

**MCFS FINANCE FORUM SERIES 2009**

**The Future of Hedge Funds**

*with Jeremy Connor, Director and Portfolio Manager, Attalus Capital (US)*

**Date and Time: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, 12.10pm for 12.30pm - 2.00 pm (sandwich lunch provided)**

**Venue: Standard & Poor's, Level 45, 120 Collins Street Melbourne**

Hedge funds make markets work more efficiently but their largely unregulated operations have long attracted suspicion and envy. While many continue to make positive returns, other investment strategies have clearly failed. Banks are limiting liquidity and regulators are circling. Where to now for hedge funds?

The hedge fund industry has shown resilience to date despite a series of setbacks over the past year. Short-selling bans have compromised many previously successful strategies yet market practitioners, finance academics and global regulators remain divided as to the culpability of short selling in the dramatic falls in equity markets. Concerned by counterparty risk and conserving their own liquidity reserves, prime brokers have curtailed funds' access to liquidity and their ability to use leverage. Traditionally high fees are now looming as deal-breakers for potential investors while a few bad apples may have engaged in so-called "rumourtrage" drawing more negative headlines. And while many funds have recorded positive returns consistent with their absolute return mantra, others have suffered dramatic losses in value as previously robust correlations have broken down. Hedge funds are highly heterogeneous yet seem to have been tarred with the same brush.

**Our speaker:** Attalus Capital is a Philadelphia-based investment management firm specializing in creating and actively managing portfolios of hedge funds and enhanced index strategies. As an employee-owned firm it claims no conflicts of interest. Attalus Capital manages over \$2.4 billion for more than 130 clients.

As Portfolio Manager Jeremy Connor is responsible for conducting investment and operational research with a specific focus on equity long/short strategies. Prior to joining Attalus in 2005, Jeremy was an investment analyst for Lehman Brothers Neuberger Berman Wealth Management. There he completed performance and risk analyses as a member of their fund of hedge funds investment team and performed due diligence on hedge fund managers. Previously he was a hedge fund consultant and risk analyst for National Economic Research Associates. Jeremy began his investment career as a financial analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston. Jeremy has a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Princeton University.

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**Our venue sponsor:** MCFS thanks Standard & Poor's for kindly providing its venue for this event.

MCFS arrange topical "Finance Forums" with the objective of improving industry-academia contacts, identifying research projects and opportunities for research partnerships. It is expected that those attending will be able to participate in discussion.

There is a **limit on the number of attendees** but **no charge** (yet). To attend and participate, please email [info@melbournecentre.com.au](mailto:info@melbournecentre.com.au) with the subject header of "*Finance Forum – Future of Hedge Funds*" by **noon on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009**.

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