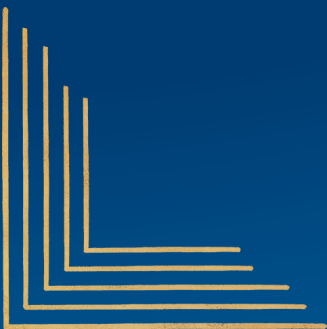




FUND FINANCE ASSOCIATION

RISING STARS

2023



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD

The Fund Finance Association recognizes the importance of acknowledging those who are making a significant impact in the industry and paving the way for its future. While we also recognize the value of experienced professionals in our industry, we believe that it is important to highlight the younger professionals who are making waves! With this in mind, we are pleased to introduce the Fund Finance Association's Rising Stars 2023, a group of exceptional individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Fund Finance industry and have the potential to shape its direction for years to come.

We believe that investing in junior talent is essential to building a strong future for our industry. This set of rising stars bring energy, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas to the table. They are the ones who will be driving the industry forward in the years to come, and we need to invest in them now to ensure that our industry stays ahead of the curve. We were thrilled to receive an overwhelming response to our call for nominations, indicating the tremendous support for our initiatives, and the dedication of those who have played a critical role in shaping and mentoring the award recipients and other talented individuals in our industry. The quality nominations were excellent, and we thank all those who took the time to submit nominations.

We are grateful to our selection committee for their hard work and dedication in choosing our 2023 award recipients. The committee had the challenging task of identifying individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Fund Finance industry, their firms, and clients, while also demonstrating active engagement with the FFA, Next Gen Network, and/or WFF. The committee placed emphasis on professional achievements, including outstanding client service, innovative product and service, diversity and inclusion efforts, career development, mentoring, and network building. It was a pleasure meeting our 2023 award recipients, and we were impressed by their dedication, passion, and leadership qualities. They are not only outstanding professionals but also excellent individuals who have shown a natural inclination towards mentoring and service. We are delighted to announce the Fund Finance Association's Rising Stars 2023. You can find more information about them in this booklet, and we hope you enjoy reading it!

**The Fund Finance Association Board**

# ALICIA WITTER

VICE PRESIDENT

CITY NATIONAL BANK

Alicia is a Vice President in the Fund Finance business at City National Bank, based in Los Angeles. Alicia joined City National's Structured Finance group in October 2016 as a credit analyst, having previously worked as a teller in a branch and subsequently graduated from the bank's internal credit training program. She has been exclusively working in Fund Finance for five years, specializing in bespoke subscription facilities. As a member of the Fund Finance group, Alicia currently manages a diverse portfolio of alternative asset managers located throughout the country. Over the course of her five years as a member of the Structured Finance team, she has played an integral role in reviews and amendments to the group's credit policy alongside the risk management team and is seen as a Fund Finance resource throughout the division.

Alicia graduated from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles with a B.S. in Psychology and has lived in Southern California her whole life.

Alicia has been working in fund finance for five years, exclusively on the lender side.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Growing up watching movies like Homeward Bound and Air Bud, I thought the coolest job would be an animal trainer for film and TV.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pretty much any form of junk food - hot dogs, nachos with that fake cheezy sauce, or anything sweet.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

While this seems to be an ever-moving target, right now I'd have to say Taiwan. My husband is Taiwanese and while he spent most of his life in the U.S., his family lived there for a number of years when he was in elementary school and he returned to attend university in Taipei. I can't imagine a better vacation than travelling with him to experience the culture that he grew up in.



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

Location, location, location. When I started as a credit analyst at CNB 7 years ago, my desk happened to be positioned directly outside of the office of my now boss and mentor, Brandon Feitelson. I would overhear him on calls with clients and lawyers, and found the concepts interesting. It didn't hurt that I was the first person he'd run into when a new transaction came his way and would always say yes to working with him even before I started working for him. This led him to offer me a position on his team focused exclusively on Fund Finance and the rest is history.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

One of my favorite aspects of my job is educating junior colleagues on the intricacies of the fund finance space. I've participated in both formal and informal mentorship programs during my time at CNB, both as mentor and mentee and see value on both sides of this relationship. Having worked my way up within the organization, I'm also happy to share my experience with others to help them find their career path. I've taken an active role in our team's summer internship program by preparing and presenting annual trainings on the basics of Fund Finance from a credit analyst's perspective. I also believe that the best way to truly understand a concept is to explain it to someone else, so it's often the case that we both learn something in the process!

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I am fortunate to work for a company that is as passionate about volunteer opportunities as its colleagues are. Through CNB sponsorships I have participated in a number of community involvement events: from sorting donations to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, to building homes with Habitat for Humanity, to raising funds through the YMCA Stair Climb to the top of the US Bank building in DTLA.





# ANA LAZGARE

ASSOCIATE

MAPLES GROUP

Ana is an associate in the London Finance team at Maples and Calder, the Maples Group's law firm. She advises on both British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands law and has been involved on a wide range of fund finance transactions from traditional capital call facilities (including umbrella facilities) to more innovative GP facilities, NAV financings and fund securitizations. Originally from Mexico, she is both qualified as an English solicitor and Cayman Islands attorney-at-law. Her diverse background and cultural values have played a significant role professionally. She is passionate about helping others and believes that true diversity and inclusion brings value to every corporation and network and is fundamental in the growth of any organization.

Ana has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

Shortly after moving to the Cayman Islands, I realized the immense opportunity to gain further knowledge and expand my experience to other areas of finance transactions, including fund finance. The opportunity to advise on an asset-backed financing transaction arose and I was immediately drawn to this line of work and the interesting complexity of such transactions. This was only magnified by the opportunity to work alongside talented individuals with substantial industry experience who were willing to share their passion and knowledge with me.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Being an avid learner myself, I have always believed in the value of teaching and mentoring which are essential in the growth of any individual. I am always willing to provide guidance and share knowledge and experiences with my peers and younger generations whether in a professional or personal environment.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I am passionate about helping others. From tutoring math in high school to volunteering as a language interpreter in a domestic violence crisis center. I have been involved in empowering young women and was the Caribbean's regional representative for Young Business Professional Women. I am currently a member of the Diversity in Fund Finance committee where I hope to be able to contribute further to the community.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents. I have been extremely fortunate to have them as role models; always showing me the importance of hard work, commitment, love, and overall, holding tight to my values.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Cheese - from all around the world.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Gorilla trekking. There is something amazing about being connected with nature and seeing animals in their natural habitat.





# ANDREW GERRITY, CAIA

VICE PRESIDENT

## SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION (SMBC)

Andrew joined SMBC in 2017 and is a Vice President on the Fund Finance Solutions team. Andrew is responsible for deal origination and client relationship management across the full suite of SMBC's Fund Financing Solutions products, including Subscription, Hybrid, and NAV credit facilities. In addition to his originations work, Andrew is responsible for training the team's analysts and engaging in new product development. Prior to his role, Andrew was an underwriter at Bank of America for their Middle Market and Lower Middle Market general corporate loan book.

Andrew is a CAIA charterholder and graduated from Loyola University in Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in Quantitative Economics and Econometrics.

Andrew has been working in fund finance for almost six years.



## JUST FOR FUN:

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My mom is a philosophy professor and always encouraged me to read and ask "why". Ultimately, that fostered an appreciation for reading and has encouraged my intellectual curiosity.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

A Paleontologist or a Velociraptor, depending on the day.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

New Zealand - I'm an unabashed Lord of the Rings fan and love the outdoors, so visiting the Shire is at the top of the bucket list.



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

A phone call looking for career advice from Next Gen Co-Head and former Rising Star recipient, Jorge Grafal. I had never heard of subscription finance nor was necessarily looking for a new job, however, the call went well enough that Jorge encouraged me to apply for an open analyst role on the funds finance team at SMBC.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Shortly after the transition to a fully remote environment, I started a weekly session with our team's analysts and associates ('Office Hours'). Admittedly, it was originally intended as an informal catch-up, akin to 'water cooler chats', but it ultimately morphed into more of a teach-in for our new hires, providing them an open forum to ask questions. As time has progressed, Office Hours has evolved into a formal training program with materials and various guest speakers from sponsors, law firms, other lenders, and various internal teams.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

Growing up, I went to a Quaker school where I was able to be involved in a number of different non-profits and community service efforts ranging from assisting with park clean ups to volunteering in soup kitchens. Now in NYC, I have had the opportunity to be active in several mentorship programs and participate in an annual park clean up in the Baltimore Harbor with friends over the holidays.

# ANDREW HOGAN

ASSOCIATE

MAYER BROWN LLP

Andy is an associate in Mayer Brown's fund finance practice group. He advises a variety of lenders on the negotiation and implementation of subscription credit facilities. Prior to joining Mayer Brown, he represented fund sponsors in negotiating various complex financing arrangements, ranging from capital call facilities to securitizations. Andy received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Andy has been working in fund finance for nine years.

## What started your career in Fund Finance?

As a junior associate, I was first brought onto transactions to help bring them to close. I quickly found the various fund structures interesting and the people throughout the industry to be very kind.

This growing and welcoming practice allowed me to hone in on my legal skills, training under some of the smartest people I have ever met. My career in fund finance is a direct reflection of the strong and kind mentors I have worked with.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

After getting involved with the rapidly growing world of fund finance, I have been recruiting and training at every opportunity. Because my mentors have made such a strong impact on me, I understand the responsibility to help others up the learning curve. Fund finance provides junior members of the team an incredible opportunity to grow at a rapid pace and guiding junior associates has been a critical part of my career.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

Through pro bono opportunities, I have worked on several immigration matters as well as a multi-year relationship with an investment firm that focuses investment on disadvantaged communities. I have also worked with a debt clinic to help people take control of their finances. The most rewarding work I have been involved with has been using the expertise I have developed on a day to day basis to help people in their daily lives.



## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

So many of them! Movie director, president, pianist, Olympian, and if I couldn't do it all on earth, then an astronaut.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Don't be afraid to earnestly love the things you enjoy and the people that make life wonderful.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

I have always been enthralled by mountains so my travel bucket list is defined by how many of them I can climb with my dog! Pick a direction and I'll try to find a route to hike, ski, bike, or run!



# ANGELE DAVIS

DIRECTOR - FUND SPONSORS, STRATEGIC INVESTORS AND ALTERNATIVE ASSETS

**NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK**

Angele Davis is a Director within the Funds Sponsors, Strategic Investors and Alternative Assets business at National Australia Bank in Sydney. Angele manages a portfolio of fund clients including alternative asset managers, Australian superannuation funds and investment managers. Since joining the Funds Sponsors business in March 2019, Angele has led the origination, structuring and negotiation of a number of complex funds transactions across subscription finance, sponsor backed facilities and net asset value fund facilities.

Prior to joining the Funds business, Angele held roles across the Bank's broader structured finance business including the origination of structured asset finance transactions as well as analysis of securitization assets for on-balance-sheet purchases.

Angele holds a Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Laws degree and is a CFA charterholder (CFA marks are the property of CFA Institute).

Angele has been working in Fund Finance for four years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

When I was 5 my dream job was to be an actress.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pasta - without a doubt.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

My number one travel spot is Greece - it isn't really on my bucket list because we have been before but I just can't get enough of it. I love the islands, the culture, the people, and of course the food.



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

When I joined National Australia Bank in 2012, I started within the Bank's Financial Institution Group. It was during this time I was first exposed to the world of fund finance - getting to know the team and a (very!) basic understanding of fund finance itself. After spending seven years in the broader structured finance space within corporate finance, an opportunity arose to join the Funds team which I jumped at. I was able to leverage my prior experience in structured finance and was quickly exposed to exciting and complex transactions for some of our most interesting clients.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I consider myself to be so fortunate to work in a highly collaborative and collegial team. Since joining the team, I've benefited from a very open environment where we teach each other and help to improve one another's skills. As a director on the team, I believe it is my responsibility to act as a sounding board and offer guidance and development for others on the team. More recently, I have undertaken additional training and education on sustainable finance. I have set up forums within the team to share insights on sustainability and have held training sessions to add this capability within the funds team.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

In 2022, as part of National Australia Bank's volunteering program, I organized a volunteering day for our team at the Infants' Home. We assisted with the maintenance of the areas where the children played, ensuring they had a clean and fun environment when in the space. More recently, as part of the local community preschool, myself and other parents have been involved in an initiative to provide support for pre-schoolers in remote and regional Australia. We are collecting backpacks and personal care items for the children with the target of providing 500 care packs in conjunction with the other preschools in the area.





# ASHLEA MCLELLAND

SENIOR MANAGER TREASURY CAPITAL  
MARKETS

**TPG CAPITAL**

Ashlea McLelland joined TPG as a member of the Treasury Capital Markets Team in 2021, focusing on fund level financing. Prior to joining TPG, Ashlea was a Vice President at Bank of America in its Global Banking Group. Ashlea graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.A. in Finance.

Ashlea has been working in fund finance for two years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

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### What was your dream job when you were 5?

To be a Veterinarian

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pizza

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list?

The Maldives



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I joined TPG's Treasury Capital Markets team after starting my career at Bank of America covering Global Industrials. It was an exciting opportunity to learn a new industry while also building upon my credit experience. I made the jump from banking to fund finance and it has been an exciting ride ever since.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

No day is the same at TPG, and every interaction with external partners, internal stakeholders, and members of our portfolio companies is an opportunity to not only learn, but also to share knowledge. Collaboration is key to success at TPG, so coming ready to share your expertise and learn from others is crucial.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I am an avid supporter of JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). My favorite events include the JDRF One Walk and the JDRF Gala.



# CHRISTINA JOHARD

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORDEA BANK

Christina is a Managing Director in the Fund Finance Team at Nordea. Christina joined Nordea in November 2021 and has since then focused on supporting Nordea's clients within the Private Capital segment with financing solutions across various strategies including Private Equity, Infrastructure, Growth, VC and Private Credit. The Nordea Fund Finance Team has the mandate and capabilities to support clients with bespoke financing solutions across different fund sizes and geographies, as well as in various stages of fund life-cycles. As part of Nordea's well established Leveraged Finance team, Christina commonly partners with her leveraged finance colleagues to provide flexible and tailor-made financing solutions across OpCo, HoldCo and fund level. Prior to joining Nordea Christina worked in the Leverage Finance unit at SEB and started her carrier in 2007 at Vingé law firm mainly working with Leverage Finance transactions.

Christina has been working in fund finance for seven years.



## What started your career in Fund Finance?

I started my career within law working mainly with leveraged finance/fund financing transactions, and in 2018 I decided to pursue a career opportunity changing from legal to the business side within leveraged finance and fund finance. As the fund financing market was flourishing at that point in time whereas the leverage finance markets became even more competitive it became a natural step for me, considering my background as a lawyer, to focus on fund finance. The fund financing business has kept on growing and developing over time and has continued to provide exciting development and deal opportunities.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

I love working within a team and with the development of others. I try to share my experiences, knowledge, and relevant information with the team, as well as always keeping an open door for discussions and reflections on different topics. For me it is important that my colleagues feel that they are invited to participate in discussions and to have an opinion on any relevant topic.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

My husband and I sponsored a girl (Joyce) for more than ten years throughout school, and she recently finished her education as a wildlife ranger in Masai Mara, Kenya. Currently, we sponsor a girl (Angel) through schooling in Uganda via the Nyimusa Foundation.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Fighter pilot (as my older brother)

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Bao Buns

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents!



# CHRISTOPHER MONTGOMERY

SPECIAL COUNSEL

**CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM  
& TAFT LLP**

Chris Montgomery is a Special Counsel at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, where he leads a team of Charlotte and New York-based attorneys who provide complex fund finance solutions to a broad base of clients. Chris has practiced law in New York, Paris and Charlotte. Since joining Cadwalader, his practice exclusively focuses on representing fund finance lenders during a period of transformational growth in the market. Chris graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 2012. Prior to law school, Chris received a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in History from Washington University in St Louis in 2008.

Chris has been working in finance representing banks and lenders since 2012, but didn't start focusing exclusively on fund finance until 2019. Since then his practice has been 100% fund finance. It was one of the best choices he could have made, especially being able to work with Mike Mascia, Wes Misson and Tim Hicks. He wishes he had found this group sooner.

## What started your career in Fund Finance?

My career in fund finance started the day I met Wes Misson, who is now Cadwalader's global head of fund finance. I was interested in coming to work for Wes and we decided to meet at a bar in Athens, Georgia over a weekend as we were both in the area by chance. Wes and I both brought our girlfriends at the time and we had a great time that day. After hanging out, I decided Wes would be a great person to work for and learn from, and so I joined Cadwalader soon thereafter. Fast forward to today; we both ended up getting married to our dates, Wes is now head of the group, and I am still available to meet with anyone who would like to discuss opportunities with Cadwalader fund finance at a bar or location of their choosing.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

One of the unique things about a law firm is that there are no law machines or algorithms. The only capital we have is our people. It was pretty natural to mentor and teach others, since that's what I experienced from day one at Cadwalader. At the firm, we have an upward review award for senior lawyers who give guidance and support to their teams. I have won Cadwalader's upward review award (to my surprise and probably the suspicion of my current associates). The deal volume of fund finance means there are always new opportunities to teach, which I enjoy doing and is essential for our firm's continued success.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

I prefer to focus on causes that my friends and colleagues care about. For Stu Goldstein, who is managing partner of our Charlotte office, that's the ALS Foundation. For Wes Misson, that's the Charlotte chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Both Stu and Wes have a personal connection to each cause (as do I in the case of the Alzheimer's Association) and for me it's far more meaningful to be involved when there is a personal connection, either your own or someone you care about.



## JUST FOR FUN:

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My grandfather had a profound impact on me growing up. He was from a different time and economy - he has worked at the same company for sixty years and counting. To this day, I think he is the hardest working person I have ever met and just an incredibly fair and decent man. It's a very tough standard to think about, but it's a good compass to have.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

There is a tour you can take under St. Peter's basilica led by the Scavi, which is the Vatican office of excavations. It's limited to about 20 people a day and costs maybe 15 euros - it's luck of the draw. You have to email them months in advance and if you get a spot, you go. As a history nerd and someone who has read a lot on ancient Rome, I have always wanted to do it. I was actually able to get a spot for our honeymoon in Italy...in May 2020, so you know what happened.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Find something you are good at, make sure it has high-growth potential, and then find people you like who want to do it with you. Don't follow your 'passion' - I know a lot of miserable people who are in their dream job but don't have the work and client relationships that make a job satisfying. The people you work with are a lot more important than what you do. If Wes and I were criminal defense attorneys, we'd still be having fun and working hard. Try to find a mentor or sponsor in your career as early as possible. I have all that now, but it took me a long time to get here.

# CHUNG

COUNSEL

REED SMITH LLP

After graduating from the London School of Economics, Chu qualified at Reed Smith LLP in 2015 and is currently Counsel in the banking team. As a specialist in fund finance, she is regarded as a 'go to' adviser for her clients and has played a key role in establishing Reed Smith as a leading Tier 1 ranked fund finance practice. Chu's background in fund formation distinguishes her from other practitioners as she has a deep understanding of fund structures, and she is recognized as her clients' touch point for complex due diligence, market knowledge and technical know-how.

Chu has been working in fund finance for six years.

## What started your career in Fund Finance?

Post training contract, I had qualified into the fund formation team. About 2 years in, one day the fund finance team put up a flag as they were in dire need of assistance in reviewing over 20 partnership agreements for a very large syndicated transaction. I was drafted in to help with diligence and certain structuring aspects, and when the deal closed many 2 am finishes later, I was asked if I would like to be a permanent member of the team and the rest is history..!

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

A zoo keeper! I have always loved animals and still do - I currently have 2 Maine Coons and a Pyrenean Mountain Dog who occasionally make (unsolicited) appearances on work calls...

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Peru - it is one of the most biodiverse environments because it has the greatest climate range and diversity of life zones in one country. I would like to see some truly unspoilt nature from sea level to high altitudes before we ruin the planet with our choices and actions of the past few decades..!

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Don't stress over or worry about people, things, or events that you cannot control - all you can do is govern yourself and your actions accordingly. Even if it all goes wrong, you have done everything you can and that is the best any of us can hope for!



## How have you contributed to the development of others?

As a fund finance specialist, I can see that many other banking lawyers (and even bankers) may struggle to deal with the nuances, particularly fund specific knowledge, when navigating a deal. There are many legal practitioners who know their way around a regular financing, but from an early stage of my career I noticed a clear gap in expertise when sponsor requirements meant that lawyers had to understand the interaction between a fund's practical needs, lender protections, and the LMA form document. After I became a mid-level associate and had some experience under my belt, I invested a lot of time into writing and consolidating training material for the Reed Smith team, as well as structuring internal and external know-how and training sessions for clients. There is often pressure in the legal and finance community at large to have a ready answer to everything (or at least to appear as such). In my view this can be intimidating and stifle learning at all levels, not just juniors or newcomers, so I have always prioritized approachability and held an open door to our clients and Reed Smith team when it comes to market education and technical training.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

As a first generation university graduate from Singapore, I am very conscious of how various circumstances in upbringing and cultural background can shape your mindset and perspective. After moving to London for university, I became keenly aware of living and relating to others as a minority in a Western society for the first time. Since joining Reed Smith, I have been committed to Reed Smith's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts through various events and panels relating not just to ethnic diversity, but also social mobility and other issues. I have been a long standing member of the Multicultural Network and was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2021 Asian Women of Achievement Awards. My approach to diversity objectives focuses on a healthy culture of open communication, whether through panel discussions or mentoring relationships that cut across gender, ethnicity or other traits. I believe that the key to success and true diversity is the exchange of perspectives across demographics, rather than 'intra-group' mentoring, and with the same emphasis on approachability I would hope to share this across Reed Smith and the legal community at large.



# FELIX PATERSON

ASSOCIATE

DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON LLP

Felix Paterson is an associate based in the London office and a member of Debevoise's Finance Group. He primarily focuses his practice on fund finance and represents borrowers and lenders across a range of fund finance transactions, including NAV, hybrid, and capital call facilities. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin with starred first class honors in History (M.A. (Dubl)) in 2010 and subsequently completed the GDL and LPC with distinction at the University of Law in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Felix has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

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### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I did my first fund finance transaction in 2017 and it clicked straightaway. I found the product very interesting and it combined my trainee experiences in the funds and finance teams. I like the blend of problem-solving and commerciality which fund finance offers. Fund finance also seems to be evolving quite fast so there are always novel features which keep life stimulating.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I have been incredibly lucky with my mentors at Debevoise, so I have tried to absorb and use as much of their approach as possible. I have been a formal mentor to a number of people, and I hope that I am an informal mentor to others as well. I try to be as accessible and approachable as possible. I'm also very involved in regular internal and external training sessions.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I am a founding member and trustee of The Rose Paterson Trust, a suicide prevention grant-giving charitable trust which my family and I set up in 2021 after my mother took her own life in 2020. I spend a lot of time meeting suicide prevention charities, understanding their approach and getting to know the people behind each one. In our first year we gave £131,000 to seven suicide prevention charities in the UK - we estimate that our grants to these charities prevented at least 231 people from taking their own lives in 2022. This year, we expect to distribute even more money to a greater number of charities. I do plenty of fundraising as a result - in March I ran 48 miles in 48 hours (no sleep!) and raised about £25,000. I'm planning something bigger and better next year!

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents and my mum in particular. Even more so in the last couple of years.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

I wanted to be a jockey! A serious lack of talent and a teenage growth spurt put an end to that, however.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Tibet. Mystery, geography, romance, history, you name it.





# GINNY CHIARELLO

PORTFOLIO MANAGER,  
DIRECT PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

## MASSMUTUAL

GINNY CHIARELLO is a Portfolio Manager on the Direct Private Investments team, making investments on behalf of the MassMutual general account. Mrs. Chiarello's primary focus is sourcing, executing, and monitoring customized proprietary secured loans to private capital managers and funds backed by a range of private capital assets.

Mrs. Chiarello was previously a Portfolio Manager for the private credit and equity portfolios at Plexus Capital in Raleigh, NC, leading the portfolio management of the firm's \$1.5 billion in private funds. Prior to that she was a VP at Piedmont Investment Advisors where she advised the US Treasury on the TARP program's asset valuation and a Research Analyst covering small cap bank stocks at BMO Capital Markets.

Mrs. Chiarello graduated with an MBA from Georgia State University and an MA in International Business from Sorbonne University in France. She also earned a BA in Business Economics from Brown University.

Mrs. Chiarello has been working in fund finance for two years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Veterinarian

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pawleys Island pimento cheese with jalapenos

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

India! I've been very fortunate and have traveled quite extensively (53 countries). Pre-kids, marriage, and college, I traveled a lot with my mom. India is one of the last big places we haven't been, so we're going this October!



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I previously worked at a private credit firm that provided capital solutions to small businesses through a fund structure that accessed leverage through the SBA's SBIC program. After being on the other side of fund finance, when I saw the opportunity to join MassMutual's Direct Private Investments team, I jumped at the chance to have a front row seat in a fast-growing asset class. I love that each transaction is different, tailored to the needs of the borrower.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I've worked hard to create a space to mentor and develop the other female members of our team. While there are many more organizations and events geared towards women in finance than there used to be (looking at you, Women in Fund Finance), I've found it's still beneficial to take the time to be intentional about development goals, career conversations, and experiences that can be unique to females. Like a lot of targeted, deliberate development, I'm constantly in awe of how much I get out of it alongside my team.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

My community involvement has morphed over time as my kids have grown, although in hindsight, has followed a theme. I previously sat on the board of Girls on the Run of the Triangle, an organization that inspires girls to build confidence, kindness, and decision-making skills through physical activity. I was fortunate to have several positive mentor/coaches as an athlete that contributed to who I am today, and I want to share that with the next generation of girls. Now, I support and volunteer with the Miracle League of the Triangle. The Miracle League creates positive life experiences for children and adults with special needs and their families through baseball. The best part of supporting this organization is that I do it with my two sons (who both play baseball).

# ISABELLA SHAW

ASSOCIATE

**HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP**

Isabella is an associate in the Finance Practice Group at Haynes and Boone, LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina. She represents agents and lenders on bilateral and syndicated transactions, including subscription credit facilities and other fund finance products.

She was raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. Isabella graduated from Georgetown University with a B.A. in Psychology and although she initially planned to move on to a Ph. D., after conceding that she is terrible at statistics she decided not to subject herself to seven years of misery and mediocrity and instead went to law school at Wake Forest University.

Isabella has been in fund finance for seven years.

## What started your career in Fund Finance?

I've worked in fund finance for my entire legal career. I got hired into the fund finance group of my prior firm after graduating from law school. Since joining Haynes and Boone in October of 2021 I have continued developing my skills as a fund finance attorney.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

My motto as a senior associate is, I always have time for a question. I make a concerted effort to be an open resource for junior and mid-level associates who need help with something, whether it's on a deal with me or with someone else. I don't ever want junior attorneys to be feeling as if they're floundering or desperate for support when twenty or thirty minutes of my time could provide the comfort and clarity they need. Haynes and Boone also highly values mentorship and has robust associate and summer associate mentorship programs, and I love participating in those programs as they are enriching to both the mentor and the mentee.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

Since moving to Charlotte, I have focused my efforts on two (very different) causes - addressing homelessness in Charlotte and promoting music and fine arts. There are a number of fantastic organizations focusing on these goals to which I try to devote both my time and financial support. Haynes and Boone is also a very service-minded firm and offers many opportunities to give back to the community.



## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Believe it or not, I wanted to be a lawyer! My parents met in law school and my extended family is full of lawyers so it seemed like the obvious choice. I wasn't exactly envisioning life as a fund finance attorney, but I think five-year old Isabella would be happy with how things turned out.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

The Scottish Highlands. My husband and I went to Scotland last year and had the most amazing time there, but we didn't make it up into the Highlands. I love gray, bleak, cold weather so the Scottish climate is perfect for me. The craggy landscapes and crumbling castles have me feeling like a unicorn could stroll out from behind a tree and I wouldn't bat an eye. If you go far enough north there are even places where there's a chance to see the northern lights, which is one of my life goals!

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Don't wait until you're 32 years old to start eating mashed potatoes. You're really missing out.



# JACK BODKIN

SENIOR COUNSEL

MACFARLANES LLP

Jack advises on a broad range of finance transactions including leveraged and acquisition financings, fund financings, and specialty financings (including litigation finance). He acts for private equity sponsors, credit funds, alternative lenders, and specialty finance providers on a wide range of domestic and cross-border financing transactions. Jack has spent time on secondment at a multi-strategy hedge fund primarily in the distressed debt team.

Jack has been working in fund finance for about seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I really enjoyed both the funds department and finance department during my training contract and that naturally led me to want to work on fund finance transactions when I qualified. The early transactions offered me a lot of responsibility and the ability to build relationships with key personnel at a number of PE funds and credit funds. Acting for both borrowers and lenders in fund finance has also allowed me to develop a balanced, pragmatic approach to negotiations.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I have been a trainee supervisor for the last 4 years and I am also involved in the MacsMentor program (the firm's mentoring scheme) mentoring junior members of the firm. I enjoy working with trainees and the more junior members of the firm, providing them with tips from my experiences and know-how which (I hope) assists them navigate their early careers.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I have been able to use my legal skills within a number of community projects. I have assisted the Nature Conservancy (TNC) on a pioneering 'debt-for-nature' swap with the Republic of Seychelles. This work for TNC enabled the Seychelles to get some of its national debt paid off in return for agreeing to protect approximately 400,000 sq km of the ocean surrounding the Seychelles. I have also been involved in working with Kids in Need Defense, a leading organization that provides legal advice to help undocumented children and their families on their immigration status. In addition, Macfarlane's current charity is Haven House children's hospice. We offer support to seriously and terminally ill children. Along with various fund raising events, volunteers within the firm provide support in other ways such as gardening or assisting in charity shops.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

Both my parents instilled in me the importance of a strong work ethic and giving everything a go. I am extremely thankful for the opportunities and support they have provided me with over the years.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

I wanted to be a vet.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Japan. The culture, traditions, cuisine and landscape all sound fascinating. It is definitely a place that I am very keen to explore.





# JEFF LEUNG

DIRECTOR

LLOYDS BANK CORPORATE MARKETS

Jeff is a Director in the Financial Sponsors team at Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets in New York. He is responsible for structuring and originating fund-level and asset-level financing solutions to global private funds, with a focus on subscription facilities, NAV facilities, and bespoke solutions. Prior to joining the team, Jeff was on the graduate program at Lloyds Bank New York in Industrials and TMT coverage and Capital Markets. Jeff graduated cum laude from Fordham University with a B.S. in Finance and a concentration in value investing.

Jeff has been working in fund finance for four years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I was first introduced to Fund Finance when I worked in financial sponsors coverage and loan syndications as an analyst at Lloyds. During that time, I developed an understanding of the business and built relationships with the different counterparties in the industry. As Lloyds has been expanding its footprint in the US, I had the opportunity to join the team full-time and continued building upon my skills from the deep expertise of my mentors and managers.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I am grateful to have amazing mentors who have played an important role throughout my career and provided me opportunities for growth. Having benefited from their guidance and support, I appreciate the importance of advocates in my professional and personal life. As I am now in the position to mentor others, I have taken the responsibility as Chair of the Young Professionals Committee at Lloyds in New York, striving to promote career development, learning, networking, and engagement for junior colleagues across the bank. Within FFA, I participate in Diversity in Fund Finance initiatives working with students.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I am fortunate to work for a firm that values community service and impact. Through Lloyds' charity partner, Birch Family Services, which focuses on empowering individuals with autism and developmental disabilities in NYC, I have spent time on storybook reading, financial literacy and resume workshops, as well as mentorship programs through the years. I am also running a half marathon this year to help raise money for charity.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

I dreamt of being a surgeon growing up, but I grudgingly accepted that I will never get over the squeamishness at the sight of blood. Maybe it's for the best.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

It's a toss-up between sushi and a bacon, egg, and cheese on an everything bagel (with avocado).

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

I am currently training for my first race, as part of the fundraiser for Team for Kids. On most of my runs I feel like "Forrest Gump."





# JOSEPH P. ZEIDNER

SPECIAL COUNSEL

**CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM  
& TAFT LLP**

Joe Zeidner is a special counsel in Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft's Fund Finance practice. Over the past four-and-a-half years, Joe has established himself as a prolific fund finance industry dealmaker who is absolutely passionate about providing the highest level of service to his clients, his colleagues and the entire fund finance industry. Joe represents major U.S. and foreign banks as agents, lead arrangers and lenders in structuring, negotiating and documenting a broad range of subscription credit transactions. Joe has been involved in many of the largest, most complex syndicated credit facilities to funds managed by some of the world's most distinguished fund sponsors. In doing so, he's represented over 25 different lead lenders with over \$60 billion of direct commitments in almost 300 fund finance deals, and has led or been a primary attorney on transactions aggregating nearly \$170 billion in total lender commitments. Joe received his B.S. in Biology - Neuroscience from Duke University, his M.B.A., summa cum laude, from Drexel University, and his J.D., magna cum laude, from Drexel University. During law school, Joe served as Associate Editor on the Drexel Law Review and was a national officer in the American Bar Association Law Student Division. Joe was included in the 2023 edition of the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America for Banking and Finance Law.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### Who and/or what shaped you?

Outside of my wife and family (who have shaped me far more than anyone else), I've been extremely fortunate to have some incredible mentors influence my professional career. I always seek to improve in any way I can and have sought to develop close relationships with attorneys who were successful in their areas of practice who could teach me how to succeed in mine. I now look for every opportunity to pay it forward by training and mentoring the next generation in fund finance.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Prior to becoming an attorney, I worked as a chef at a five-star restaurant. So in general, I'd say anything fine dining. But if forced to pin it down to one item, I'd have to go with foie gras - I'm an absolutely sucker for any dish with foie gras in it.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

I've been to 42 countries outside the United States, but have yet to explore South America, Africa or most of Asia. Probably the number one spot on my bucket list at this point is Machu Picchu. I've always been fascinated with Incan culture and would enjoy exploring those ancient ruins while experiencing another of my other top interests, hiking in beautiful mountainscapes.



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

While living in Philadelphia after law school, I represented private debt funds as mezzanine lenders who were lending into leveraged acquisition financing structures. My wife and I wanted to move back to North Carolina where we met, and if you're a finance attorney, there's no better place to be in North Carolina than Charlotte with its robust banking industry. Of all the places I received job offers, I liked Cadwalader the best because of its sophisticated work in fund finance and the opportunity to work with people who are the best in the world at what they do.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Outside of providing the absolute best possible counsel and service to clients, I think nothing is more important than developing the junior professionals with whom I work to be future leaders of our industry. I take a vested interest in the success of each attorney I supervise, and work hard to always be available to them for questions, advice, training and pats on the back. I formally mentor several associates in my firm practice group and informally mentor many others, actively coaching them to grow in their careers to contribute to the fund finance industry. One of my proudest honors is having received Cadwalader's prestigious Upward Review Excellence Award, which is given to only the top five attorneys in each of our firm's five offices for their level of devotion to developing junior talent.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I've dedicated significant time to fostering the growth of our global fund finance community. In addition to my active dealmaking, I've written 15 articles for Cadwalader's weekly Fund Finance Friday newsletter to provide our community with thought leadership on various topics, from LIBOR transition to ESG, sovereign immunity, rated note feeders and many others. I co-authored a chapter, 'The Global Subscription Credit Facility and Fund Finance Markets - Key Trends and Forecasts,' in the book Alternative Investment Funds 2020 published by International Comparative Legal Guides. I've also given a number of presentations on topics important to participants in our fund finance community. In addition, I have attended each of the last three Fund Finance Association Global Symposiums and frequently participate in Fund Finance Association and other fund finance industry events to network and engage with other members of our community.



# JOEL BUCKETT

VICE PRESIDENT

DEUTSCHE BANK

Joel joined Deutsche Bank's growing European fund finance business in 2022 as a Vice President. He focuses on originating, structuring, and executing fund and GP finance facilities out of DB's London office and has also contributed to the formulation of DB's risk monitoring criteria for subscription finance.

Prior to joining DB, Joel worked for Commonwealth Bank of Australia in their Fund Finance and Insurance coverage businesses, and also Lloyds Bank where he started his career in banking.

Joel has worked in Fund Finance for four years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I originally got into banking through the Lloyds Scholars scheme, which provides underprivileged students at top universities with the opportunity to participate in internships and subsequently receive a place on Lloyds Bank's graduate scheme. From there I ended up moving to Commonwealth Bank of Australia where I joined their fund finance and insurance business.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I have always been very enthusiastic about supporting the development of junior colleagues as I have been very lucky to have some fantastic mentors throughout my career. At Lloyds I was a member of the graduate learning and mentorship committee, which helped shape training and education sessions for graduates. At CBA I worked in a similar role as a member of the London Branch Council, and I also led regular training sessions for graduates and associates in our New York Office. As a member of the FFA's NextGen Committee, I now contribute to creating and organizing industry-wide panels and events for our junior members, as well as being a mentor on the FFA's Mentorship Scheme.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I regularly donate to Great Ormond Street Hospital, a fantastic London-based charity which supports seriously and terminally ill children and their families. I am also a passionate Boxer and (ex) Muay Thai fighter, and have been involved in many initiatives to get susceptible children in deprived areas away from knife crime and gangs and into boxing gyms where they can learn discipline and respect whilst finding a suitable outlet for their energy.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Tyrannosaurus Rex. I only grew to be 5'10" so that dream was short-lived.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents first and foremost. I was also fortunate enough to go solo traveling in South-East Asia and South Africa. These experiences gave me a lot of confidence as I was actually incredibly shy growing up, and I made friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

The Canadian Rockies or Alaska. I love hiking and mountaineering and those places are some of the most beautiful on Earth, and also have incredible wildlife and night skies.



# JUSTIN KELLER

ASSOCIATE

HAYNES BOONE

Justin Keller is an associate in the Finance Practice Group in the Dallas office of Haynes Boone. Justin has represented both borrowers and lenders in a variety of commercial and corporate debt financing transactions across industries, but specializes in representing lenders in structuring and negotiating subscription-secured credit facilities to private equity funds. Prior to joining Haynes Boone, Justin taught English as a foreign language in Seoul, South Korea, from 2008 to 2014. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Cedarville University, a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Justin has been working in fund finance for about five years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I began my legal career at Haynes Boone, where I still practice. Haynes Boone was instrumental in the development of the first subscription-secured credit facility and remains a major player in the space, so there has been plenty of opportunity for me to be involved in fund finance from my first day as a baby lawyer. It has formed the majority of my practice for the last five years.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I serve as a mentor to a number of associates at Haynes Boone, and I am an active participant in our recruiting program, including serving as a mentor for summer associates who clerk with the firm. I have benefitted immensely from my own mentors both within and outside of the firm, and I value the opportunity to act in that role for others.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I participate in fundraising drives for a few different non-profit organizations a few times a year, and I volunteer when I can. My most recent volunteering experiences have been with a local food bank, a neighborhood clean-up group, and a community garden.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

I studied in Jerusalem for a semester during university. It was a paradigm shifting experience for a small-town kid from Ohio, and although it's impossible to know for sure who I would have become had I not had this experience, I look at that time as an inflection point that fundamentally altered the course of my life.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

French fries ... potatoes of all varieties, really.

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

Everything Everywhere All at Once. I have a toddler.





# KENNEDY MAKER

ASSOCIATE

MORGAN STANLEY

Kennedy Maker joined Morgan Stanley in 2018 and is an Associate within the Fixed Income Secured Lending group. As a member of the Private Debt Syndication group, Kennedy supports the firm's private distribution efforts across a variety of asset classes, including subscription finance, corporate debt finance, and consumer and esoteric ABS asset classes.

Prior to his current role, Kennedy worked on the origination, structuring, and execution of subscription secured credit facilities for multiple fund sponsors globally - and has covered the product for five years.

Additionally, Kennedy previously worked on the ABS and corporate debt finance origination deal teams. Kennedy graduated from Georgetown University and is originally from Mankato, MN.

Kennedy has been working in fund finance for five years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I was a summer intern at Morgan Stanley in Fixed Income for two summers after my sophomore and junior years, including a rotation within lending. After joining the group full-time after graduation, I was placed on the subscription finance team and have covered the product since starting my career at Morgan Stanley.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

In addition to mentoring junior members of the lending team at MS, I have helped manage the Fixed Income Secured Lending internship for the past three summers and served as a mentor for MS's freshman enhancement program. I have also volunteered for multiple years with firm-sponsored programs that aim to educate local NYC high school students on financial literacy and prepare students for college.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I have previously volunteered for Out 4 Undergrad, a non-profit organization that works to help place LGBTQ+ undergrads in a variety of career professions - including finance, banking, consulting, tech, marketing, and engineering. I have also served as mentor, both formally and informally, to multiple LGBTQ+ junior employees at Morgan Stanley.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

A pediatrician

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Chicken quesadillas

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Maybe not necessarily a specific spot, but the #1 item on my travel list is to go on an African safari - Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa are currently my top choices





# LILY MIAO

COUNSEL

**MOURANT OZANNES (HK) LLP**

Lily was born in Shanghai, grew up in the UK and is now based in HK. She co-chairs the Fund Finance Association NextGen Committee in APAC, and sits on the FFA Diversity Committee. Lily has been active in the banking and finance space for a decade, with experience in a variety of transactions including acqfins, real estate and infrastructure finance. Her particular expertise is in PRC transactions and of course, fund finance.

Lily has acted on seminal fund finance transactions across the spectrum, covering subscription lines, NAV financings, hybrid loans, ESG financings, GP and management lines and LP lending.

Before moving offshore Lily worked in the London, Singapore and HK offices of Clifford Chance.

Lily has been working in fund finance for six years



## What started your career in Fund Finance?

I worked on a few fund finance transactions while I was a trainee and later an NQ at Clifford Chance in London, without really understanding what I was doing or how everything worked. Since moving offshore, my fund finance career started with me showing interest in this growing industry when asked about it one week in at my current firm, and wanting to get involved. It was an interesting product and the people are very nice. Since those early days, I have continually built on my knowledge and expertise over the years in diversified fund finance products, becoming increasingly connected to the industry, and I have never looked back.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

I have been lucky to have some amazing mentors and sponsors, and I have always believed in paying it forward. I invest time and effort in supporting, guiding and mentoring junior members of the team and try to be as available as possible to answer any questions, or be there to offer a listening ear to any personal or work-related issues they are facing. I have delivered many training sessions and prepared knowledge management materials for the benefit of the junior members of our team.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

As we are fortunate in all we have, I believe in paying back to society and getting involved in the community that we live in. I have participated in a charity fun run (dressed as a reindeer), as well as the Goodman Magic Mile in support of Habitat for Humanity. Our firm also organized a beach clean-up of Silverstrand Beach in Sai Kung. A total of 135kg of marine debris was collected in an hour - which just goes to show how much rubbish is damaging marine life and their natural habitats. As a keen diver, I really hope that this serves as a reminder to protect the oceans so that generations to come can enjoy the wonders that we see today.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

I fluctuated between a TV presenter, a CEO and a translator. By 7 I had moved on to a far more realistic dream of a Hollywood star.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

One food is too hard as a foodie! If I could pick a cuisine it'd be a toss-up between Mediterranean and Japanese.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Anywhere I can dive - as a relative novice, the world is my oyster (bad pun intended)! I would love to be able to dive Raja Ampat and the Galapagos Islands one day.



# MALINDRI DE ALWIS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FUND FINANCE  
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

Malindri De Alwis is an Executive Director of Fund Finance at Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) in New York. She currently handles the Americas Fund Finance business by originating, structuring, and executing a multi-billion dollar portfolio. Prior to this role, Malindri worked in her home country Sri Lanka, Singapore, then moved to New York. In her prior roles, she has worked across a number of teams, including Corporate Finance, Credit Analysis, and COO teams. Malindri obtained her Bachelor's degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science (external program), and her MBA at Warwick Business School. She is also a Diversity in Fund Finance committee member.

Malindri has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Without a doubt, if I were to choose one cuisine for the rest of my life, it would be Sri Lankan food. Our food is a delightful blend of local flavours, and caters to all diets (including lower spice levels). So, if you haven't tried Sri Lankan cuisine yet, I wholeheartedly encourage it. It's a culinary journey you won't forget.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Definitely to be more confident and assertive. As a young woman in the professional world, it's easy to underestimate one's own strength in the workplace, but it's so essential to keep this in focus. Once I changed my mindset on this, it was amazing the changes I saw on a professional and also a personal level.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Having had the opportunity to work in Singapore, which is a regional travel hub, I was fortunate to visit many diverse Asian countries. While it's hard to pinpoint a single 'number one spot', there are two destinations that I'm particularly excited to visit in the coming years - Santorini, Greece, and Machu Picchu, Peru. These places have always fascinated me with their rich history, stunning landscapes, unique cultures, and of course, the food!



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

In 2016 I started working in SCB's Lending department, where I had the opportunity to work with various businesses in the New York office. Over time as the business grew, I moved to working exclusively on the Fund Finance business. I have had some great mentors throughout my career, including in my current role, which helped me narrow down the business areas most suited and interesting to me. The business has seen significant growth during my time here, with an evolving market requiring banks to adapt to ongoing changes. I especially appreciate the strong Fund Finance community, which is diverse and inclusive, and have made some good friends in the industry as a result of my role.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Given my experience of having great mentors throughout my career, I make it a point to help junior talent when possible, either via formal educational sessions or informal career discussions, to help them navigate the corporate world. I especially try to think about what I wish I knew when starting my career, and where it would be helpful to guide junior members. Standard Chartered Bank is an extremely diverse organization, which is important to me. As our business continues to grow, we focus on building out the team and hiring junior members, ensuring a diverse and inclusive work environment.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I firmly believe in the significance of community involvement for personal growth and giving back. My community service journey started at a young age with the Leo Club, a youth branch of Lions Clubs International, where I participated in several initiatives, such as offering free eye clinics and treatments to low-income communities and organizing food and clothing drives for families in need. I've also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to build low-cost houses, along with delivering meals to the elderly. My family and I continue to support our community by providing meals to an orphanage in my home country Sri Lanka, which allows us to help local charities in a meaningful way.

# MARK BROWN

ASSOCIATE

KOHLBERG KRAVIS ROBERTS (KKR)

Mark joined KKR in 2021 and is a member of the Derivatives and Liability Management team, focused on structuring and managing fund-level financings across KKR funds. Prior to joining KKR, Mark worked at a law firm in New York. He holds a B.A. from Wake Forest University.

Mark has been working in fund finance for two years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

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### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I had the opportunity to join KKR on secondment in 2020 where I met members of the team responsible for fund financing. It was a great experience, after which I knew I wanted to join in a more permanent capacity.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I have enjoyed the chance to work and train junior members of the team and interns. Being able to teach a topic is a great test for truly mastering it.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I have been involved with the LoveYourBrain Foundation, an organization that supports the TBI community, and have had the privilege of being able to participate in the many community outreach programs organized by KKR.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Basketball player

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pasta

### Who and/or what shaped you?

Family and teachers





# MATT DOBLEMAN

ASSOCIATE

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP

Matt Dobleman is a sixth year associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. His practice focuses on representing private equity sponsors in a range of financing transactions including capital call facilities, NAV facilities, management company working capital facilities and other fund level and upper tier financings. Matt graduated from Fordham University School of Law where he was a staff member of the Journal of Corporate & Financial Law. He holds a B.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

Matt has been working in fund finance for over six years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I began my legal career in a general banking & finance group where I was exposed to a variety of financing transactions ranging from structured financings, to project finance, to traditional LBOs and corporate debt transactions. A few months in, I began working on a series of subscription facilities representing agents and lenders. I found the deals to be interesting and engaging and worked with some wonderful clients. As my career progressed, the fund finance space continued to experience accelerated growth and I saw an opportunity to be a part of that.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I enjoy collaborating with associates, partners and team members of all levels in our fund finance practice to better understand all aspects of fund finance from broader market trends all the way down to the most technical points in our credit documentation. In order to serve our clients' needs, it is critical to have a highly capable, well-informed team with the most up-to-date knowledge on the fund finance market. I spend significant time training and developing more junior team members and it's an aspect of my practice that I thoroughly enjoy.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I work with an organization known as 'Lawyers in the Classroom' that sends attorneys into the classroom to provide interactive lessons on basic legal reasoning, critical thinking, collaboration and civil discourse. I have also recently begun working with a non-profit that assists veterans in obtaining benefits after their service has ended.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Professional Golfer (still is).

### Who and/or what shaped you?

I have taken much from my wife, parents, grandparents and siblings. In my legal career specifically, I have had the opportunity to work with excellent associates and partners who have mentored me as my career has progressed.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

The Amalfi Coast. I spent a semester abroad in Italy during my junior year of college and have had a soft spot for the language, people and culture ever since. A few of my family members have traveled to the Amalfi Coast and it got rave reviews.



# MAUDE ROYER

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

**LOYENS & LOEFF LUXEMBOURG  
S.À R.L.**

Maude Royer is a member of the Investment Management department of Loyens & Loeff Luxembourg. Maude acts on a full range of finance transactions, with particular focus on fund finance. She acts at all levels of the fund capital structure, advising investment funds (including RE, PE, infrastructure and debt funds, as well as funds of funds), fund managers and financial institutions. Her expertise includes capital call financing, GP financing, NAV financing and other hybrid products, asset-based financing, real estate financing and general corporate financing

Maude has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## What started your career in Fund Finance?

For me, it all started with the rise of the investment fund industry in Luxembourg. At the time, I was already working as a financing lawyer, and I became increasingly interested in the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the fund finance industry. As I delved deeper into this field, I quickly realised that fund finance was the perfect fit for my skills and interests.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Being a pop star in a girl band.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pasta!

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

As a mother of two, my dream destination at the moment would be the land of uninterrupted sleep! And more seriously, when my kids will be old enough, Japan.



## How have you contributed to the development of others?

Currently, I am working on fund finance transactions with nine associates, and I make a point of helping them to develop their fund finance expertise on a daily basis. This involves not only providing guidance and advice on technical issues, but also helping them to understand the broader market dynamics that shape the industry. I am also regularly involved in training sessions within my firm. For example, I recently gave a presentation on fund finance in the context of the Loyens & Loeff PE Academy, which was designed to provide young lawyers with a comprehensive overview of the PE industry as well as cross-practice general knowledge to understand the life cycle and the needs of PE funds. Finally, I am always happy to discuss any technical or market fund finance topics with anyone who has an interest, including my peers in Luxembourg or abroad. I believe that by sharing knowledge and insights, we can all help to raise the level of expertise and professionalism in our field.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

Since I was 14, I have actively participated in the annual event called "Une rose, un espoir". The event involves the sale of roses by bikers, with the proceeds going to support cancer research. At the time I started participating in this beautiful initiative with my family, it was only a local action, mainly in the East of France. Twenty years later, "Une rose, un espoir" has become a major event for cancer research in France, with thousands of volunteers and participants taking part every year. In 2022, the association raised nearly 2 million euros in one weekend across many regions of France, donated to the Ligue contre le cancer (league against cancer).

# MCKAY HARLINE

ASSOCIATE

MAYER BROWN LLP

McKay Harline is an associate in Mayer Brown LLP's Banking & Finance practice, and represents financial institutions, investment funds and corporate borrowers in a variety of secured and unsecured finance transactions, including subscription-backed credit facilities, net asset value facilities, hybrid facilities, bi-lateral loans, private note placements, management fee credit lines and partner loan programs. McKay graduated from Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, where he was a staff member and editor of the Journal of International Law and Business, and he earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Brigham Young University.

McKay has been working in fund finance for about eight years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

My favorite class in law school was a private equity seminar, and so I knew before joining Mayer Brown that I wanted to do something related to private investment funds. I was fortunate to find the Fund Finance group as a summer associate and the rest is history. I found mentors, clients and colleagues that really make Fund Finance an engaging and fulfilling career.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Mentorship and opportunities to learn from experienced teachers have always benefited me, so I have sought to be the type of mentor and teacher to junior associates and staff that can be a reliable resource at any time. I enjoy presenting at our weekly 'Lunch and Learns' and other various trainings for the Chicago Fund Finance team. I also serve on the recruiting committee and enjoy being involved in the firm's diversity / inclusion and LGBTQ efforts.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

Being a lawyer has opened up so many pro bono opportunities, and I have been honored to assist asylum applicants navigating immigration issues, first-time home buyers needing legal counsel and individuals with criminal records seeking to have their records expunged. I have also looked for a way to include music in my community service, and am currently serving as the bylaws chair on the Merit School of Music's Associate Board.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

Music, more than anything else, has shaped me. I studied piano and violin for most of my life (and majored in piano performance as an undergrad). The hours of practice helped me build a strong work ethic, my participation in orchestras and various ensembles opened opportunities for collaborating and team-building, the encouragement of teachers and professors inspired and motivated me to pursue goals and take risks, and performing on the concert stage brought a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I continue to use the lessons I've learned through music in my career and everyday life.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Growing up, I had multiple dream jobs (and it was anyone's guess what I would end up doing for a career). At various points I've wanted to be a professional musician, astronaut, interior designer, architect, roller coaster designer, author and teacher.

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

Arrival - I feel like life always has its interruptions and the 'arrival' of the unknown can be intimidating or even scary. But life's various arrivals provide me opportunities to work at arriving at my best self.





# MICHAEL SPERA

ASSOCIATE

## GOLDMAN SACHS ASSET MANAGEMENT

Michael Spera is a Vice President in the Financing and Debt Capital Markets Group at Goldman Sachs, based in New York, where he is involved in originating, structuring, and executing bespoke asset backed and capital commitments debt transactions across the alternatives platform.

Michael has been at Goldman Sachs for seven years, spending time with the direct investing businesses (Legacy Merchant Banking Division) and other private markets products, where he has led numerous deals and worked across from structuring professionals at a variety of financial institutions, including banks, insurance companies, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds. He received a BS in Business Management from Babson College.

Michael has been working in fund finance for four years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents - they both were an instrumental part in shaping the person I am today.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Astronaut

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

The Casa from Casa della Mozzarella on Arthur Ave in the Bronx; prosciutto, mozz, sun dried peppers, and balsamic glaze.



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

When I began my career at Goldman Sachs, I sat within a team focused on risk management and analytics, including the analysis and production of borrowing base reporting. A mentor of mine at the firm referred me to an open role within the legacy Merchant Banking Division focused on the street facing aspect of the market, which ultimately worked out.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

One of the most rewarding parts of my role is being able to provide mentorship and guidance to junior professionals and the collaborative nature of Goldman Sachs provides me with the opportunity to mentor beyond just my immediate team. I've been fortunate enough to have had a great support system over the years that has helped guide and elevate me. Given this experience, I know how valuable it can be to have an advocate provide feedback and navigate both the complexities of day to day activity as well as broader career discussions. It's a focus of mine to make sure that junior team members are happy in their roles and feel that they are receiving the tools/support to be successful.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

Over the course of the last ~10 years, I've served as a youth and high school lacrosse coach in the communities in which I lived, most recently serving as the head coach for a 5th and 6th grade team. It is fulfilling to be able to use a sport as a tool to teach life lessons and make an impact on the young players. Having recently moved, I'm looking for the next group to get involved with!

# MICHAEL AHRENDT

VICE PRESIDENT

**MORGAN STANLEY WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT**

Mike Ahrendt joined Morgan Stanley in 2015 and currently oversees the structuring, origination, portfolio maintenance, and relationship management of Morgan Stanley Private Bank's subscription secured credit facility book. In addition to his fund finance work, Mike partners with Morgan Stanley's top financial advisors to originate structured lending solutions to the firm's ultra-high net worth clients. He is a graduate of Bentley University.

Michael has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I joined Morgan Stanley Private Bank in 2017 and immediately started working on subscription facility transactions from underwriting through execution. I was drawn to the product and the private equity / alternative asset space due to the overlap with our structured lending solutions to our individual private equity and hedge fund clients on their personal side.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

In the private bank, I am responsible for educating financial advisors and private bankers on our fund finance capabilities. As our team has grown, I have been responsible for training new members, focusing on business-related development and mentorship. I have been an active leader in Morgan Stanley's wealth management accelerator program, a leadership forum used to discuss professional development topics and provide networking opportunities among peers.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

Since 2017 I have been an active volunteer at the Hoboken Community Center, and in 2022 I began volunteering at the NJ Community Foodbank. I have also been involved in Habitat for Humanity, helping to make improvements to existing community centers located across the five boroughs.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

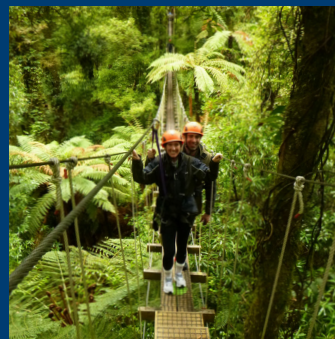
Basketball player

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pizza

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

Pumping Iron



# MICHAEL GAJEWSKY

ASSOCIATE

SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT

Michael Gajewsky is an Associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. As a member of the fund finance group, he advises fund sponsors in connection with subscription facilities and other complex fund financings. His 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. Michael received his B.A., magna cum laude, from Northwestern University in 2012 and his J.D., cum laude, from Northwestern University School of Law in 2018.

Michael has been working in fund finance for three years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

Simpson Thacher offers a rotation program that enables junior corporate associates to gain exposure to different transactional practices before becoming immersed in a permanent space. During a rotation in the Banking and Credit group, I asked to try some fund finance work because my associate mentor worked in the group. I immediately enjoyed working with the Fund Finance team and the content of the work. Once I settled in the Banking and Credit group, I've continued to work on fund finance projects ever since.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

One of the reasons I chose fund finance work was because of the invaluable mentors and colleagues I have found in the group - in particular, Mary Touchstone has always made time to offer her counsel and guidance, notwithstanding her busy schedule as Head of the Firm's Fund Finance Practice. Accordingly, I always try to focus on giving lots of the informal training to junior associates with whom I work both on fund finance generally and also on the specific transactions we work on. I've also assisted in providing formal training sessions on the specifics of fund finance, as well as introductions to fund finance generally, for associates rotating in the Banking and Credit Group.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

I've focused my charitable efforts on supporting food banks in both New York and Texas since the outbreak of COVID. I'm also a lover of opera and the performing arts and support performing arts organizations in both New York and Texas.

### What was your dream job when you were 5?

Veterinarian

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Cheese in any form and on anything!

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

I'd like to do a combined trip to Botswana and Namibia. I've been interested to see the Skeleton Coast, the Namib Desert and all the wildlife. I'm hoping to take a few weeks off and see them both one day!





# PIERRE-HENRY QUANTIN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC  
RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

## BARINGS

Pierre is an Associate Director at Barings within the Capital Markets team in New York where he focuses on arranging, structuring, negotiating, and executing Fund Finance transactions for Barings' investment funds. These transactions include subscription credit facilities, asset backed facilities (Private Credit/ABS/Infra), BDC revolvers and redemption facilities.

In his role at Barings, Pierre also contributes to awarding ancillary business such as FX hedging for vehicles that benefit from fund financing products. Ultimately, as part of the Capital Markets team, he supports the firm's activities relating to its banking relationships and ensures a fair and balanced trade is at the core of all of the firm's financing decisions.

Pierre has been working in Fund Finance for a little over six years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

My interest in Fund Finance started in school during my master's in finance. Private Equity AUM started ballooning and I was very attracted to this sector given its growing importance in the M&A landscape and in shaping how companies are owned and operate. I ultimately found out about subscription credit facilities and wrote my master's thesis on their use and credit implications. This allowed me to land a role within CACIB's Private Equity Fund Solutions desk where I was able to start interacting with the largest PE sponsors and becoming a part of this ecosystem. The technical side of Fund Finance piqued my interest, the people and relationships I've been able to build over the years had me hooked.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Growing up, I have always had the utmost respect for teachers and I knew that this is how I wanted to give back. Each year, I volunteer my time with student associations to share what I've learnt and what lessons I've gained from spending another year in the industry. Most of it has been through one-on-one career coaching but I also go back to my business school to share these lessons with broader groups, typically graduating seniors or master's students. Outside of my external engagements, I have also helped run internal training programs at Barings and at CBA to help new joiners get a broader perspective on how funds operate and use credit facilities to support their investment needs, liquidity needs, and their return expectations.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

One of the things that I pride myself in is being an Ally. Diversity and Inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community within the professional sphere and its broader acceptance has always been important to me. I have a close family member who is part of that community and was ostracized in the workplace and within my own family growing up, which felt completely wrong. We can only create inclusive environments through Allies. At work, I openly support the community and join events to celebrate this diversity like the Pride parade which is held every year in NYC. Personally, I simply ensure to keep an open mind and be thoughtful of other people's perspectives to ensure they feel welcomed for who they are.

### What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

It is fine to carve your own path. Growing up, perceived prestige was important. As such, I always felt like I wasn't doing enough. However, I am now very grateful for my path and past choices which led me to where I am now and thank all of the people who have helped and believed in me throughout the years.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Well, (drum-roll), PIZZA. The thought behind this, apart from growing up watching Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles cartoons and living in NYC, is that pizza can be topped with anything. As such, it would allow one to eat pretty much any food they desire in a delicious form. This aligns well with my approach to choosing. Always, pick the option which gives you the most choices and possible outcomes when you don't have a set course of action.

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

It was, and still is, Japan. I just came back from a 2-week trip in April 2023. This trip had been planned with my wife since 2019 as our honeymoon. We wanted to explore Japan for its rich history, food, culture, and its people. We had been reading manga since we were kids and grew to love the food even more. NYC is definitely to thank for this given its breadth of amazing Japanese food options. This time we visited Tokyo, Kanazawa, Takayama, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kyoto, which were all amazing in their own right. Next time, we plan to go skiing and explore the more remote parts of the country!



# RACHIDA BENHALIMA

MANAGING ASSOCIATE

**SIMMONS & SIMMONS  
LUXEMBOURG LLP**

Rachida specializes in advising both borrowers and lenders on a broad range of cross-border and domestic banking and finance secured and unsecured lending transactions including structured finance, acquisition finance, real estate finance, leveraged finance, with a particular focus on fund finance (in particular subscription line financing, NAV financing, hybrid financing and GP facilities).

Prior to joining Simmons & Simmons, Rachida worked at a magic circle law firm. She regularly advises financial institutions (mostly banks) and private equity and real estate investment funds (mostly AIFs).

Rachida has been working in fund finance for seven years.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I have been advising clients on secured lending transactions for my entire career and I have always had a strong interest for the private funds industry (which makes particular sense being based in Luxembourg) so that when I received my first fund financing file, it was obvious to me that my career path would be built primarily around Fund Finance. Each professional decision I have made and almost all training courses I have taken since this first file have been driven by my choice to focus on Fund Finance and I am fortunate to now be able to assist market leaders at Simmons & Simmons.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

I am involved in the development of our team's junior associates to whom I provide internal trainings, technical advice and regular feedback on their work. I do think that teamwork makes the dream work and make sure that each associate is involved in all key aspects of transactions and feels that his/her/their work is truly valued on a daily basis. I am also involved in the improvement of our templates and our junior training materials and have been delivering fund finance trainings for clients regularly.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

Giving back to the community is a key pillar of the education I received from my parents and I have been naturally involved in Pro Bono Committees or Responsible Business Committees for my entire career helping among others orphans, refugees, women suffering from domestic violence and children who did not have proper access to education. On a personal basis, I am an active member of What Water, a Luxembourg non-profit association which aims at raising awareness on the water crisis and delivering water access to vulnerable populations at an international level by connecting artists and engaged citizens of the world in Europe and Central Africa.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My mom. I could write a whole book on why she shaped me but I would say that the main reasons are her strength and resilience.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Lasagna!!!

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

The Pursuit of Happyness.



# ROBIN GIBB

ASSOCIATE

MAPLES GROUP

Robin is an associate in the Cayman Islands Finance team at Maples and Calder, the Maples Group's law firm. He provides advice on banking transactions with a specialist focus on fund finance. Robin has broad fund finance experience on both the lender and borrower side, having advised on countless subscription line facilities, a large number of NAV facilities as well as GP support, management and co-investment facilities and employee loan programs.

Robin started his legal career in the Cayman Islands before moving to London where he worked in one of London's preeminent fund finance teams. Following his return to the Cayman Islands, he gained a unique perspective on the market, allowing him to bring nuanced insight and assistance to lenders and borrowers while working alongside US and UK counsel on fund finance transactions.

Robin has been working in fund finance for six years.



## What started your career in Fund Finance?

Working as a Cayman Islands lawyer in London between 2015 and 2019, there was a clear surge in fund finance deal flow and I was lucky enough to be part of a dynamic team that was able to focus their efforts to advise London/UK-based lenders on Cayman Islands elements of fund finance transactions. I enjoyed the "friendly" nature of fund finance transactions, with the more concentrated set of players in the London market which enabled me to foster relationships in a more collaborative manner. As fund finance has continued to grow, and as I now spend more time advising the US market, I'm glad to see that there is still a collective view to the value and strength of cooperation between parties in this space.

## How have you contributed to the development of others?

Throughout my career, I've enjoyed training and assisting the more junior members of my team as, having my formative years as part of a very small cohort, I know the value of one-to-one interactions on a junior lawyer's development. I have had some great mentors and worked alongside some truly inspiring partners over the years which gave me a much broader overview of the fund finance market than many junior Caymanian attorneys would typically have the opportunity to experience at the start of their careers. I am delighted to now pass on what I have learned through group training sessions and daily interaction with our trainee and junior lawyers.

## Tell us about your community involvement:

Growing up in South Africa and the Cayman Islands, I've always spent a lot of time outdoors and this has fostered a passion for the environment and related causes. Prior to having two children (currently working through the toddler and new-born years which seems to absorb all elements of my time outside of work!), I volunteered with the Cayman Islands Botanic Park, National Trust of the Cayman Islands and the Cayman Islands National Museum. Due to the more remote nature of volunteering during COVID, I was introduced to AMICUS, a small charity that provides representation for those facing the death penalty in the United States and have enjoyed helping provide better access to justice for those more vulnerable members of society.

## JUST FOR FUN:

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

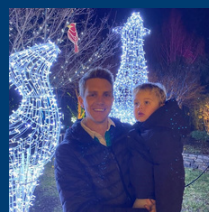
With the current situation of young kids - Dazed and Confused.

### If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

If I can be generic and keep it as broad as pizza, that would keep me happy for the rest of my days (and I'm not ashamed to admit it's recently been my default Friday night takeout for more weeks than I care to remember!)

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

Seeing the ruins of Machu Picchu would currently be my number one spot. Having been awestruck by Pompeii and the remnants left behind of a prior civilization, I think visiting Machu Picchu would carry a similar feeling (and, living on an almost entirely flat island, there's also an added bonus of the views from the top - provided the clouds stay away!)





# SARAH DOMBOWSKY

ASSOCIATE

WALKERS (CAYMAN) LLP

Sarah Dombowsky is based in Walkers' Cayman Islands office where she is an associate in the firm's Finance and Corporate group. Sarah frequently advises many of the world's leading finance institutions and private fund sponsors on a wide range of matters, including secured lending transactions (notably subscription lines, letter of credit facilities, management, employee, NAV and hybrid facilities), fund credit support transactions, asset backed facilities involving bankruptcy remote special purpose vehicles and bank products (such as margin facilities and other extensions of credit secured by equity interests in Cayman Islands funds).

Sarah has been working in fund finance for six years.

## JUST FOR FUN:



### What started your career in Fund Finance?

I was first introduced to fund financing matters in 2015 during my articles of clerkship at Walkers. I was trained by a leading attorney in the space who took the time to ensure I understood all the technical aspects of these types of credit facilities, was able to run deals efficiently, and who introduced me to a number of the key client relationships which I still service on a daily basis at Walkers.

### How have you contributed to the development of others?

Having started my career as an articulated clerk at Walkers and received incredible training and mentorship, it is certainly important to me to pay that forward. I have been the finance and corporate supervisor for 5 articulated clerks to date and nothing gives me more job satisfaction than unlocking the potential of these aspiring attorneys. They always seem to move on to their next seat feeling as passionate about fund finance as I am. I am also involved as a committee member with 100 Women in Finance's Pre-Career Initiative here in the Cayman Islands which runs a career mentorship program for high school girls. We have approximately 100 mentor/mentee pairings and have assisted these young women with preparing for and securing scholarship and internship opportunities with local firms and companies.

### Tell us about your community involvement:

In addition to my involvement with the mentoring program, I am also actively involved with the coordination of the Cayman Islands Legal Practitioners Association's prison literacy program. This program features local attorneys volunteering for anywhere between 2 - 4 classes on the weekend at our only men's prison, during which we teach the inmates essential skills for rehabilitation and a life outside of prison, including reading and writing.

### Who and/or what shaped you?

My parents. They both came from farming families in rural Saskatchewan, Canada and moved to the Cayman Islands when I was just under a year old. They always worked exceptionally hard and taught me to always take pride in my work, strive for the best in everything I commit myself to and that everyone should pitch in until the job is done. These values, which are engrained in my working style, fuel my drive to do the best work possible for our clients.

### What movie title best describes your life currently?

The Pursuit of Happyness

### What is the number one spot on your travel bucket list? Why?

I can't wait for an opportunity to visit Montana. Staying on a dude ranch and spending days hiking, fly-fishing, horseback riding and seeing the wild mustangs would be a dream come true.

