

CADWALDER

Same Faces, Different Places

September 29, 2023



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Partner | Fund Finance



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Following the disruption in the market in March of this year, with the FDIC seizing three major middle-market lenders one of the questions on many people's minds was – where were our bankers, colleagues, clients and friends going to land?

It's not a secret to anyone reading this piece that each of those banks was a major player within our industry, with deep rosters of extremely talented people (each with a network of clients and colleagues) making it only a matter of time until those people found new homes.

Now, as the dust has settled for much of this talent pool, we thought it would be a good time to begin providing market updates – a sort of VH1-style “Where are They Now?” Here, we are covering the careers and movements of significant bankers in the world of Fund Finance.

This week, we caught up with several major players in the Fund Finance industry who were caught in the unfortunate wave that swept through the banking world in March and asked each of them questions regarding their new employers, as well as their general thoughts on the future, not only for their new institution, but for the market in general.

Michael Franks and Brady Harter – Citizens Private Bank

**CITIZENS
PRIVATE
BANK**



When Silicon Valley Bank collapsed seemingly overnight in March of this year, First Republic Bank Managing Directors Michael Franks and Brady Harter (both SVB alums) realized that what appeared to many as an opportunity to add new clients for FRB, could instead negatively impact countless friends and colleagues at SVB – as well as the broader industry itself. Unfortunately, for all of us, their suspicions were soon realized. Within days, Signature Bank joined SVB under the ownership and care of the FDIC and First Republic Bank would soon follow.

Ultimately, Franks and Harter (and their team) landed at Citizens, along with approximately 50 other private bankers and their respective teams (a figure that now encompasses about 150 new hires for Citizens). Scott Aleali and Jeff Maier (and their team) are counted among this number of new Citizens employees (be on the lookout for our upcoming conversation with Aleali and Maier regarding their transition and current business overview).

For Franks and Harter, Citizens' interest in forming a private bank, Citizens Private Bank, provided a platform to continue their personal, client-centric approach they have been perfecting for the past two decades at their prior institutions. Harter said, “Our client-focused approach is in our DNA, so any landing spot needed to share that perspective and the formation of a private bank under the Citizens' umbrella gave us just that. In addition, with their investment bank and traditional commercial bank (options we had not had before), we could provide our clients with additional resources that could assist the portfolio companies of our VC and PE firms.”

Franks expanded, saying, “Being at Citizens helps us provide a suite of solutions to serve the fund, the principals at the fund and the people at the fund, while also providing strategic advice on the investment banking side of the house.” In addition to subscription credit facilities, the new Citizens' teams will be executing on management company lines and other GP financing solutions.

Franks said, “There is also the fact that the three biggest funds teams from First Republic chose to come to Citizens, so the dedication, focus and commitment to the space is really high.” He continued, “With the disruption in the market, we’re excited to see a real commitment to longevity in the product.” And further, given the disruption in the market, Franks and Harter see the demand as high as ever. And fortunately for a market in search of lenders, Citizens is “ready to go.”

Trevor Freeman – Axos

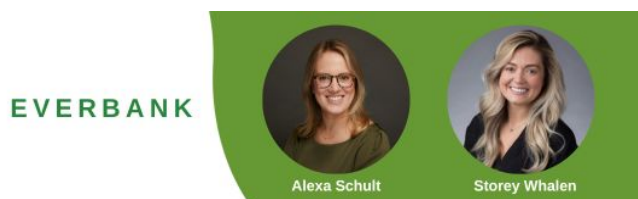


Axos was looking to enter the fund finance space. In hiring Trevor Freeman as the new Managing Director-Head of Fund Finance, Axos found the leader they were looking for to establish their fund finance group. Freeman’s approach was simple: hit the ground running and start doing deals. Since joining a few months ago, Freeman’s new group has publicly announced three closed deals via their Tombstone Tuesday series on LinkedIn and are ready for more.

Prior to Axos Bank, Trevor held senior positions on the Fund Banking/Sponsor Finance teams at Silicon Valley Bank and Citigroup and most recently, he was a founding member of Signature Bank’s Fund Banking Group. And in fact, it was the experience at his most recent stop at Signature Bank that showed Freeman how much he enjoyed building something new. Freeman stated, “The best part of my career was starting the business from scratch at Signature.” The opportunity to once again build a client base, create effective and thoughtful policies and envision an approach to the market appealed to Freeman. And the opportunity at Axos provided just such a blank slate for Freeman to work with to build a fund finance platform, while also providing the backing of an established organization on which to build. Being there at inception has shaped the way the team at Axos works now and their approach to market. In choosing Axos, Freeman was heavily swayed by the lender’s strong balance sheet which includes not having a held to maturity bond book which means there are no unrealized losses; further, he was impressed that fully 90% of the deposits at Axos are federally insured.

With the help of a talented and growing team, they have built out a full-service Fund Finance business that offers NAV, Hybrid, Subscription (to both diversified and single-investor vehicles), Management Company and GP financing solutions to Private Equity, Private Credit and Venture Capital. The Axos Fund Banking team combines these financing solutions with best-in-class treasury services – giving greater latitude and ability to serve varying client needs. The team is quick, nimble, and has capabilities to enter into complex and bespoke financing transactions to meet the liquidity needs of their clients. As Freeman enthusiastically declared, “We are ready to go, open for business.”

Alexa Schult and Storey Whalen – EverBank



Be a one-stop shop for Fund Finance. That is the mandate Alexa Schult and Storey Whalen took on in joining EverBank. There is a lot more to it than that, but at the core, that was the vision that inspired these two former First Republic bankers to join the fledgling group headed up by fund finance titans Jeff Johnston and Mike Mascia.

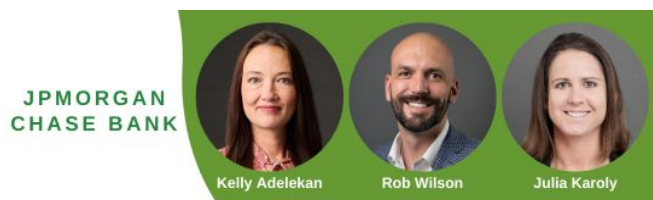
In a broad ranging conversation about the industry, and the opportunities and challenges presented in this unique moment in the market, Schult and Whalen shared with us the EverBank vision of providing unique, bespoke solutions to problems that have not always been solved by current market participants. They anticipate looking actively at prospects in subscription lending facilities, NAV financings, hybrid structures and any other arena that will promote the growth and development of a holistic business serving the wider fund community. Schult noted that they see an opening to address complex fund finance needs, but with better pricing than non-bank lenders.

Drawing on their years of high-touch, client-focused service, Schult and Whalen look forward to finding “creative, thoughtful and unique solutions” to provide various types of financing throughout the life cycle of a fund. In EverBank, Whalen expressed “we found a place with like-minded professionals who really value our input and unique

perspectives.” Schult expounded further, saying, “Storey and I have skill sets that really complement one another and partnering together in an environment which allows us to build on our network and experience just made sense.”

One of the distinctive characteristics of EverBank is its private equity backers. Commenting on this, Schult said, “our private equity foundation means they really understand the unique needs and challenges of fund managers and that provides us with a unique platform, which differs from the typical bank mindset.” EverBank is strategy agnostic and geographically agnostic – meaning the bankers are free to pursue interesting opportunities regardless of external factors. Ultimately, Schult and Whalen see significant growth opportunities supported by a one-of-a-kind platform and a business model that not only accepts, but in fact thrives on, creativity and the desire to do fund finance in a new way.

Kelly Adelekan, Rob Wilson and Julia Karoly – JPMorgan Chase Bank



“Same/Same, but different.” And “business as usual, at a new home.” When we caught up with former First Republic bankers Kelly Adelekan, Rob Wilson and Julia Karoly, that’s the initial response we got to the question “So, how are things going?”

All three transitioned into a new home on the private banking team at JPMorgan Chase, who purchased substantially all of the assets of First Republic Bank from the FDIC in May of 2023. Adelekan, Wilson and Karoly joined J.P. Morgan Private Bank along with bankers Stephen Szanto, Johanna Hamel, Larissa Purcell, Kate McRoskey, Charles Heapthy, Trevor Harris, Tod Racine, Bronwyn Bailey and Abdullah Nezami.

While acknowledging there have been bumps in the road from where they were to where they are now, a clear optimism exuded our conversation as we discussed their present position and prospects for the future. While there is a new name on the door, they were quick to point out their group has remained intact and has continued to work together – a fact these colleagues are particularly proud of. Adelekan, Wilson and Karoly along with the nine other former First Republic bankers comprise a team within J.P. Morgan Private Bank devoted to Fund clients, and are laser-focused on becoming the premier leader serving this space.

These former First Republic bankers are particularly excited about the new partnership with J.P. Morgan’s existing various lines of business and the new opportunities that partnership opens up. Adelekan stated, “We really feel good about the acquisition and the 20+ year track record of strength, stability and a fortress balance sheet we can now bring to our clients.”

In particular, Wilson and Adelekan emphasized the symbiotic relationship their new platform will bring which will not only allow them to provide clients with subscription facility and GP financing products they are accustomed to receiving, but also the ability to provide solutions across multiple platforms including J.P. Morgan’s Corporate Investment and Commercial Bank businesses. Wilson stated “We are excited to continue growing our business and the platform already in place at J.P. Morgan provides an ideal setting for us to do that.” Ultimately, the newly-rehomed First Republic bankers see the possibilities both for themselves and for clients to provide solutions that are more than just an addition, but a multiplication of the services and solutions they were already accustomed to providing their fund clients.

Olivia Deroy – Investec



In something of a homecoming, Olivia Deroy returned to her former firm Investec following her time at First Republic Bank, albeit this time in a new role. Investec continues to be a significant market participant in fund finance across the UK and Europe, and since the team’s inception in 2008, it has put in place over 1,000 lending facilities. Investec has

rapidly grown its Fund Solutions team in recent years – from 13 people in 2020 to 37 currently – and the expansion of the business in the US is a natural step in the franchise's growth journey.

Prior to relocating to New York to work for First Republic, Deroy worked for Investec's London office, which is the global hub for Investec's Fund Solutions business. Instead of returning to London, she saw a continued opportunity in the US market and decided to take on the challenge in helping build out Investec's US Fund Solutions business. Olivia will be based in Investec's New York office focusing primarily on Private Equity and Infrastructure funds. The plan is to leverage the expertise of Investec's well-established UK Fund Solutions platform to provide innovative solutions to US-based funds. Deroy explained, "With the support of our London team and strategic expansion in the US, we are excited to provide fund finance solutions to US-based funds, which encompasses a wider product offering that differentiates us relative to our competitors."

At least initially, Investec expects to target the lower and middle market spaces in what it sees as a growth story in the making. Deroy noted one key differentiator from many lenders is the fact that Investec is agnostic when it comes to requiring deposit accounts to be held internally. Further, she observed that Investec is "fast, flexible and has a wider product offering" – characteristics that are much valued by fund managers looking for leverage solutions. Investec has recently closed two US deals in the last quarter and Deroy anticipates an exciting 4th quarter following an unusual year in the fund finance market. She stated, "We are ready to go, ready to look at new opportunities."

Meet Our 2023 Finance Forum Speakers

September 29, 2023



The countdown to the **2023 Cadwalader Finance Forum** has begun!

We are thrilled to once again provide you with direct access to thought leaders and top executives serving as featured faculty for the finance industry's pre-eminent event on Thursday, October 19, at The Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte.

You will not want to miss this exceptional opportunity to enjoy time with a wide cross-section of representatives from private debt and equity funds, bank and non-bank fund finance lenders, credit risk transfer specialists, restructuring advisors, rating agencies, CRE lenders, CLO managers, B-piece buyers, and an array of bank business lines drawn from a diverse list of institutions.

John Albright

Managing Director

Wells Fargo Strategic Capital

Stefanos Arethas

Managing Director & Head of CRE Mortgage Origination

ATLAS SP Partners

Kevin Augustyn

Senior Vice President

DBRS Morningstar

Bradford Boland

Senior Managing Director

Huntington Bank

Matthew Brest

Managing Director

Blackstone

John Brown

Managing Director

The Carlyle Group

Leland F. Bunch, III

Managing Director, Real Estate Structured Finance

BofA Securities, Inc.

Scott Bynum

Managing Director and Senior Analyst

Mudrick Capital Management

Brent Chase

Managing Director

Churchill Asset Management

Gary Curwin

Executive Director

Morgan Stanley

Rachel Davis

Senior Vice President - Partner Management & Originations
Petros PACE Finance

Jeremy Deutsch

Principal and Investment Professional
Neuberger Berman Private Equity

Missy Dolski

Global Head of Capital Markets
Värde Partners

Zoltan Donovan

Managing Director - Head of Restructuring & Special Situations
First Eagle Investment Management

Aleksandr Epshteyn

Director – Tactical Situations Group
ATLAS SP Partners

Derek Flowers

Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer
Wells Fargo

Jack Gay

Global Head of Commercial Real Estate Debt
Nuveen Real Estate

Alan George

Managing Director, Head of Structured Products
Golub Capital

Sean Griffin

Managing Director
J.P. Morgan Chase

Steve Johnson

Senior Director - Capital Solutions
Barings

Jeff Johnston

CoHead of Fund Finance
EverBank

Terry Lanson

Managing Director
Seer Capital

Matthew Laurino

Principal
Blue Owl

Derek Li

Managing Director
Goldman Sachs

Parker McKee

Director
Société Générale

Charles Owens

Senior Managing Director

Huntington Bank

Seth Perlman

Executive Director

Morgan Stanley

Julia Powell

Director

ATLAS SP Partners

Kenneth Price

Senior Director, Private ABS

Nuveen Equities & Fixed Income

Pete Rogers

Managing Director

Citizens

Salina Sabri

Managing Director

Barclays

Allan Schmitt

Managing Director

Wells Fargo Securities

Kunal Singh

Managing Director

J.P. Morgan

Lyndsay Stephenson

Managing Director - Credit and Underwriting

Prime Finance

Paul Vanderslice

Head of CMBS

Bank of Montreal

Michael Vasseghi

Head of Insurance Solutions

Morgan Stanley

Robert Verrone

Principal

Iron Hound

Scott Waynebern

President

Limekiln Real Estate

Brock Wolf

Managing Director and Head of ABS Banking

Truist

Dadong Yan

Head of Alternative Investment Solutions

MassMutual

For the latest full list of panels, speakers and other details, visit our event's [website](#).

Register Now for Women in Fund Finance on October 18

September 29, 2023



Save the date - October 18! Cadwalader is proud to sponsor the second annual Charlotte Women in Fund Finance fall forum and networking event in the Queen City.

Join us for an exciting and timely panel discussion "Proposed Capital Regs Unveiled: The Overhaul, Obstacles and Opportunities for Fund Finance" followed by a networking reception.

All members of the fund finance community are welcome! Register [now](#).

Panel

- April Frazer, Chief Financial Officer for CIB Banking, Wells Fargo Bank
- Jeff Johnston, Senior Vice President, Co-Head of Fund Finance, EverBank
- Caroline Pedlow, Director, Barings
- Corey Rose, Partner, Dechert

Moderators:

- Leah Edelboim, Partner, Cadwalader
- Erin Goldstien, Director, Wells Fargo Bank

Agenda:

5:30-6:00pm - Check-In

6:00-7:00pm - Panel

7:00-8:30pm - Networking Reception

Class Is in Session: Fund Finance Intensive Trainings on October 4-5

September 29, 2023



Cadwalader fund finance partner Leah Edelboim is serving on the program faculty for two key events next week.

Leah will be a featured speaker at the Practising Law Institute's ("PLI") "Fund Finance 2023" program on Wednesday, October 4 in New York. Her panel, "Subscription Lines and Secondaries Financings," will discuss advanced issues in subscription facilities, the most recent developments in the fund finance market, and provide an introduction and overview of secondaries financings.

You can learn more about the PLI program [here](#).

On Thursday, October 5, Leah will be a speaker at the Fund Finance Association's "FFA University 2.0," a full-day intensive training designed for mid-level fund finance bankers and lawyers transacting under U.S. law. Her presentation will be on "Intercreditor Issues in Fund Finance," which will include discussions on the intersection of subscription credit facilities and NAV facilities, intercreditor agreements, and various subordination arrangements and the issues they pose.

You can learn more about the FFA event [here](#).

Investec's Private Equity Trends Survey Has Been Extended! Don't Miss Out!

September 29, 2023



Investec's Private Equity Trends survey closes on Thursday 5th October. Senior private equity professionals don't miss your chance to share your expert opinion on what's impacting the industry today. By participating in our annual survey, you'll be contributing to the latest market insights and helping to shape the future of private equity. Plus, for every response, we'll donate £50 to Fareshare. By taking part you will also get an exclusive first look at the final findings.

Take the survey now by clicking [here](#).

Fund Finance Hiring

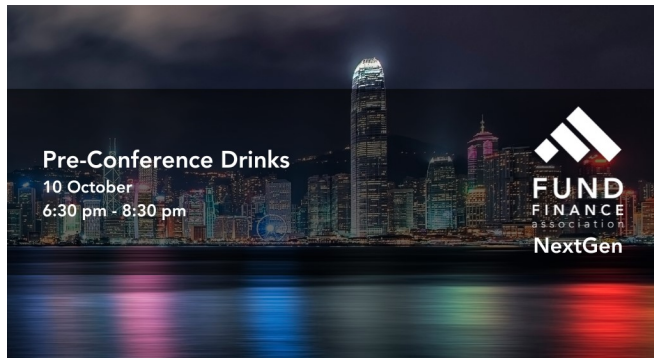
September 29, 2023

Fund Finance Hiring

Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation, New York Branch is looking to hire an Assistant Vice President, Fund Finance. The candidate will support the team in structuring, underwriting, and monitoring both subscription and NAV facilities. A description of the role, and additional details are available [here](#).

Drinks With APAC NextGen

September 29, 2023



You're invited! As many friends in the Fund Finance community will be in town for the upcoming Fund Finance Association annual symposium, we thought it would be nice for whoever is around to catch up over a couple of casual drinks at Liberty in Exchange Square.

An indoor area is reserved from 6:30pm to 8:30pm (it can of course go on longer if people are keen), so drop by whenever you can. As this is a casual get together there is no tab, but should be fun nonetheless!

See more details and RSVP [here](#).

When

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM HKT

Where

Liberty Exchange Kitchen & Bar
8 Connaught Place
Central
Hong Kong
China

Register Now for the 13th Annual Global Fund Finance Symposium

September 29, 2023



The Fund Finance Association is delighted to announce that registration is now OPEN for the 13th Annual Global Fund Finance Symposium! The Fund Finance Association's annual symposiums bring together industry professionals, including investors, fund managers, bankers, and lawyers, creating a platform for education and networking within the fund finance market.

The event will be back at the Fontainebleau Miami Beach from Monday, February 26th - Thursday, February 29th.

Register now by clicking [here](#)!

When

Monday, February 26th - Thursday, February 29th

Where

Fontainebleau Miami Beach

4441 Collins Ave.

Miami Beach, FL 33140