Social + Capital Partnership: Unconventional VC

Former Facebook VP, Chamath Palihapitiya, created Social + Capital Partnership, a VC organization that operates like an investor collective, distinguishing it from typical VC firms that usually comprise several managers financed by a passive group of institutional investors. In Social + Capital, limited partners “act as venture-capitalists-on-call, summoned at times to evaluate and mentor startups.”

Germany’s SAP takes rural agriculture in Africa high-tech

SAP, the large German business software management company, is investing in small-scale agriculture. Through a partnership with PlaNet Finance, an NGO, SAP has produced a smartphone application that enables individual farmers in northern Ghana to label, monitor and assess the prices of their shipments. SAP developed the app and software and hosts the server that enables their operation. Read more here.

Celebrating Steve Jobs
February 24, 1955 – October 5, 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Events this week:

- Stephen Roach, Non-Executive Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, “The Financial Crisis: A Perspective,” 10/11, 3pm, SOM, A74
- Anat Admati, Stanford Graduate School of Business, “Capital Regulation of Banks: Fallacies, Myths and Some Proposals,” 10/13, 12.15pm, Faculty Lounge
- Joel Berg, New York Coalition Against Hunger, and others, “The Effects of the Debt Ceiling Deal on Low-Income Populations,” 10/11, 6:10pm, 122

Events next week:

- Roberta Romano, YLS, “How to Craft a Career in Corporate Law,” 10/19, 12pm, Faculty Lounge

Anna Nicole Smith’s Notorious Imprint on Constitutional Law and Bankruptcy

In August, the Supreme Court finally resolved the Dickensian dispute between Anna Nicole Smith’s estate and her late husband’s son, Pierce Marshall. In its opinion with respect to Ms. Smith’s state law claims against Mr. Marshall, the Court sort of decided that bankruptcy courts do not have the constitutional authority to render final judgments on debtor counterclaims that are not sufficiently related to the claimant’s complaint. The opinion appears to have thrown bankruptcy courts into disarray. Just ask Judge Peck of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, who is presiding over the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy and Lehman’s adversarial proceeding against JPMorgan Chase. Last month the Judge found that the submissions of parties, which he hoped would clarify the impact of Stern on his jurisdiction, “have done nothing to dispel the cloud of uncertainty relating to the Court’s authority to decide the pending motion to dismiss or to enter a final judgment.” This is an issue to watch.

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