

Private Debt Investor

AWARDS 2021

Leading the way

A warm welcome to the *Private Debt Investor* Awards for 2021, highlighting the managers, institutional investors and advisers that have, in the eyes of their peers, set the benchmark during the year.

There are 53 categories in this year's awards, now in their ninth year, across three regions: the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific, as well as the much-coveted global prizes. Awards up for grabs included Fund Manager of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Investor of the Year, Deal of the Year, and for the first time, Responsible Investor of the Year.

The result of thousands of reader vote, they remain the only awards that are decided solely by – and for – the industry. Choosing the winners is a painstaking process. Every November, our global editorial team starts soliciting the views of colleagues and contacts in the market to find out which firms, funds and deals that stood out during this most challenging of years.

We then draw up a shortlist of four and let you decide the winner, even including a fifth write-in box to suggest an alternative, in case you think we left anyone out. We then invite you, our readers, to cast your votes online throughout December and early January. Finally, our editorial team stringently vets the results to ensure they fully comply with our rules.

As ever, votes poured in from all over the world, proving yet again that these really are the most keenly contested awards in the private debt industry.

Highlights included Blackstone Credit claiming the coveted Fund Manager of the Year, Global award after a stellar year that saw record deployment of \$11.2 billion in the third quarter, driven by \$8.6 billion from US direct lending. During the second and third quarters, credit became the fastest growing segment of the firm.

Intriguingly, the global gong for Newcomer of the Year went to the asset management unit of a bank, HSBC, which says all you need to know about the growing attraction of private credit to the banking community.

We were especially pleased to add the Responsible Investor of the Year awards this year. *Private Debt Investor* has a proud history of charting ESG's growing role in lending – we published our first Responsible Investment supplement last year with the 2022 edition planned for April – so it was pleasing to see this area recognised. Blackstone Credit, KKR, Tikehau Capital and HSBC/Temasek Holdings picked up the four gongs this year, in hotly contested races.

Congratulations to all the winners and the runners-up. The following pages detail their achievements and show just why the private debt industry is seeing such incredible growth as an asset class.

Roll of honour

GLOBAL

Fund Manager of the Year
Blackstone Credit

Newcomer of the Year
HSBC Asset Management

Deal of the Year
Straive (Huatai International)

CLO Manager of the Year
Blackstone Credit

Distressed Debt and Special Situations Investor of the Year
Oaktree Capital Management

Fundraising of the Year
Ares Management

Responsible Investor of the Year
Blackstone Credit

AMERICAS

Lender of the Year
Golub Capital

Senior Lender of the Year
Monroe Capital

Junior Lender of the Year
Ares Management

Lower Mid-Market Lender of the Year
Monroe Capital

BDC Manager of the Year
Blackstone Credit

Distressed Debt and Special Situations Investor of the Year
Silver Point Capital

CLO Manager of the Year
Golub Capital

Infrastructure Debt Manager of the Year
Brookfield Asset Management

Real Estate Debt Manager of the Year
KKR

Deal of the Year
Stamps.com (Blackstone Credit)

Fundraising of the Year
Apollo Global Management

Investor of the Year
CPP Investments

Law Firm of the Year
Kirkland & Ellis

Placement and Advisory Firm of the Year
PJT Park Hill

Speciality Finance Lender of the Year
Atalaya Capital Management

Fund Financier of the Year
Crestline Investors

Responsible Investor of the Year
KKR

EUROPE

Lender of the Year
Park Square Capital

Senior Lender of the Year
Pemberton

Junior Lender of the Year
Park Square Capital

Lower Mid-Market Lender of the Year
HIG WhiteHorse Europe

Distressed Debt and Special Situations Investor of the Year
LCM Partners

CLO Manager of the Year
CVC Credit

Infrastructure Debt Manager of the Year
BlackRock Real Assets

Real Estate Debt Fund Manager of the Year
Cheyne Capital

Deal of the Year
ReLife Group (Pemberton)

Fundraising of the Year
Ares Management

Speciality Lender of the Year
LCM Partners

Law Firm of the Year
Kirkland & Ellis

Placement and Advisory Firm of the Year
Evercore Private Funds Group

Investor of the Year
European Investment Fund

SME Lender of the Year
TREA Direct Lending

Responsible Investor of the Year
Tikehau Capital

ASIA-PACIFIC

Lender of the Year
Huatai International

Senior Lender of the Year
Ares SSG

Junior Lender of the Year
KKR

Distressed Debt and Special Situations Investor of the Year
Vårde Partners

Real Estate Debt Fund Manager of the Year
Huatai International

Infrastructure Debt Manager of the Year
Partners Group

Deal of the Year
Straive (Huatai International)

Fundraising of the Year
Ares SSG

Law Firm of the Year
Kirkland & Ellis

Placement and Advisory Firm of the Year
Evercore Private Funds Group

Investor of the Year
Temasek Holdings

Speciality Finance Lender of the Year
Charismatic Capital

Responsible Investor of the Year
HSBC/Temasek Holdings