

Black History Month Feature

Amplifying Black Leaders in Finance

STRUCTURED
FINANCE
ASSOCIATION



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Yared Yawand-Wossen is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley and has been at the firm for 29 years. He runs the Consumer and Esoteric Structured Products Capital Markets Vertical within the Global Capital Markets Division. In this role, Yared and his team are responsible for originating, designing, and executing structured solutions for clients. Yared has extensive experience across all consumer asset classes. In addition, his expertise also encompasses esoteric asset classes including Private Equity Backed Notes, Whole Business securitizations, Triple Net Lease transactions, Cell Tower ABS and Data and Fiber securitizations. Yared serves on Structured Finance Association's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee.

Prior to joining Global Capital Markets, Yared worked in the Fixed Income Division where he was responsible for North America Securitized Products Distribution.

Yared holds a BA from Brown University in Computer Science and Economics and an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Management.

What inspired you to get into the finance industry?

I was a computer science major in college and did not want to be a programmer when I graduated. I stumbled into the finance industry because he was proficient in Lotus123 and could explain a Collateralized Mortgage Obligation (CMO) in simple English terms. The rest is history!

How do you help support DEI initiatives at your organization?

I have been involved in DEI, at a grass roots level, since joining Morgan Stanley 29 years ago. In wanting to lead by example, I prioritized hiring and mentoring individuals. The fruits of these labors are born during our annual promotion announcement - there is nothing more satisfying than hearing the name of a newly promoted Managing Director who I once recruited to the firm as a summer analyst.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

Black history month is a moment for reflection and accountability.

- A time to reflect on the many who mentored me and write them a note of gratitude.
- An opportunity to ask myself what I have done and is it enough, specifically with the many diverse individuals in my eco-system.

What can industry leaders do to increase diversity in finance?

Industry leaders can increase diversity with the following five simple steps:

- Do the right thing and keep an open mind
- Trust your instincts
- Focus on the individual and take risk
- Follow up with robust mentoring
- Reap the rewards

FUN FACT: I am an aspiring amateur photographer.