



2024

Tomorrow's *Titans*

the hedge fund journal

TOMORROW'S TITANS 2024

Introduction

Fifty Rising Stars

HAMLIN LOVELL, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, THE HEDGE FUND JOURNAL



The Hedge Fund Journal celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024 and has been publishing the Tomorrow's Titans report on rising star hedge fund managers since 2010. It has been an annual report since 2020, and since 2021 has run a mix of short and extended profiles.

It would be easy to write an AI program trawling through US SEC regulatory filings to find the largest launches, without the blessing, consent or even knowledge of the managers – and indeed a high proportion of content at some of the largest financial media outlets is reportedly AI-generated. None of our content is AI generated, all of it comes from engagement with managers, and more to the point, this report is not an asset-based ranking. Assets range from tens of millions to billions. Notably, Eva Shang's Legalist has grown from ten million to one billion of assets during a period when some billion dollar launches shut down, so day one size is not necessarily the best predictor of growth. Anyway, a forward-looking report should accommodate innovative, specialist and niche strategies where scalability can grow over time.

Most of the managers in this year's report launched their own firms during the past five years, though we do also have several who have joined established firms such as Green Ash Partners, Ocean Leonid, Trium Capital, High Ground Investment Management, Aspect Capital and Gresham Investment Management to launch a strategy, and one, Argosy-Lionbridge Management, that partnered with a private real estate investor, Argosy Real Estate Partners.

Three of the firms featured in this report are new multi-strategy and multi-manager platforms: Zachary Levitt's Opus One, Gary Selz's Zero Delta Funds and Scott Treloar's Noviscent. Many of the industry's biggest firms, managing tens of billions of dollars, are multi-strategy, but the model can also work for smaller assets and niche strategies. These platforms could potentially allocate to some other managers in the report.

The featured managers are not just first-time launches; some are onto their second, third or fourth launch. One, Priya Kodeeswaran of Katamaran, has re-launched the same TMT strategy at four firms over the course of 20 years.

None of the managers have featured in previous Titans reports.

Strategy mix
Over 60% of the managers run discretionary strategies; over 20% run systematic strategies; and just under 20% are effectively hybrid. The largest group run discretionary equity long/short strategies with a sector focus, these include real estate for Argosy-Lionbridge, consumer for Telsey, cyclicals for Konektis, healthcare and technology for High Ground, biotech for Cutter Capital, decarbonisation related for Walnut Level,

technology, industrials and renewables for 221B and transportation for West Brow. There is also a more thematic strategy, Sina Toussi's Two Seas Capital, focused on litigation-driven events across sectors.

Long/short equity is the largest strategy group, but there are four managers trading equity volatility, four trading commodities, three trading currencies, and one in each of convertibles, Nordic high yield, US municipal bonds, while another focuses on litigation finance and government receivables. There are also two managers specialised in equity capital markets, of which one, Lykos, is something of a hybrid public/private strategy that also does pre-IPO private equity.

Systematic strategies include alternative markets trend followers Gresham and Ocean Leonid. Many managers, including Vadantia and Terreplein, are using AI and machine learning for part of their process. Sydney Quantitative, Omphalos Fund and Artellium run dedicated AI and machine learning strategies.

Previous firms

Artellium started their careers in strategy consulting at McKinsey and Roland Berger, while the founders of Omphalos worked in technology before applying it to finance. But most managers have previously worked for other large asset managers, hedge funds or former family offices of erstwhile hedge fund managers. They include giants such as Allianz Global Investors, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brahman Capital, Brevan Howard, Caxton, Citadel (and affiliates), D.E. Shaw, Man Investments, Millennium Management, Moore Capital, Pictet, SAC Capital Advisors/Point72 Capital Management, RWC, Tudor, Soros, TCI, VR Capital and York Capital. Other managers hailed from smaller and medium sized firms, including Edesia Asset Management, FORT Investment Management and Majedie. One worked for Stanford University's endowment manager, Stanford Management Company. A few were proprietary traders at Barclays, Goldman Sachs, Xanthus Capital, Chimera Securities and Epoch Capital.

Locations

Twenty one are located in the Americas; eighteen in the US, one in Cayman, one in Quebec, Canada and one, WHG, in Brazil. Outside the US Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, there are managers in Chattanooga, Tennessee; Denver, Colorado; Matthews, North Carolina; Chicago; Los Angeles; San Francisco and its neighbour Oakland.

Twenty three of the managers are based in Europe. Thirteen are in the UK, four in Germany, two in Switzerland, two in Sweden, one in the Netherlands, one in Cyprus and one in Poland – the first manager physically based in Eastern Europe to feature in Titans. Two managers are based in Asia Pacific, in Sydney and Singapore.

ESG and impact

The managers pursue ESG from different angles. At management company level, Evovest is a

“A forward-looking report should accommodate innovative, specialist and niche strategies where scalability can grow over time.”

certified B-corp. Walnut Tree picks winners from decarbonisation, Iguana demands a decarbonisation trajectory and 221B trades renewables. Legalist is pursuing impact investing via litigation funding and lending to disadvantaged minority groups. Intalcon, Iguana and 221B have formally committed percentages of income to impact-oriented charities.

Diversity

Six of the featured managers are women founders or strategy heads: Dana Telsey at Telsey Consumer Fund, Irene Perdomo at Ocean Leonid, Eva Shang at Legalist, Jillian McIntyre at 221B, Dr Silvia Stanesco at Aspect and Dr Maria Papakokkinou at IXI. Other women-founded alternative asset managers also feature in our annual 50 Leading Women in Hedge Funds report, published in association with EY, and our Private Markets: 50 Women Leaders report, published in association with Citco.

Seeders

Seeders are not always publicly disclosed, but we can highlight a few. Scandinavia's largest hedge fund manager, Brummer & Partners of Sweden, regularly seeds new funds such as Katamaran, and Stable Asset Management remains active. In Canada, seeders include Quebec Emerging Managers' Program. In Germany, Artellium was seeded by First Private. Parag Pande's Konektis was seeded by the family office of former Blackstone executive, Hamilton "Tony" James, and is a relatively rare case where a family office seeder is disclosed. Most unusually, Legalist was supported by a venture capital firm, Y Combinator.

Platforms and service providers

Some managers work with larger prime brokers including BNP, Goldman Sachs, Jeffries, Morgan Stanley, Société Générale, Scotia and UBS, while Interactive Brokers serves many smaller and newer ones.

Vehicles

Most managers have Cayman, Luxembourg or Ireland funds for professional investors but Epoch sits on Swedish retail platforms that can accept as little as SEK 100 – about 10 USD.

UCITS funds are run by firms including Green Ash Partners, ThirdYear Capital, Artellium, Intalcon and Empureon, while the Trium Epynt Macro strategy is a sleeve of Trium's multi-strategy UCITS fund.

A few managers currently only run managed accounts and/or sit on managed account platforms, but some of them expect to launch funds soon.

Conclusion

Titans is our most unpredictable project with new locations and strategies cropping up every year. Our ongoing outreach, research and industry dialogue also identifies a steady stream of pre-launch managers who are likely to land in future reports.

Dr. Vincent Aita

*Founder, CIO and Managing Partner
Cutter Capital Management LLP
New York*

Dr. Vincent Aita launched Cutter Capital to manage a market and factor neutral long/short equity strategy actively trading US and European healthcare equities. The team seeks to employ a probabilities-based framework to harvest absolute returns based on predictions around events that potentially change the practice of medicine. Market neutral stock picking can exploit high stock dispersion, mispricings, flaws in traditional DCF valuation models, and proprietary forecasts of markets and revenues that differ from both consensus and management views. Cutter runs separately managed accounts and a commingled fund. Dr. Aita is supported by Partner/Director of Research, Calvin Nash, who is nearing a decade of market neutral healthcare investing experience; Dr. Will Olds, formerly a biotech entrepreneur and top-rated sell side analyst, Sharon Seh, who has worked in healthcare consulting and private equity healthcare investing, and Dr. Anvita Gupta, a microbiologist and former sell side analyst. Dr. Aita previously managed a healthcare portfolio and team at Citadel's Surveyor Capital. He was earlier a senior analyst at Millennium Management, and an analyst at HealthCor Management, Paramount Capital and Kilkenny Capital. He has a PhD in Molecular Genetics from Columbia University and a BS in Biology from Binghamton University.

Charlie Antrim

*Founder
Walnut Level Capital LLC
Denver, Colorado*

Charlie Antrim founded Walnut Level in 2020, named after his family farm in Crozet, Virginia, to trade a low and variable net exposure equity long/short strategy focused on agriculture, chemical and materials supply chain analysis. Antrim expects that decarbonization will impact trade flows, costs, and demand patterns, which will also be boosted by growing protein consumption. He has identified decarbonization themes including renewable fuels such as aviation biofuel, plastics recycling and bioplastics, carbon capture and sequestration, hydrogen steel and cement, ammonia use for fertilizers, green marine fuel, power generation and hydrogen transportation. Antrim has pinpointed 500 companies, with market capitalisations ranging from USD 100 million to USD 50 billion, in niche sectors and sub-sectors that can take advantage of these trends. Walnut Level carries out proprietary modelling to arrive at 30-60 long and short positions. Antrim also sits on the board of agriculture and equipment parts supplier, PartsASAP, and founded agroforestry financing

operator, Agroforestry Partners. Walnut Level previously ran a portfolio on a multi-portfolio manager platform between January 2020 and December 2022, which averaged low teens annual net returns and profited in all three calendar years. Antrim previously worked at SAC Capital Advisors/Point72 Capital Management and started his career on the sell side at UBS, Burke Capital Group and Jeffries. He has an MBA from Columbia Business School and a BA in Economics from Washington and Lee University.

Jeffrey Baird

*Portfolio Manager and Managing Partner
Merritt Point Partners
Oakland*

Jeff Baird launched Merritt Point Partners in 2018 to capitalize on what he believed would be a robust opportunity set in commodity markets over the coming years. Large-scale macro forces such as decarbonization, deglobalization, and resource nationalization are creating a dynamic commodity market environment that lends itself to the firm's generalist long convexity approach. In 2024, he expects to see asset inflows into commodity markets and a pickup in overall volatility. YTD the firm has had winning positions in copper volatility, silver upsides, and short expressions in lithium. He believes ongoing trends in electrification and renewable demand, particularly solar, will underpin growth in silver and copper demand. The firm is a long-term believer in regulated carbon markets and foresees an upward trend in prices. Prior to launching Merritt Point Partners, Baird was Managing Director of Special Investments at Stanford University's endowment manager, Stanford Management Company, where he helped develop a direct investment platform across public market asset classes and sat on the Investment Committee. Prior to SMC, Baird was a Portfolio Manager at Moore Capital Management, managing energy, metals, agriculturals and softs markets. Before Moore, he was a Portfolio Manager at Caxton, also focused on commodity derivative markets. His career began on the sell side at Deutsche Bank, ABN Amro, and Merrill Lynch on commodity trading desks in New York and London. Baird has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University and is a CFA charterholder.

Bill Baruch

*President and CIO
Blue Creek Capital Management
Chicago*

Bill Baruch has been trading commodities for 20 years and founded Blue Creek Capital Management in 2020. Its Metals Alpha strategy uses a mix of fundamental, technical, and

sentiment data analysis to trade gold, silver, copper, platinum, palladium, and aluminum. It can take long and short positions with futures and options. It has received *The Hedge Fund Journal's* CTA and Discretionary Trader award for best-performing fund in 2023 and over two years ending in December 2023 in the Discretionary Metal Trader category. Blue Creek also runs a broader global macro strategy named Global Opportunities, which can include exposure to energy, agriculturals, equity index futures, bonds, and currencies, but generally, 40% of the program's exposure is to metals. Baruch is also the founder and CIO of Blue Line Capital, an RIA (registered investment advisor) focused on wealth management. The company was founded in 2019 and manages portfolios with single stock equity strategies, which have been substantially outperforming the S&P 500 index since its launch. In 2017, Baruch co-founded an independent introducing broker, Blue Line Futures, which advises retail and institutional clients on hedging and trading. He regularly appears on the CNBC Halftime Report. Baruch and colleagues Oliver Sloup and Philip Streible were previously commodity brokers at Lind Waldock. Baruch's finance career started with investment banking. He has a BBA in Finance from Towson University in Maryland.

Christian Beulen

*Founder
Sydney Quantitative
Sydney*

Christian Beulen founded Sydney Quantitative, a Quantitative Global Macro Manager with \$150mm in assets under advisory, in 2022, under the regulatory umbrella of Eminence Asset Management, initially to provide trading signals to clients while building infrastructure. Fully licensed to manage external capital since April 2024, they are now looking to launch their first in-house product, the Quantitative Prop Trading (QPT) program. In 2008, Beulen, who programs mostly in Python and R, started building a platform for machine learning based trading strategies with a strong focus on over-search-resilient feature transformations, feature engineering and continuous knowledge discovery; diversified model ensembles are weighted by a custom meta optimization and the constituent models exhibit both mean-reverting and trend-following characteristics. Over the years, this platform has created strategies that have generated \$20mm a year in trading profits with a Sharpe ratio above 2. QPT offers investors such as high net worth individuals and small family offices a chance to access strategies that are normally kept inside prop trading shops, because the firm currently has more capacity than capital. Prior to starting Sydney Quantitative, Beulen spent 15+ years building machine and statistical learning-based trading strategies, most recently for 6 years as

Head of Machine Learning Strategies and Senior Quantitative Researcher at Epoch Capital. He graduated as an Econometrician & Mathematical Economist from Brunel University in 2004. He subsequently went to the University of Cambridge to study “Chinese and Economics”.

Dr. Aristodemos Cleanthous/Dr. Maria Papakokkinou

Chief Investment Officer/Chief Operations Officer
IXI Investments
Cyprus

Dr. Cleanthous is CIO and Dr. Papakokkinou is COO of authorized Alternative Investment Fund Manager IXI Investments, which was launched in 2018 and specializes in systematic foreign exchange (FX) trading. The strategy utilizes proprietary algorithmic models and quantitative techniques to identify and capitalize on trends in currency pairs and spot gold. The strategy is designed to capture momentum and exploit the trends while managing drawdowns. The investment approach is data-driven, leveraging high-end mathematical and statistical methods to generate alpha. Emphasis is placed on rigorous back-testing, robust risk management, and adaptive algorithms to respond to an ever-changing FX market. IXI Investments is targeting professional and sophisticated clients mostly in the EU, UK and Japan. The IXI strategy currently manages over €700 million euros across its Fund (IXI ICAV) and Separately Managed Accounts from a global diversified investor base, predominantly of institutional investors including pension funds. Dr. Papakokkinou, formerly a board member at IKOS, has extensive experience working with exotic commodity derivatives at Citigroup and FX and commodity exotics at JPMorgan. She holds a PhD in Mathematical Finance from Imperial College, London, an MPhil in Financial Engineering from Cambridge, and a BSc in Mathematics from Imperial College. Dr. Cleanthous earned a BSc in Mathematics and Economics from LSE and an MSc in Computer Science from UCL. He further specialized in Artificial Intelligence via a PhD in Computational Neuroscience at the University of Cyprus, where he applied AI algorithms to Neural Networks to model brain processes related to self-control.

Adrian Courtenay

Portfolio Manager
Green Ash Partners
London

Adrian Courtenay joined Green Ash Partners in October 2023 to re-launch the GA-Courtenay Special Situations UCITS Fund, continuing the special situations strategy that he launched at Odey Asset Management in 2019. The fund has annualised in the mid-teens with a low correlation

to other UCITS hedge funds. Courtenay points to his strategy design as matching Warren Buffett’s Buffett Partnership in the 1960s, twinning merger arbitrage with long-term equity investing, and being advantaged by both de-correlation and its multi-domain search for the best opportunities. In arbitrage, Courtenay has a strong track record in competitive bidding situations, combined with activist engagement. Private engagement led to an increased takeover for Canada’s Noront Resources in 2021, and public engagement led to an increased offer for Australia’s Western Areas in 2022. In long-term equity investing, Courtenay targets both value and growth opportunities, and holdings include or have included Hotel Chocolat, Formula One, Pershing Square Holdings, SoftBank, and Spotify. At the 2024 Sohn Conference Foundation Monaco event he presented on recent UK IPO, Raspberry Pi. Published white papers explain selected investment theses. Courtenay was previously a VP in D. E. Shaw & Co’s Special Situations Group, and earlier worked for two other special situations funds: Tisbury Capital and Fortelus Capital. He has an MA from Oxford University and is a CFA charterholder.

Carl Dussault

CEO
Evovest
Montreal

Carl Dussault founded Evovest in 2017 to apply a scientific approach, using machine learning, to equity investing. The first strategy was launched in 2019 with an equal-weighted long-only fund. In April 2023, Evovest launched an alternative global equity strategy with the Evovest Market Neutral strategy with \$65 million from the Quebec Emerging Manager Program (QEMP), which previously invested \$35 million in a market cap-weighted long-only strategy in 2021. The Market Neutral strategy targets return above 10% and volatility below 10%. It uses a proprietary machine learning investment process, EVE™, to forecast relative returns and maximize expected returns subject to certain constraints and exposures. Controls are applied to beta, risk factors, sectors, and geographic components. The strategy is unique in having more than 60% of its country exposure outside the United States and a return profile that cannot be replicated using smart beta. Portfolio construction allows for a robust risk management process by limiting single name exposures, resulting in approximately 150 long and 150 short positions. Evovest acts as sub-adviser with Innocap as investment manager. Evovest is a certified B-Corp and a UNPRI signatory. Its exclusion policy includes the Tobacco-Free Pledge and government exclusions, while remaining flexible to meet customized, client-specific ESG requirements. Dussault previously worked at Intact Investment Management, where he was responsible for equity mandates and quantitative equity research.

He holds a BBA and Master’s degree in Finance from HEC Montréal and is a CFA charterholder.

Orlando Gemes

Founding Partner and CIO
Fourier Asset Management
London

Orlando Gemes founded Fourier to seek repeatable alpha from a global relative value strategy that focuses on convertible bonds. Their thesis is that credit and equity markets are often dislocated. Fourier uses big data that is housed in a data lake to aggregate, clean and analyse security prices. Fourier have developed evidence-based valuation and sensitivity models rather than only using the market standard approach with subjective inputs. Their investment process is designed to calculate accurate risk factors that allows them to identify cheap and expensive securities, which should minimise the size and frequency of drawdowns and correlation to traditional asset classes. Most of the capital is deployed using the systematic approach that has a short holding period. When the systematic approach is delivering repeatable alpha, they may also add relative value trades with a short to medium term holding period, and event-driven trades with a longer holding period. For the time being, leverage is limited to two times. Gemes formerly founded Fairwater Capital, where three of Fourier’s team worked together. Gemes’ earlier roles included head of structured credit solutions at Hermes Fund Managers, and portfolio management at Artesian Capital Management, Fortis Investments, and Advance Asset Management. He has a Postgraduate certificate in Applied Finance from Macquarie Graduate School of Management.

Dimitry Griko

Founder, Director and CIO
Arkaim Advisors
London

Dimitry Griko founded Arkaim Advisors Ltd, an emerging markets high-yield debt manager, in May 2022. He and his team continue to manage the top-ranked long-only UCITS fund they launched in 2018, prior to forming Arkaim Advisors. This year, Arkaim is launching an emerging markets Distressed and Credit Opportunities Fund. The approach will closely mirror the UCITS, with a strong focus on downside valuation and recovery analysis to offer a safety buffer for performing positions and act as a key profit driver for non-performing debt. Unlike the UCITS fund, the new strategy has more freedom to invest in stressed securities, including issuers imminently in default or undergoing restructurings, where Griko and his team actively engage in enforcing post-default recoveries.

→ p12

2024

Tomorrow's *Titans*

the **hedge fund journal**