Achieving Returns and Diversification through Responsible Investments
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Stephanie Cohn-Rupp
Managing Director, Impact Investing, Threshold Group
Stephanie Cohn Rupp brings more than 17 years of experience in international impact investing including impact fund design and implementation, microfinance, and crowd funding. As the former CEO of Toniic, she was responsible for scaling the organization from 35 to over 300 families and foundations worldwide – growing the presence of this global action community in the US, Canada, Europe, Middle East, Australia and South Africa. She is head of Impact Investing at Threshold Group, and works closely with the firm's CIO, Ron Albahary on investment philosophy and overall Impact strategy. Her extensive experience spans the global ecosystem of impact, and brings a unique and multifaceted toolkit of skills in sourcing, evaluating and measuring opportunities from both investment and impact perspectives. In addition to her critical role in Impact - Stephanie is the head of Threshold Group’s burgeoning San Francisco office, growing their local presence in the Bay Area.

David Dinerman
Trustee, Hampshire College
David Dinerman is a trustee at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he is Vice Chair, and heads the Finance and Investment Committees. David is an attorney who has worked in financial services, software, manufacturing, and real estate, principally as the CFO of companies in which he has worked. Most of his work has been in lower middle market companies. As part of his work on the Hampshire board, David has been active in encouraging foundations and endowments to align their mission and principles with how they invest their endowments, and has spoken at over fifteen conferences on the subject. He holds a BA from Hampshire College, a JD from the University of Oregon Law School, and a LLM from Boston University. David lives in northern California with his wife and two sons.

Brian G. Fairhurst, CIMA
Director, Advisory Solutions Group, RBC Global Asset Management
Brian Fairhurst is responsible for developing relationships and representing our investment strategies to various financial intermediaries including RIAs, retirement, wealth management and family office investment platforms in the western United States. Brian joined RBC GAM-US in 2015 from F-Squared Investments where he was a senior vice president and regional director. He started his career in the financial services industry in 2000 and has worked for Merrill Lynch, iShares, BlackRock and registered investment advisory firms. He earned a BA in international relations from the University of Virginia and holds FINRA Series 7, 63, 65 and 24 securities licenses. He is also registered as an Associated Person and Branch Manager with the National Futures Association.

R. Paul Herman
CEO + Founder, HIP Investor Ratings + Portfolios
R. Paul Herman is a globally recognized leader in ESG ratings and impact-themed portfolios. Paul founded HIP Investor 11 years ago to show that investments across all asset classes can solve human, social and environmental problems -- and can be more profitable and less risky than being extractive of people, natural resources and trust. HIP Investor rates more than 75,000 stocks, bonds and funds for fiduciaries, investors, advisers, fund managers, and 401(k) plans. Paul is an alumni of Wharton, McKinsey, Ashoka and Omidyar Network. Paul is an advisor to SASB, Net Impact and Sustainable Brands. Paul authored The HIP Investor book (Wiley, 2010), included in the curricula of 26 global MBA, MPA and university programs in finance, capital markets and impact investing.

Taham S. Mahimwalla, CFA
Vice President, Institutional Portfolio Manager, RBC Global Asset Management
Taham Mahimwalla leads the firm’s client service and product management efforts for RBC GAM’s Global and International Equity strategies, as well as our US small and mid cap growth the firm’s environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts in the US. Taham communicates with clients, prospects and consultants on an ongoing basis regarding the investment philosophy and process, strategy, positioning and performance. Taham joined RBC GAM-US in 2013. He was previously an account manager at Wellington Management Company, where he was responsible for developing and managing institutional client relationships. Taham also worked as a fixed income portfolio specialist at Wellington, where he focused on investment grade credit and multi-sector fixed income strategies. Taham began his career in the investment industry in 2006 and earned his MSF/MBA from Northeastern University in Boston and his B.Com from HR College of Commerce and Economics in Mumbai, India. He is a CFA charterholder and a member of the CFA Institute as well as the CFA Society of Chicago. Taham holds FINRA Series 7 and 63 licenses.
Ginny Quick  
CFO, Sierra Club Foundation

Ginny Quick joined the Foundation in August of 2009. She directs all aspects of finance and accounting operations for the Foundation, including leadership and direction in formulating and implementing the financial plans and policies required to support the Foundation’s mission and the execution of its programs. In addition, Ginny works closely with the Investment Committee and consultants on investment management, the focus of which currently is divesting from fossil fuel companies and reinvesting in clean energy and climate solutions. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was chief financial and operations officer at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California, where she developed a great depth of experience in operational management and human resources in addition to her financial expertise. As a Bay Area resident for 30 years, she has enjoyed skiing, camping, and hiking throughout Northern California. She has four grown sons and two young granddaughters.

Scott C. Smith, LLM, JD  
Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP

Scott Smith is a partner in the Corporate Group at Hanson Bridgett. Scott’s practice focuses on institutional investors and private equity matters, mergers and acquisitions, impact investing, secured and unsecured lending, and tax.

Scott has extensive experience representing large institutional investors in a variety of different matters. Scott has successfully closed hundreds of investment transactions ranging in size from ten million dollars to well in excess of a billion. Scott has experience with virtually every fund type and asset class found on the market, including private equity, venture, hedge, real estate, energy and infrastructure, debt funds and impact funds. He has represented numerous institutional investors in connection with direct and co-investments, secondary transactions, separate accounts, custody and securities lending agreements, real estate transactions and a variety of ancillary agreements related to investment activities. Scott’s clients in this area include public and private retirement systems of all sizes, universities and endowments, family offices, high net-worth individuals and corporate/strategic investors.

While focused on investor-side representation, Scott has also sat on the other side of the table and represented a number of private investment funds. Scott’s focus in this area has been in the impact space and he has worked with many of the leading impact funds in the U.S., including Investors’ Circle, TBL Capital, the Patient Capital Collaborative, Good Capital, Better Ventures and Mindful Capital. For these clients and others Scott handles fund formation, governance, investment transactions, mergers, acquisitions and other exits, and fund restructurings. Scott has also represented private funds in the investment and lending areas, handling numerous debt and equity transactions to a successful completion.

Scott’s tax background enables him to advise investors and business in connection with a variety of different deal structure and related tax issues. His practice often involves the preparation and negotiation of complex limited partnership and limited liability company agreements. He has extensive experience with partnership tax rules and the drafting of complex allocation and distribution provisions in a variety of different contexts. His clients in this area include some of the same institutional investors referenced above, and large real estate owners and developers as well.

Finally, for many of Scott’s clients he serves as outside general counsel representing them in connection with a broad array of equity financings, loan transactions, day-to-day corporate and general contract matters as well as M&A transactions.

Fabian Willskytt, MBA  
SVP, Impact Investing Analytics + Client Solutions, HIP Investor

Fabian Willskytt systematically researches and analyzes the human, social and environmental impacts of companies, governments and non-profits issuing securities, which all garner a HIP Rating. Fabian co-architects and simulates investment portfolios to seek higher human impact and financial resilience. Fabian is an MBA graduate from San Francisco State University, with a focus on sustainable business practices and economic development. Fabian has been a top-10 worldwide finalist in Morgan Stanley Sustainable Investing Challenge. Prior to joining the HIP team, Fabian consulted with social enterprises in the U.S. and abroad. Fabian also teaches an undergraduate course in Sustainability & Innovation at San Francisco State University.