

SPEAKER & MEDIA KIT • 2026

Micheal Sheehy

Global payments, financial crime, AI governance and inclusive leadership

Compliance leader. Global operator. Original thinker.

Prepared for event organizers, journalists, podcast hosts and communications teams

AT A GLANCE

A practical voice on complex risk

Micheal Sheehy is a global payments and compliance executive with more than 20 years of experience building financial-crime, regulatory and operating capabilities across international markets. His work connects compliance, technology, customer experience and strategy with the human realities of leadership—especially where static governance is being overtaken by faster-moving risk.

Compliance should move as fast as the risk it manages.

Prompt	Working response / evidence
Best for	Keynotes, fireside chats, panels, podcasts, board and executive sessions, media commentary.
Core themes	Adaptive compliance; global payments; AI and model governance; financial crime; inclusive leadership; LGBTQ+ visibility.
Style	Direct, evidence-led and practical—with enough humor to keep the governance slide from becoming a medical emergency.
Location	New York / global engagements.
Contact	micheal@michealsheehy.com · +1 (818) 397-8890 · michealsheehy.com

Short bio

Micheal Sheehy is a global payments and compliance executive with more than 20 years of experience building financial-crime, regulatory and operating capabilities across international markets. A Chief Compliance Officer and author of the Adaptive Compliance series, he writes and speaks about artificial intelligence, payments, model governance and the operating models required to scale safely. Micheal also draws on his experience as a gay executive to explore authenticity, psychological safety and why inclusive leadership improves challenge, escalation and decision-making.

LONG BIOGRAPHY

A global operator—and a deeply human leader

Micheal Sheehy is a global payments and compliance executive with more than 20 years of experience across financial services and cross-border payments. As a Chief Compliance Officer, he has built and led large, distributed teams and major transformation programs spanning financial crime, sanctions, customer lifecycle management, transaction monitoring, fraud, artificial intelligence and model governance.

His work sits where regulation, technology, customer experience and operating strategy meet. He is particularly interested in the gap between a control that looks impressive in a presentation and one that continues to work when the data is incomplete, the threat changes and the business is moving. His talks turn that tension into practical questions for boards, executives and operators: who owns the decision, what evidence travels with it, what should remain human and how quickly can the system learn?

Born in the United Kingdom, raised in Ireland and now based in New York, Micheal brings a genuinely global perspective to leadership. Growing up gay in Ireland when homosexuality was still criminalized taught him early how to read a room, how much energy people spend editing themselves and how humor can open a door that hierarchy keeps closed. Those experiences now shape his view that inclusion is not a side program. It is part of how organizations hear bad news early, make dissent safe and improve the quality of judgment.

Micheal is the author of the eight-volume Adaptive Compliance series, which argues that compliance should operate as an adaptive system rather than a collection of periodic controls. He writes and speaks on AI-enabled financial crime, payment transparency, stablecoins, global compliance operating models, transformation and the personal realities of senior accountability. His style is direct, evidence-led and practical, with enough wit to remind an audience that governance is a serious subject—not a punishment.

The strongest cultures make it safe to speak before certainty—and impossible to hide behind silence.

KEYNOTE TOPICS

Signature sessions

Compliance Should Move as Fast as the Risk It Manages

Why periodic review and static governance are failing—and how continuous evidence, model oversight and human accountability create an adaptive system.

Audience leaves with: a five-stage maturity model, practical governance questions and a clearer distinction between automation and adaptability.

While Compliance Debates AI Governance, Criminals Are Already in Production

How agents, deepfakes and synthetic identities are changing the production model of financial crime—and what defensive operating models must do differently.

Audience leaves with: an adversarial AI frame, authenticity controls and a roadmap for integrating fraud, cyber, KYC and financial-crime intelligence.

The Message Is the Control

How payment transparency, structured data and emerging regulatory expectations are moving financial-crime decisions upstream.

Audience leaves with: a payment-data quality stack, practical readiness questions and a grounded view of virtual-account complexity.

Global Compliance Without the Global Bottleneck

How to combine one global standard with local expertise, follow-the-sun execution and decision-making closer to customers.

Audience leaves with: decision-right principles, a capability placement model and a way to diagnose concentration risk.

Authenticity Is a Leadership Control

What growing up gay in Ireland taught Micheal about reading rooms, using humor and the organizational cost of making people edit themselves.

Audience leaves with: practical ways to make challenge and escalation safer, without lowering standards or accountability.

Also available: compliance transformation, stablecoins, de-risking, sanctions, model management and executive accountability.

SESSION DESIGN

Formats that work

Prompt	Working response / evidence
20–30 minute keynote	A sharp argument, memorable framework and practical close. Best for leadership and industry conferences.
45–60 minute keynote	A deeper evidence-led narrative with case examples and audience reflection.
Fireside chat	Conversational exploration of current developments, leadership decisions and lessons learned.
Executive or board session	A private, interactive discussion centered on strategic questions, operating choices and oversight.
Panel or moderator role	Clear synthesis, constructive provocation and enough discipline to keep six panelists from answering one question for 40 minutes.
Podcast / media interview	Concise, quotable commentary that connects current events to durable operating implications.

Sample moderator introduction

Micheal Sheehy is a global payments and compliance executive with more than 20 years of experience building financial-crime and regulatory capabilities across international markets. He is the author of the Adaptive Compliance series and writes about AI, payments, model governance, inclusive leadership and the choices required to scale safely. Please welcome Micheal Sheehy.

Suggested interview questions

- What has the compliance industry optimized that matters less than it thinks?
- How should boards distinguish a genuine AI control from an impressive demonstration?
- What changes when criminals use agents and synthetic identities at scale?
- What did growing up gay in Ireland teach you about silence, belonging and the duty of a leader?

SELECTED APPEARANCES

Media and industry conversations

Prompt	Working response / evidence
Nasdaq TradeTalks	How financial institutions are using AI and machine learning to combat fraud.
PYMNTS	Payments, financial crime and the role of compliance in responsible growth.
Integrity Innovators	Leadership, integrity and building a modern culture of compliance.
FinTech Futures	Regulatory change, global payments and emerging financial-crime risk.
Finextra	North Korean financial crime and the evolving role of payment platforms.
Money20/20 and industry events	Panels and interviews on payments, compliance transformation and AI.

Editorial platforms

Micheal's writing at michealsheehy.com includes the eight-volume Adaptive Compliance series, essays on North Korean IT-worker networks, global KYC, stablecoins, payment transparency, de-risking, AI-enabled financial crime, inclusive leadership and the experience of finding an authentic executive voice.

For current links, video and article references, visit michealsheehy.com/media.html.

APPROVED IMAGES

Headshots

High-resolution files are available on request. The images below are suitable for speaker pages, event listings and editorial use.



Executive close-up



Formal portrait



Editorial portrait

Image and biography use

- Credit: Courtesy of Micheal Sheehy.
- Do not materially alter the images beyond normal cropping and color correction.
- Use the short bio for agendas and the long bio for event pages, media notes and formal introductions.
- Confirm current title and event-specific language before publication.

CONTACT

Bring the conversation to your audience

For keynotes, panels, fireside chats, podcasts, board discussions, media commentary and selected advisory conversations:

micheal@michealsheehy.com · +1 (818) 397-8890 ·
www.michealsheehy.com

- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/micheal-sheehy](https://www.linkedin.com/in/micheal-sheehy)
- Speaking: michealsheehy.com/speaking.html
- Media: michealsheehy.com/media.html
- Adaptive Compliance: michealsheehy.com/adaptive-compliance.html

Please include the event or publication, audience, proposed format, timing and any deadline. All participation is subject to availability and appropriate approvals.