence of Risk Assessments and National Security, ACFE Pittsburgh, 02/10/21  
CFIUS Enforcement Outlook, The Capitol Forum, Panelist 01/28/21  
US National Security and Risk Assessments, ACFE South Florida, 08/12/20  
The Advanced Forum on CFIUS and Foreign Investment, Virtual Summit, Panelist 08/12/20  
Foreign Investment Screenings: US and EU Policies, Pillsbury, Panelist 07/28/20  
National Conference on CFIUS, American Conference Institute, Panelist 07/15/20  
ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration, National Security & International Trade, Panelist 01/23/20  
Get Global, CFIUS & Changes in Global Investment Norms, Panelist 11/7/2019  
Relativity Fest, Navigating National Security Regulations in the Data Economy, Panelist, 10/22/2019  
Bloomberg Law: Cross-Border Deals Forum 2019, Global Regulatory Reform - CFIUS, Panelist, 6/25/2019  
UTEP National Security Studies Institute – Academic Panel, Disruptive Technologies and US National Security, 04/26/2019  
National Conference: CFIUS & Team Telecom, Structuring Cross-Border M&A Transactions, Panelist, 04/24/2019  
Bloomberg Law: Cross-Border Deals Today & Tomorrow, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Minimizing Risk, Panelist, 10/3/2018  
Bloomberg Law: Cross-Border Deals Forum 2018, Automation in Global M&A: Risks and Opportunities, Panelist, 6/6/2018  
Regulatory Compliance in Cross-Border M&A, Presentation: Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, 12/14/17  
National Security Compliance / CFIUS, Presentation: 2015 Continuing Professional Education Day, 12/3/15  
Man vs Machine – Data Driven Compliance, Moderator, 2015 ACFCFS Financial Crime Conference, 4/21/15

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

The Wall Street Journal, Technology – Electric Vehicle Manufacturing, SPACs, and National Security, 04/12/2021  
The Capitol Forum (Vol. 9 No. 85), National Security Policy: ICTS Supply Chain, 03/08/2021  
Darkhorse Whitepaper, The Next Generation Foreign Policy Paradigm: Economic Security as National Security 02/01/2021  
The Capitol Forum (Vol. 8 No. 444), CFIUS Deals Under the Biden Administration, 12/16/2020  
Forbes, CFIUS and a Tale of Two Internets, 09/17/2020  
Forbes, The Invisible Risks of CFIUS: Timing and Uncertainty, 08/27/2020  
Lexology, Business Implications of American Scrutiny of Foreign Supply Chains, 07/21/2020  
South China Morning Post, Venture Capital: Coronavirus and foreign acquisitions, contributing quotes, 05/2020  
South China Morning Post, Updated CFIUS Regulations, contributing quotes, 02/2020  
Financier Worldwide, Transitioning from CFIUS pilot program to full FIRRMA implementation – Issue 205, 01/2020  
Bloomberg Law, CFIUS Contextual Control: Dealmaking Under FIRRMA, 09/2019  
South China Morning Post, New Breed of Wall Street Advisors, contributing quotes, 09/2019  
Intralinks, National Security M&A Deal Risk – CFIUS Considerations, 06/2019  
Forbes, Navigating National Security Rules in the Global Economy, 05/2019  
Merger Market, The New Wave of Protectionism | What effect are tariffs having on deal making activity, 10/2018  
Navigating National Security in the Data Economy Mergers & Acquisitions Leadership Council, 04/2018  
The Role of CFIUS in Cross-Border Manufacturing & Distribution Deals, Manufacturing Output Newsletter, 05/2017  
The Role of CFIUS in Cross-Border Technology M&A, TECH – The Technology Newsletter, 05/2017  
The Role of CFIUS in Cross-Border Energy M&A, Natural Resources Record, 04/2017  
National Security Compliance is Key to Cross-Border M&A, Mergers & Acquisitions ([www.themiddlemarket.com](http://www.themiddlemarket.com)), 5/23/16