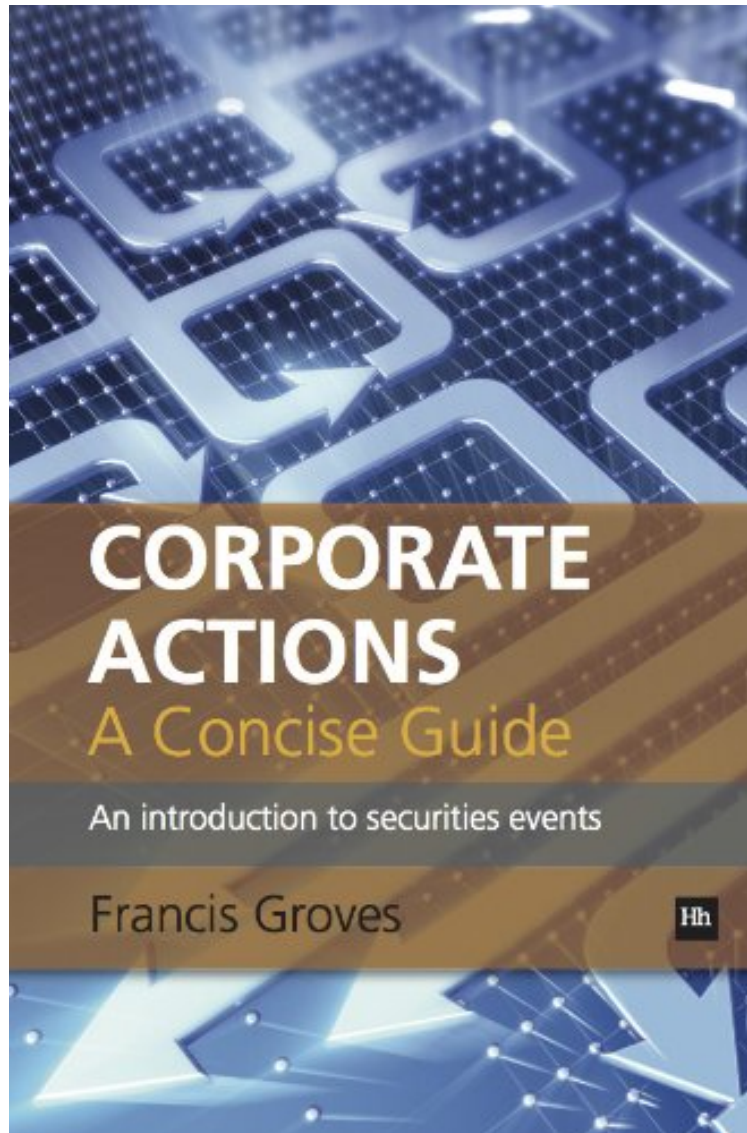


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Corporate Actions - A Concise Guide: An introduction to securities events

Groves Francis

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Corporate actions have been sidelined for too long and deserve to be treated with more respect. No type of investment security can be fully understood without knowledge of its corporate actions. They have implications for the sustainability of an investment's performance but repeatedly more beguiling investment preoccupations put them into the shade. Together with bank clearing and exchange settlement systems, the administration of corporate actions is one of the key co-operative functions tying our highly competitive global finance industry together. In the financial markets of the developed world the efficiency and "risklessness" of corporate actions processing is entirely taken for granted. Yet the volume of complex corporate actions and a common sense estimate of the likelihood of mistakes occurring suggest that industry practitioners and investing clients may be deluding themselves. If knowledge of corporate actions brings us to fully understand the securities they relate to, some familiarity with corporate actions processing is important in gaining an insight into the workings of the securities industry as a system. With the exceptions of accountancy and financial regulation, no other activity involves as many kinds of investment industry participant as corporate actions processing.

About the Author Francis Groves studied modern history at the London School of Economics and has many years of experience working for legal and financial publishers including, Reuters, the Financial Times and Butterworths. He has written on overseas property investment and created financial literacy training materials. The interaction of politics and finance is a particular interest for him. Francis continues to enjoy reading history. Other spare time pursuits include walking and exploring new walks.