



VALENTINE THOMAS

— & PARTNERS —

People Moves | Investment Management EMEA

May 2022

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Please see below a monthly update on the latest people moves within the EMEA Investment Management industry. Please do get in contact with the team if you would like to discuss any topics relating to talent in the investment or wealth management areas.

- **Aegon UK** has appointed **Alison Morris** as its new **chief risk officer**. Alison, subject to regulatory approval, will take up her new role on 4 August, replacing acting CRO **Colin Black**.
- **Amati Global Investors** has appointed **Graeme Bencke** as a **fund manager** to develop the firm's **global equity strategy**.
- **Amundi** has made three senior hires for its sustainability department. **Edouard Dubois** will now be **head of voting**, **Alice Sireyjol** will act as **deputy head of ESG development**, while **Hélène Champollion-Morel** joins as **head of advocacy** for the firm. All three new hires will be based in Paris and have a strong background in sustainable investing.
- **Artemis** has appointed Majedie US equity duo **Adrian Brass** and **James Dudgeon** to its Artemis US equities team and in particular its **US Extended Alpha fund**. Adrian will **lead the team** whilst James and existing manager Will Warren will be **co-managers** of the fund.
- **Astorg**, the private equity boutique, has hired **Jean Raby** as a **partner**. Jean was formerly the chief executive at Natixis Investment Management. Most recently, Jean was also a founding sponsor and co-chief executive officer of special purpose acquisition company Odyssey Acquisition.
- **Avellemys Alena Kosava** has **left** her position as **head of collectives, multi-asset and multi-manager funds**.
- **Aviva Investors** has appointed **Sam Tripuraneni**, a senior BlackRock sustainability specialist, to oversee the development of its ESG funds and processes. In the role of **head of sustainable outcomes**, Sam will oversee the firm's stewardship and sustainable outcomes franchises.
- **B&CE**, the provider of The People's Pension, has appointed **Shakeel Ahmad** as **head of risk and performance**. He joins the firm from BMO Global Asset Management where he was head of investment risk.
- **Barings' Maria Szczesna**, an **investment manager and member of the EMEA team**, has decided to **leave** the firm, according to a stock exchange announcement.
- **Benchmark Capital** has appointed 2 new senior hires. **Ian McMillan**, former M&A transaction services director at Deloitte, has joined the business in the newly created role of **acquisitions director**. Ian will work alongside **Stephen Robarts**, who joins Benchmark from big-four auditor KPMG to assume the position of **head of acquisition finance**.
- **BennBridge** has hired Standard Life veteran **Robert McKillop** as its **chief executive officer for UK and Europe**. McKillop was most recently global head of product and client solutions at Abrdn.
- **BlackRock** has **promoted Jon Valdeliin** as **managing director, head of institutional client business, nordic region**. In addition, **Sheetal Prasad** has been appointed as **co-lead** of the firm's **fundamental equities impact team**. Prasad joins from Jennison Associates, where she has worked for the last 15 years, most recently as managing director.
- **Bitstamp**, the Luxembourg-based crypto exchange, has named **JB Graftieaux** as its **global chief executive**. The appointment is a promotion for Graftieaux, who joined the firm in 2021 as European CEO. He **replaces Julian Sawyer**, who has left to pursue other opportunities.
- **Candriam** has hired **Marouane Bouchriha** as a **fund manager** of its **Candriam Sustainable Equity Climate Action strategy**. Bouchriha joins from Edmond de Rothschild Asset Management where he co-managed climate solutions funds.
- **CCLA**, the UK's largest charity investment manager, has named **Ben Funnell** as its **head of investment solutions**. Ben joins CCLA from Man Group where he worked as chief equity strategist and then portfolio manager for both equity and multi-asset funds.
- **Coeli**, the Swedish boutique, has hired three top-tier employees from Sweden's second largest asset management firm Handelsbanken Fonder. This includes **head of active equity and fixed income Christoffer Halldin** as well as **portfolio manager Joakim By** and **sustainability analyst Simon Park**.

- **Columbia Threadneedle's EMEA multi-asset boss Toby Nangle** has **exited** the business after a decade. **Toby has decided to pursue a change in career, Columbia Threadneedle confirmed in a statement.** Following his departure, **Paul Niven** will become **head of asset allocation for EMEA.** The fund group has also appointed **Christopher Mahon** as **head of dynamic real return. Additionally,** the firm's **director of responsible investment, Simon Bond,** is to **retire.**
- **Coupland Cardiff Asset Management** has recruited Redwheel's **James Tollemache** to **replace co-founder Richard Cardiff** as **CEO.** Richard, who cofounded the investment boutique alongside Angus Coupland in 2005, will **chair** the company once Tollemache joins in August.
- **Crux Asset Management** has appointed **Tom Messenger** as an **analyst** in their **UK equities team.** Messenger was previously an investment analyst at Momentum Investment Solutions & Consulting.
- **Downing** has appointed **Mark Dunn** in the newly created role of **head of retail sales.** Mark joins from Franklin Templeton where he was formerly head of retail business development.
- **Edmond de Rothschild** has announced a series of appointments to its private equity branch. As part of this, **Francois-Xavier Vucekovic,** who was COO of the division for over 13 years, has become **CIO.** He has been replaced in his previous role by **Charles Foucard,** who joined the firm from Pictet Alternatives Advisors. In addition, **Matthieu Verduyck** has become **CEO** of **Edmond de Rothschild private equity Luxembourg.**
- **Fidelity International** has expanded its private credit team with 12 new hires, including senior appointments in direct lending. Among the latest key senior hires are **Marc Preiser,** who will serve as a **portfolio manager** within **direct lending.** He was most recently with Apollo Global Management. **Raphael Charon,** who was with Bank of Ireland, has joined as **head of origination** within **direct lending.** **Pierluigi Volini** has joined as **head of credit and performance management.** Also within direct lending, **Tim Johnston** is named as a **managing director.** Tim joins from Beechbrook Capital, where he was a partner. Additionally, **Ben Forman** is named as a **director** within **direct lending,** having most recently been a director in the leveraged and acquisition finance team at Mizuho Bank. Also, prominent among the 12 new recruits is former Barings high-yield and leveraged loan specialist **Mikko Iso-Kulmala** who joins as a **private credit investment director.**
- **GMO** has appointed **Deborah Ng** as **head of ESG and sustainability.** Deborah was most recently head of responsible investing at the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.
- **Graian Capital Management,** the Switzerland based boutique, has appointed former GAM veteran, **Gianmarco Mordani** as its new **head of equities.**
- **Hargreaves Lansdown** has appointed 5 senior hires to its investment team. **Robert Farago, Stephen Barnett, John Page, Ziad Abou Gergi** and **Thomas Wells** will join the asset manager ahead of the company's 19 upcoming fund launches, due to take place over the next two years.
- **HSBC Asset Management** has **suspended** its **global head of responsible investing, Stuart Kirk,** following a speech made at a Financial Times Moral Money event in which he made light of climate change concerns and dismissed climate crisis warnings as 'unsubstantiated', according to reports.
- **Indosuez** has hired **Olivier Smolarz** as **head of advisory Europe,** who will be based in Luxembourg.
- **Invesco** has appointed **Oliver Bilal** as **head of EMEA distribution.** He was previously head of international sales and marketing at Natixis Investment Managers.
- **Investment Association** has appointed **Stephen Bird,** chief executive officer of abrdn to its **board of directors.** Bird will **replace** outgoing director, **Hanneke Smits,** the chief executive officer for BNY Mellon Investment Management, who sat on the board for three years.
- **Jupiter Asset Management** has appointed **Alison Hollingshead,** a former operations executive at UK hedge fund Man Group as **chief operating officer.**
- **Lannebo Fonder** has appointed Nordea Asset Management's head of active ownership, **Katarina Hammar** as **head of sustainability and stewardship.**
- **Loomis, Sayles & Company** has appointed senior financial analyst **Colleen Denzler** as its new **head of ESG.** Colleen's most recent role was as an investor at Smith Capital Investors.
- **Macquarie Asset Management** has hired **Gabriele Duesberg** as a **managing director** to support its **energy transition infrastructure capabilities** across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. She joins from JP Morgan where she spent 16 years heading up investment banking activities in the EMEA region, including transactions across renewable energy, power, and utilities.

- **McInroy & Wood**, the Scottish investment manager, has appointed Deloitte veteran **David Cruickshank** as its **non-executive chair**.
- **Mirabaud Asset Management** has hired **Liisa Juntunen** as **head of distribution**, a newly created role. The new head previously worked at LGIM and AllianceBernstein and joins from PGIM Quantitative Solutions, the quantitative and multi-asset specialist of PGIM.
- **Natixis Investment Managers** has appointed **Audrey Koenig, Fabrice Chemouny and Nathalie Wallace, along with five other executives**, to its **asset and wealth management committee**.
- **Ninety One** has appointed a pair of senior distribution appointments as it looks to deepen its presence in the UK. **Pat Sanderson** has been appointed **head of business development for the UK**, a newly created role, while **Leanne Barnham** joins as **head of UK marketing**.
- **Nucleus** has revealed that **eight senior members of staff are set to leave** the platform group, including **head of change Gavin Anderson** and **head of proposition John Walls**. The other departures are **Leanne Penny, financial crime lead and deputy money-laundering reporting officer; Ross Thomson, technical business analyst; Ales Hejmalicek, business intelligence and data architect; Silvia Losana, product manager; Geoff Taylor, market insight manager; and Martin Clement, regional business development director**.
- **Odey Asset Management** has lost three more of its partners. **Massey Roborough, Tim Bond and Simon Schafer** are the latest senior staffers to **depart the business**, according to filings from Companies House. Their departures bring the total number of partners at the firm down to 12.
- **Pantheon Group**, the global private markets investor, has announced the appointment of **Eimear Palmer** as **Partner** and to the newly created role of **global head of ESG**.
- **Premier Miton** has recruited Abridn emerging market managers **Fiona Manning** and **William Scholes** to **head the launch of a developing world sustainable equity fund**.
- **Quilter** has appointed Berkeley Group's **Glyn Barker** as its new **chair**, effective from 1 June 2022. Barker, who held an executive career at PwC for 36 years before becoming the chair of property developer Berkeley Group in 2012, will also join Quilter's **board** as a **non-executive director** and as a **member** of its **Board Remuneration Committee**.
- **Rathbone Greenbank Investments** has appointed **Sophie Lawrence** to the newly created role of **stewardship and engagement lead**. Sophie, who was previously senior ethical, sustainable and impact researcher at Greenbank, will continue to report to **Kate Elliot, head of ethical, sustainable and impact research**.
- **Raymond James** has opened a **new branch** in Cornwall **led by Simon Burnett**, who joins to launch a Truro office following seven years at Walker Crips.
- **Redwheel** has hired Abridn's **Stephanie Kelly** to **head up a new team of sustainability research specialists** in a newly created role. Kelly, who was previously deputy head of Abridn Research Institute, will build a new specialist team for the firm, which will serve as a "centralised resource" for Redwheel's investment teams.
- **River & Mercantile** has promoted fund manager **James Sym** to **head of equities**. James, who runs the £256m R&M ES River and Mercantile European fund, joined the firm from Schroders in 2020 to establish the business's European Equities franchise.
- **Rockwood Strategic Trust** has announced a new investment advisory team, which collectively have over 150 years experience. Included in the group is: **Adam Parker, the co-founder of Majedie Asset Management; Christopher Mills, the CEO of the management group Harwood Capital; Jamie Brooke, who has experience at Henderson Global and Gartmore; Rupert Dyson, founder of Edale Capital; and Yuri Khodjamirian, a fund manager at Majedie until his departure in 2019**.
- **Sanlam UK** has announced the **departure** of their **global head of distribution, Richard Pursglove**.
- **Schroders** has expanded its real estate teams in London and Manchester with two appointments, as part of business expansion. **Matthew Baddeley** has been appointed to the newly-created role of **retail investment and asset management specialist** in the firm's **Manchester real estate team**. Additionally, **Charles Twist** has joined the firm as an **office asset management specialist** in the **London real estate team**, another new role.
- **The Society of Pension Professionals** has announced that **Steve Hitchiner** has been elected as its next **president**. The industry body said Hitchiner, a partner at Barnett Waddingham, will succeed former Isio partner James Riley on 1 June this year.

- **T. Rowe Price** has named **Poppy Allonby** as **head of ESG enablement**, a newly created role. Allonby most recently served as head of global product, EMEA and APAC for BlackRock.
- **XPS Administration** has appointed **Darryl James** as **head of business development for private sector clients**.
- **Zürcher Kantonalbank's** asset management division has appointed Credit Suisse Asset Management's former **head of Swiss equities, Nils Wimmersberger** in the same position.



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Valentine Thomas & Partners is a leading investment and wealth management executive search firm covering the EMEA markets.

