

Celebrating the best funds and CLOs

This year, 60 managers, 200 CLOs and 60 funds entered the Creditflux Manager Awards. Guggenheim took the coveted prize of Creditflux Manager of the Year. *Tom Davidson* reports

With the CLO market surging, and credit fund raising bouncing back, London's Landmark Hotel provided a fittingly upscale setting for this year's Creditflux Manager Awards dinner.

The 2012 awards saw almost 300 of the industry's great and good gather to recognise the best CLOs, credit funds and managers. More than 60 managers submitted data this year, covering 200 CLOs and 61 credit funds from across the world.

For CLOs, the winners were chosen on the basis of their liquidation IRR – the total return for equity investors over the lifetime of the deal if it was liquidated at the end of 2011.

Liquidation IRR is not entirely unfamiliar for CLOs, but independently capturing the market value of a portfolio of loans is a challenge, especially since these awards used, for the first time, consensus loan prices based on submissions from 30 CLO managers. The winners are CLOs that have generated strong equity returns while protecting debt investors.

As usual we segmented the industry into European and US CLOs, and further divided up the categories into seasoned deals (pre-2006), boom-years CLOs (2006 to 2008), and recent deals (2008 onwards).

The US awards saw a variety of managers triumph, including Credit Suisse Asset Management and Apollo. The European vintages were both taken by Alcentra.

A final CLO award, that for most improved CLO, looked not at lifetime performance but at the



Michael Damaso (right), senior managing director and co-head of corporate credit at Guggenheim, is congratulated by Creditflux editor Mike Peterson

improvement in portfolio quality in 2011 alone, based on a combination of overcollateralisation test results and WARF values.

For credit funds, the methodology looked at what investors really want: performance that consistently outstrips a fund's peers. Based on our monthly performance tables, the winner was chosen by weighting absolute return in 2011 with a measure of how consistently a fund outperformed similar funds.

Among many worthy winners were Assenagon and Orchard. CQS took the prestigious best credit fund: long term achievement award.

The overall awards looked across

a manager's activity. The best CLO manager was CVC Credit Partners, reflecting outstanding results for its US and European CLOs. The best credit fund manager award was given to Chenavari for strong performance in multiple strategies.

The biggest award of the night was, of course, for the Creditflux manager of the year. There are few managers who combine excellence in CLO and credit fund management, and Guggenheim was a very worthy winner.

The Manager Awards 2013 will be held at the same time next year, and we welcome any feedback or suggestions on methodology. Please contact Steven Henny on +44 20 3051 7692 or at steven.henny@creditflux.com.



Ben Edgar,
Jonathan Bowers
& David Quirolo

Best CLO Manager
Sponsored by Ashurst
CVC Credit Partners



Andrew Marshak
& David Bell

Best seasoned US CLO
Sponsored by BNY Mellon
Atrium CDO – Credit Suisse Asset Management

Finalists: 1888 Fund – Guggenheim, Apidos CDO I – CVC Credit Partners, Atrium CDO – Credit Suisse Asset Management, Symphony CLO I – Symphony



Michael Damaso
& Robert Hershey

Best boom-years CLO (2006-2008)
Sponsored by Morgan Stanley
Copper River CLO – Guggenheim

Finalists: Babson CLO 2006-II – Babson Capital, Copper River CLO – Guggenheim, Madison Park Funding II – Credit Suisse Asset Management, Symphony CLO V – Symphony



Alexander Wright
& John Convery

Best recent US CLO
Sponsored by Deutsche Bank
ALM Loan Funding 2010-1 – Apollo

Finalists: ALM Loan Funding 2010-1 – Apollo, ALM Loan Funding 2010-3 – Apollo, Babson CLO 2011-I – Babson Capital, Morningside Park – GSO / Blackstone



Ian Wolkoff &
David Forbes-Nixon

Best seasoned European CLO
Sponsored by Goldman Sachs
Jubilee II – Alcentra

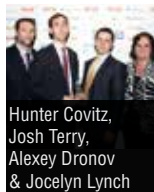
Finalists: Cougar 1 – M&G Investments, Jubilee II – Alcentra, Jubilee IV – Alcentra, Leopard 1 – M&G Investments



Adam Gelder &
David Forbes-Nixon

Best boom-years European CLO (2006-2008)
Sponsored by Deutsche Bank
ECF Financing – Alcentra

Finalists: Cordatus Loan Fund I – CVC Credit Partners, Cordatus Loan Fund II – CVC Credit Partners, ECF Financing – Alcentra, Laurelin – GoldenTree



Hunter Covitz,
Josh Terry,
Alexey Dronov
& Jocelyn Lynch

Most improved CLO
Sponsored by BNY Mellon
Red River CLO I – Highland Capital

Finalists: Carlyle High Yield Partners IX – Carlyle, GSC Partners CDO Fund V – Black Diamond Capital, Red River CLO I – Highland Capital, Sapphire Valley CDO I – Babson Capital



Demian Brasil &
Richard Reilly

Best credit fund manager
Sponsored by DLA Piper
Chenavari



Jason Walker,
Ali Lumsden
& Joe Feerick

Best credit fund: long term achievement
Sponsored by MarketAxess
CQS ABS Feeder Fund – CQS

Finalists: Avoca Credit Alpha Fund – Avoca Capital, BlueMountain Credit Alternatives Fund – BlueMountain, CQS ABS Feeder Fund – CQS, Pines Edge Value Investors Fund – Pine River Capital



John Young,
Paul Horvath
& Joe Feerick

Best relative value credit hedge fund
Sponsored by MarketAxess
ChapelGate Credit Opps Fund – Orchard

Finalists: BlueMountain Credit Alternatives Fund – BlueMountain, ChapelGate Credit Opps Fund – Orchard, III Relative Value Fund – AVMM/III, Raven Rock Credit Fund – Raven Rock Capital



Olivier Gozlan

Best ABS/CDO hedge fund
Crystal Fund II – Crystal Fund

Finalists: Alcentra Structured Credit Opportunity Fund II – Alcentra, Toro Capital IA – Chenavari, Crystal Fund II – Crystal Fund, Uniqa Structured Credit Fund – Uniqa Alternative Investments



Miguel Ramos,
Marisa Virseda
& Poh Heng Tan

Best permacap CLO fund
Carador – GSO Capital

Finalists: Carador – GSO Capital, Tetragon – Tetragon Financial



Wolfgang
Klopfer & Jochen
Felsenheimer

Best Ucits III/IV credit fund
Assenagon Credit Basis II – Assenagon

Finalists: Assenagon Credit Basis I – Assenagon, Assenagon Credit Basis II – Assenagon, Avoca Credit Absolute Return Fund – Avoca Capital, LBBW Pro-Fund Credit I – LBBW Structured Investment & Management



Jim Carbone

Best high yield hedge fund
III Credit Opportunities Fund – III Offshore Partners

Finalists: Highland Capital Management Diversified Credit Fund – Highland Capital, III Credit Opportunities Fund – AVMM/III, NZC Guggenheim Master Fund Limited – Guggenheim, WhiteHorse Credit Fund 1 – WhiteHorse Capital Partners