PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, LEGAL & ACCOUNTING

FROM EXPERTISE TO INTELLIGENCE

How AI, trust and accelerating knowledge are changing the advisory profession.



AUTHENTIC KEYNOTE STAGE ARCHIVE | FULL FRAME

THE CLIENT PROBLEM

We are looking for a keynote for partners, senior professionals and practice leaders. AI is beginning to transform research, assurance, legal work, tax, client service and the economics of expertise. We need a speaker who understands our professional responsibilities and will help people see the opportunity without dismissing governance and trust.

A SPECIFIC BUSINESS PROBLEM. NOT A GENERIC TRENDS TALK.

Professional firms face a structural dilemma: the work is becoming faster and more automated, but the need for human judgment, client trust and accountability has never been greater.

01

THE ECONOMICS OF EXPERTISE

AI assistants, agents and changing client expectations reset the value of professional work.

02

ASSURANCE AT MACHINE SPEED

New forms of evidence, model risk and accountability transform risk and governance.

03

THE SKILLS ACCELERATION GAP

The half-life of technical knowledge shrinks while clients demand deep judgment.

04

THE CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

Firms have to move from documenting yesterday to guiding choices about tomorrow.

THE KEYNOTE SOLUTION: CONNECT THE DOTS.

Five movements connect acceleration to meaningful action.

01 The acceleration of knowledge and professional disruption

02 AI changes the work but not the obligation to deliver sound judgment

03 Assurance, provenance, cybersecurity and governance in the agentic era

04 Reinventing professional skills, client value and advisory economics

05 A practical agenda: think big, start small, scale fast

FIVE CONNECTED FORCES. ONE INDUSTRY CHALLENGE.

CHANGE DRIVER 1

THE ECONOMICS OF EXPERTISE

AI assistants, agents and changing client expectations reset the value of professional work.

CHANGE DRIVER 2

ASSURANCE AT MACHINE SPEED

New forms of evidence, model risk and accountability transform risk and governance.

CHANGE DRIVER 3

THE SKILLS ACCELERATION GAP

The half-life of technical knowledge shrinks while clients demand deep judgment.

CHANGE DRIVER 4

THE CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

Firms have to move from documenting yesterday to guiding choices about tomorrow.

TEN CLIENT ENGAGEMENTS. REAL ROOMS. REAL ISSUES.

Historical engagement evidence behind the proposed keynote solution.

THE EDITORIAL STANDARD

The following pages summarize specific client environments and themes from Jim Carroll's published highlights, sector archives, and original keynote materials. They show prior speaking experience—not a claim that clients deployed or achieved the technologies discussed.

Adjacent-industry engagements are identified as such. Examples with incomplete original program detail are marked for final verification before broad external distribution.

01 KPMG IRELAND

Leadership keynote for more than 1,100 professional staff

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Turn a large AI investment into a comprehensible leadership and workforce agenda.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

AI megatrends; strategic transformation; what changes in knowledge work; the need to learn beyond individual tools.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Direct professional-services precedent: make an AI future understandable across many roles.

02 DELOITTE / BANKING CLIENT

Executive event for approximately 200 banking leaders

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Help senior leaders confront disruption and transformation while operating in a regulated industry.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Acceleration, business-model change, governance and the discipline of changing executive assumptions.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Demonstrates client-facing, customized work for a major consulting firm and its customer.

03 EY NATIONAL TAX CONFERENCE

Professional tax and advisory conference, Montreal

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Explain why disruptive trends extend beyond regulatory and technical changes.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Changing business and technology expectations; new markets; client advisory opportunity; strategic adaptation.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Relevant to law, accounting and tax firms whose customers need forward-looking counsel.

04 BAKER McKENZIE — DALLAS

Global law-firm client conference

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Help legal professionals and business clients interpret emerging sources of disruption and risk.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Risk acceleration; technology-driven change; strategic resilience; challenging outdated legal and business assumptions.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

A direct example of helping a legal firm connect industry trends with client decisions.

05 BAKER McKENZIE — CHICAGO

Separate law-firm client conference

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Translate fast-moving global trends into a business risk conversation appropriate for senior counsel and executives.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Emerging technology; global disruption; leadership response; foresight as part of client advisory value.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Shows repeated engagement and adaptability rather than a one-off legal-industry appearance.

06 CPA SASKATCHEWAN

Professional accounting keynote

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Show accountants why the profession is shifting from recording the past to interpreting the future.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Automation and AI; data-driven judgment; emerging advisory roles; the accounting knowledge half-life.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

A specialist accounting example with a directly relevant professional transformation theme.

07 CPA CANADA

Professional accounting audience

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Connect evolving expectations of accountants to broader economic and technology change.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Analytics, advisory skills, trust and the implications of accelerated business change.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

A broader accounting-profession reference; consult original program for precise session scope.

08 EVERSHEDS

Professional legal audience

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Help a professional-services audience understand emerging client and market requirements.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Disruption, professional foresight and new questions arising from intelligent technologies.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

A legal-services reference listed in the keynote experience archive; event detail warrants final confirmation.

09 ACCENTURE

Consulting and technology-services experience

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Explore how enterprise transformation changes operating models and customer expectations.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

Digital transformation, emerging business models, innovation and the future of service delivery.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Adjacent consulting-industry credibility; confirm event specifics before external claims.

10 IIA / GRC GOVERNANCE & RISK

Governance, risk and audit leaders, 2026

THE STRATEGIC CHALLENGE

Bring the profession from traditional audit cycles toward governance at machine speed.

KEYNOTE THEMES & MESSAGES

AI agents; evidence provenance; model accountability; machine identity; new audit skills.

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Recent specialist evidence of applying the same method to a high-accountability profession.

WHAT THE ROOM WILL LEAVE READY TO DO.

The output is clarity, priorities and a disciplined next move—not a list of buzzwords.

OUTCOME 1

SEE WHAT CONNECTS

Understand how technologies, behaviour and economics interact in this industry.

OUTCOME 2

CHALLENGE THE MENTAL MODEL

Identify assumptions that may have been valid a decade ago but are now expiring.

OUTCOME 3

SEPARATE FACT FROM POSSIBILITY

Distinguish observed changes from pilot technologies and plausible future scenarios.

OUTCOME 4

SELECT ACTIONABLE PRIORITIES

Define a bounded use case, the right safeguards, a learning owner and clear success metrics.

WHAT A BUREAU CAN SEND BACK.

Ready-to-adapt response to the illustrative client request.

Jim Carroll is a strong fit for a professional services, legal & accounting leadership audience looking for something deeper than a general future-trends keynote. He brings more than three decades of highly customized industry work, including the representative engagements detailed in this briefing. His approach would connect the economics of expertise, assurance at machine speed, the skills acceleration gap and the organizational decisions needed to respond. The goal is to give the audience a shared picture of what is changing, a practical way to distinguish emerging opportunity from hype, and the confidence to start with focused, responsible action. The final keynote would be developed around the actual event, audience and business objectives.

RESEARCHED. RELEVANT. ACTIONABLE.

A keynote is developed around the client, not chosen from a fixed slide library.

STEP 1

LISTEN

Discuss event goals, audience composition and the strategic questions people need answered.

STEP 2

RESEARCH

Review client context, published industry signals, credible examples and the existing keynote archive.

STEP 3

CONNECT

Select the best evidence and connect it to this particular industry's decisions and operational reality.

STEP 4

DELIVER

Present a compelling keynote with practical action, clear guardrails and a durable common vocabulary.