

Investing for a New World - Wednesday, 25 April 2012

Speaker Biographies



Quintin Price, Managing Director, is Head of and Chief Investment Officer for Fundamental Equities and a member of the Leadership and Operating Committees. He chairs the Equity Investment Policy Oversight Committee and is an alternate director of DSP BlackRock India. Mr. Price's service with the firm dates back to 2005, including his time with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006. Prior to his current role, he was BlackRock's Chief Investment Officer for European, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) and Pacific Equity. At MLIM, he was Chief Investment Officer for the EMEA Pacific region. Prior to joining MLIM, Mr. Price was joint Global CIO for Equities at Gartmore. Prior to this, he was head of global fundamental research with Putnam Investments, where he was responsible for all equity, credit and macroeconomic research. He began his investment career at James Capel & Co. Limited (now HSBC Investment Bank), where he was most recently global head of research and head of Pan European equities. Mr. Price earned a BSc degree in Economic and Social History from the University of Bristol in 1983.



Peter Swarbreck, Managing Director, is Platinum Accounts Executive across the Asia Pacific Region, and Country Manager for Hong Kong. He is also a member of the Leadership Committee. From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Swarbreck was head of BlackRock Asia Pacific ex-Japan region and responsible for the Retail business in Asia ex-Japan. He joined BlackRock following the merger with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM) in 2006. At MLIM, Mr. Swarbreck was head of fixed income business management for Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia Pacific regions and responsible for the development of new fixed income products. Mr. Swarbreck joined Mercury Asset Management (which became a part of MLIM) in 1990, and was responsible for business development and client relationship management in the MEA regions. Prior to joining MLIM, Mr. Swarbreck was responsible for fixed income investment management at an international bank in the Middle East and was previously a fund manager at two leading fund management firms.



Marc Desmidt, Managing Director, is Chief Operating Officer - Asia Pacific for BlackRock's Portfolio Management Group. Prior to moving to his current role in 2011, Mr. Desmidt spent three years as Chief Operating Officer - Asia Pacific for BlackRock's Fundamental Equity group. Before that role, he was the CIO of BlackRock Japan's Portfolio Management Group. Mr. Desmidt's service with the firm dates back to 1991, including his years with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006. At MLIM, Mr. Desmidt held a variety of Portfolio Management roles in Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. Mr. Desmidt earned a BSocSc degree in economics from the University of Cape Town in 1988, and an MPhil degree from Oxford University in 1991.



Nigel Bolton, FCSI, Managing Director and Head of the European Equities team, within the Fundamental Equities division of BlackRock's Portfolio Management Group. He is responsible for the team investment process and business development and for the management of Pan European portfolios, adopting a flexible style. Mr. Bolton joined BlackRock in 2008 from Scottish Widows Investment Partnership (SWIP), where he was a Director and head of European Equities. Prior to joining SWIP in 2004, he was with WP Stewart (Europe) Ltd., as head of European Investments. From 1992 to 2003, Mr. Bolton was with Citigroup Global Asset Management, where he was a Managing Director and head of European Equities. Mr. Bolton earned a BA degree, with honours, in Economics from the University of Nottingham in 1985.



Andrew Swan, Managing Director, is the Head of Asian Equities for the Fundamental Equities division within the Portfolio Management Group. He is responsible for managing several regional equity portfolios, setting regional equity investment strategy and developing BlackRock's Asian investment platform and capabilities. Before joining BlackRock in August 2011, Mr. Swan achieved a 17-year investment career with JP Morgan. He initially joined as a research analyst in Sydney in 1994, before transferring to Singapore in 2002 to join JP Morgan's Pacific Regional team as head of Asia Pacific media research. In 2004, Andrew took up his role as a portfolio manager with JF Asset Management (wholly owned by JP Morgan) and was subsequently responsible for managing over USD 5bn in Asia Pacific equity portfolios. He relocated to Hong Kong in 2005. Mr. Swan earned a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours in Accounting and Finance) from the University of New South Wales, Australia, in 1993.



James E. Keenan, CFA, Managing Director, is a portfolio manager in the Corporate Credit Group within BlackRock Fundamental Fixed Income. He is head of Leveraged Finance Portfolios and Investments overseeing global high yield, leveraged loans, and distressed products. Mr. Keenan is also a member of the BlackRock Kelso Investment Committee. Prior to joining BlackRock in 2004, Mr. Keenan was a senior high yield trader at Columbia Management Group. Mr. Keenan began his investment career at UBS Global Asset Management where he held roles as a trader and research analyst from 1998 through 2003. Mr. Keenan earned a BBA degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame in 1998.



Patrick Swards, Vice President and product specialist, is a member of the Fundamental Equities division of BlackRock's Portfolio Management Group. He is a product specialist for the BlackRock Global Allocation and Global Dynamic Equity Funds, providing a link between the investment teams and account managers. Mr. Swards' service with the firm dates back to 2006, including his years with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006. At MLIM, Mr. Swards worked on the Global Sales desk as an Associate Asset Management Advisor where he assisted financial advisors with portfolio strategies for separately managed accounts, alternative investments, and mutual funds. Mr. Swards earned a BS degree in Economics from Pennsylvania State University in 2003.



Joshua Crabb, CFA, Director and portfolio manager is a member of the Asian Equities team in the Fundamental Equities division of BlackRock's Portfolio Management Group. He is a portfolio manager and research analyst within the Asian Equity Team. He is responsible for managing regional dividend yield strategies and also assists in setting regional equity investment strategy. Mr. Crabb also provides research coverage for Korean equities and the regional Technology sector. Prior to re-locating to Hong Kong in 2001, Mr. Crabb was a Vice President with Bankers Trust in Sydney, Australia. Mr. Crabb has 14 years of investment experience. Mr. Crabb was educated at the University of Western Australia in 1995 where he earned a B.Com (Hons) in Finance. He completed the Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance in 1997 and is a CFA Charterholder.



Joel Kim, CFA, Managing Director, is the Head of Asia-Pacific Fixed Income at BlackRock and is based in Singapore. In this role, Joel is responsible for BlackRock's Fixed Income Portfolio Management Group in the Asia-Pacific region. He joined BlackRock from ING Investment Management in Hong Kong, where he had a similar role and was responsible for a broad range of Asian debt strategies and co-managed Global Emerging Market Debt funds since 2002. Prior to this, he managed global fixed income portfolios at ING Investment Management in the Netherlands. He obtained a MA degree in Economics from the University of Amsterdam, and is a CFA charter holder.



Anthony Chan, CAIA, Director, is a member of BlackRock's Global Client Group, focused on implementing investment strategies utilising the iShares platform. Mr. Chan's service with the firm dates back to 2009, including his year with Barclays Global Investors (BGI), which merged with BlackRock in 2009. At BGI, he was a senior investment strategist for the Asia ex-Japan sales team. Previously, Mr. Chan was a Principal Consultant with Watson Wyatt Investment Consulting in Hong Kong, where he held local client account responsibility for a number of key institutional clients. He also held regional responsibility for client investment strategy and was involved in client engagements principally across Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Korea. In this role, Mr. Chan oversaw asset liability modeling and risk budgeting projects and conducted strategy reviews for many existing and new clients, both before and during the financial crisis. He is also a regular speaker and panelist at conferences in the region. Mr. Chan earned an MA degree in Mathematics from Trinity College, Cambridge University in 1990.