Economics from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi, the National Eagle Scout Association, and INROADS.

**Sean A. Graham**, of Kings County, is a Senior Investment Officer at Cornell University's Office of Investments, where he oversees all general operations functions, including administrative staff, development plans, cash management and portfolio rebalancing. In this role, he is tasked with performance reporting and benchmarking oversight, including automating processes for more efficient and effective performance reporting and has worked on various enterprise and investment risk metrics and initiatives.

From 2014 until April 2018, Mr. Graham worked as Director of Investment Operations at General Motors Asset Management, overseeing staff supporting the operational matters of the public markets, hedge funds, real estate, private equity, trading, strategy, and derivative and collateral management business units. He had previously served as Manager of Alternative Investment Operations at GM Asset Management, a job he held from 2007 until 2014. Before that, he worked as a Financial Analyst for the firm as an independent contractor.

In addition to his work at Cornell, Mr. Graham is a Director at the Washington Square Fund, a nonprofit foundation that provides grants to child welfare, family and educational programs, and is active in the Howard University Bison Career Mentor Program. Mr. Graham earned his BBA in accounting at Howard University's School of Business and Public Administration.

**Vijay Mehta** is a Co-founder of Arkview Capital, a private equity fund backed by the Ziff family. Arkview focuses on solving access to capital issues by investing in minority certified businesses.

Vijay is involved with several inclusivity initiatives, serving as a leader of Genesis Bank's Impact Committee, AAAIM's Diverse Manager Network, and Vice Chair of NY/NJ Minority Supplier Council's MBE Input Committee.

Prior to Arkview, Vijay was a member of the Investment Committee at Ziff Brothers Investments and had investment roles with Texas Pacific Group and Morgan Stanley. Vijay graduated from the Huntsman Program at UPenn and Harvard Business School.

NYSIF

# 15TH ANNUAL MWBE INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

New York Law School

## PANELISTS

**Amira Artis** is the Global Head of Client Solutions at Brightwood Capital, a private credit firm with a strong track record of investing in middle-market businesses. Prior to joining Brightwood, she served as Managing Director of Institutional Client Solutions, Credit, and Insurance at Blackstone, Nickelodeon, and Goldman Sachs. Amira holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.

**Amy Ridge** is a Partner in Mercer's alternatives group where she specializes in private markets investing. She works with institutional clients to build and maintain their private markets portfolios, with a focus on risk mitigation, total portfolio analysis and identifying best in class investments. Ms. Ridge leads Mercer's private markets diverse manager research and serves as the Chair of the Investment Committee for Mercer's DEI funds.

Ridge has 18 years of private markets experience, 15 years of which are at Mercer (including Pavilion Alternatives, which was acquired by Mercer in 2018). Ms. Ridge holds a BA in finance from the University of San Francisco. Prior to Mercer, Ms. Ridge spent almost three years at TorreyCove (now Aksia), where she was part of the private equity consulting group.

**Andrew Chou** is a Portfolio Manager at the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF), where he is responsible for overseeing private markets investments across private equity, private credit, and real assets. Previously, Andrew served as a Senior Portfolio Manager at State Street Global Advisors and GE Asset Management, where he focused on private equity and private credit investments, including commitments to commingled funds, co-investments, and direct investments.

Andrew holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and NYU Stern School of Business.

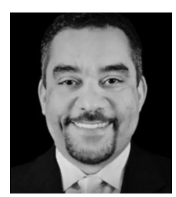
**Anyori Hernandez** is the former Director of Emerging Managers for the New York State Common Retirement Fund, where he helped manage over $7 billion in commitments to over 125 emerging firms. The program focuses on generating strong risk-adjusted returns while supporting firms with a including co-founder and partner at Aldea Capital Partners and partner and investment committee member at GCM Grosvenor Customized Fund Investment Group (formerly Credit Suisse CFIG).

Mina is an alumna of Sponsors for Education Opportunity (SEO) and the Robert Toigo Foundation. She is also a board member of the Pan American Development Fund and serves on the investment committee for the City of Hope and Cal State Los Angeles. Additionally, Mina is a current Finance Fellow for The Aspen Institute. Mina holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors in Economics and Political Science from Stanford University and her Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

**Renae Griffin** focuses on expanding GCM Grosvenor's small, emerging and diverse manager platform. She also serves on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Griffin was CEO of RG + Associates, a consulting firm she founded that provided tools and resources for emerging and diverse asset managers, as well as institutional investors and government agencies seeking diverse business partners. Prior to RG + Associates, Ms. Griffin worked as a Marketing Director at Progress Investment Management Company, where she was responsible for investor relations, institutional investor marketing, and strategy for many of the largest public institutional investors in the country. Previously, Ms. Griffin worked at Capital Guardian Trust Company as a Marketing Associate working with senior portfolio managers and marketing executives. Ms. Griffin began her career in finance with Bankers Trust Company serving as an Associate to senior officers in the commercial lending group.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of San Francisco. Ms. Griffin is a member of the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP), Private Equity Women Investment Network (PEWIN), and the Real Estate Executive Council (REEC).

**Robert L. Greene** is President & CEO of the National Association of



Investment Companies (NAIC), leading all aspects of the association, including capital advocacy, policy, member services, and strategic alliances. He previously served as Chairman of the Virginia Retirement System, an $85 billion public pension plan. Bob also directed Private Equity at Arthur Andersen, advising major private equity firms. He holds a B.S. in

**Kenneth R. Theobalds,** of Westchester County, serves as the Chair of the NYSIF Board of Commissioners. Chair Theobalds is President and Managing Partner of RiverRun Partners, LLC and has been a member of the NYSIF Board of Commissioners since 2008. He is a former deputy executive director of the State Insurance Fund. Mr. Theobalds has decades of experience in public affairs and, previously, as Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs at Entergy, had responsibility for Entergy Corporations' regulatory, state and local government relations across the northeast.

A former congressional staffer and assistant secretary to the late Governor Mario M. Cuomo, Mr. Theobalds serves on the board of directors of several business organizations including: the Business Council of New York State, the Business Council of Westchester and the Westchester County Association. He is past chair of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland, Inc.

His accomplishments have been recognized by numerous organizations including the New York Urban League, the American Red Cross, the NAACP, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and the National Association of Securities Professionals Foundation.

Mr. Theobalds' professional associations include the New York Building Congress, the League of Conservation Voters and the Partnership for New York City. He is a graduate of Cornell University and the Entergy Executive Program and the Center for Creative Leadership's Advanced Leadership Program. Chair Theobalds also holds a certificate in Corporate Governance from the Executive Education Program at the Wharton School.

Chair Theobalds was appointed to the Board of Commissioners upon the recommendation of the Business Council of New York State.

**Mina Pacheco Nazemi** is the Head of the Diversified Alternative Equity team and serves on the investment committee. She is responsible for originating, underwriting and monitoring GP relationships, direct/co-investments and continuation vehicle opportunities for private equity and real assets. Mina has worked in the industry since 1998 with experience as a general partner and limited partner investor in private markets and focused on underwriting direct/co-investment opportunities. Prior to joining the firm in 2017, she held several leadership and investment positions commitment to diversity, inclusion, and strong governance. Previously, Mr. Hernandez co-founded Yorkstone Management PR LLC, a capital financing firm for small and medium-sized businesses. He also served as Director at Barclays Wealth & Investment Management and as Senior Investment Officer at the New York State Common Retirement Fund. He holds a Master's in Real Estate Finance and a B.A. from NYU.

**Careina Williams** is the Founder and Managing Partner of Caro Investors. She has over two decades of real estate investment/finance experience, largely on behalf of institutional investors. Careina most recently served as a Managing Director and Portfolio Manager of Sundance Bay Debt Opportunity Fund, which aggregated $139.0M in capital commitments and invested $82.0M, prior to exiting to form Caro Investors. Previously, Careina served as COO of a small, short opportunistic equity hedge fund and Principal of Acquisitions and Asset Management at Artemis Real Estate Partners. At Artemis, she contributed significantly to helping grow the core plus emerging manager business from $300M to over $1BN, with three institutional pension fund clients and 27 managers, in addition to serving on the Investment Committee.

Careina graduated with honors from Harvard University (A.B. Economics) and has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. She is a member of Urban Land Institute – Silver Retail Counsel.

**Clarence Williams** has over 20 years of experience advising institutional clients on various asset classes, including fixed income, equity, and alternatives, raising over $2 billion throughout his career. He holds three FINRA industry licenses. He earned a Master's in Finance and Marketing from MIT and a B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University. He is President and Treasurer of the National Association of Securities Professionals-New York Chapter, Board Chair for Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers, and Senior Advisor at ChoicePoints Learning, LLC. He has served on various boards, including the National Association of State Treasurers.

**David Ourlicht**, of New York County, has held various positions in the asset management industry for the past 20 years. Commissioner Ourlicht is Managing Director and Special Advisor to the Chair of GAMCO Asset Management, a $40 billion assets-under-management firm offering a combination of value equity and investment partnership strategies to address investment solution for the institutional marketplace. Before this, he had a successful career as a Wall Street banker, including his formative years at Daniels & Bell, the first black-owned and controlled New York Stock Exchange member firm.

Mr. Ourlicht also serves as a trustee of the State of New York Construction Fund; is a Founding Board member of the New York Association of Public Employees' Retirement Systems (NYPERS); is a member of the Merchants Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors; and is a member of the National Association of Securities Professionals-New York (NASP-NY) Hall of Fame. Commissioner Ourlicht previously served on NYSIF's Board from 2008 to 2019. Mr. Ourlicht graduated with a BS degree from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, and he holds FINRA licenses series 7 and 63.

**Gaurav Vasisht** is the Executive Director and CEO of NYSIF, a non-profit competitive enterprise that is among the largest workers' compensation, disability, and paid family leave insurers in the United States. The first Asian and Indian American to lead the organization in its 110-year history, Gaurav is responsible for NYSIF's overall strategic direction and operation, including oversight of its approximately 2,000-employee workforce. A graduate of NYU and St. John's Law, Gaurav has testified before Congress on financial stability matters, presented before the G20's Financial Stability Board on the effectiveness of Too-Big-To-Fail reforms, and worked on pioneering initiatives covered in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Financial Times. Gaurav has been a Non-Resident Fellow at the Global Financial Markets Center at Duke Law School, participated in the Yale School of Management's Lessons Learned Initiative on the 2007-09 Financial Crisis, and contributed to Penn Law's Regulatory Review. He frequently publishes and speaks on issues of relevance to the financial services industry.

**Gregory Francis** joined NYSIF as Chief Investment Officer (CIO) in June 2015. As CIO, Gregory oversees an investment portfolio of over $21 billion in assets and investments for both the Workers' Compensation Fund and Disability Benefits Fund. Under Greg's leadership, NYSIF has modernized the investment program and associated governance. He has spearheaded the development and execution of a multi-asset class program consisting of internally and externally managed assets. The program is focused on maximizing long-term investment performance within a risk-oriented framework. Prior to joining NYSIF, Greg spent more than 20 years as an investment professional in both the private and public sector, including senior investment positions at GE Capital, New York Life Insurance Company, and Santa Clara County. Greg began his career at the investment banks of Donaldson, Lufkin, and Jenrette and Bankers Trust Securities. Gregory holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics from Columbia University School of Engineering. He is a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science.

**Jason Howard** is the Founder, Managing Partner, and Investment Committee Member of New Catalyst, where he oversees all investment and management activities. Before founding New Catalyst, he spent nearly 14 years at GCM Grosvenor, most recently as Managing Director and Co-Head of its Diverse Manager Private Equity platform. Jason focused on sourcing and investing in emerging and diverse managers, supporting numerous successful Next Generation funds. Earlier in his career, he worked at Goldman Sachs and Walt Disney's Mergers & Acquisitions and Technology, Media & Telecom groups. He also serves on several non-profit boards, including The Salvation Army and the Orange County Community Foundation.

**Joyce Abernethy** is the General Counsel to the New York State Common Retirement Fund (CRF), one of the largest pension funds in the country. She oversees the day-to-day work of investment, corporate governance, and securities litigation attorneys and provides advice across the portfolio on investment negotiations and existing investments, as well as on new investment strategies and structures. The CRF's $270+ billion portfolio includes allocations to public equity, fixed income, real estate, private equity, real assets, credit, opportunistic, and absolute return strategies. In addition to serving as CRF's fiduciary counsel, she also regularly advises on operational, risk, compliance, and regulatory matters.

Joyce started her career as an M&A attorney in the New York City Office of Skadden Arps. She received her J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School and her B.A. from Barnard College. Joyce is admitted to practice in New York State.