Western Asset
A Franklin Templeton Company

James J. So, CFA

Product Specialist
Western Asset Management Company, LLC

James J. So is a Product Specialist at Western Asset. He has 29 years of industry experience and is based in the Pasadena office. He is focused on liability-driven investing and investment-grade credit. Prior to joining the Firm in 2003, he served as Senior Associate of Structured Products Trading at J.P.Morgan.

After graduating from the University of California Los Angeles, James worked as a Senior Accountant at Deloitte & Touche. He also holds the CFA® designation.

Elliott R. Neumayer

Product Specialist
Western Asset Management Company, LLC

Elliott R. Neumayer is a Product Specialist at Western Asset. He has 22 years of industry experience and is based in the Pasadena office. He is responsible for Mortgage and Consumer Credit and Short Duration strategies. Previously, Elliott focused on Western Asset's mutual fund and closed-end fund businesses as a Product Specialist after serving as a member of the Client Service Team. Before joining Western Asset in 2004, he was a Senior Associate at Marshall & Stevens.

Elliott earned his MBA and Bachelor of Arts from Loyola Marymount University

Robert O. Abad

Product Specialist
Western Asset Management Company, LLC

Robert O. Abad is a Product Specialist at Western Asset. He has 36 years of industry experience and is based in the Pasadena office. Robert is a member of the Emerging Markets Investment Team, the Multi-Asset Credit Investment Team, the Global Multi-Sector Investment Team, and the Global Portfolio Team. He formerly served as a Portfolio Manager and Research Analyst on the Firm's Emerging Markets Team. Prior to joining Western Asset in 2006, Robert was Senior Credit Officer and Market Risk Manager for Citigroup Investment Banking, a post he held from 2002 to 2006. He has also held positions as Investment Strategist at Fiduciary Trust International, Assistant Portfolio Manager at Global Emerging Markets Advisors, Emerging Market Debt Analyst at Merrill Lynch, and as an Analyst at Equitable. Robert was also an Adjunct Professor of Finance and a Member of the Board of Advisors at Claremont Graduate University's Drucker School of Management.

Robert holds an MBA and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University, a Certificate in Journalism and a Certificate in Sustainability (both with distinction) from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor of Science from New York University.

Brishni Mukhopadhyay, CFA

Product Specialist
Western Asset Management Company Limited

Brishni Mukhopadhyay is a Product Specialist at Western Asset. He has 16 years of industry experience and is based in the London office. Brishni's main area of focus is in Sustainable Investments and ESG. Prior to joining the Firm in 2021, Brishni was a Sustainable Investment and ESG Product Specialist with Lazard Asset Management. He also worked within Client Strategy at J.P.Morgan Asset Management from 2014 to 2020 and was a member of the Sustainable Investment Leadership Team. Brishni began his career as an EMEA Credit, Rates and Repo Analyst with J.P. Morgan Investment Bank.

He holds a Master of Science in Operations Research (Finance) from Columbia University and a Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Sheffield. He is a CFA® charterholder. Brishni also chairs the CFA Institute's ESG Advisory board. This working group is responsible for launching the CFA Certificate in ESG Investing. Brishni is also a part-time tutor on Sustainable Finance at the University of Cambridge's Institute for Sustainable Leadership (CISL) Post Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business.

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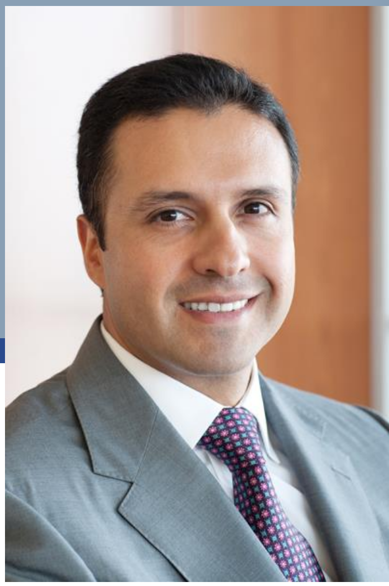
Nicholas Mastroianni, CFA

Portfolio Manager
Western Asset Management Company, LLC

Nicholas Mastroianni is a Portfolio Manager at Western Asset. He has 18 years of industry experience and is based in the Pasadena office. Nick is a member of the Broad Market team with a focus on short- and intermediate-duration portfolios. He is a member of Western Asset's US Investment Strategy Committee, Global Investment Strategy Committee, Investment Advisory and and contributes to the Thought Leadership Committee. He is also a member of the Derivatives Team. Prior to working in the Investment Management Team, he worked in Fund Administration, Portfolio Compliance, and Client Service.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern California and is a CFA® Charterholder.



Alfredo Rios

Institutional Sales Manager
Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC

Alfredo Rios is a Client Service Executive at Western Asset. He has 30 years of industry experience and is based in the New York office. Prior to joining the Firm in 2007, Alfredo served as Vice President, Latin America for US Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management. He also held various senior client service and marketing positions at BBVA Bancomer Asset Management and Citigroup Asset Management.

Alfredo holds a Master of Science degree in Finance from the International Business School at Brandeis University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

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MEET YOUR SPEAKER

Alejandro Vargas Castañeda

Senior Investment Learning Consultant

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Background

Alejandro's facilitation career began in the educational sector focusing on curriculum design and implementation. Over the years, he developed an affinity for human and career development shifting his focus to training in the public and private sectors.

Prior to joining the Academy, Alejandro served as a consultant developing strategic plans, managing projects, and facilitating training programs on demand. Concurrently, he has been immersed in the neuroscience of learning, understanding the brain's processes to efficiently design programs and ensure tangible learning outcomes.

Credentials and awards

Alejandro holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Applied Mathematics and a Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Corporate Finance. Additionally, he holds certifications in Leadership and Supervisory Management.

Personal

Currently based in Mexico City, Alejandro enjoys hiking with his dog and reading.

Franklin Templeton Academy delivers the knowledge you need to stay current and move ahead. We strive to provide value beyond investing to financial professionals so that you, in turn, can provide superior service to your clients.

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