



April 2015

As I mentioned in our inaugural issue, I'll be passing along thoughts and links about emerging trends, publications and events that I think might be of interest. There are a few things that stood out for me this month.

According to Pitchbook's Venture Industry Report, 2014 was the best year on record for venture capital-backed exits with 845 exits totaling \$78.4 billion. On the investment side, the \$59 billion invested by VC's last year wasn't a record, but that level of investment hasn't been seen since the boom days of the dotcom era. Valuations for companies at all stages remain sky high, but as Pitchbook notes, "The million-dollar question is whether these investments and valuations will be justified at the finish line." Will exits become more difficult in 2015? Only time and the markets will tell.

My colleagues and I in the [Womble corporate and securities practice](#) are helping clients on both coasts navigate these very interesting waters, advising many investors, entrepreneurs and technology companies on all aspects of business planning, financing transactions, technology commercialization, public offerings, and M&A.

Passing on lessons learned on the early side of the company formation and investment cycle, Newt Fowler, a Womble partner in Baltimore, published an interesting piece recently entitled [Mind the Gap: How Successful Angels Invest](#) which is definitely worth a read. Here on the Left Coast, I had a chance to speak about financing trends as part of Santa Clara Law's "Venture Capital and Emerging Businesses" panel on March 19 to a great group of budding entrepreneurs disguised as law students.

Finally, I wanted to send along a plug for a very worthwhile local event. Womble Silicon Valley is proud to be a table sponsor of the [Churchill Club's 17th Annual Top Ten Tech Trends](#) on May 21, 2015 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, which is always a great show.

That's it for our April issue. Be talking to you again next month.

Best regards,
Steve



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Upcoming Event

Womble Carlyle's
[FastPitch™: Venture Capital Forum on April 23](#)
in Tysons Corner, VA.

About Womble Carlyle

[When Compliance and Ethics Collide](#) - Excerpts from Association of Corporate Counsel Webinar

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