

A.J. Edwards, CFA

aje45@cornell.edu

C-Suite Investment Professional

High-integrity, institutional investor with more than 30 years of experience across all asset classes within various institutions, including an Ivy League Endowment as Chief Investment Officer and a large corporate pension fund. Focused on institutional/client needs and generating returns as efficiently as possible. Experience managing 401(k) and 403(b) DC plans. My teaching experience, combined with regular presentations to Boards, and large and small groups, allows me to connect with audiences at their level. My background as Chief Investment Officer, buy-side investor, Board member, VC investor, company CEO, and professor gives me a unique perspective that benefits stakeholders in multiple ways.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cayuga Venture Fund (CVF) | **Operating Partner** 2018 - Present

Manage current portfolio of companies • Active on several company Boards • Fundraising efforts for portfolio companies • Interact daily with portfolio company CEOs/founders/investors • Time spent as **Chief Executive Officer** of a portfolio company: Appointed by the Board after issues with prior leadership • Introduced new products and attained needed regulatory certifications • Responsible for raising millions in investment capital

Completed two consulting projects for a \$5 billion private credit asset manager 2016 - 2017

Cornell University Office of University Investments | **Chief Investment Officer** 2008 - 2016

CIO from 2011-2016, SIO from 2008-2011 • \$6.5 billion endowment (at time of departure) • Staff of 20 investment professionals and >\$15 million office budget • Invested across all asset classes • **Outperformed benchmarks • Improved relative performance compared to Ivy and Ivy+ peers • Cash gifts to endowment almost doubled during my tenure • Focused on simplifying the portfolio and generating returns in the most efficient manner possible** • Managed large portfolios for donors outside of the Endowment for earmarked building projects • Presented to/met with donors, individually and in large group settings • Member of the Retirement Plan Oversight Committee managing the \$2 billion 403(b) plan • Member of several internal Cornell committees, including: Debt Advisory, Technology Transfer

Northeast Utilities (now Eversource Energy), Berlin, CT | **Trust Investments Manager** 2001 - 2008

Managed \$2.5 billion DB pension plan (at time of departure) • Oversight for \$1.3 billion 401k plan • Managed the \$25 million NU Foundation

Wright Investors' Service, Milford, CT (now Shelton, CT) | **Senior Investment Analyst** 1993 - 2001

AUM \$4 billion at departure • Member of the research team responsible for recommending public equities for institutional and HNW portfolios • Domestic, EAFE and Emerging Markets exposure

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cornell University | S.C. Johnson College of Business

2017 – 2022; 2024

Undergraduate Courses

AEM 3060 *A Practitioner's Overview of Securities Markets and Asset Management*

HADM 2250 *Finance*

Graduate Courses

MGMT 5830 *Investments*

NBAY 5300 *Entrepreneurial Finance*

NBAY 5301 *Intro to Entrepreneurial Finance: Firm Valuation and Term Sheets*

NBAB 6560 *Valuation*

EDUCATION

Cornell University | Executive Harold D. Craft Leadership Program

2011

Fairfield University | MS in Mathematics

2007

Thesis: “*Empirical Analysis of Credit Risk Regime Switching and Temporal Conditional Default Correlation in Credit Default Swap Valuation: The Market Liquidity Effect*”

University of Connecticut | MBA in Finance

1997

University of Connecticut | BA in Economics and Political Science

1993

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

2000

PUBLICATIONS

“Empirical Analysis of Credit Risk Regime Switching and Temporal Conditional Default Correlation in Credit Default Swap Valuation: The Market Liquidity Effect”

The IUP (Icfai) Journal of Financial Risk Management; Co-authored with Kwamie Dunbar, PhD

June 2008

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

CFA Institute
CFA Society of Rochester

OTHER

Guest Speaker NBA4120/NBA 5220, <i>Equity Research and Analysis</i> , Cornell SCJGSM*	2023 - 2024
Guest Lecturer Worcester Polytechnic Institute, The Business School	2023
Guest Lecturer Cayuga MBA Fund, Cornell SCJGSM	2015 - 2022
Judge NBA 3000/NBA 5640, <i>Designing New Ventures</i> ; Cornell SCJGSM	2019 – 2021
Investment Committee Member Science Center Discovery Museum, Ithaca, NY	2013 - 2020
Board Member Science Center Discovery Museum, Ithaca, NY	2016 - 2020
Audit Committee Member Science Center Discovery Museum, Ithaca NY	2019 - 2020
Guest Speaker Various Cornell Student Investment clubs	

*: S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management