

## **Stan Sokolowski** Senior Portfolio Manager, CIFC Asset Management



Stan Sokolowski, is Senior Portfolio Manager and the Deputy Chief Investment Officer at CIFC Asset Management. In 2018, Stan was named Senior Portfolio Manager of a floating rate income strategy at Catalyst Funds. Stan has found that throughout his life and career, perseverance has certainly paid off. He has 29 years of credit, portfolio management and trading experience. He is the lead portfolio manager for CIFC's corporate credit funds and a member of the firm's Investment Committee.

After graduating with a degree in Finance from Michigan State University, he headed to New York to pursue his first job. After many months, and numerous rejections, he landed a position at Manufacturers Hanover Corporation in their loan operations department. Through hard work and persistence, his career progressed quickly from these early days. He spent 15 years with the "same" institution which, through several merges, ultimately became JPMorgan Chase. Stan persevered and thrived during this time of transformation in the banking industry.

During his career, Stan experienced the real estate recession and emerging market debt crisis of the late 1980's, the Great Bond Massacre in 1994, the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the Dot-com bubble of 2000, the Great Financial Crisis during 2007 and 2008, the European sovereign debt crisis and flash crash in 2010, the U.S. downgrade in 2011 and the Pandemic sell off of 2020. There seemed to be a once-in-lifetime crisis every few years! Early on his career path, Stan was sponsored to attend Chemical Bank's MBA Capital Markets and Credit Training Program. This experience was no easy feat for a back-office undergraduate competing with investment banking colleagues who had just completed MBA's at various prestigious universities. He did not finish at the top of the program but, he did not finish at the bottom either...

After training, he joined the Emerging Markets Investment Banking group and supported senior colleagues covering Asia, Central Europe and Russia. Stan later moved to London to assist with the setup of an advisory business focused on corporations seeking to expand their businesses into Central and Eastern Europe. As the European capital markets were quickly evolving during these years, the

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## CIFC offered a tremendous chance to combine the company's incredible methods and infrastructure with his risk management experiences.

bank was increasing its presence in the region to support a growing group of financial sponsors and acquisitive corporations. Sensing opportunity, Stan transferred to the Global Syndicated Finance business to originate leveraged finance transactions. Stan was involved in deals that funded businesses, mergers and acquisitions throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He was active in many transaction types and several industries including media and telecommunications, industrials and financial services. After a few years, Stan took the initiative to lead the bank's effort in developing a nonbank investor base for European leveraged loans. This role and the network he established evolved into another new undertaking for Stan as he established and managed of one of Europe's first loan trading desks. At the time, Stan was not even familiar with bids or offers!

After 10 years in London, it was time to return to New York. Stan was asked to join a new business within the Financial Institutions Group working with asset managers, hedge funds and other large pools of capital to provide markets and advisory solutions. After

a year back in the States with JP-Morgan Chase, Stan was invited to join the iconic macro hedge fund, Caxton Associates. At Caxton, he was a member of a new team building the U.S. credit trading business. Stan was initially responsible for establishing the loan trading desk however, he swiftly advanced to manage a long/short portfolio. Stan traded many types of financial instruments during this period including bonds, loans, equities and derivatives, performing and non-performing issuers and, fixed and floating rate instruments across the credit spectrum. It was a lifetime of risk management practice achieved in six years. One notable highlight from this time with Caxton, Stan was profitable in each year from 2007 through 2012, including 2008 and 2009. Pheww-WWW...

In 2012, he was offered the opportunity to join CIFC Asset Management to grow the firm's credit funds business. Stan had a strong belief that credit risk in the post-GFC era would need to be managed differently to generate returns. He felt the regulatory and interest rate environment was shifting and that the long/short format would struggle. His view

reconciled with CIFC's approach of fundamental credit underwriting and process-oriented investing. The fusion of this great culture and talented people at CIFC has generated outstanding results for CIFCs clients and stakeholders. Since his time as Senior Portfolio Manager for Catalyst Funds began in 2018, Stan has dedicated much of his time to working with the sales and distribution teams at Catalyst to meet with many financial advisors across the country to offer this institutional strategy in mutual fund format to retail investors.

Stan is excited about the future of credit investing and believes CIFC's visionary approach to client partnerships and solutions will continue to deliver for the firm's customers.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Catalyst Funds. This and other important information about the Fund is contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 866-447-4228 or at www.CatalystMF.com. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. The Catalyst Funds are distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, member FINRA/ SIPC. Catalyst Capital Advisors, LLC is not affiliated with Northern Lights Distributors, LLC.