

# Black History Month Leadership Series

## Amplifying Black Leaders in Finance

STRUCTURED  
FINANCE  
ASSOCIATION

DIVERSITY IN  
STRUCTURED FINANCE



### JAMILA ABSTON MAYFIELD

#### PARTNER EY

Jamila Abston Mayfield is a Partner in the EY Financial Services Business Consulting practice where she provides risk, compliance, and regulatory consulting services to key wealth and asset management, private equity, hedge fund, and banking and capital markets clients. She is also the EY Financial Inclusion Leader, and she and her team assist financial services firms in developing strategies, products, and services that create access, equity, and inclusion opportunities for underserved communities. Jamila rejoined EY from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), where she served as the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations. In this role, Jamila served as an expert advisor for the SEC Examinations program, specializing in compliance program effectiveness, risk analytics, enterprise risk management, and cybersecurity for the asset management industry.

She led and participated in hundreds of SEC Examinations and Enforcement investigations of investment advisers, investment companies, broker-dealers, transfer agents, alternative funds, and other industry participants. Prior to the SEC, Jamila was a Manager in the EY Fraud Investigations and Dispute Services practice where she led restatements, investigations, and litigation support matters for healthcare, manufacturing, government, and technology clients. Jamila is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF). She has a BA in Accounting from Florida A&M University, a MS in Accountancy from the University of Virginia, and an MBA in Asset Management from Yale University. In December 2021, she was appointed to the SEC Investor Advisory Committee – a group that advises the Commission on regulatory priorities, trading strategies, fee structures, the effectiveness of disclosure, and other initiatives to protect investor interests.

Jamila has received numerous accolades, including the Crain's Notable Women in Accounting and Consulting Award, the Yale Alumni Association Leadership Award, and the SEC Community Service Award, among others.

#### What inspired you to get into the finance industry?

When I was in high school, I thought I wanted to become a corporate lawyer. Before heading to college, my father encouraged me to seek an Accounting or Finance undergraduate degree – as opposed to focusing on Criminal Justice or Public Administration. He convinced me that having a foundation in Accounting and Finance would be beneficial no matter what I did in my long-term law career. And he was right! In my junior year of college, the leading accounting firms and finance organizations began recruiting candidates for full time employment. At this point, I thought it might be helpful to have two years of work experience before heading to law school. I accepted offer with EY to begin my financial services career after my summer college graduation. And needless to say, I never went to law school! During my first stint at EY, I focused on forensic accounting and fraud investigations and obtained my CPA, CFE, and CFF certifications. With each year, I became more interested in accounting and finance, and my time at the SEC and my later return to EY have continued to create a fulfilling career experience.

**FUN FACT:** I love music and have played the piano from a young age. I have always valued the discipline that studying classical music creates for me, and I still own my very first piano that my parents purchased for me when I was three years old!

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### How do you help support DEI initiatives at your organization?

As the EY Financial Inclusion Leader, I partner with the EY internal initiatives and help my clients develop strategies, products, and services that create financial access and equity for underserved communities. I am on the leadership team of the EY Black Professional Network and the EY Anti-Racism Task Force focusing on the recruitment, retention, and advancement of minorities. Further, I am a Lifetime Member of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) and an active member of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Association for Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) where I have focused on diversity and inclusion initiatives. I also serve on the Yale School of Management's Council for Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE) and is on the Board of Directors of Sanctuary for Families, New York's leading service provider for domestic violence survivors.

### What does Black History Month mean to you?

Black History Month is a highlight each year for me. It is a reminder of the rich legacy of African Americans in the US, our invaluable contributions to society, our persistence in the face of challenges, and our resiliency to forge ahead. My parents instilled strong pride in my heritage in me, and my family is a living example of generational advancement through education, exposure, and excellence. Through organizations, initiatives, and individual contributions, African Americans are "paying it forward" and "lifting as we climb" which is inspirational for me during Black History Month and every day!