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Fund Finance Association
Rising Stars, 2020

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Earlier this year the Fund Finance Association established our annual "Rising Stars" awards. We realized there was a gap in our industry to recognize those that are making a real impact and paving the way for the future of Fund Finance.

When we set out with this ambitious task, we knew this wouldn't be an easy one and we were overwhelmed (in a good way!) with the responses we received for this inaugural award. In total, we received 125 nominations. Thank you for your continued support of our initiatives but more importantly for the role you have played in shaping and mentoring the rising star award recipients and the many additional 'stars' that weren't selected this year. The quantity and quality of the nominations were superb.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our selection committee, they certainly didn't have an easy job on their hands. We asked them to select award recipients based on their outstanding overall contribution to the Fund Finance industry, their firms and their clients, the FFA, the Next Gen Network and/or WFF, with an emphasis on professional contributions focused on excellence in client service, product and service innovations, diversity and inclusion, career development, training and mentoring, networking and community service.

We had the chance to sit down with each of the award recipients to get to know them better and we are sure as you review the profiles in this booklet you will be equally impressed with this year's award recipients' as we were. They are not only passionate and dedicated employees but overall, just great people who demonstrate natural leadership not only in mentoring those coming up behind them but also giving back to the communities they live in. We are very proud to announce the Fund Finance Associations Rising Stars, 2020. Enjoy!

The Fund Finance Association Board

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ALEXA SCHULT

DIRECTOR,PRIVATE EQUITY FINANCE

FIRST REPUBLIC BANK

Alexa Schult is a Director on First Republic Bank's New York Private Equity Finance team. She has been working with alternative investment firms since joining First Republic Bank in 2013. Alexa started her banking career by supporting the daily cash management needs of companies across various industries. Before focusing solely on lending to private equity firms, Alexa worked with not-for-profits, professional service businesses, as well as private equity firms, to support their lending relationships. Since 2015, Alexa has been focused on providing liquidity solutions to private equity firms, their funds under management, general partners and principals, and supporting their ongoing credit needs.

Alexa serves as Co-Head of the Fund Finance Association's New York Next Gen Network alongside Jorge Grafal of Mizuho Americas. She received her bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College in economics and Spanish with a focus in applied mathematics.

Alexa has been working with alternative investment firms in a variety of capacities for the last seven years but focused on supporting the lending needs of private equity firms for the last five.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

In 2015 I started in First Republic Bank's Business Banking department, which is focused on lending to a number of sectors including private equity, not-for-profits, as well as a variety of professional service firms. Once Scott Aleali and Jeff Maier, my now-teammates, joined First Republic in 2017, I was lucky enough to partner with them as an analyst. Since then, Scott and Jeff have become incredible mentors and coaches to me. There is so much I have learned from their experiences and time in this space, and they challenge me to be a better lender and teammate. Joining forces with Scott and Jeff ultimately became a pivotal moment in my career.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Over the years, I have spent a meaningful amount of time mentoring a number of colleagues, whether through a formal program or on an informal basis. As mentioned previously, I've been lucky enough to have a variety amazing mentors myself. With their support, encouragement, and advice, I have been able to navigate my way to a Director role within a relatively short period of time. I firsthand understand and recognize the importance of having mentors and advocates throughout one's career. As a result, I make a concerted effort to spend time working with individuals, helping them to navigate their careers and aiding with the development of their skill sets.

In an effort to help with the development of the next generation of fund finance professionals, I have been working with the Fund Finance Association and the Fund Finance Association's NextGen initiative with the rollout of their inaugural mentorship program. Fund finance as an industry has matured and is growing tremendously. There are many new entrants that I believe can benefit from the knowledge that our industry veterans have garnered over the years. This program allows the mentees to connect with someone within the industry, but outside of their own firm, which I believe can be incredibly valuable for gaining perspective and for navigating delicate situations.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

My sister and I began the volunteer training process with Team Rubicon earlier this year. Team Rubicon is an amazing organization that deploys emergency response teams globally to provide immediate relief to those impacted by disasters and humanitarian crises. The process is rather involved and requires various trainings and testing with FEMA, which I look forward to completing soon!

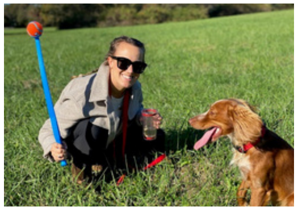
JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Can't Stop by Red Hot Chili Peppers - Chad Smith's simple build in the beginning of the song is unbeatable! Great way to amp yourself up.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I had to cancel a trip to Croatia due to COVID, so in this moment that would be at the top of my list. It feels as though I have some unfinished business there! Bigger picture, one of my bucket list items is to stay at the Giraffe Manor in Nairobi. I couldn't imagine a giraffe poking its head through the window while I am having breakfast! Seems like an unbelievable experience that you probably can't get from too many places elsewhere.



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ALICE JEFFERIS

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

CLIFFORD CHANCE

Alice is a senior associate in the global financial markets practice at Clifford Chance, London focusing on loan products. She acts extensively in the fund financing space including on syndicated and bilateral facilities and on a variety of financing structures including capital call, NAV and hybrid facilities in various jurisdictions with PE, infrastructure, real estate and other types of funds.

Alice is a passionate advocate and activist for diversity and inclusion. She co-founded Accelerate>>>, the Clifford Chance global gender parity group, has led the UK chapter and sphere-headed global engagement in this area as well as supporting women and the advancement of women's rights in the wider community. She ranked #33 on this year's inspiring HERoes 100 Women Future Leaders List, recognising champions of inclusion across the globe. Alice has a personal interest in ESG and the opportunities brought by technological development. She actively works to combine those interests with her work including working closely with the Clifford Chance innovation team and starts-ups looking to improve the loan market using blockchain, AI and big data.

Alice has been working in Fund Finance for eight years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

My first fund finance deal was a straightforward renewal of a capital call facility in 2013. I liked it immediately. The people were friendly, the product was interesting and it seemed to perfectly pull together my experience (as a trainee I had worked in both the Clifford Chance fund formation team and the global financial markets practice) with the opportunity to provide an all-round better service through knowledge of people, processes and cross-practice collaboration.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

A number of years ago I made two pledges to myself (1) to always try to recognise what I have and share it with those more junior or less empowered - too often in a competitive hierarchy people think they don't have enough to share or fail to consider the need to do so; and (2) be a touch stone for those more senior or empowered so that they can and do ask advice that helps shape behaviour, policy and development. Whether you are junior or senior, there is always room for development and if the aim is across industry change that can start small but will only ever be successful if everyone joins in.

With the above in mind, I regularly present to juniors internally and externally to help build their understanding of the finance market, tech developments and the legal and commercial drivers at play and have acted a mentor for many people around the Clifford Chance network. I also set up and run the gender parity reverse mentoring scheme at Cifford Chance where a junior person mentors a partner or senior business professional with the aim to exchange skills, knowledge and understanding. The scheme now has over 50 participants annually and is one of the key drivers of change.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I have participated in a number of mentoring schemes including for teenagers at Mulberry School for Girls and one designed for high performing university students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I regularly participate in "career carousels" for students to learn more about my job.

I am an NHS Volunteer responder and made visors for use in hospitals and care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community involvement I am most proud of this year is achieving the allocation of funds to set up a new refuge for the London Black Women's Project required due to the increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and helping to run a successful campaign to furnish that refuge by individual donations. The refuge was up and running by June and provides an essential service.

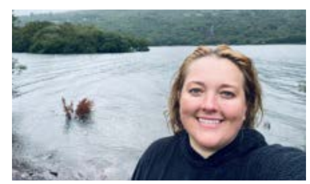
JUST FOR FUN:

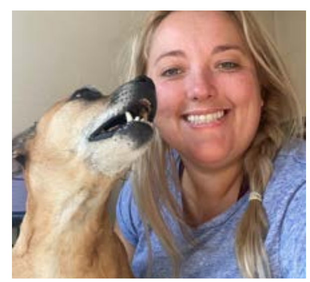
IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Cheese. I took a cheese making class last year which was great fun but, after 3 months of "maturing" my cheese in the fridge including it taking up the whole vegetable draw and having to spray the fridge with water daily to increase humidity, I did start to think cheese making and my life were incompatible. The perfect solution for this year, a cheese advent calendar, which not only brings daily cheese, it also brings a daily cheese joke, today's being: "What is Jay-Z's favourite cheese? Brie-yonce".

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

The list is long but right at the top is Slovenia for its beautiful lakes, rivers and wild swimming opportunities. In a hectic world, swimming in a natural environment provides rare moments of calm and relaxation (once your inner voice has stopped screaming "get out of here", "this is freezing", "what's that between our toes" and so on).





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ASHLEY BELTON

ASSOCIATE

SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP

Ashley Belton is an Associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. As a member of the fund finance group, she advises fund sponsors in connection with subscription facilities and other complex fund financings. Her practice involves crafting financing solutions for a wide variety of funds with complicated structures, including private equity, real estate, energy, infrastructure, debt and other investment funds. Ashley is also an actively involved member of Women in Fund Finance.

Ashley received her B.A., magna cum laude, with distinction, from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010 and her J.D., cum laude, from New York University School of Law in 2013, as a Robert McKay Scholar.

Ashley has been working in Fund Finance for six years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

As a junior associate at Simpson, I had the opportunity to try out difference practice areas through the firm's corporate rotation program. I knew I was interested in pursuing work in banking and credit, but I was not yet familiar with fund finance specifically. During that time, I had the privilege of working with Mary Touchstone and Julia Kohen on a fund finance matter, and it turned out to be an excellent fit. I appreciated the opportunity to build upon my credit experience, while taking on challenges unique to fund sponsors. It was only a matter of time until I focused on fund finance exclusively.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I have been lucky to have wonderful mentors and sponsors throughout my career at Simpson, and I make it a priority to pay it forward. I often lead training sessions and prepare knowledge management materials for the benefit of the junior members of our group. More informally, when working on a particular matter, I invest my time to ensure that each team member understands the "big picture" as well as the nuts and bolts of the transaction. I try to make myself available so that others feel comfortable coming to me with any questions or issues as they arise. I sincerely enjoy mentoring others, and I believe that our group's emphasis on professional development is, in large part, responsible for our success.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

This past October, my husband and I welcomed a new addition to our family - a happy and healthy baby girl, Annabelle Harper Gold. Experiencing pregnancy and giving birth in a global pandemic has had a profound impact on my perspective and has inspired me to give back. This year has been tough on everyone, especially families who may not have the resources to make do in a pandemic. I've decided to focus my efforts on charitable causes benefitting children whose services are acutely needed during this time, including Save the Children (savethechildren.org), a humanitarian organization that provides critical aid to children in the U.S. and abroad, Deirdre's House (deirdreshouse.org), a child advocacy center located in Morristown, New Jersey, and Saint Peter's Orphanage (stpetersorphange.org), an orphanage for boys in Denville, New Jersey. This holiday season, I encourage others to find causes that are meaningful to them and to do the same.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

That's easy - Joe's pizza.

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My family instilled in me the importance of a strong work ethic. My mother, a nurse practitioner and manager of the palliative care unit at Morristown Medical Center, led the effort to open a temporary hospital for COVID patients earlier this year. My father, not to be outdone, has worked tirelessly to get in the best shape of his life following open heart bypass surgery last year. And my brother, a Major in the US Marine Corps, has completed deployments to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, and aboard the USS Nimitz. In fact, I might just be the slacker in the family.

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AVERY LEE

AVP, FUND FINANCE SPECIALIST

CITI

Avery joined the Fund Finance team at Citi Hong Kong in 2017 as AVP. He has worked on a dozen landmark deals, actively contributing to a three-fold growth of the team's portfolio. Prior to that, he was the Senior Analyst at Citi Investment Banking in the New York office, covering media and telecom sector. During his tenure there, he worked on a number of M&A and financing transactions, including Activision Blizzard's $5.9Bn acquisition of King Digital (London-based developer of Candy Crush), Cox Automotive's $4.0Bn acquisition of Dealertrack, and Sinclair Broadcast Group's $3.9Bn acquisition of Tribune Media. Before joining Citi IB, Avery was an Analyst at Citi Corporate Banking also in New York, covering TMT companies. He is a graduate of New York University Stern School of Business, where he majored in finance and statistics.

Avery has been working in Fund Finance for three and a half years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I stumbled upon an article on PEI about Fund Finance and subscription credit lines in 2017 as I was looking for opportunities outside of the US. I thought the product has a very interesting structure with strong collateral. After learning that Citi had a new opening in the Fund Finance team in Hong Kong, I applied after studying the industry for a week - Hong Kong felt like the perfect place to start my career in Fund Finance in light of the pace of the growth of PE industry in Asia and relatively low market saturation compared to the US or Europe.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

As one of the most experienced junior staff in Citi Fund Finance Asia, I have trained several new hires coming from diverse background with no prior experience in Fund Finance. I trained them on a variety of subjects, ranging from credit analysis and documentation analysis to term sheet drafting and deal execution.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in the US for over a decade since 2004, building homes for homeless people or those in need of better housing and helping the finance person in the local office with accounting work. I also volunteered at Holt Children's Services in Korea, where I proposed and helped develop a new initiative for arranging for reunion of separated children who had been adopted to foreign foster parents and their biological parents in Korea.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

A fighter pilot, I unfortunately had to give up on this dream due to my less-than-ideal vision.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Chinook salmon from Alaska - it's equally delicious raw or cooked!

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

Contagion by Steven Soderbergh, I believe this movie nails it at depicting most, if not all, of our current lives during the COVID days.

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CAITLIN WOOLFORD

ASSOCIATE

MAYER BROWN LLP

Caitlin is a senior associate in Mayer Brown's Charlotte office. Her practice centers on Fund Finance and she has significant experience representing lenders in negotiating and documenting subscription credit facilities to private equity and real estate funds. She also serves on Mayer Brown's Women's Forum. Caitlin is a magna cum laude graduate of Syracuse University and graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law in 2014.

Caitlin has been working in Fund Finance for six years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I began my legal career at Mayer Brown and was hired directly to join the fund finance practice group.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Our practice group has grown significantly over the last several years at Mayer Brown and I have played an active role in training and mentoring the new associates and staff in fund finance. I have also prepared and presented lunch and learn trainings for my clients on numerous fund finance topics.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I I have been a co-chair of the Charlotte Women's Forum at Mayer Brown since 2015 in which we plan networking opportunities and client events to support women in their careers and I am a member of the junior committee of Women in Fund Finance. I have also participated throughout my career in pro bono opportunities, including a will clinic for senior citizens in Charlotte.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

All I do Is Win - DJ Khaled

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

A veterinarian. My family had two Dobermans growing up and I've always loved dogs.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Pizza!

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CATHARINA VON FINCKENHAGEN

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

OGIER

Catharina von Finckenhagen is part of Ogier's multi-disciplinary Private Equity team. She specializes in advising on subscription credit and capital call facilities entered into by funds, general partner or management lines of credit, including assignments of management fee income, borrowing and guaranteeing provisions in fund constitutional documents, ability to grant security, and has experience in hybrid and net asset value credit facilities entered into by funds. As a key member of the Ogier CAYLUX fund finance team, Catharina is a qualified Cayman Islands attorney and Luxembourg avocate and regularly advises major US based global lending institutions on subscription finance facilities involving both Cayman Islands and Luxembourg funds in the facility structure.

Catharina has been working in Fund Finance for four years. With extensive corporate finance, banking and investment funds experience, she advises an international client base on general corporate and banking matters and all aspects of investment funds, including formation, restructuring, corporate governance and operational matters.

Catharina is a member of 100 Women in Finance, Women in Fund Finance and the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association.

Catharina is fluent in English, French, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish and Spanish.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

4 years ago, I attended the Cadwalader Finance Forum in Charlotte and Fund Finance Symposium in New York where I was introduced to the key players of the industry. The fund finance industry was booming and everyone had an open and inclusive approach to new members. Thanks to the continued support of these relationships, I've been able to assist in developing and growing our firm's client base within this thriving industry.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I've been lucky to have strong role models throughout my life and it's important for me to give the same attention and support to young people in my community and work place. I enjoy providing time and guidance to young professionals as well as encouraging diversity and uniqueness. The development of the associates within my teams both in Cayman and Luxembourg is a daily commitment which I am very proud of.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I have participated in children's reading skills improvement, Cayman beach cleanup and charity motorbike ride, as well as providing donations to causes close to my heart.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Professional skier.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I'd like to motorbike coast to coast in the US.

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

Lost In Translation.

FUND FINANCE association

CATHERINE LAGRECA

VICE PRESIDENT

HPS INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC

Catherine LaGreca is a Vice President in the Fund Finance Department of HPS Investment Partners, LLC. She works for the Chief Financial Officer and Head of Private Debt Capital Markets on portfolio level financing and strategic financing initiatives for all investment strategies. She is involved in sourcing and negotiating credit facilities as well as evaluating and optimizing leverage across the funds. Prior to joining HPS in 2014 she worked for NewOak on litigation support for the mortgage crisis of 2008. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Fairfield University in 2013 with a BS in Mathematics.

Catherine has been working in Fund Finance for six years, she started working at HPS in June of 2014. Her role initially focused on portfolio monitoring; within her first year she had exposure to fund finance on an ad hoc basis.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

When I started at HPS I was a recent college graduate, eager to get exposure to as many areas of the business as possible. As an analyst, I was fortunate enough to learn about fund financing directly from the CFO. Within one year I was offered a role in the Fund Finance Department. Shortly thereafter, HPS hired a Head of Private Debt Capital Markets. She has helped shape my career by teaching me the tools required to successfully negotiate a credit agreement and has helped me build relationships with a wide range of lenders.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I have been very fortunate in my career path. The Fund Finance Department at HPS has grown substantially since I joined. In my early years at the firm I benefitted from learning directly from very senior level resources. As we continue to build out the team and hire junior level resources, I take a big role in growing and shaping their career development. I connect with my team members on a personal and professional level and make sure we do things together both in and out of the office.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

As a firm, HPS is involved in several different charity organizations. Multiple times a year, employees can volunteer and give back to the community. I try to participate as much as possible.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Growing up I never imagined I would be anything other than a teacher. When I went to Fairfield University, I minored in secondary education and expected to teach high school mathematics. Though my path did not lead me to become a teacher, I find that a lot of the skills and practices I learned with my education background help me to educate others on the Fund Finance niche of the finance world.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

PIZZA! I try to limit myself to pizza once or twice a week but if I could, I would eat it for every meal!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I have always wanted to stay in a bungalow over the water in Bora Bora! I am a warm weather/beach lover. The scenery in all photos makes the experience seem magical.

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CHRISTIANE ANSELM

DIRECTOR, CAPITAL MARKETS | DEBT MARKETS

BNP PARIBAS

Christiane is a Director in the Capital Markets | Debt Markets team of BNP Paribas in Germany. She has more than 15 years experience in Investment Banking (Investment Fund Finance, European Leveraged Loans, High Yield Bonds).
Christiane joined BNP Paribas in May 2011 and since then focused on arranging, structuring and executing large sub-investment grade syndicated financings and fund financings, mostly to support top tier Private Equity Investors in their acquisition and development of large European companies. She is currently involved in the developing and scaling of a new business segment, namely various type of fund level financings and fund-level FX hedging, mainly for Private Equity but also Debt, Infrastructure, Real Estate and Funds of funds. Prior to joining BNP Paribas Christiane worked in the investment banking divisions of SGCIB and LBBW, where she started her career as a Risk officer in Leveraged Finance.

Christiane has been working in Fund Finance for three years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Leveraged Finance markets became even more competitive in 2017/18 and I loved the idea of being part of a small but fast growing business segment in a resilient market, with strong deal flow and hit rate. The job is close to PE clients and offers opportunities across the alternative investment market. With my team, I found a start-up like mentality within the framework of our large institution, which was enriching and challenging at the same time. The team spirit was great and during record years 2019/2020 with a striking deal closing history and prominent lead roles in large syndicated ESG-linked financings, we were able to further recruit and build this business.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I am a big fan of teamwork, sharing experience and information that I find useful and relevant, and then brainstorming and listening to other people's reflection and ideas. You might call it a sparring partner. I was lucky to start my career with a traineeship and then later to find a couple of good mentors and paragons during my first jobs, who enjoyed sharing, guiding and teaching the younger team members. I try to do the same whenever there is opportunity, interest and receptiveness on the other side. Not an easy task during a Pandemic though.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

To set the scene: I believe that in every stage of life you have a specific value and role to play, and that cross-generational learning should never stop. The same applies to professional life, one should always have an opportunity (or even obligation) to enjoy some cross-border learning, e.g. by temporary switching into a social environment. This is to stay aware, focused and grounded. Having said this, the answer to your question is that I continuously engage in a number of small projects. Little steps, but contributing and rewarding.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

German Kartoffel. People know I could survive without anything else aside.

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

First my family and settings, later on my long-term friends from school and university, my au-pair experience in Seattle, studies abroad in the US, internships that I have chosen by city rather than topic, early travelling that allowed me to explore, and not the least a couple of elderly ladies (the grannies of my heart) who were supporting, teaching and inspiring me.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I have a backlog currently, I am afraid. So it is hard to name just one. I am overdue to visit friends across Germany, Rome, Capetown, Seattle, New York, San Carlos/California.

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CHRIS ELLIS

ASSOCIATE

MAYER BROWN LLP

Chris Ellis is a Banking & Finance associate in Mayer Brown's Charlotte office. His practice centers on Fund Finance and representing lenders in negotiating and documenting subscription credit facilities to private equity and real estate funds. Chris graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Law where he was a staff member and editor of the North Carolina Banking Institute Journal, and he holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Chris has been working in Fund Finance for five years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I was fortunate enough to start my career at Mayer Brown, specifically in the fund finance group. There was plenty of opportunity and room to grow, and I am proud to have been part of the Mayer Brown team and the fund finance industry over the last 5 exciting years. I am certainly looking forward to what's next.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I am a member of Mayer Brown's recruiting committee. Over the past several years, I have participated in the recruiting and interviewing process for both new and lateral associates joining Mayer Brown. I love talking about my job, and generally the most avid listeners are those who are seeking employment. I enjoy teaching new associates the nuts and bolts of fund finance and offering guidance and support in what can sometimes be a challenging and stressful environment.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

For several years, I've participated in a pro bono clinic drafting wills for senior citizens, which has been a great opportunity to give back in a small way. I am also very excited about Mayer Brown's Project Equity initiative aimed to address systemic racism and inequality through external community outreach, legal initiatives and financial commitments. I recognize that my professional success is largely due to how I look and where I'm from - and very few are even given the opportunity to realize their potential. This has to change, and I'm looking forward to how I can be a part of this initiative.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

Definitely my parents. I can't thank them enough for all of the support and encouragement over the years. I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without them.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Hot Dogs. They're delicious - does it really matter what they're made of?

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

London. I have only spent a short 24-hour layover in London. I'm a huge sports fan and would love to catch some soccer games and experience more of the city.

DANYEALE L. CHUNG

ASSOCIATE

CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM & TAFT LLP

Danyeale Chung is an associate in the Finance Group at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. She focuses her practice in the area of fund finance transactions. Danyeale regularly advises major lenders on the structuring and documentation of syndicated subscription credit facilities made to some of the most preeminent sponsors of private equity funds. She has closed numerous transactions, ranging in size from $35 million to $4.85 billion. Danyeale received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Danyeale has been working in Fund Finance for five and a half years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I began my career as an associate under Mike Mascia, who almost exclusively worked on fund finance transactions at the time I joined his team.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I have mentored multiple associates formally through CWT's mentor/mentee program and informally for juniors, usually staff attorneys, who joined the fund finance team. I make an effort to earn the trust of junior associates and encourage them to communicate directly with the client and grow their relationship with our clients. I always make myself available to answer questions and provide feedback.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I am a member of the Humane Society of Charlotte's (HSC) Young Affiliated Professionals. I have been an avid participant in HSC charitable events and have been a continuous contributor to the HSC. I have also represented local charities on a pro bono basis.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Jump Around by House of Pain.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Potatoes.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Paris. My husband and I have been a handful of times, including for our honeymoon. We always find something new to explore, but love to revisit sights and restaurants we have been to multiple times. There are small towns nearby that are fantastic to bike around and visit the farmers' markets. It is a place that can be absolutely peaceful and relaxing, but you can also be active and spend the day experiencing so many different aspects of a different culture.

FUND FINANCE association

DONALD COOLEY

ASSOCIATE

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Donald Cooley is a senior associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins LLP and a member of the Finance Department. His practice focuses on representing sponsors and borrowers in secured lending and other financing transactions, including fund finance, acquisition financings, cash flow and asset-based loans. Donald specializes in fund-level subscription lines of credit, having worked on over 15 subscription facilities in 2020 alone. Donald is well versed in all aspects of the fund finance market having worked for both private equity and private debt funds. He has extensive experience ranging from multi-billion umbrella facilities to bespoke facilities for separately managed accounts and small first time funds.

Donald obtained his JD from New York University School of Law and his BA in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of several affinity groups at Latham & Watkins LLP and currently serves as one of the Global Chairs of the First Generation Professionals Affinity Group.

Donald has been working in Fund Finance for four years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I began my legal career working in New York and when I first moved to DC and began working at Latham, I had no experience with fund finance. Shortly after I arrived, my practice group was working on a number of fund line transactions, and I was staffed on two or three deals. Up until that point I had primarily worked on acquisition financings, but working on the subscription lines of credit I quickly realized that I was drawn to this particular line of work. I really liked how each deal was unique and required me to understand complex fund structures and the underlying business interests in creating such facilities. Once I was up and running on those initial subscription facilities I never looked back, and have maintained an active fund line practice ever since.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I thoroughly enjoy mentoring junior associates. Practicing as a transactional lawyer - especially in the finance world - isn't something that law school readily prepares law students for and I remember quite well the feeling of confusion when I first started practicing. I make it very clear to junior associates that my door (now virtual) is always open and I thoroughly enjoy teaching them about subscription lines of credit.

Aside from mentoring associates within my firm, I also serve as a mentor to a number of law students. I regularly participate on panels discussing my career and tips for success. When I was in law school there were so many people who opened doors for me and I've made it a guiding principle of mine to "pay it forward" whenever possible.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

While at Latham I had the privilege to serve on the Pro Bono Committee for two years, which allowed me to work with a number of my colleagues to oversee all of the pro bono projects that came through the DC office. My pro bono practice largely consists of representing transgender individuals in navigating the name-change and gender-identity marker change process and assisting non-profit organizations with a host of corporate governance issues. I've also been an active member of the firm's Black Lawyers Group and LGBTQ Lawyers Group for many years.

Outside of Latham I serve on the board of directors for a non-profit called Strength In Our Voices, which operates in DC-area schools in the areas of suicide prevention and mental wellness. Recently, I have joined the Fund Finance Association Diversity Committee and look forward to working with my fellow committee members on initiatives to increase diversity within the fund finance industry.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My father. He was a man who expected the absolute best from me but was also my biggest cheerleader.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

For almost all of my childhood (and leading up to my first year of undergrad) I wanted to be a physician.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Sushi, definitely sushi.

FUND FINANCE association

EMILY FULLER

ASSOCIATE

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Emily Fuller is an associate in the Finance Practice Group in the London office of Haynes and Boone. Emily acts on a full range of finance transactions, with a particular focus on fund finance, including syndicated and bilateral leveraged/NAV facilities, SMA deals, hybrid facilities, GP support lines and capital call facilities. Emily has experience in the formation of closed-ended and open-ended offshore fund structures and prior to joining Haynes and Boone undertook a secondment at a real estate fund. Emily's practice focuses on acting for bank and non-bank lenders and a variety of sponsors (including corporate and non-corporate private equity funds, hedge funds, infrastructure funds, real estate funds, secondary funds, credit funds and sovereign wealth funds). Emily also holds the CISI Certificate in Islamic Finance. Emily sits on the Women in Fund Finance European committee and the Fund Finance NextGen European committee.

Emily has been working on fund finance deals for just over six years, not including the time she spent in the funds and banking departments whilst training.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I come from Guernsey originally, which is a fund jurisdiction, so even my temp summer jobs as a teenager used to be filing or answering the phones etc. at an asset manager or bank, so there was no escape! My training contract was heavily funds focused, including fund litigation, fund M&A, fund formation and fund finance. I enjoy the transactional side of finance, so fund finance was a good fit for me and I've since been lucky enough to work for some of the leaders in the industry.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I'm involved in the trainee recruitment process at Haynes and Boone and often attend law fairs to speak to students about what the firm does and answer questions about what a trainee can expect to gain from training with us. I also assist with putting together training material for more junior members of the team, and help supervise junior associates and trainees in our team. I also encourage others to take part in all of the NextGen events, including the newly launched mentoring scheme! Outside of work I mentor a student who will be undertaking her Graduate Diploma in Law next year through the GROW MENTORING scheme.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

As a keen swimmer I'm passionate about keeping plastics out of our oceans and I often help out at local clean-ups, including cleaning up Regent's Canal near where I live in London, and beach clean-ups when I'm back visiting Guernsey.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

A panda warden. I don't think this is a real job, but I basically wanted to drive around and save pandas. I was inspired by the film "The Amazing Panda Adventure".

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Cheese - literally any kind!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I love to travel so this year has been hard, but next on my list is probably Russia as I've always wanted to take the train between St Petersburg and Moscow.

FUND FINANCE association

FANTINE JEANNON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR – INVESTMENT OPERATIONS

ICG PLC

Fantine, after various roles in PE, joined ICG 6 years ago. In her current role she is responsible for managing the all elements of deal execution made by ICG's multiple illiquid funds, being the closing and exit of deals, as well as dealing with any issue over the life of these investments. The role includes the management of a significant number of international stakeholders, including the ICG funds' nonexecutive director network, banks and LPs. In addition, with the significant growth of Fund Finance in ICG, Fantine's role has now evolved to include permanent membership of the team that source, structure, negotiate and settle all debt deals for ICG Funds, which is now book of over €5bn comprising circa 20 deals.

Fantine has been working in Fund Finance for four-five years. Outside of work, Fantine is the mother of Lia, is a qualified Yoga teacher and enjoys, Lia permitting, fine dining and champagne!

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Opportunity to work on a facility and then developing from there

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Since joining ICG I have been participating to ICGís partnership with Think Forward (a charity that targets young people most at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training at the age of 16).

I have further grown my team from 1 to 3 and constantly train and develop team member within and outside my team. I am also part of the women development program within ICG and as such I am mentoring junior female employee.

I recently joined the Women in Fund Finance committee and am actively participating in paneling and hosting program in the new year to promote and support women in the industry. Having given birth to a baby girl 15 months ago I am particularly making a point of doing anything in my power to promote equality and support women.

Finally, as a qualified yoga teacher, I always try to look out for people around me and promote general wellbeing and awareness

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Alicia Keys. Girl on fire

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

A war plane pilot

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Cheese!

FUND FINANCE association

FINN HOWIE

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

MOURANT

Finn is a Senior Associate in Mourant's Cayman Islands Corporate and Finance practice, specializing in M&A and banking and finance transactions. He primarily advises corporate banks and other financial institutions as well as private investment fund sponsors on Cayman Islands law aspects of asset-backed financings, structured financings, subscription credit facilities and leveraged buyout facilities. Mourant's Cayman Islands finance practice has grown steadily over the last several years and covers complex financing transactions and advice relating to real estate, acquisition, asset, fund and structured finance mandates, leveraged finance work, debt capital markets matters and derivatives issues.

Finn has been practicing in the fund finance space for two years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I started my career at a large commercial law firm in New Zealand before moving to the London office of Skadden Arps, and subsequently joining Mourant in the Cayman Islands in 2018. The Cayman Islands is one of the world's leading private equity fund domiciles and the growth in fund-level lending has naturally mirrored that experienced in the United States and other key jurisdictions. Mourant, like many other firms, has a bespoke fund finance service offering and I was lucky to move into this interesting and fast growing area of the investment funds industry.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

In addition to delivering regular training sessions both internally and to external clients, I am closely involved in training and mentoring our corporate practice articled clerks who work alongside associates on transactional files before qualifying as lawyers. Mourant has a close knit corporate team which allows for valuable one-on-one supervision time with articled clerks during their corporate seat.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Like many other countries in the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands tourism economy was hard hit by the measures taken regionally to control the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, myself and a group of volunteers assisted with delivering meals and other support to families most impacted by the lockdown measures and border closures. Within the firm, I sit on Mourant's social committee, which among other things organizes an annual community day during which staff take a break from their desk job and head out into the local community in support of a variety of causes. One such cause is the Cayman Islands Humane Society, which has its hands full sheltering and finding homes for a number of stray or abandoned dogs. Helping out with exercising and fostering shelter dogs led to the charming experience of adopting our very own rescue pup; the ultimate work from home companion! Other activities include beach clean ups with a local environmental group, Plastic Free Cayman. Finally, I am also a rugby fan and play for a local club in the Cayman Islands.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

Travelling from a distant country at the bottom of the world (New Zealand) to interesting places such as Kashmir and the Himalayas, on a student budget.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Dive instructor on a tropical island. I achieved half of that goal.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Right now, anywhere with snow!

FUND FINANCE association

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

HARRY ELLIOTT

ASSOCIATE

MV CREDIT

Harry Elliott sits within the Fund Optimisation and Investor Solutions team at MV Credit. The team covers all investor activity and business development, as well as proactively managing the funds strategy with a view to enhancing risk adjusted returns through active debt management (both subscription and NAV facilities).

Prior to joining MV Credit, Harry worked in derivative structuring and trading at River and Mercantile Derivates, and before that interned at RBC Capital Markets in Leveraged Finance. Harry holds a Master of Arts degree in Natural Sciences (Physics) from the University of Cambridge and has completed the CFA.

Harry started his career four and a half years ago and has spent the previous two and a half in the private fund space.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

The team I sit in covers a broad range of activities including the fund financing needs of all funds. I started in this team because I enjoy a quantitative challenge and the various financing requirements certainly provides that! I've always enjoyed solving problems.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Part of my role involves spending a lot of time training and developing juniors on the team. I think I'm very hands on and always available for help. This has certainly been challenging during the lockdown period, but I find regular catch ups helpful to make sure everyone has the support they need. Finally, no question is a stupid question!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

As part of the Natixis Group, I sit on the Natixis Pride Network Committee representing affiliates. This role means I can help create conversations around all aspects of diversity within the finance industry. We have hosted a great range of events with an interesting list of speakers, most recently Dame Inga Beale, the former CEO of Lloyd's of London who shared her inspirational story.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Some variation of a curry

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Australia, I've never been, and it sounds like an amazing place to visit.

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

"The Cabin in the Woods", because I may as well be in the middle of the woods given the lock down situation!

FUND FINANCE association

JAMES MCDONALD, CFA

HEAD TRADER: FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND HEDGING

TPG

James McDonald leads TPG's foreign exchange and hedging activities. He focuses on designing and executing strategies that mitigate TPG's fund-level exposure to currency fluctuations. James also spends time with TPG portfolio company CFOs and Treasurers to assist with the structuring and implementation of hedges related to the management of both currency and interest rate risk. Prior to joining TPG, James worked for Bloomberg, where he was a fixed income and derivatives specialist. He is a CFA charterholder and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

James has been working in Fund Finance for three years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I joined TPG Capital after starting my career at Bloomberg. I was brought on to help build out the firm's internal foreign exchange and hedging capabilities.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I'm the only person within the firm who focuses solely on my specialty areas. With that being the case, I view every interaction with investment professionals and/or members of our portfolio companies as an opportunity to not only accomplish a specific task, but also to share knowledge. This has worked both ways and I would attribute much of my professional development directly to the opportunities I've had to collaborate with individuals that have a wide variety of experiences and skillsets.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I'm very fortunate to work for a firm that prioritizes community impact. I've joined many of my colleagues as a volunteer at the Fort Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter. I have also been part of the EVERFI and TPG Idea Accelerator events in Fort Worth. EVERFI, a leading education technology firm and the first investment of The Rise Fund, provides digital entrepreneurship education to schools in our community and the Idea Accelerator events give the students an opportunity to utilize what they have learned in a competitive environment.

The TPG volunteers serve as coaches. In the last event, the team I coached got second place. I was really impressed and quickly learned that the students were far more creative than me!

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Electric Avenue.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

To become Batman.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Ribeye (Medium Rare).

FUND FINANCE association

JASPA DOUSE

ASSOCIATE

WELLS FARGO

Jaspa is an Associate in the Subscription Finance Group at Wells Fargo in London, working as part of a 13-member team providing market-leading financing solutions to European sponsors across a variety of investment strategies and geographies. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Jaspa was on the Graduate Program in the Real Estate Finance team at Close Brothers. He is a CFA Charterholder and holds a Bachelor's degree (with honours) in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Leicester.

Jaspa has been working in Fund Finance for three and a half years. Outside of work, Jaspa enjoys travelling, swimming, squash, and football.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I have had a keen interest in sponsor-backed acquisition activity since I completed a private equity internship with a large European buyout firm back in 2012. As I built upon my experience and interest in finance/lending, specifically in the financial institutions space, Fund Finance felt to be a natural next step in my career when I began at Wells Fargo in 2017.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

In addition to helping with training for the new Analysts on our desk, I mentor an A-level student at a local sixth form college through the Career Ready Program. We meet on a monthly basis and I help with various career development initiatives including personal statement writing, CV/interview workshops, as well as crafting outreaches to local Physiotherapy clinics (his field of interest) to seek work experience.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I take part in various charity fundraisers. Most recently, I completed a 100km sponsored walk from London to Brighton, which took just over 17 hours and raised ~£15k for the NSPCC.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

DMX - X Gon' Give It To Ya.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Commercial Pilot.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

A well charred, medium rare Tomahawk steak.

FUND FINANCE association

JEREMY TAN

HEAD OF STRUCTURING, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

MACQUARIE BANK

Jeremy heads up Structuring for Macquarie's Fund Finance team, focusing on NAV facilities, bespoke subscription facilities and hybrids. During his time with Fund Finance, his expertise has grown from hedge funds to now include PE funds, PE secondary funds, real estate funds, infra funds and credit funds.

Prior to joining Fund Finance, Jeremy held roles in Macquarie's Asset Management division working on Australian structured products and Forestry capital solutions.

James has been working in Fund Finance for eight years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Macquarie was expanding its Fund Finance business into the US, so I had an amazing opportunity to move from Sydney to New York.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I have been mentoring new starters for the last 3 years. I really like to focus on the non-business aspects, especially helping the next generation find their work / life balance and guiding them to help increase their visibility across the bank.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Since joining Macquarie, I've been regularly running ultra-marathons to help raise money for various charities - it's amazing how much support you get when you tell people you'll run 100km!

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My wife - she is much more creative and empathetic. She's been amazing at helping me understand the EQ aspects of managing a team and doing business. We've been together for most of my career, so she's always been a constant guide at keeping me grounded (and patient)!

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Grew up watching Tony Hawk, so I was determined to be a pro skateboarder!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

The Galapagos Islands - seems like one of the last remaining sanctuaries of untouched nature.

FUND FINANCE association

JORGE GRAFAL

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

VICE PRESIDENT OF FUND FINANCE

MIZUHO

Jorge Grafal is Vice President of the Fund Finance business at Mizuho Americas. Jorge joined Mizuho as part of the firm's initiative to grow its presence within the Fund Finance industry in January, 2020, having previously worked at National Australia Bank, SMBC and First Republic Bank. Within Mizuho, he serves as a key point of contact for ancillary business opportunities across its full spectrum of products and services. Jorge also serves as Co-Head of the Fund Finance Association's New York NextGen Network with fellow Co-Head, Alexa Schult, from First Republic Bank.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, Jorge is a lifelong New Yorker with very strong convictions: he dislikes the Yankees to spite his father, considers Riverdale to be the start of "Upstate", and thinks Chicago deep dish is a nice meal but that it isn't pizza. His education has also been shaped around his home: he holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business and an MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business.

Jorge has been a funds banker for over nine years, with a focus on subscription finance facilities, NAV facilities, fund-level foreign exchange services and tailored credit products for private equity employees' GP commitments.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

My first role out of college was within First Republic Bank's Business Banking department. At First Republic, I served as an analyst focused on the firm's Professional Loan Programs, underwriting lines of credit to individual employees of private capital sponsors for investments into their own funds.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

As Co-Head of the New York NextGen Network, I have played a role in the development and execution of the Fund Finance Association's Mentorship Program. I have also organized several networking events and educational seminars for the benefit of NextGen's core demographic of young industry professionals.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Outside of the office, I have spent time as a tutor in the South Bronx and participated in financial literacy workshops in several boroughs throughout the city.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Crazy Train by the Prince of Darkness, Ozzy Osbourne.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

I dreamt of being Batman, a firefighter, and a dinosaur all at once. I was devastated when my mother told me I would need to choose a single job.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Pizza for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

FUND FINANCE association

KEENAN MCBRIDE

VICE PRESIDENT

MORGAN STANLEY

Keenan McBride sits within Fixed Income Secured Lending at Morgan Stanley. He currently handles the origination, structuring, and distribution of subscription secured credit facilities for private equity funds globally, and has been covering the product exclusively for nine-plus years. His clients include top tier alternative asset managers headquartered in North America, Europe, and Asia. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Mr. McBride worked in the subscription finance group at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and on the leveraged finance syndications team at RBC Capital Markets. Mr. McBride graduated from Boston College.

Keenan has been working in Fund Finance for nine years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Having covered leverage finance syndications prior to working in Fund Finance, I was introduced to private equity and was able to gain a peripheral understanding of its business model. When I was offered the opportunity to work full-time in a capacity that involved direct dialogue with and underwriting of private fund clients, it seemed like a natural fit for the next stage of my career.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Within the workplace, I am responsible for instructing junior bankers on the fundamentals of Fund Finance as well as overseeing their various contributions to specific subscription finance transactions. Away from the workplace, I have volunteered to educate underprivileged high school students on broader financial literacy as part of an institutional program through my firm.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I am an active supporter and contributor of Regis High School's REACH Program (dedicated to continued diversification of its student body), Brooklyn Jesuit Prep (an all-scholarship middle school serving low-income households), and the First Tee - Metropolitan New York (an organization dedicated to promoting golf instruction among minorities and underprivileged kids).

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

"Enter Sandman" by Metallica.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Airplane Pilot.

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

"May the Course Be With You".

FUND FINANCE association

LANA PAPA

ASSOCIATE

WELLS FARGO

Lana Papa joined Wells Fargo in 2018 and is an Associate in the Loan Syndications group for Subscription Finance and Asset Backed Finance based in New York. As a member of the Syndications team, Lana supports origination and distribution efforts across the Corporate & Investment Bank for a number of asset classes including subscription finance, corporate debt finance, consumer and transportation assets. Previously, Lana was an analyst on SunTrust Robinson Humphrey's asset securitization desk in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lana is an active member of the Wells Fargo CIB Women's Network and serves on the steering committee for the Fund Finance Association's junior network, NextGen, which connects working professionals across the fund finance industry through event driven initiatives.

Lana received a B.S. in Finance from the George Washington University and is originally from Westchester, NY.

Lana has been working in Fund Finance for five years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

After working on underwriting and structuring a number of subscription facilities as an analyst, I attended the annual Fund Finance Symposium in NYC where I became interested in learning more on subscription credit facilities and related fund finance market.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

As part of my involvement with the Fund Finance Association's NextGen Network, planning events outside of the Annual Symposium has been instrumental for the growth and development of junior professionals across the industry. Since 2018, NextGen has hosts events such as educational seminars, networking socials, and industry panels.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

The most fulfilling community involvement project has been spearheading a Wells Fargo fundraiser to raise money to donate 100 backpacks to Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in Manhattan, NY. Each Friday, underserved students at P.S. 33 Chelsea Prep (pre-K through 5th grade) receive a backpack of non-perishable food from Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen that feeds a family of four over the weekend. Backpacks full of food are picked up on Friday and empty backpacks returned on Monday. Wells Fargo's donation of backpacks was instrumental in launching the Soup Kitchen's Backpack Pantry Program and over 140 families are currently enrolled.

Additionally, I have enjoyed serving as a mentor for PowerPlay NYC, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering young girls in underserved communities through sports and life-skills training programs. Around the holidays, I worked to organize a Toy Drive for Services for the Underserved, where Wells Fargo's Subscription Finance Group donated gifts to young children and spent an afternoon writing cards, gift-wrapping, and organizing all donated toys.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Sandwich from Casa della Mozzarella on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, NY: chicken cutlet, mozzarella, roasted peppers, and arugula drizzled in olive oil and balsamic on a seeded hero roll.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Pamplona, Spain to see the Running of the Bulls (as a spectator, not as a runner)!

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

"Home Alone"

FUND FINANCE association

MAGGIE RYAN

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

ASSOCIATE MANAGING DIRECTOR, SPONSOR FINANCE

CIBC BANK USA

Maggie is an Associate Managing Director at CIBC Bank USA for the Sponsor Finance Group based in Chicago, IL. As a member of the Sponsor Finance Group, Maggie currently manages a portfolio made up of several Private Equity Funds located throughout the country. Over the course of her five years as a member of the Team, she has been an active participant in reviews and amendments to the Group's White Paper along with working with the Bank's Credit Risk Management Team to appropriately review the Group's Specialty Lending Limits. In addition to the day-to-day monitoring of her existing portfolio, she collaborates with other Relationship Managers on the Team and within other Groups at the Bank to call on prospective Private Equity Funds in the Chicagoland area along with the Bank's regional office locations including Atlanta, Miami, Tampa Bay, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, and several other markets.

Maggie graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Gies College of Business in 2014 with a B.S. in Finance and is originally from Elmhurst, IL.

Maggie has been working in Fund Finance for five years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I joined the Bank through our Commercial Banking Training Program post-undergrad. I was fortunate enough to gain a rotation in the Sponsor Finance Group at the Bank in my second year and, after earning a permanent placement with the team, the rest is history!

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Outside of my work on the Sponsor Finance Team, I look to mentor analysts that are a part of the Bank's Commercial Banking Training Program by working with them directly on certain tasks along with being a resource for any career-related questions they may have.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I have been involved on the Junior Board for Children's Place Association (serving in the roles of Event Chair and President) for six years. Children's Place Association brings life-changing programs to children facing illness, poverty, homelessness and abandonment. Since 1991 Children's Place has made a positive impact on the health and future success for nearly 6,000 impoverished children living in Chicago. The Junior Board consists of approximately 25 young professionals from a variety of professions who volunteer their time and organize a premier annual fundraising event to raise awareness and much needed financial support for the organization. During my two-year term as President, the Junior Board raised approximately $105,000 between the two annual auction Events that we host each Summer, $48,000 of which was raised entirely by our first-ever virtual Event in June 2020 forced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Outside of fundraising, the Junior Board also participates in several volunteer events, which include Pumpkin Carving with the children at the Early Learning Center (shown in the picture to the right), packaging gifts for the Organization's Adopt-A-Family Gift Drive, gardening at each of the Organization's facilities in the Spring, among many others.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My parents - I followed directly in my Dad's footsteps as a fellow Banker, and I strive to be the woman that my Mom is every day having raised five children and still having the energy to go back to work as a Real Estate Broker.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Math Teacher... not too far off I suppose?

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Pasta! All day every day!

FUND FINANCE association

MICAELA MASTROGIANNIS

ASSOCIATE

KKR

Micaela Mastrogiannis joined KKR as a member of the Derivatives and Liability Management Team in 2020. Prior to joining KKR, she worked for Wells Fargo in its Subscription Finance Group. She holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Micaela has been working in Fund Finance for four years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

After my third year of college, I was a summer analyst in Wells Fargo's Asset Backed Finance Group. I had a rotation with the Subscription Finance Group, where I was first exposed to the world of Fund Finance. I went into that summer with very limited knowledge of the industry, but ended up with a great experience that completely defined the start of my professional career, thanks to the great mentors I had.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I have quickly come to learn that one of the best ways to test your own knowledge is by teaching the subject to someone else. With that, I truly appreciate the time that I can spend sharing what I have learned with new analysts and interns and being challenged by their questions.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Earlier this year, when my home state of NY was hit the hardest by COVID-19, my family felt helpless at home while frontline workers were risking their lives every day to help patients. Under the leadership of my younger sister, we organized a fundraiser to supply food donations for healthcare workers. We ended up raising over $10k thanks to our generous donors. I'm proud to share that were able to deliver meals to the emergency departments of one hospital in each NYC borough, while partnering with small, locally-owned restaurants that were also impacted by the pandemic. I am grateful that we were able to play a small role in helping our healthcare workers during such a difficult time.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

Run the World (Girls) - Beyonce.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Not ashamed to say - ice cream!

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

Groundhog Day.

FUND FINANCE association

MITCHELL HEYLAND

ASSOCIATE

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP

Mitchell Heyland is an associate in the Finance Practice Group in the Dallas office of Haynes and Boone. His practice focuses mainly on the representation of financial institutions in bilateral and syndicated subscription financings, but he also has experience representing lenders, private equity firms and commercial borrowers in a range of commercial lending transactions, including acquisition financings, commodities finance transactions, mortgage warehouse financings, margin loan facilities and real estate secured facilities.

Mitchell graduated with an undergraduate degree in business management from the University of Lethbridge and then had the opportunity to attend law school at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated magna cum laude and with a Wharton Certificate in Management.

Mitchell has been working in the Fund Finance industry for four years. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his family (they are proud Dallas Zoo members since 2018 and take almost weekly trips), learning new things in the kitchen (some examples from 2020 include making homemade pasta and brewing kombucha), and exploring other creative interests. Most recently, he and his wife have been working through various cooking lessons on MasterClass for their stay-at-home date nights.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Haynes and Boone is one of the pioneers and market leading law firms in the Fund Finance industry. There are numerous opportunities for associates to get involved in a variety of fund financings with different lenders and sponsors. Once I showed an interest in Fund Finance, I was staffed on more transactions by some great partners and they mentored me and provided opportunities for me to learn about and develop expertise in the Fund Finance industry.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Through both formal programs and in informal settings I have mentored junior associates on the intricacies of Fund Finance transactions. While working on deals I advise clients of the legal risks and considerations and share insights into trends and developments I have seen in the market across the various deals our firm handles and from my ongoing studies (with HB Fund Finance Group's internal training, FFA Univesity and internal and external publications and events on fund finance being a top source of materials and industry knowledge).

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Through involvement in my local church community I have been able to participate in a variety of volunteer activities and charitable events. I have held various positions in my congregation over the past few years including teaching weekly Sunday school classes for children and organizing a ministering program with the goal of having all members of the congregation receive monthly visits to share uplifting messages and assist in their temporal and spiritual wellbeing.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

A zookeeper; I can remember getting graph paper and pencil crayons and drawing out imaginary zoo maps and animal enclosures.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Chipotle bowls - they hit all my requirements: filling, healthy, affordable and delicious.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Thailand, for the beaches, the jungles, the history and the food. I've been lucky enough to travel quite a bit, but I've never made it to Southeast Asia.

FUND FINANCE association

NATASHA PURI

VICE PRESIDENT

LLOYDS BANK (NEW YORK)

Natasha was born and raised in New York. She graduated summa cum laude from Hofstra University in 2012, with a major in Accounting and minor in Information Technology, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. Natasha started her career in PwC's Alternative Investments Assurance practice specializing in audits of both public funds and hedge funds. In 2017 Natasha joined Lloyds Bank, where she is a Vice President on the Financial Sponsors and Structured Finance coverage team, working on all aspects of funds finance in private markets.

Natasha has always cared deeply about Diversity & Inclusion and has avidly pursued these efforts in her work life. At PwC, Natasha was awarded a Corporate Social Responsibility fellowship, where she supported the operations of the PwC Charitable Foundation and focused on impact investing reporting. At Lloyds, she actively contributes to the firm's corporate responsibility efforts and race, ethnicity, and cultural network.

Given the lack of diversity in the industry, Natasha founded the Fund Finance Association's Diversity in Fund Finance initiative in 2017. The group has focused on educating students about the fund finance industry, providing opportunities for students to network with industry professionals and facilitating recruitment of diverse students. In expanding the group's affinity goals, the committee is working to provide a supportive, inclusive space and looking forward to engaging more FFA members going forward.

Natasha has been working in Fund Finance for three and a half years. In her free time, Natasha enjoys spoiling her niece and goddaughter, experimenting in the kitchen, seeing Broadway shows, reading, and traveling.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

After graduating and working in accounting for about five years, I was looking for my next challenge but still wanted it to be related to alternative funds and corporate responsibility. The opportunity to join Lloyds was an exciting prospect to jump into something new and build on my existing skill set.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

After benefitting from programs while I was in college focused on diverse students and professional development, I have naturally navigated to supporting organizations focused on similar efforts. This is also why I wanted to start the Diversity in Fund Finance initiative working with students. Throughout my career I've strived to mentor and coach junior talent, providing learning and networking opportunities.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I've always been involved with the community, starting with volunteering with a local non-profit, the Michael Magro Foundation, which was founded in memory of a student from my hometown. The nonprofit is dedicated to the support of children with cancer and is close to my heart.

In high school and college, I was part of organizations that focused on charity work and partnered with our local Boys & Girls Club. During my fellowship with the PwC Charitable Foundation, I worked directly on grants with non-profits and this sparked my passion to be more involved in corporate responsibility efforts. At Lloyds I've enjoyed brainstorming and executing new fundraising events like a cross-border walking challenge to raise funds for City Harvest and the National Urban League.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My parents. They immigrated to America when they were young, put themselves through college and taught me the value of hard work. They also instilled in me the importance of having kindness and compassion for others, no matter one's background.

IF YOU WERE A WRESTLER, BEFORE ENTERING THE RING WHAT SONG COMES ON AS YOUR SOUNDTRACK?

"My Shot" from Hamilton, the Broadway musical. Though really... the entire soundtrack fits literally any and every emotional mood!

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

My grandma's buss up shut paratha roti - a light, flakey, perfect type of bread to eat with any curry or by itself.

FUND FINANCE association

SHANKUL MITTAL

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

DIRECTOR, HEAD OF SUBSCRIPTION FINANCE ASIA

SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION (SMBC)

Shankul Mittal is Director, Head of Asia Pacific Subscription Finance at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. Based out of Hong Kong, Shankul's role is predominantly to originate, structure and execution of subscription credit facilities with Private Equity Sponsor clients across Asia Pacific. He also focusses on collaboration and cross-sell opportunities with clients to align to the bank's full product service and provide holistic client solutions.

Prior to being based out of Hong Kong, Shankul's coverage of PE clients was focused in North America in SMBC New York. He started his career at ANZ within the Financial Institutions Group, spanning 3 regions (Australia, Hong Kong, and New York) across various roles focused on credit and client coverage within the Fund Finance industry. Shankul holds a M.B.A. from Columbia University.

Shankul has been working in Fund Finance for nine years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I have been involved in the Fund Finance industry from when I started, but I would say my career move to New York in 2016 kickstarted my deeper involvement in the market. From covering multiple FI sectors in Australia & Hong Kong previously, New York has been living and breathing Fund Finance.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Since taking on deal origination responsibility (from prior days of being an analyst), my focus has been to encourage all members of the deal team to present to management and respective committees. It's front and center in terms of developing their brand with senior management. Encouraging new members of Fund Finance and working with internal stakeholders has meant there is a collective goal to develop others.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

In New York, I was involved in assisting in Global Citizen's live events, including the annual Global Citizen festival in Central Park. The organization raises awareness and encourages actions on the UN's Sustainability Development Goals with a vision to end extreme poverty by 2030. My community involvement in Hong Kong has somewhat been impacted by COVID-19, but I recently participated in Run in the Dark in November, supporting their charity partner, Collaborative Cures.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Australian Rules Football (AFL) Player.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Dim Sum.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Tanzania - After a 3 day Safari in South Africa in 2018, the experience has meant the next African Safari is on the top of my travel bucket list.

FUND FINANCE association

SOUMITRO MUKERJI

COUNSEL

HOGAN LOVELLS LEE & LEE

Soumitro is an English and India-qualified highly experienced international banking and finance lawyer. He has worked in London, Singapore, and Mumbai and is able to offer a truly international perspective on transactions.

He is particularly strong on highly complex banking and finance matters, including funds financings, leveraged and acquisition financings and other forms of structured lending. Soumitro has substantial experience in the funds finance market having practiced in the European funds finance market before moving to Singapore in 2019. Currently based in Singapore, in less than two years, Soumitro has worked on funds financings in excess of US$7bn, acting for both fund sponsors as well as lenders. His efforts in the funds finance industry are helping support the strong growth of the funds finance market in South East Asia and South Asia.

Soumitro also spearheads Hogan Lovells' India desk and advises international clients on India-related opportunities as well as Indian clients on their offshore matters. He is ranked as a "key lawyer" by Legal 500 and by India Business Law Journal as being amongst the "A-List of International Lawyers". His charitable commitments include supporting the Children's Cancer Foundation of Singapore.

Soumitro has been working in Fund Finance for five years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

Acting for credit funds on direct lending matters, which led to assisting lenders and funds on their upstream financings.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

I am actively involved in the training of junior bankers and lawyers looking to operate in the funds finance industry. I have organised a number of training sessions, including most recently on NAVs and hybrid structures, for both international and local Asian banking clients. I am also very active in encouraging the growth of funds finance as a funding option for up-and-coming fund clients. As a member of the Funds Finance Association, I routinely join calls on latest market trends and update my clients and colleagues on the state of the funds finance market.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I am a huge believer in giving back to the community. I am fortunate enough to work for a law firm which, like me, is extremely passionate about pro bono work and community service.

I have been a strong supporter of the Children's Cancer Foundation of Singapore (CCF) and with the support of other like-minded colleagues, we have made the CCF our firm's local charity partner. My other charitable initiatives include sponsoring a law student at my law university in India. I am also always up for ad hoc charitable and fund raising events such as a 50km charity walk that I did for the British Heart Foundation.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

My family.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Bread and olive oil.

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids.

FUND FINANCE association

STANLEY LIKVER

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

GLOBAL CAPITAL SOLUTIONS

ARES MANAGEMENT

Stan Likver is Vice President of the Global Capital Solutions group at Ares Management and is responsible for overseeing the firm's capital markets relationships and transactions. Prior to joining Ares in 2019, Stan was Vice President of the Client Solutions Group at HSBC where he was responsible for originating and executing strategic global markets and structured financing transactions with top tier sponsor and financial institution clients. He has held roles in Debt Capital Markets, Corporate Interest Rate Derivatives, Credit Treasury Trading and Balance Sheet Management at HSBC as well as Credit Risk at Citigroup over the course of rotation and internship programs. Stan graduated Boston University, summa cum laude, with dual degrees from the Questrom School of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences, where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a B.A. in Economics. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, he's fluent in Russian and conversational in Spanish.

Stan has been working in Fund Finance for seven years on both the bank/lending side and, more recently, the fund side. He says that no matter what side you're on, there's never a dull moment - especially in the year 2020!

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I fortunately fell into it when helping build out the Client Solutions business at my prior firm given the types of clients I covered as well as the strong growth the space continues to experience across both asset and fund financing.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

When thinking about my contributions to the development of others, it's important to recognize the reasons for my current success and how I've made it to this point in my career - unequivocally the answer is strong mentorship from my youth to the present. Having benefited from such valuable mentors, I make it a point to help junior team members and partners navigate the complex and dynamic industry by always being available to provide guidance and critical insights to grow and develop their careers. Further, I have worked with the BU Finance and Investment Club as a mentor for rising juniors and seniors by participating in networking, industry Q&A, interview prep and career events. The collaborative nature of the Fund Finance space also means I have the opportunity to mentor peers across the Street.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I've always enjoyed hiking, but it became more of a passion after a 10-mile hike on the AT this summer. Since then, I've signed up to volunteer with the NYNJ Trail conference as a trail maintainer to clear portions of hiking trails in the Catskill Mountains and Hudson Valley. I also volunteer with JASAChat Senior Calling Program (a UJA Federation partner), which is a relatively new effort that connects seniors with a weekly phone chat given these lonely and difficult times, especially for the elderly.

JUST FOR FUN:

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Tough call between sushi and roast beef, double dipped with cheez from Roll-N-Roaster.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

If forced to choose only one, it would have to be Japan. It offers one of the most technologically advanced societies with a rich, ancient history in Tokyo alone. It also offers a beautiful countryside and, most importantly, incredible and diverse food.

WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE CURRENTLY?

The movie that best describes my life currently happens to be my favorite childhood movie - Home Alone.

FUND FINANCE association

Rising Star | Fund Finance Association

STEPHANIE UNDERWOOD

VICE PRESIDENT

GOLDMAN SACHS

Stephanie joined Goldman Sachs in 2012 and is a lender on the Private Equity Capital Call Finance team. Stephanie is responsible for deal origination (from prospecting to loan closing), client relationship management, and portfolio maintenance. Prior to this role, Stephanie was an underwriter for Goldman Sachs Private Bank, and earlier in her career, she was at Bank of America Merrill Lynch supporting financial institutions in the corporate bank.

Stephanie graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Stephanie has been working in Fund Finance for six years.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

My career in Fund Finance started when I decided that I wanted to move to NYC after being in Texas my whole life. The opportunity on Goldman Sachs' Private Equity Capital Call Finance team was open and I thought it sounded interesting, so I interviewed, got the job, and here I am now!

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to have strong mentors and advocates who have played an integral role in guiding my career path. In turn, I strive to now be actively involved in the training and development of our junior team members, by establishing and communicating best practices, connecting on a personal level, and supporting the articulation and achievement of their goals. Recently, I helped a coworker on our legal team achieve his goal of pivoting his career to the business side. I spent time reviewing his resume, identifying specific ways to develop relevant technical skills, preparing him for interviews, and referring him to the hiring manager, all of which ultimately helped lead to his getting hired.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

I am very lucky to work for a firm that values community service. Through a program at Goldman Sachs called Community TeamWorks, I have been able to volunteer with a number of charitable organizations over the years. I am also involved in a few diversity networks at the firm.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

I wanted to work for the FBI.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

It's a toss-up between crawfish or a spicy Chick-fil-A sandwich. Don't make me choose!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

I would love to visit Vietnam one day to see where my parents grew up, learn more about the country's history and culture, see all the beautiful sights, and try the amazing food!

FUND FINANCE association

VALERY NFORMBA

SOLICITOR

MACFARLANES LLP

Valery Nformba is a Solicitor at Macfarlanes LLP having qualified in September 2017 into the Banking & Finance team. He specialises in advising borrowers and lenders on a range of domestic and cross-border debt finance transactions, with a particular focus on structured financings, securitisations and fund financing transactions.

Valery is the first in his family to pursue a career in law and is a passionate advocate for the continued advancement of diversity in the legal profession, regardless of an individualís social background, ethnicity or gender. Outside of work, Valery has spent a remarkable amount of time in developing his individuality though various extracurricular activities with a principal focus in giving back to his community.

Valery has been working in the Fund Finance industry for three years. As an active member of the Fund Finance Association's Next Gen Network, Valery continues to participate in the development of both educational and social events.

WHAT STARTED YOUR CAREER IN FUND FINANCE?

I have been lucky enough to work on Fund Finance transactions since qualifying as a solicitor at Macfarlanes back in 2017. As junior solicitors, we are encouraged to get involved with the whole breadth of finance practice areas the firm has to offer, however I realised early on in my time in the department that structuring and financing of funds was of most interest to me.

At Macfarlanes, we usually work in close-knit teams on any given transaction which provides solicitors with invaluable and direct access to partners. One of my first transactions after having joined the team was a subscription line facility for a newly formed fund, which our Investment Management team had assisted in setting up. Through this deal I was able to build a strong working relationship with and learn the ropes from a partner with over 30 years of experience in the industry whilst being actively involved in the early stages of a funds cycle. This strong grounding served me well with all the weird and wonderful fund structures I would be faced with in the coming years.

HOW HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS?

Through our client, Citigroup, myself and a number of solicitors in our team have been involved with the next generation initiative of the Fund Finance Association; recently putting together a tailored training session our peers in the industry covering defaults and enforcement in fund finance. The event was well attended and we received excellent feedback from both lawyers and investment professionals in the industry.

As I move to becoming a more senior member of the team, I have also taken greater responsibility in assisting junior members of the team in getting up to speed on the legal topics we face on a day-to-day basis.

JUST FOR FUN:

WHO AND/OR WHAT SHAPED YOU?

Whenever anyone asks this question I can't ever seem to shake the immediate thought of the late great fast-talking prizefighter, Muhammad Ali. Though I am not quite old enough to have seen any of Ali's fights live, his legend loomed large in my childhood and I was always completely captivated by the man whose conviction and belief were strong enough to see him transcend the sport which made him a household name. He is a continued example to black men of all ages that there is no limit to what we can achieve if we believe in our own ability.

WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB WHEN YOU WERE 5?

Starting striker for Arsenal F.C. I can't say that dream has died yet!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT ON YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET LIST? WHY?

Japan, even though I've been before, it just wasn't for long enough. Their culture is incredible!

FUND FINANCE association

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Albert Tan
Partner
Haynes and Boone, LLP

Alexandra Woodcock
Partner
Mourant

Alistair Russell
Partner
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Signature Bank

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Michele Simons
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Wells Fargo

Michelle Bolingbroke
Director
Fund Finance Association

Sammy Asoli
Global Head of Subscription Secured Finance
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

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