

Kerwin Tesdell

Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA)

Kerwin Tesdell is president of the [Community Development Venture Capital Alliance](#), the association of venture capital funds that provide equity financing for businesses that create market rate financial returns, as well as good jobs, wealth and entrepreneurial capacity in low-income urban and rural communities across the United States and around the world. He is also an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching Double Bottom Line Finance at the Stern School of Business and Community Development Law at the School of Law.

Prior to joining CDVCA, Mr. Tesdell was a program officer at the Ford Foundation, first in its office of program-related investments and then in its economic development unit, where he had primary responsibility for the Foundation's work in small business finance and job creation for low-income people. Before that, he was the director of the Community Development Legal Assistance Center, which provides corporate, tax, and real estate legal assistance to community development organizations in New York. He was also an associate with the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton, where he represented a variety of clients in the financial services industry, including venture capital firms and an individual angel capitalist. Prior to joining Debevoise, he was a law clerk to federal judge Constance Baker Motley in Manhattan.

Mr. Tesdell is chairman of the board of the CDFI Coalition and vice chair of the CDFI Data Project. He is a founding board member of the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, and serves on the board of the New York Community Investment Company, LLC, a CDVC fund.

Mr. Tesdell graduated from Harvard College with a degree in economics and holds JD and MBA degrees from New York University, as well as a certificate from the Venture Capital Institute.