



New kids on the block dominate awards

Two firms that have been in the market for fewer than seven years were named top managers at the Creditflux awards in May while Bardin Hill scooped Best New US CLO

by Sam Robinson

research Robin Armitage, Lafri Reda

Spire partners rounded off a successful evening at Creditflux's 11th Manager Awards by securing the coveted Manager of the Year trophy. The award marked a rapid rise for the London-based firm, which debuted in European CLOs in March 2015.

Spire has previously been successful in the European Boutique Manager category, but this year, with five CLOs amounting to nearly €2bn in assets under management, the firm claimed the awards for best European CLO and Best European CLO manager, as well as the overall prize.

In the awards focusing on the US market, another young firm came out on top, with Sound Point Capital Management dominating by winning best US CLO and best US CLO manager. However, Bardin Hill won the Best New US CLO with Halcyon Loan Advisors Funding 2018-1.

The boutique winners were Black Diamond's European team, and Nassau Corporate Credit in the US. Direct lenders also received recognition, with Ares taking the award for best European fund, and Monroe winning best US direct lending fund for the second year in a row.



David Snyder

Best new US CLO

Halcyon Loan Advisors Funding 2018-1 Bardin Hill

Finalists

CBAM 2018-6
Nassau 2018-1
Octagon 37

Methodology & Eligibility

blended outperformance
CLOs with broadly syndicated US collateral that went effective in 2018 and are listed in CLO-i



Creditflux Manager of the Year

Spire Partners

Finalists

Finalists
 Nassau Corporate Credit
 Octagon Credit Investors
 Sound Point Capital Management
 Methodology
 highest average ranking across all deals



Oliver Drummond Smith

Best US boutique CLO manager



Nassau Corporate Credit

Finalists

Allstate Investment Mgt,
 Gallatin Loan Mgt,
 Saratoga Investment Mgt

Methodology

mean blended outperformance across all the manager's deals

Eligibility

US CLO managers with four or fewer active deals

Pictured: Alex Jackson, Sean Griffin (JP Morgan)

Best new European CLO



BlackRock European CLO 5

BlackRock

Finalists

Aurium CLO IV (Spire Partners)
 Black Diamond CLO 2017-2 (Black Diamond)
 Halcyon Loan Advisors European Funding 2018-1 (Bardin Hill)

Methodology

blended outperformance

Eligibility

CLOs with European collateral that went effective in 2018 and are listed in CLO-i

Pictured: Conor Daly, Aly Hirji, Jeff Soar

Best US CLO



Sound Point CLO IV-R

Sound Point Capital Management

Finalists

Mountain View CLO X (Seix Advisors)
 Octagon 27
 Steele Creek CLO 2014-1R

Methodology

blended outperformance

Eligibility

CLOs with US collateral that are within reinvestment, went effective before 2018 and are listed in CLO-i

Pictured: Rick Richert, Renee Gallizzo

Best European CLO



Aurium CLO II

Spire Partners

Finalists

BlackRock European CLO 1; Cadogan Square CLO V (Credit Suisse Asset Management); Cordatus Loan Fund V (CVC Credit Partners)

Methodology

blended outperformance

Eligibility

CLOs with European collateral that are within reinvestment, went effective before 2018 and are listed in CLO-i

Pictured: Phil Bennett-Britton, Oliver Drummond Smith

Best European CLO manager



Spire Partners

Finalists

Barings
 Credit Suisse Asset Management
 CVC Credit Partners

Methodology

mean blended outperformance across all the manager's deals

Eligibility

Firms with at least four current actively-managed CLOs that invest in European collateral

Pictured: Phil Bennett-Britton

Best Euro boutique CLO manager



Black Diamond Capital

Finalists

GoldenTree Asset Management
 Ostrum Asset Management
 Permira Debt Managers

Methodology

mean blended outperformance across all the manager's deals

Eligibility

European CLO managers with three or fewer active deals

Pictured: Martin Ward

Best Euro CLO redeemed in 2018



Harbourmaster Pro Rata 3 GSO

Finalists

Cordatus Loan Fund II (CVC Credit Partners)
 Eaton Vance CDO X
 Jubilee I-R (Alcentra)

Methodology

final IRR

Eligibility

CLOs that owned European collateral and that repaid all their debt in 2018

Pictured: Alex Leonard

Best 1.0 US CLO redeemed in 2018



California Street CLO III

Symphony

Finalists

Lime Street CLO Ltd (First Eagle)
 Mountain View CLO III (Seix Advisors)
 Venture VIII (MJX)

Methodology

final IRR

Eligibility

1.0 CLOs that owned US collateral and that repaid all their debt in 2018

Pictured: Scott Snell (Tetragon), Diana Minott (Paul Hastings)

Best 2.0 US CLO redeemed in 2018



NZCG Funding 2

Guggenheim Investments

Finalists

ALM XI (Apollo)
 Babson CLO 2013-II (Barings)
 Cent CLO 18 (Columbia)

Methodology

final IRR

Eligibility

2.0 CLOs that owned US collateral and that repaid all their debt in 2018

Pictured: Adrian Duffy

Best US CLO manager

Sound Point Capital Mgt

Finalists

CBAM Partners
Octagon Credit Investors
ZAIS Group

Methodology

mean blended outperformance across all the manager's deals

Eligibility

Firms with at least four current actively-managed CLOs based on broadly syndicated US collateral



Rick Richert

Best new middle market CLO



Cerberus Loan Funding XXIII

Cerberus Business Finance

Finalists

Golub Capital Partners CLO 36 (M)
Ivy XIV (Ares)
Monroe Capital MML CLO VI

Methodology

blended outperformance

Eligibility

CLOs with US mid-market collateral that went effective in 2018 and are listed in CLO-i

Pictured: Joe Carden

Best middle market CLO



Cerberus Loan Funding XXI

Cerberus Business Finance

Finalists

Carlyle Direct Lending 2015-1R
Golub Capital Partners CLO 16(M)-R
NewStar Arlington CLO (First Eagle)

Methodology

blended outperformance

Eligibility

CLOs that invested in mid-market collateral that are within reinvestment, went effective before 2018 and are listed on CLO-i

Pictured: Joe Carden, Rosie Stock (Morgan Stanley)

Best European direct lending fund



Ares Capital Europe II

Ares Management

Finalists

Beechbrook Mezzanine II
Cordet Direct Lending Fund I
Kartesia Credit Opportunities III
Tikehau Direct Lending IV

Methodology

leverage-adjusted IRR

Eligibility

Private equity-format funds that invest predominantly in non-syndicated debt from European companies with ebitda below €50 million

Pictured: Francois Gauvin

Best US direct lending fund



Monroe Senior Secured Direct Loan Fund

Monroe Capital

Finalists

AG Direct Lending Fund (Angelo Gordon)
Churchill Middle Market Senior Loan Fund
THL Credit Direct Lending Fund III

Methodology

leverage-adjusted IRR

Eligibility

Private equity-format funds that invest predominantly in non-syndicated debt from US companies with ebitda below \$50 million

Pictured: Sean Duff

Best closed-end CLO fund



Clareant Structured Credit Opp Fund III

Alcentra

Finalists

Blackstone/GSO Loan Financing
CIFC CLO Opportunity Fund II
Napier Park Strategic CLO Fund
Oxford Bridge (Oxford Funds)

Methodology

IRR

Eligibility

Funds that invest predominantly in CLOs and that have no periodic redemption requirements

Pictured: Alcentra team with Cathy Bevan (left), Hiram Hamilton (holding award)

Best CLO Fund



BK Opps Fund III

Crystal Fund

Finalists

Alcentra Structured Credit Opportunities Fund II
Axa IM Novalto - CLO Credit Fund
Lupus alpha CLO Opportunity Notes II

Methodology

volatility-adjusted weighted performance

Eligibility

Funds that invest predominantly in CLOs and that are present in Crediflux's monthly performance listings

Pictured: Olivier Gozlan



Awards methodology

Blended outperformance

The average ranking of each CLO relative to its peers by six performance metrics. This rewards managers that achieve the greatest performance for all classes of investors. Metrics are: change in junior OC; warf; average collateral value; weighted average spread;

cash-on-cash return to equity; and equity volatility. Day-one arbitrage is considered for new CLOs.

Volatility-adjusted weighted performance

A measure that combines absolute change in mark-to-market net asset value during 2018 and volatility relevant to

each fund's redemption profile. Funds that promise liquidity need to deliver stable returns; those that lock up investors' capital need to achieve greater absolute performance.

Leverage-adjusted IRR

IRR net of fees to 31 December 2018, taking into account

the amount of capital raised and deployed, and adjusted for the average debt-to-ebitda leverage at inception of borrowers in the portfolio.

Final IRR

Equity IRR based on the notional size of the CLO equity and taking into account all payments received by the end of 2018.