

## Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

April 4, 2018

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## **About Western Asset**



## **About Western Asset**

Western Asset is a globally integrated fixed-income manager, sourcing ideas and investment solutions worldwide.

#### Western Asset At a Glance

- Founded in 1971. Independent affiliate of Legg Mason since 1986
- Fixed-income value investors
- \$442.2 billion (USD) AUM
  - \$376.4 billion (USD) long-term assets
  - \$65.8 billion (USD) cash and cash equivalent assets
- 862 employees

#### Organizational Pillars

- Clients first
- Globally integrated
- Team-based
- Active fixed-income
- Integrated risk management



#### Western Asset's Deep Global Integration Allows Us to Source Investment Ideas and Investment Solutions Across Regions

## Investment Management

- 129 investment professionals on five continents and in seven offices
- 22 years of average experience
- 34 portfolio and quantitative analysts in portfolio operations

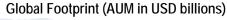
#### Client Service & Marketing

- 171 staff dedicated to client service
- Specialized teams to meet individual client needs

### Risk Management & Operations

- Independent risk management function with 33 professionals including 12 PhDs
- 399 staff dedicated to globally integrated operations

Source: Western Asset. As of 31 Dec 17
\*Splits time between Hong Kong and Singapore offices







## **Investment Solutions**

Western Asset offers a full range of fixed-income products that can be tailored to meet the needs of our clients.

#### Identifying Investment Solutions to Align With Client Objectives and Risk Tolerances

- Protect from rising ratesProtect from inflation
- Preserve capitalDiversify globally
- Hedge liabilitiesEnhance income

- Generate tax-free income
- Generate total return

#### Selected Investment Strategies

#### **Broad Market**

- Global Core/Core Full Discretion
- Regional Core/Core Full Discretion
- Regional Intermediate
- Global Sovereign

#### Long Duration / LDI

- Long Duration
- Long Credit
- Liability-Driven Investing

#### Inflation-Linked

- US TIPS
- Global Inflation-Linked

#### Credit

- Global Credit
- Investment-Grade Credit
- Global High-Yield
- US Bank Loans
- US High-Yield
- Short-Duration High Income

#### Mortgage / Asset-Backed

- Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities
- Structured Products
- Diversified Loan Opportunities
- MBS Opportunities

#### **US Municipals**

- Short Duration Muni
- Intermediate Muni
- Managed Muni

#### **Unconstrained / Alternatives**

- Macro Opportunities
- Total Return Unconstrained
- Global Total Return
- Multi-Asset Credit
- Global Multi-Sector
- Tail Risk Protection

#### **Emerging Markets Debt**

- EMD Diversified
- EMD Local Currency Sovereign Debt
- EMD USD Corporate Credit
- EMD USD Sovereign
- EMD Total Return

#### Liquidity / Short Duration

- Money Market
- Enhanced Cash
- Limited Duration



## **About Western Asset - Clients**

#### Committed to excellence in client service

#### Representative Client List

#### Corporate

American Cast Iron Pipe Company

ArcelorMittal USA Inc.

Arconic Inc

AT&T Services, In.

Atmos Energy Corporation

Baver Corporation

Campbell Soup Company

Caterpillar Inc.

Chrysler LLC

Clark Enterprises, Inc.

CNH Global N.V.

Consolidated Communications Holdings, LLC

Consolidated Edison Company Of New York, Inc.

Consolidated Rail Corporation

Deutsche Bank Americas Holding Corp.

First Data Corporation

Graphic Packaging International Incorporated

Hawaiian Telcom

Highbury Pacific Capital Corp.

International Paper Company

John Lewis Partnership Pensions Trust

Kennametal

Lennox International, Inc.

Meiier, Inc.

Nestle USA, Inc.

Nisource. Inc.

NXP Semiconductor, Inc.

Orbital ATK

PCS Administration (USA), Inc

Pensioenfonds Horeca & Catering

Southern California Edison

Stichting Pensioenfonds DSM-Nederland

Thomson Reuters

**Unisys Corporation** 

Verizon

Westlake Chemical Corporation

Whirlpool Corporation

XPO Logistics

#### Public / Gov. / Sovereign Wealth

Anne Arundel (MD) Retirement Systems

Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System

California State Teachers' Retirement System

City of Grand Rapids

City of Orlando

City of Phoenix Employees' Retirement System

compenswiss

East Bay Municipal Utility District

ERS of the City of Baton Rouge & Parish of E. BR

ERS of the State of Rhode Island

Fife Council Pension Fund

Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

Georgia Municipal Association

Gloucestershire County Council

Government of Bermuda Public Funds

Hampshire County Council

Indiana State Treasurer's Office

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System

LA County Employees Retirement Association Louisiana Sheriff's Pension & Relief Fund

Louisiana Sheriii S Pension & Reliei Fund

Marin County Employees' Retirement Association

Minnesota State Board of Investment

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund

Oklahoma City Employee Retirement System

Orange County Transportation Authority

Oregon Investment Council

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

Public School Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund

of Chicago

Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and

Power District

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

State of Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation

Surrey County Council

Tennessee Valley Authority

Ventura County Employees' Retirement Association

Washington Metro Area Transit Authority

Wichita (KS) Retirement Systems Wyoming Retirement System

#### Multi-Employer / Unions

1199SEIU Health Care Employees Pension Fund

Alaska Electrical Trust Funds

Austin Firefighters Relief & Retirement Fund

Automotive Machinists Pension Trust

Boilermaker Blacksmith National Pension Trust

Carpenters District Council of Kansas City Construction Industry Laborers

Directors Guild of America-PPHP

Heavy & General Laborers' Locals 472/172

IBFW Local 25

IBEW Local No. 9

Iron Workers Local #11 Benefit Funds

IUOEE Construction Ind Ret Plan. Locals 302 and 612

Line Construction Benefit Fund

National Asbestos Workers

National Education Association of the United States

New England Healthcare Emp Union, 1199, AFL-CIO

New Jersey Transit

Operating Engineers Local #428 Trust Funds

Pacific Coast Roofers

Retail Wholesale & Department Store Union

S. Nevada Culinary & Bartenders Pension Trust Fund UA Union Local No. 290 Plumber. Steamfitter &

Shipfitter Industry Pension Trust

UFCW Union Local 919

W. Washington Laborers Employers Pension Trust

#### Healthcare

Ascension Investment Management

Baptist Healthcare System, Inc.

Baylor Scott & White Holdings

Catholic Health Initiatives

CHRISTUS Health

Gundersen Health System

Holy Name Medical Center

Kaiser Permanente

LCMC Health

NorthShore University HealthSystem

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine Health System, Inc.

St. George Corporation

#### Eleemosynary

Abilene Christian University

American Academy in Rome

Baha'i' World Centre

Commonfund

Communities Foundation of Texas

Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society ECUSA

Glass—Glen Burnie Foundation

Saint Louis University

Strada Education Network. Inc.

Texas Presbyterian Foundation

The Diocese of Allentown

The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation

The University of Iowa Center for Advancement

United Negro College Fund

University of Southern California

University of Wisconsin Foundation

Wallace H. Coulter Foundation

Washington State University

#### Insurance

American Contractors Insurance Group

Anthem, Inc.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Capital BlueCross

Catalina Holdings (Bermuda) Ltd

Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company

Health Care Service Corporation

Oil Investment Corporation Ltd.

#### Sub-Advisory

Asset Management One Co., Ltd. (AMOne)

AXA

Contassur GuideStone Capital Management, LLC

Legg Mason, Inc.

Morgan Stanley

Russell Investment Group

SEI Investments Corporation

Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management Company,

Limited (Institutional)
Tokio Marine Asset Management Co., Ltd. (Retail)

As of 28 Feb 18. Please see the Representative Client List Disclosure in the Appendix for more information. All have authorized the use of their names by Western Asset for marketing purposes. Such authorization does not imply approval, recommendation or otherwise of Western Asset or the advisory services provided.



## **About Western Asset**

## Public/Multi-Employer Channel Update

December 31, 2017

#### **Business Update**

#### Assets under management (as of 31 Dec 17)

- Total global Public Fund/Multi-Employer AUM of \$36.6 billion (USD)
- \$32.1 billion (USD) Public Fund assets
- \$4.5 billion (USD) Multi-Employer assets

#### Client solutions/conversations

- Attractive opportunities in fixed-income
- Macro Opportunities
- Multi-Asset Credit
- Retirements
- Portfolio Manager Carl L. Eichstaedt, CFA March 2019
- Chief Risk Officer Kenneth J. Winston, PhD December 2018

#### WISER (Western Information System for Estimating Risk)

- Proprietary risk system
- 700 portfolios analyzed daily
- 110,000 securities evaluated against 920 risk factors
- 35,000 of these securities are held in Western portfolios

#### **Upcoming client seminars**

- London (June 2018)
- Pasadena (October 2018)

#### **Notable Communications**

#### Noteworthy publications (available at www.westernasset.com)

- The Western Asset Approach to Unconstrained Investing: A Reprise by CIO Ken Leech
- Emerging Markets Local Debt: A Paradigm Lost? by Chia-Liang Lian, CFA
- Multi-Asset Credit (MAC): 7th Anniversary Edition by Deputy CIO Michael
   C. Buchanan, CFA

#### Webcast (available at www.westernasset.com)

Market & Strategy Outlook with CIO Ken Leech (January 2018)

#### Media appearances

- December 29, 2017: Bloomberg TV "Real Yield": Fixed Income Markets, Julien A. Scholnick, CFA
- December 22, 2017: Bloomberg.com: Profile on CIO Ken Leech
- December 14, 2017: CNBC, Power Lunch: Outlook for Bonds, John L. Bellows, PhD, CFA

#### Follow us on social media







# Relationship Summary February 28, 2018

	Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association
Portfolio Inception	May 2005
Market Value	\$207,868,348
Mandate	US - Credit IG*
Investment Objective	Exceed the return of the Index over the long term (5 years).
Benchmark	Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Credit
Duration	(+/-) 10% of the Benchmark
Alpha Target	50 bps
Tracking Error Budget	100 bps
	Min 95% investment grade (Barclays Method); Max 20% in Non-USD securities (fully
Diversification	hedged back to USD); Max 25% in global sovereign bonds (ex UST and Agency bonds);
	Max 5% per issuer, at time of purchase

<sup>\*</sup>Mandate changed from US Core Plus to UG Credit IG effective September 2014.



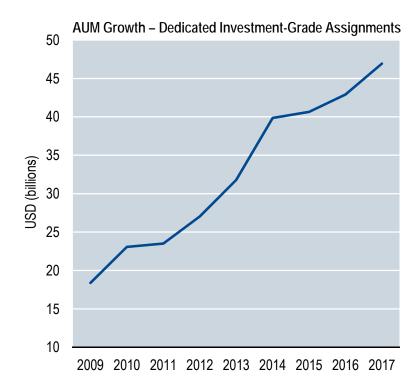
**Investment-Grade Credit Overview** 



## Western Asset Credit Assets Under Management

December 31, 2017

Investment-Grade Credit	\$108.67 billion
<ul> <li>89 US Investment-Grade Credit Assignments</li> </ul>	\$39.93
<ul> <li>33 Global &amp; Non-US Credit Assignments</li> </ul>	\$6.98
Broad Market Assignments	\$61.76
High-Yield	\$16.88
Bank Loan	\$9.89
<b>Emerging Market</b>	\$11.44
Total	\$146.88





## **Credit-Only Philosophy and Product Description**

## **Philosophy**

• We believe the ability to integrate superior <u>fundamental credit research</u> with <u>accurate relative-value analysis</u> will generate relative outperformance over a market cycle when <u>proper risk controls</u> are applied

## **Objective**

Seek to produce consistent excess returns

			Target	Duration			
		Target Alpha	Tracking Error	Target	Corporate	Governments	High-Yield
	Buy and Maintain	Yield Target	N/A	<b>←</b>	Clien	t Specific ———	<b>—</b>
Credit	Standard	50-60	100-120	+/- 5%	75%-100%	0%-25%	<5%
	Full Discretion	100-125	200-250	+/- 10%	75%-100%	0%-25%	0%-20%

Based on assignment, Western Asset has the ability to manage credit portfolios with greater/lesser risk tolerance depending on client's objectives



## **Global Credit Platform**

## By Region





## **Global Credit Team**

	S. Kenneth Leech (41 yrs) - Chief Ir	nvestment Officer Michael C. E	Buchanan, CFA (28 yrs) – Deputy Cl	nief Investment Officer
Portfolio Managers	Investment-Grade Credit Ryan K. Brist, CFA (25 yrs) – US Matthew D. Jackson (16 yrs) – UK Craig Jendra, CFA (22 yrs) – Australia Blanton Keh, CFA (18 yrs) – US Hiroyuki Kimura (31 yrs) - Japan Anthony Kirkham, CFA (28 yrs) – Australia Annabel Rudebeck (19 yrs) – UK	High-Yield Credit/Bank Loans Michael C. Buchanan, CFA (28 yrs) – US lan R. Edmonds (28 yrs) – UK Christopher N. Jacobs, CFA (30 yrs) – US Walter E. Kilcullen (21 yrs) – US Christopher Kilpatrick (21 yrs) – US Timothy J. Settel (25 yrs) – US Damon Shinnick, CFA (19 yrs) – Australia	Emerging Markets Credit Chia-Liang Lian, CFA (25 yrs) – US Sergio Evangelista (29 yrs) – Brazil Mark A. Hughes, CFA (20 yrs) – US Swee-Ching Lim (19 yrs) – Singapore Kevin Ritter, CFA (20 yrs) – US	Municipals Robert Amodeo, CFA (31 yrs) – US Charles Bardes (33 yrs) – US David T. Fare, CFA (31 yrs) – US Barbara Ferguson (33 yrs) – US John C. Mooney, CFA (31 yrs) – US
Research	Sebastian Angerer (9 yrs) – UK Financial Institutions Nathalie Cuadrado, CFA (18 yrs) – UK Industrials Ian Justice (20 yrs) – UK Infrastructure/Property/Structured Corporates Rene Ledis (25 yrs) – US Basic Industries/Utilities/Energy Yasuyuki Mochizuki (19 yrs) – Japan Credit Analyst Miguel Molina (9 yrs) – UK European Retail, Consumer Products/Services Paul S. Olsen* (35 yrs) – US Financial Institutions DeAndre L. Parks, CFA (25 yrs) – US Healthcare/Consumer Products/Retail Sean Rogan (29 yrs) – Australia Credit Analyst Ivor Schucking (27 yrs) – US Financial Institutions Davis Smith (29 yrs) – US Communications Constantin T. Wolf (16 yrs) – UK Credit Analyst	Michael T. Borowske (17 yrs) – US High-Yield Autos, Industrials, Gaming/Leisure, Utilities J. Gibson Cooper, CFA (31 yrs) – US Exploration & Production, Oil Field Services, Midstream, Refining, Chemicals William Cullinan (20 yrs) – US Technology, Paper, Packaging Ruchi Gupta (20 yrs) – UK European High-Yield Credit John C. Hwang (17 yrs) – US Structured Credit Michael S. Kim (17 yrs) – US Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Homebuilding, Building Products, Broadcasters Araceli M. Sibley (26 yrs) – US Consumer Products, Entertainment, Restaurants, Consumer Services, Textiles Suzanne M. Trepp, CFA (28 yrs) – US Aerospace/Defense, Transportation, Retail, Food & Beverage, Tobacco Florent Vallespir, CFA (25 yrs) – UK European High-Yield Credit	Daniel Araujo (34 yrs) – Brazil Banking, Insurance, Telecom Adriano Casarotto (22 yrs) – Brazil Capital Goods, Chemicals, Energy, Metals & Mining, Paper & Forest, Infrastructure Kevin Chang, CFA (18 yrs) – US Emerging Markets Credit Marcos Dal Collina (33 yrs) – Brazil Education, Health Care, Specialized Consumer Services, High Yield Patrick Conrad (21 yrs) – Brazil Brazil and Latin American Corporates Matthew Graves, CFA (13 yrs) – US Emerging Markets Credit Wontae Kim (7 yrs) – Singapore Asian (ex-Japan) Credit Caio Magano (17 yrs) – Brazil Auto Components, Transportation, Utilities Willian Murayama (14 yrs) – Brazil Securitization Jie Peng, CFA (13 yrs) – Singapore Asian (ex-Japan) Credit Alex Tanaka (18 yrs) – Brazil Building Products, Homebuilding, Real Estate Broker, Retailing	Judy Ewald (35 yrs) – US Health Care, Higher Education, Housing, Pre-Refunded, Tax Exempt Structured Michael Linko (26 yrs) – US Airports, Bridges and Tunnels, Mass Transit Toll Roads Bud Littman (25 yrs) – US Misc High-Yield, Public Facilities, Power, Spec Assessment Districts Kathryn L. Montgomery, CFA (11 yrs) – U Airport Revenue, Financial Institutions Higher Education, Ports Thea Okin (36 yrs) – US Assisted Living, Charter Schools, Nursing Hom Power, Water & Sewer Frederick Poon (18 yrs) – US Health Care, Industrial Revenue, Solid Waste, Tobacco
Trading	Daniel C. Alexander, CFA (14 yrs) – US Oberto Alvarez (25 yrs) – US Anthony Francis (13 yrs) – Australia Kurt D. Halvorson, CFA (17 yrs) – US Edward T. Ma, CFA (16 yrs) – US Chetna Mistry (21 yrs) – UK Molly Schwartz, CFA (14 yrs) – US	Sophala Chhoeng (12yrs) – US Brandon C. Jacoby, CFA (16 yrs) – US	Wilfred Wong, CFA (17 yrs) – US Desmond Fu (13 yrs) – Singapore	Joseph Genco (25 yrs) – US
Portfolio Analysts	Lawrence Daly, CFA (19 yrs) – Australia Lu Hou, CFA (10 yrs) – US Jean Lee, CFA (13 yrs) – UK	Brendan A. Bowman, CFA (13 yrs) – US Quentin Lafosse (11 yrs) – UK	Andy Song (13 yrs) – US Kevin X. Zhang (5 yrs) – US	David Curry (11yrs) – US Amish Dalal (12 yrs) – US Maria Pacifico (11 yrs) – US
	Bret Robertson, CFA (10 yrs) – US  James J. So, CFA (22 yrs) – US	Thomas V. McMahon (39 yrs) – US		Mindy Tran, CFA (16 yrs) – US

Catherine L. Matthews (31 yrs) – UK Global Products

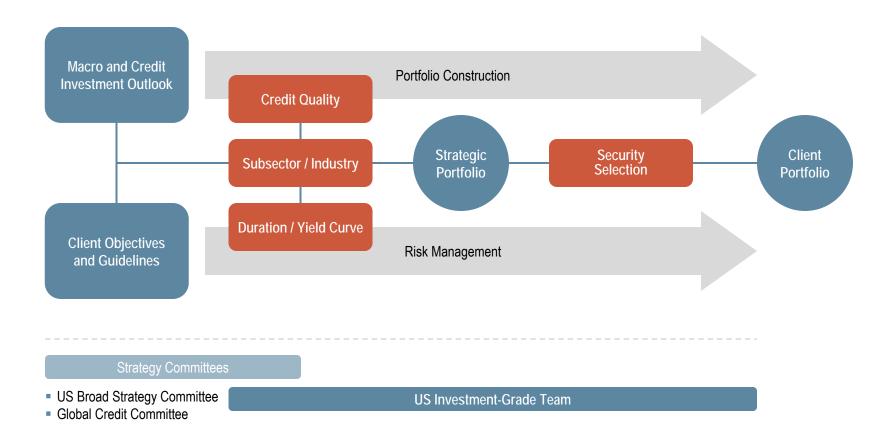
\*Dual responsibilities, shared with investment-grade and municipals team Group heads



## **Investment Process**

Our time-tested investment process is designed around our value philosophy and our team-based approach.

#### US Investment-Grade Investment Process and Team Interaction





## Continual Feedback Between Top Down and Bottom Up Views

Cross Membership in Key Committees Promotes Consistency Across Strategies

## Global Investment Strategy Committee

Meets weekly to evaluate and establish the global investment outlook.

## US Broad Strategy Committee

Meets weekly to evaluate and establish the US investment outlook.

Cross Membership		GISC	USBSC	GCC
		12 Members	15 Members	8 Members
S. Kenneth Leech	CIO	Х	Х	
Michael C. Buchanan, CFA	Deputy CIO	Х	Х	Х
Ryan K. Brist, CFA	Head of Global IG Credit		Х	Х
Chia-Liang Lian, CFA	Head of Emerging Markets Debt	Х	Х	Х
Annabel Rudebeck	Head of Non-US IG Credit	Х		Х
Rajiv Sachdeva	Head of Portfolio and Quantitative Analysis	Х	X	X
Timothy J. Settel	Senior HY/Bank Loan Portfolio Manager		Х	Х

### **Global Credit Committee**

Meets monthly to evaluate and establish firm wide credit themes.

Tuesday Credit Analysts Meeting Issue or sector thesis defense.



## **Global Credit Committee**

The Global Credit Committee sets the overall themes for the Firm's credit exposures.

#### **Global Credit Committee**

Michael C. Buchanan, CFA Deputy CIO, Global Credit

Ryan K. Brist, CFA Global Investment-Grade Ian R. Edmonds High-Yield, Euro / UK Walter E. Kilcullen US High-Yield Chia-Liang Lian, CFA Emerging Markets

Annabel Rudebeck Investment-Grade, Non-US Rajiv Sachdeva Portfolio & Quantitative Analysis

T.J. Settel Bank Loan

- Committee meets monthly to discuss, debate and ultimately determine overall firm wide credit themes
- Topics include comprehensive assessment regarding outlook for credit, as well as relativevalue analysis across all credit asset classes, industry biases and, at times, specific issuer review
- Evaluates risk factors and potential scenarios.
   Sets the risk tone for credit investment strategies



## Global Credit Committee - Views on Credit Asset Class

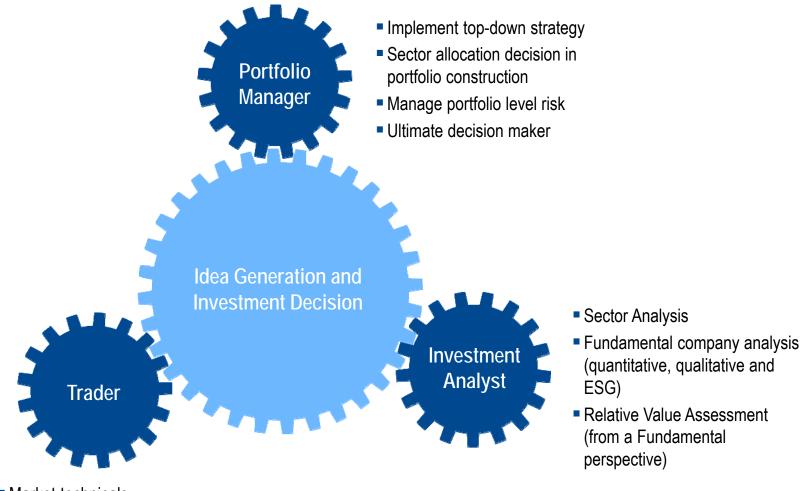
	Weight Rating	Quality Rating	Comments
Credit Overview	3	В	<ul> <li>Corporate credit fundamentals remain healthy. Conservative balance sheet oversight remains intact. We expect earnings growth to remain favorable led by top line growth while margins could feel pressure from labor and input costs</li> <li>While it is difficult to infer that credit valuations are cheap, we believe they represent fair value and would not hesitate to add on pullbacks. We believe there is meaningful dormant demand for credit at cheaper valuations due to the supportive fundamental backdrop</li> <li>We believe active managers should outperform passive given distortions created by ETFs (an increasing percentage of inflows are directed into ETFs, which ultimately reinvest in the same benchmark issues)</li> <li>Secondary liquidity is becoming increasingly concerning. While new issue demand has been robust and evidence of ample demand, secondary trading is limited and concentrated in the largest issues</li> </ul>
US HY	3	В	<ul> <li>In general, corporate fundamentals remain solid as seen in USHY 4Q17 earnings; however, we recognize that some deterioration resides in select subsectors. Prudent issue selection remains crucial as the margin for error is minimal</li> <li>Opportunities exist in the secondary market today as recent primary issuance in bellwether names has re-priced risk on a technical basis; strained trading liquidity persists in both directions</li> <li>Valuations have cheapened marginally with BBs underperforming other segments, resulting in potentially better entry points given underlying fundamentals and the favorable economic backdrop for credit markets</li> </ul>
Non-US HY	2	С	<ul> <li>Credit fundamentals still positive, but new issue leverage trends increasing</li> <li>Technicals still positive (net supply low). However, mutual fund outflows persist so markets are seeing two-way flow</li> <li>Market participants becoming more concerned over future capital flows around ECB policy path; remains supportive for now</li> <li>Valuations less expensive but volatility and dispersion increasing (UK consumer/retail and European telecoms under pressure)</li> <li>Continue to prefer B rated issues via primary and select below par secondary market opportunities</li> </ul>
US IG	2	В	<ul> <li>Corporate fundamentals continue to be strong across the majority of sectors with tax reform as an added tailwind. Leverage in challenged sectors (telecom/retail) is elevated and warrants caution</li> <li>Overall market technicals remain very positive; inflows appear steady coupled with lower supply due to repatriation/tax reform</li> <li>We think valuations in investment-grade credit are fair, (credit index back to +100) opportunity set is increasing with near term widening in risk premiums</li> </ul>
Non-US IG	3	С	<ul> <li>Fundamentals and technicals underpin optically tight valuations</li> <li>Speculation over near-term path of ECB policy key in 2018</li> <li>Bias to financials over non-financials. Favor issuers not included in the ECB purchase program</li> </ul>
Bank Loans	4	В	<ul> <li>Loans continue to be in high demand due to rising LIBOR rates (2.13% for 3 month LIBOR), strong fundamentals, and demand from CLOs ramping new platforms</li> <li>We continue to upgrade the quality and positioning of our portfolio. We now have an underweight to the volatile energy servicing sector, the merchant power producing sector, and the CCC ratings category</li> <li>We continue to find loans relatively attractive given the expected rise in LIBOR rates, strong fundamentals, and anticipated low default rates. We would be more optimistic on loans, but we recognize that upside is limited given over 70% of the market is trading above 100</li> </ul>
CEMBI	3	В	<ul> <li>Despite historically tight valuations, we remain constructive on select EM corporates currently benefiting from resurgent sovereign fundamentals and conservative balance sheet management</li> <li>We continue to view the EM new issue calendar as the best way to selectively allocate to the sector, with local currency debt and frontier sovereigns available as higher-yielding alternatives</li> </ul>

As of 09 Mar 18. Ratings shown should not be viewed as a proxy to any rating provided by a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization. Weight ratings are denoted 1 to 5. The scale is formulated in such a way that 5 is given to credit asset classes we feel offer the most compelling risk/reward opportunities and 1 is assigned to those credit asset classes where Western Asset sees little investment opportunity. Quality ratings indicate within an asset class where Western Asset believes investment opportunities do or do not exist and are denoted by A, B or C. The scale is formulated in such a way that A represents the highest-rated issuers and C represents the lower-rated issuers.

WESTERNASSET

## **Idea Generation**

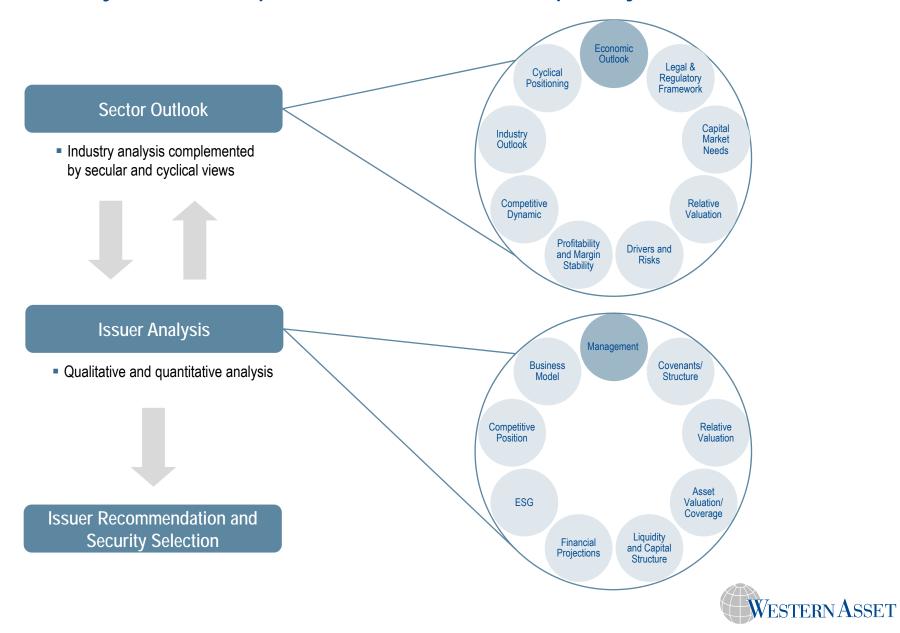
## A Three-Pronged Team Approach



- Market technicals
- Relative value assessment (from a market perspective)



# Sector Analysis: Top-Down Outlook Influences Sector Views Issuer Analysis: Bottom-Up Research Is Our Core Competency



## **Sell Discipline and Willingness to Avoid Participation**

## **Revised credit opinion**

Relevant change to our original premise that affects our fundamental valuation

### **Target valuation**

Security meets/exceeds our relative value target

## Avoiding the "losers" is as important as investing in the "winners"

Risk associated with owning or holding the security does not justify the expected return

Material price change up or down will trigger a full team credit review



## **Investment-Grade Credit Portfolio Construction**

## Top-Down

	Portfolio Construction	Return Characteristic	Idea Generation	Investment Criteria	Holding Period	Recent Examples
	Opportunistic 5%–15%	Price	Trading ✓ Research Portfolio Manager	Liquidity Imbalance	Short-Dated	Subordinated issue (CoCos) September New Issue Calendar
Oj	Under Valued 25%–35%	Price and Income	Trading Research ✓ Portfolio Manager	Upgrade/ Downgrade	Intermediate	Voya (ING USA) Anadarko (APC) Pernod (Xover) European subordinate paper Verizon
Portfolio	Core Holdings 50%–70%	Income	Trading ✓ Research ✓ Portfolio Manager ✓	Stable Holding	Longer-Dated	Citigroup (\$150 B) Bank of America (\$150 B) GE (\$243 B) Ford (\$67 B) Anheuser-Busch (\$180 B) Eaton Corp. (\$32 B)



## Risk Management

Areas of Focus

Market & Credit Risk Committee

Strategy and portfolio reviews

Dispersion analysis

Counterparty risk exposures (dollar-weighted, risk-weighted)

Liquidity analysis—portfolios tiered by liquidity class

Risk dashboards

Prediction/outcome analysis

Systems review and enhancement



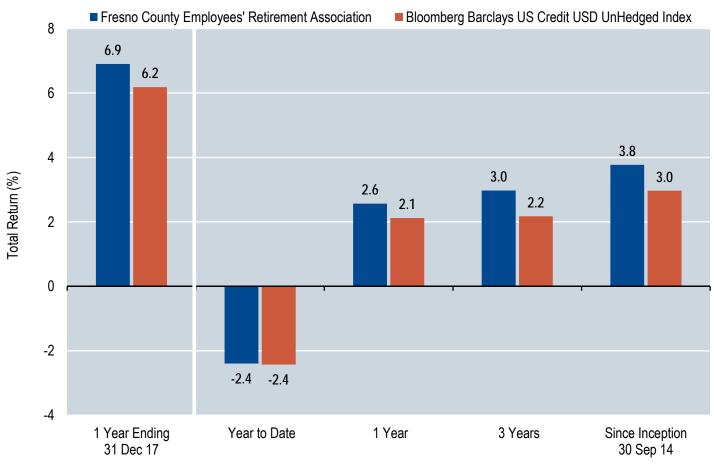
## Portfolio Review



## **Investment Results**

## Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association vs. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Credit Index February 28, 2018





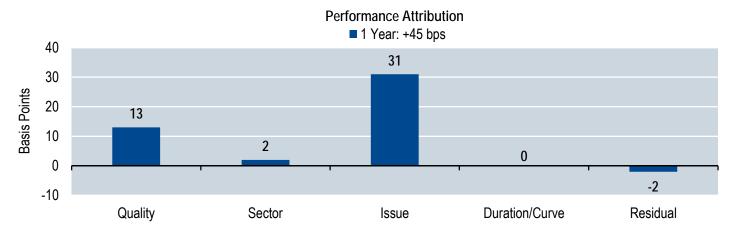
Source: Bloomberg Barclays, Western Asset

Performance shown is gross of fees. The account's actual return will be reduced by those fees and any other expenses chargeable to the account. The fee schedule for this strategy may be found in Part 2 of Western Asset's Form ADV. As fees are deducted quarterly, the compounding effect will be to increase the impact of the fees by an amount directly related to the gross account performance. For example, on an account with a 1% annual fee, if the gross performance were 10%, the compounding effect of the fees would result in a net performance of approximately 8.93%. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Returns since inception are as of the indicated close of business day.

WESTERNASSET

## **Attribution Analysis**

## Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association vs. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Credit Index February 28, 2018



## 1 Year Ending February 28, 2018

- Quality positioning had a positive impact on performance due to a bias towards lower quality bonds. Over the 12 month period, lower quality cohorts outperformed in what was largely a risk-on period
- Sector allocation aided relative performance. An overweight to commodity producers (energy and metals and mining) was a primary driver of outperformance. Maintaining underweights to consumer cyclicals and technology was also positive for performance. An allocation to treasuries, which generally underperformed credit in 2017, detracted from performance
- Issue selection contributed significantly to relative performance. Overweights to select issuers in banking and metals and mining along with underweights within consumer non-cyclicals drove outperformance
- Duration and curve positioning had a neutral effect on performance

## **Portfolio Characteristics**

## Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association vs. Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Credit Index February 28, 2018

	28 Feb 17	28 Feb 18	28 Feb 18
	Portfolio	Portfolio	Index
	MV (%)	MV (%)	MV (%)
Treasury	0.1	0.9	0.0
Financial Institutions	33.3	32.7	26.8
Banking	23.4	23.7	19.5
Brokerage	1.1	0.9	0.8
Finance Companies	3.2	1.5	0.8
Financial Other	8.0	8.0	0.0
Insurance	4.5	5.0	3.6
REITS	0.2	0.7	2.1
Industrials	52.7	52.4	50.5
Basic Industry	4.8	4.0	2.7
Capital Goods	5.9	7.3	4.1
Communications	6.5	8.3	7.8
Consumer Cyclical	5.1	3.3	5.8
Consumer Non-Cyclical	10.2	11.2	12.9
Energy	12.7	12.5	7.9
Technology	6.0	4.9	7.1
Transportation	1.4	0.9	1.9
Industrial Other	0.0	0.1	0.3
Utilities	7.7	7.7	5.8
Electric	7.5	7.5	5.3
Natural Gas	0.2	0.2	0.4
Other Utilities	0.0	0.0	0.1
Non-Corporate	1.7	1.1	14.8
Municipal	0.5	0.5	2.2
High Yield	3.3	3.4	0.0
Cash	0.7	1.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

	28 Feb 17	28 Feb 18	28 Feb 18
Credit Quality	Portfolio	Portfolio	Index
	MV (%)	MV (%)	MV (%)
AAA	3.8	5.0	9.4
AA	6.8	4.6	9.9
A	33.1	33.4	36.8
BBB	52.5	52.3	43.9
<bbb< td=""><td>3.8</td><td>4.7</td><td>0.0</td></bbb<>	3.8	4.7	0.0
NR	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
YTW (%)	3.44	3.91	3.64
Duration (yrs)	7.16	7.16	7.16
Average Quality	Α	A-	A-

1.33x Basic Industry (overweight)
1.56x Energy (overweight)
0.80x EMD (underweight)
79% of HY is BB
248 different tickers

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Source: Bloomberg Barclays, Western Asset

Note: Sector exposure includes look-through to any underlying commingled vehicles if held. All weightings are a percentage of total market value. A negative cash position may be reported, which is primarily due to the portfolio's unsettled trade activity. Data may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Investment-Grade Credit Market Review** 



Investment Outlook



## **US Investment-Grade Credit Outlook**

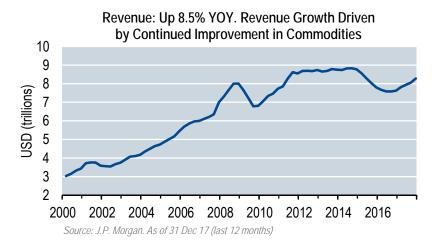
#### 2018

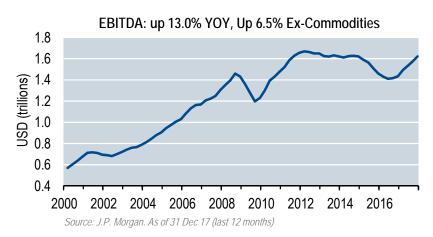
#### Opinion – Be conservative after dramatic spread rally

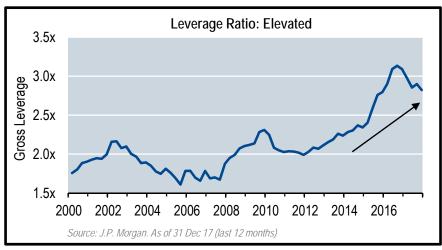
- Fundamentals mixed Late stages of credit cycle; cautious given potential for more aggressive behavior within Industrials
- Technicals remain positive Continued positive inflows from abroad, domestic pension demand remains prominent
- Valuations at 10-year tights, +89 bps Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Credit Index OAS¹ lower margin of safety.
  - Strategies Sub-sector/security selection remains the top focus in the back half of the credit cycle
    - + Banks: Still favor Western Asset's long-term overweight. Ratings uplift in US, continue to own European Banks
    - Industrials: Cautious on shareholder friendly behavior, leverage creep happening
      - Basic Industry
        - Metals/Mining: Deleveraging largely played out
        - Paper, Packaging: Tight valuation with pressure from international competition
        - Chemicals: Uncertain on the ability and willingness to deleverage post M&A activity
      - Communications Continue caution. Fundamentals still challenged
        - + Cable: Good operating and financial profiles with better relative value
        - Wireline/Wireless: Price erosion from fierce competition, M&A risk remain top focus
        - Media: Consolidation taking place
      - Consumer Non-Cyclical
        - Food/Beverage: Elevated event risk
        - +/- Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals: Bottoming. Spending a lot of time here
      - Consumer Cyclical
        - Retailers: Secular decline in big box clothing retailers and Amazon threat
        - Automotive: New car sales peaked, weakened auto lending standards
    - + Energy: Remain overweight. Managements still acting conservative
    - Technology: Beneficiaries of tax cut; but repatriation of offshore profits may also result in equity-friendly actions such as a boost to share repurchases and US-based M&A
    - Utilities: Modest underweight. Regulated focus. M&A continues
    - + Crossover: Rising star opportunities still exist



## Investment-Grade Fundamentals: Positive Overall, Reasons for Caution 4Q17





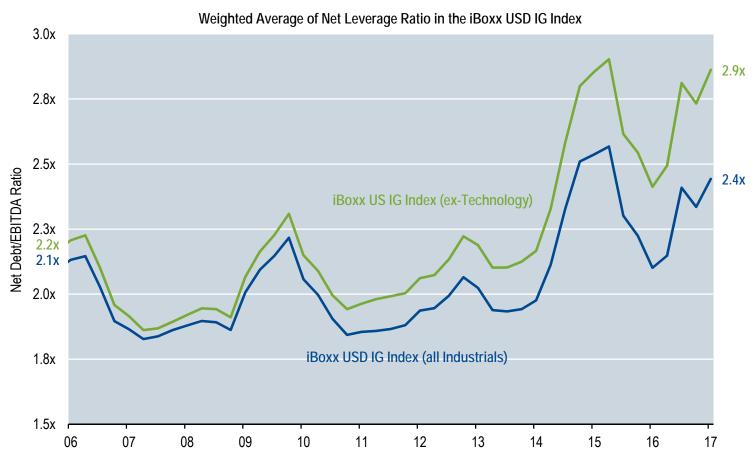




**Fundamentals** 



## Leverage Creep in Industrial Sector Is a Reason for Caution



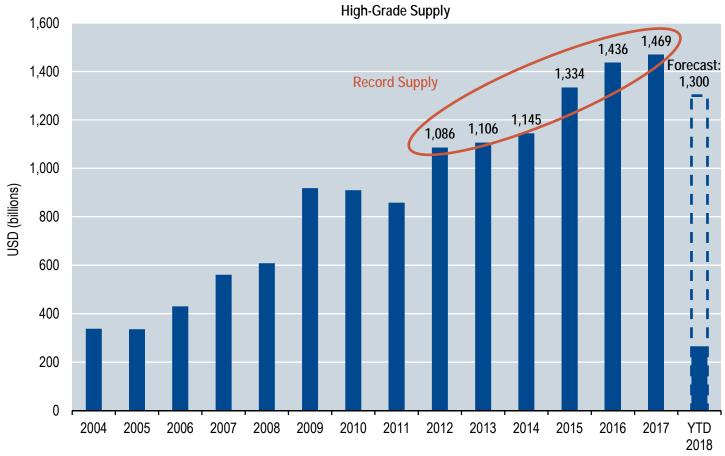
Source: Goldman Sachs, iBoxx. As of 30 Nov 17
Markit iBoxx USD Liquid Investment Grade Index provides a balanced representation of the USD investment grade corporate market including 308 unique issuers as of 30 Nov 17.

10.5% of the Index in Technology as of 30 Nov 17

#### **Fundamentals**



## **Massive New-Issue Supply**

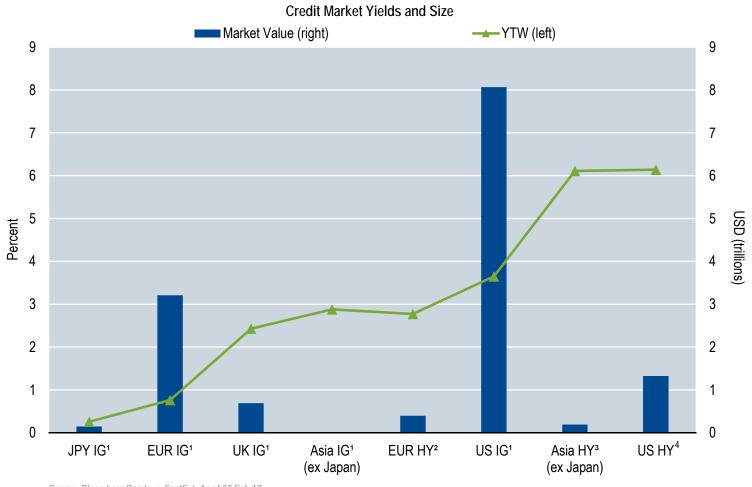


Source: Bloomberg Barclays, Western Asset. As of 28 Feb 18

### **Technicals**



## **US Credit Markets Offer Both Yield and Size**



Source: Bloomberg Barclays, FactSet. As of 28 Feb 18

¹Bloomberg Barclays Global Credit Index by Currency
²Bloomberg Barclays Global High-Yield Index by Currency
³Bloomberg Barclays EM Asia USD High-Yield Credit Index (USD)
¹Bloomberg Barclays U.S. High-Yield Index

**Technicals** 



## Spreads Appear at Tight End of the Range



Source: Bloomberg Barclays. As of 28 Feb 18

Periods of recession highlighted in yellow.

**Valuations** 

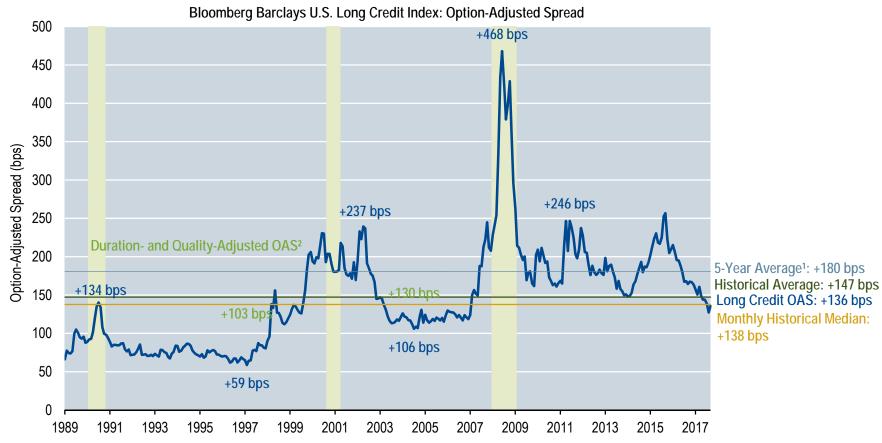


<sup>&#</sup>x27;Average based on monthly data from 30 Jun 89 - 31 Jul 00, and daily end of business days from 15 Aug 00 to current.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Excludes data from 01 Dec 07 – 30 Jun 09

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Historical OAS normalized to today's index characteristics

## Longer Dated Spreads Slightly Cheap to Historical Average



Source: Bloomberg Barclays. As of 28 Feb 18 Periods of recession highlighted in yellow.

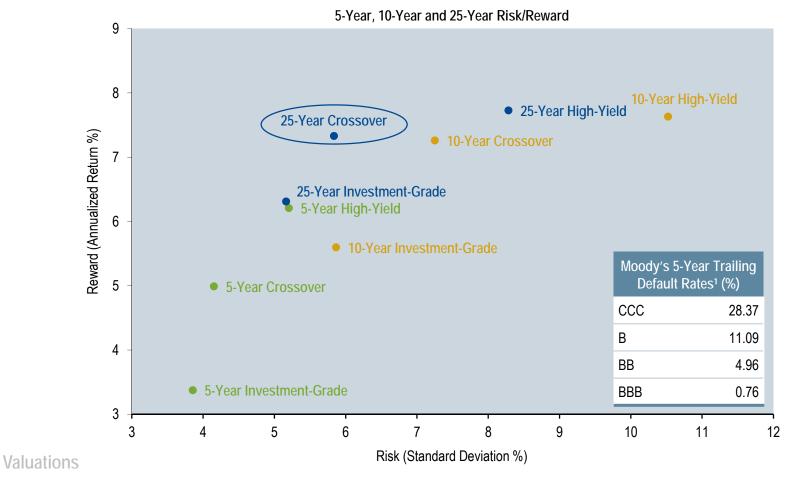
<sup>1</sup>Monthly average since June 1989

<sup>2</sup>Historical OAS normalized to today's index characteristics

**Valuations** 



## Know Where to Fish: Crossover Credits Exhibit Attractive Risk/Reward Profile



Source: Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Moody's. As of 31 Dec 17

<sup>1</sup>As of 31 Dec 16

Qualifying securities must be rated BBB1 through BB3, inclusive (based on an average of Moody's, S&P and Fitch).

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The BofA Merrill Lynch US Crossover Corporate Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated BBB and BB corporate debt publicly issued in the US domestic market.

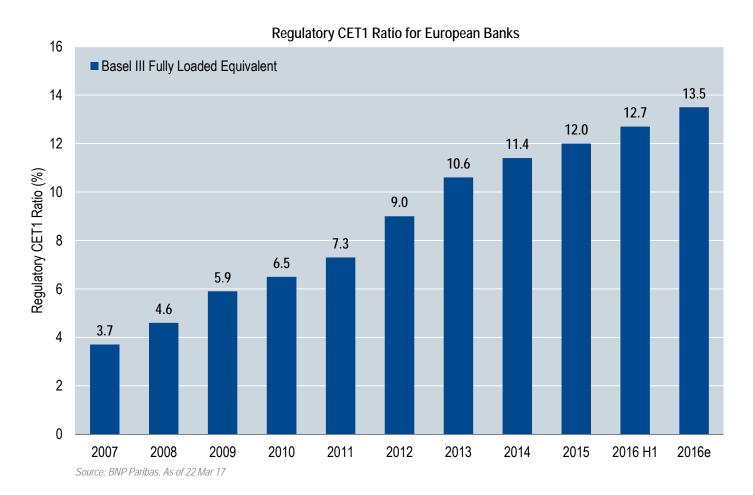
For below investment grade debt the country of risk must be an FX-G10 member, a Western European nation, or a territory of the US or a Western European nation.

Qualifying constituents are segmented into two groups: those rated between BB1 and BB3, inclusive, and those rated between BB1 and BB3, inclusive. Within the two groups, constituents are capitalization-weighted. Each group is then assigned a 50% weight in the overall index.

Investment-Grade Strategies



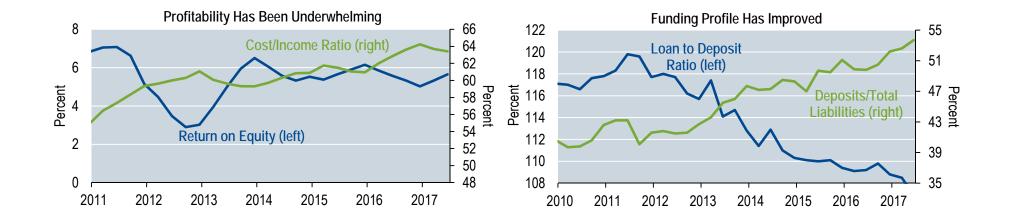
# Strategy 1: Both US and European Banks Have Dramatically Improved Their Capitalization

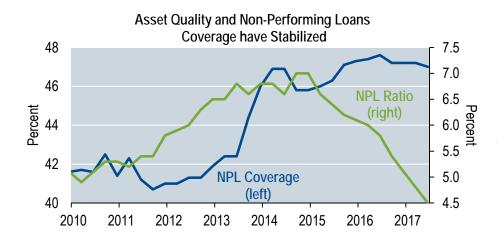


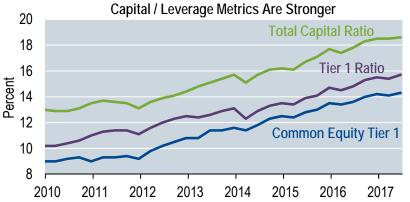


#### Strategy 1 (continued): European Bank Fundamentals Continue to Improve

Balance sheet metrics have improved meaningfully and profitability trends are heading in right direction.









## Strategy 2: Overweight Energy – "Stay the Course"

Report Date: 1 May, 2017

#### **Energy: Overweight Sector with a Barbell Approach**

Strategy: Barbell: High quality + Constructive Lower Quality

Favored Sub-Segments: Exploration & Production, Integrateds, Pipelines

Willing to Trade / Take Tactical Positions:
 Oil Field Service, Refiners

- Energy sector thesis summary:
  - Macro outlook continues to drive fundamentals.
    - China / global growth / USD strength in focus
    - Global demand growth for oil robust at TIVIIVIBPO T.ZIVIIVIBPO.
  - Industry still healing; supply and demand gradually rebalancing resulting in more supportive price deck.

\$65

- Inventories are normalizing
- OPEC and non-OPEC cooperation on production cuts v
  - OPEC behavior changed from prior cycles.
- Industry commitment to further deleveraging is being wa
- Recent strip oil & gas prices have incentivized producer
  - E&P subsector can survive \$50 \$55 per barrel. But,
- FY17 capital budgets revised higher vs FY16; US activities
  - Capital allocation decisions directed to short cycle or
  - Reintroduces potential service cost inflation
- M&A: more conservative than prior cycles increased u
  - Acquiring future growth optionality to reshape portfol
- Capital markets are accommodative but cautious.



Source: FactSet. As of 31 Dec 17

WTI Crude Oil Price - 2017

reference. May not be distributed without of

2 INTERNAL RESEARCH NOTES The "internal research notes" are confiden



## **Strategy 3: Overweight Metals and Mining**

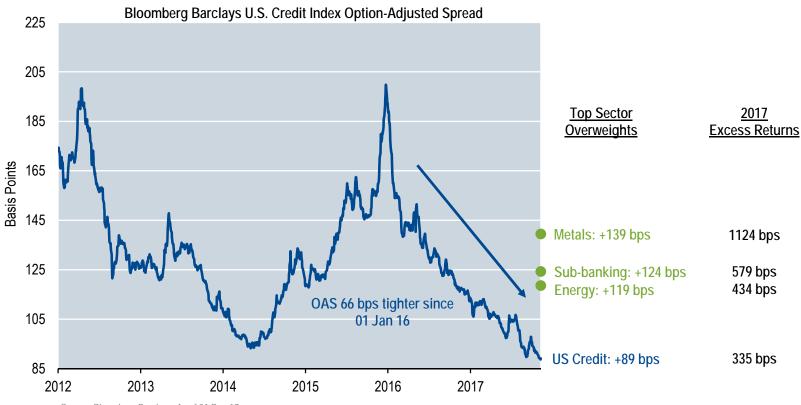
#### Deleveraging Slowing in 2018. Shareholder Returns in Focus

Date	Company	Ratings	Accepted (\$MM)
2015			
Sep 2015	Barrick Gold	Baa3/BBB-	\$834
Dec 2015	Barrick Gold	Baa3/BBB-	\$1,251
2016			
Feb 2016	Barrick Gold	Baa3/BBB-	\$718
Feb 2016	Newmont Mining Corp	Baa2/BBB	\$500
Apr 2016	Rio Tinto	Baa1/A-	\$1,500
Jun 2016	Rio Tinto	Baa1/A-	\$2,999
Sep 2016	Rio Tinto	Baa1/A-	\$1,498
Oct 2016	Glencore	Baa3/BBB-	\$1,492
Oct 2016	Newmont Mining Corp	Baa2/BBB	\$508
Nov 2016	Barrick Gold	Baa3/BBB-	\$595
2017			
Feb 2017	BHP	A3/A	\$1,841
Apr 2017	Arconic Inc	Ba2/BBB-	\$805
May 2017	Rio Tinto	Baa1/A-	\$2,500¹
Jun 2017	Barrick Gold	Baa3/BBB-	\$279
Aug 2017	ВНР	A3/A-	\$2,500
	Total (Sept 2015 - YTD 20	)17)	\$ >25 billion



#### **Strategy 4: Avoiding Underperformers Just as Important**

Sector and security selection key at tighter valuations in 2018. Focus on industries that are delevering; avoid the underperformers.



Source: Bloomberg Barclays. As of 31 Dec 17

Worst Performing Subsectors in 2017

Subsector	Excess Return	Comments
Retailers	232 bps	Underweight
Tobacco	229 bps	Neutral
Wirelines	283 bps	Underweight
US Credit	335 bps	



## Strategy 4 (continued): Warning Signs in Telco? Debt-Fueled M&A

Verizon

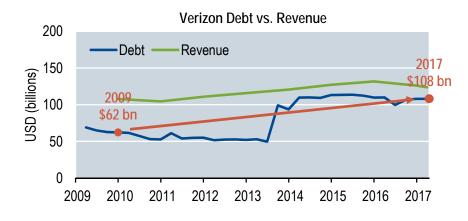
	Acquisitions	
Sep 2013	Verizon Wireless	\$130.0 bn (Wireless)
Apr 2014	AOL	\$3.8 bn (Content)
Oct 2016	Yahoo	\$4.5 bn (Content)
		\$138.3 bn

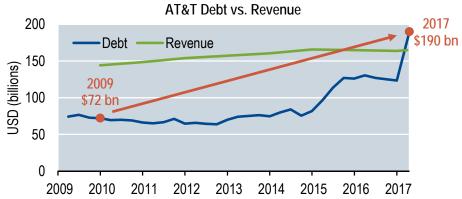
Pro forma Leverage (as of YE 2017): 2.3x

AT&T

	Acquisition	S	
Sep 2013	LEAP	\$4.0 bn (Wi	reless)
May 2015	DirecTV	\$67.0 bn (Sa	atellite)
Jul 2016	Time Warner	\$109.0 bn (Co	ontent)
		\$180.0 bn	

Pro forma Leverage (as of YE 2017): 2.9x





## Strategy 5: Buy After the "Bad Deed": Coming to an End?

#### Bad deed = Negative credit event risk and leveraging transactions

# We like good companies with a clear, post-transaction deleveraging strategy and attractive new issue concessions

						10-Year Spread	Current 10-Year Spread
Date	Subsector	Acquirer/Issuer	Target/M&A	Rating	Issuance	at Issue (bps)	(bps)
Mar '15	PHARMACEUTICALS	ACTAVIS FUNDING SCS	ALLERGAN	BAA3	\$21 bn	+175	+92
Apr '15	WIRELINES	AT&T INC	DIRECTV	BAA1	\$17.5 bn	+150	+150
June '15	TOBACCO	LORILLARD	REYNOLDS AMERICAN	BAA2	\$9 bn	+205	+104
Jan '16	FOOD_AND_BEVERAGE	ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV	SABMILLER	A3	\$46 bn	+160	+91
Mar '16	CONSUMER PRODUCTS	NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC	JARDEN CORP	BAA3	\$8 bn	+235	+100
May'16	RETAILERS	WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE	BOOTS ALLIANCE UK	BAA2	\$6 bn	+165	+115
					\$108 bn		

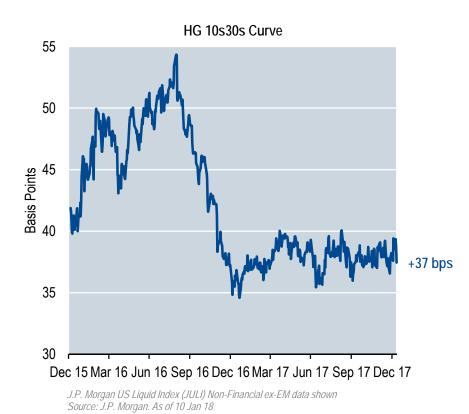
#### 2018 Deals to Watch out For

Date	Subsector	Acquirer/Issuer	Target/M&A	Rating
May'16	BASICS	BAYER	MONSANTO	A3
Sep '17	AEROSPACE DEFENSE	UNITED TECHNOLOGIES	ROCKWELL COLLINS INC.	A3
Nov'17	TECHNOLOGY	AVAGO	QUALCOMM	Baa3
Dec '17	RETAILERS	CVS HEALTH CORP	AET NA INC.	Baa1
Dec '17	MEDIA	DISNEY	21ST CENTURY FOX AMERICA	A2
Dec '17	FOOD_AND_BEVERAGE	CAMPBELL SOUP	SNYDERS-LANCE	Baa1
Feb '18	AEROSPACE DEFENSE	GENERAL DYNAMICS	CSRAINC.	A2
Feb '18	FOOD_AND_BEVERAGE	GENERAL MILLS	BLUE BUFFALO	Baa2
	RETAILERS	WALGREEN (?)	AMERISOURCEBERGEN CORP	Baa2

#### **Fundamentals**



## Strategy 6: Credit Spreads: 30s More Fully Valued After Recent Outperformance vs. 10s



#### Corporate Credit 10/30 Curves

luctrials -		
dustrials		
Communications		
Wirelines	Verizon 10yrs	115
Baa1/BBB+/A-	Verizon 30yrs	185
		70
Consumer Non-Cyclical		
Pharmaceuticals	Gilead 10yrs	70
A3/A-	Gilead 30yrs	105
		35
Food & Beverage	Anheuser-Busch InBev 10yrs	78
A3/A-/BBB	Anheuser-Busch InBev 30yrs	119
		41
Tobacco	Reynolds 10yrs	112
Baa3/BBB/BBB	Reynolds 30yrs	145
Dudoibbbibbb	Roynolds objis	33
Energy		
Independent E&P	Occidental Petroleum 10yrs	61
A3/A	Occidental Petroleum 30yrs	96
	-	35
Transportation		
Railroads	Burlington 10yrs	50
A3/BBB+	Burlington 30yrs	75
		25

Source: Bloomberg. As of 11 Jan 18

**Valuations** 



# **Appendix**



## **Biographies**

#### FRANCES L. COOMBES

20 Years Experience

- Western Asset Management Company Client Service Executive, 1998-
- Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, M.P.P.
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A.

#### KURT D. HALVORSON

17 Years Experience

- Western Asset Management Company Trader, 2010-
- Aegon USA Investment Management Senior Corporate Bond Manager, 2006-2010
- 40/86 Advisors, LLC Senior Trader, 2005-2006
- Banc of America Securities, LLC Associate, Corporate Bond Trading, 2001-2005
- Covenant College, B.A. Business
- Chartered Financial Analyst



#### Representative Client List Disclosure

The clients listed are invested in a wide range of mandates, and are located in a variety of countries or regions of the United States.

The clients listed in the Corporate company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$35(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Public company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$69(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Multi-Employer / Union company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$15(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Healthcare company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$8(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Eleemosynary company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$10(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Insurance company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$19(M) or greater.

The clients listed in the Sub-Advisory company type have portfolios with an AUM of \$15(M) or greater.

Clients that have advised Western Asset of account terminations have been excluded from the lists.



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