EMTA Corporate Bond Forum in London

May 13, 2025

KAY HOPE (MODERATOR) BofA Securities

Kay Hope is a managing director and leads BofA's fixed income research effort on sustainability issues globally. She is also a corporate credit analyst focusing on emerging market names across sectors, mainly in the CIS, Sub-Saharan Africa and Israel.

Prior to joining the firm in 2010, Kay held emerging markets roles at Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and Credit Suisse First Boston. She also spent several years at McKinsey & Company in Moscow, and a year in Almaty, Kazakhstan, working for an international aid organization.

EZEQUIEL FERNANDEZ Balanz Capital

Ezequiel Fernández is the Corporate Research director at Balanz Capital, focusing on Latin American corporate credits and Argentina equities. Ezequiel leads the Balanz corporate research efforts since 2020, coordinating the work of seven sell-side analysts that regularly interact with global portfolio managers.

Prior to that, he worked at Scotiabank and Credicorp Capital in Chile and Brazil.

Ezequiel holds a BS in Economics from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, a MSc in Finance from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and he has cleared all CFA exams.

AGNESE MELBARDE IVO Capital Partners

Agnese Melbarde is portfolio manager at IVO Capital Partners, a Paris based asset management company focused on Emerging Market debt. Prior to joining IVO Capital Partners in 2023, Agnese spent 11 years at Lazard Asset Management in New York focusing on Emerging Market corporate debt investments across US\$10+bn of EM debt funds. Her expertise was in fundamental credit analysis, quantitative and relative valuation across a variety of Emerging Market corporate sectors.

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Prior to Lazard Asset Management, Agnese spent 3 years at T. Rowe Price Group in Baltimore where she was part of the Fixed Income Quantitative Research team focusing on EM Corporate and US High Yield investment strategies.

Agnese holds an MBA from Darden School of Business with concentration in asset management, and a dual bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Economics from Kenyon College in the US. Agnese is a CFA charterholder.

MICHAL BAR PIMCO

Ms. Bar is an executive vice president and portfolio manager in the London office, managing the emerging markets (EM) corporate credit strategies. She is a permanent member of the Emerging Markets Portfolio Committee (EMPC), and has served as a rotating member of the European Portfolio Committee (EPC).

Prior to joining PIMCO in 2019, she was a portfolio manager in the Brevan Howard Macro Fund and a senior member in the Brevan Howard Emerging Markets Strategies Fund, where she managed the EM credit portfolios and led a team of corporate analysts. Earlier in her career, Ms. Bar held research roles within the main fund of Brevan Howard, with a focus on EM corporate credit and equity.

She has 17 years of investment experience and holds an undergraduate degree from Syracuse University.

DECLAN HANLON Santander

With more than 20 years in the market, Declan has an extensive experience in credit analysis and trading across global markets with a focus on Latin America, the United States and Europe.

Declan began as an investment banker, structuring transactions for Latin American corporate clients before switching to trading where he has held numerous roles in trading and analysis at bulge bracket firms in London and New York.

Presently, Declan is the Head of Corporate Strategy for Latin America at Santander in New York and is responsible for broad coverage of the Latin American region.

He holds an MBA, with honors, from Columbia University in New York.