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# Tactical Asset Allocation

Our recommended 2023 Tactical Asset Allocation (TAA) positions the portfolio for an environment of heightened macro volatility, particularly around the rate of change of key variables such as interest rates and inflation. Compared to the 2022 TAA, we recommend adding +2% to cash equivalent short-duration government bonds, +1% to both Private Debt and Absolute Return, and +2% to Venture Capital and Private Equity. This is funded by a -5% reduction to Public Equities and -1% reduction to Real Estate. This relatively large trim from Public Equities reflects a relative preference for Private Equity where opportunities appear more attractive, Private Debt where the contractual nature of the return is more certain, Absolute Return where select strategies are likely to benefit more from the current environment and Cash, which provides optionality and liquidity to portfolios.

# The Strategic Asset Allocation Benchmark

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Partners Capital advises a wide range of clients, each with a bespoke portfolio catering to different objectives and constraints. To allow us to talk about asset allocation in more general terms in this publication, we use a model portfolio that reflects our typical client. The model portfolio Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) is optimised to maximise the return per unit of risk using our long-term return forecasts, constraining for the risk tolerance and liquidity needs of a typical client. Given that it is long term in nature, we try to avoid frequent changes so that it serves as a consistent benchmark against which to assess any tactical asset allocations changes.

Following last year's volatility and rise in interest rates, our long-term expected return forecasts have changed sufficiently to merit a change in the SAA, and we are taking this opportunity to make a number of adjustments to the model portfolio. These changes are to our model portfolio benchmark and will not change the way we manage client portfolios. However, your portfolio manager will discuss whether any of the below adjustments are relevant to your specific portfolio in due course.

## Increasing allocation to Private Markets

One of our longstanding investment themes is that private markets offers excess returns versus public equivalents. We continue to believe that the long-term orientation, better alignment, improved governance, and operational value add in private markets can drive excess returns that more than offset the higher costs. Please see the investment themes section and relevant asset class sections of this publication for a more detailed review of the headwinds and opportunities across private markets.

As a reflection of this core view, we are increasing the allocation to private markets in our model portfolio to 40%, from 30% previously. This is the level of illiquidity that we judge long-term oriented investment portfolios should target, and it is in line with private markets allocations in larger endowments, such as Harvard and Yale. Liquidity needs vary significantly across our clients and will continue to be assessed on an individual basis, but we are changing the model portfolio to underline

our conviction in private assets. As part of this change, we are also breaking out Venture Capital from Private Equity. Venture Capital has become an important and strategic allocation in most client portfolios, with a different risk/return profile than buyouts and other private equity investments.

## Reclassifications across Hedged Equities, Absolute Return and Long Equities

We are clarifying the classification of investment strategies across Absolute Return, Hedged Equities and Long Equities asset classes. These changes are driven by the goal of increasing the consistency of our manager and strategy classifications. Strategies with a normative beta of less than or equal to 0.2 to equity markets will be classified as Absolute Return, strategies with a normative beta between 0.2 and 0.8 will be classified as Hedged Equities, and strategies with a normative beta of greater than or equal to 0.8 will be classified as Long Equities.

These changes are primarily about presenting our asset class exposures on a more consistent basis across our portfolios. They will however have no impact in how we manage portfolios on an ongoing basis, given that we manage these at the strategy and underlying look-through exposures level.

## Allocation changes to the model portfolio long-term SAA benchmark

As a result of the above, we are increasing the allocation to Private Equity and Venture Capital by +3.5% each, adding 2% to Private Debt and 1% to Real Estate, which amounts to a total increase to private markets of 10%. We are also increasing the Liquid Credit allocation by 2%, which reflects the increase in yields and relative long-term attractiveness of Credit. To fund this, we are reducing Long Equities and Hedged Equities by -6% each. These changes increase the expected return of the SAA from 9.3 to 9.8% (net of fees). They result in a modest increase in expected volatility from 10.9% to 11.2% but have minimal impact on the overall portfolio risk level when measured in terms of equivalent net equity beta (ENEB).

## Exhibit 1

### We are increasing the allocation to illiquid assets in our model portfolio

Asset Class	Current SAA	Proposed SAA	Change
Cash	1.0%	1.0%	—
Government Bonds	5.0%	5.0%	—
Liquid Credit	—	2.0%	2.0%
Private Debt	5.0%	7.0%	2.0%
Absolute Return	12.0%	12.0%	—
Hedged Equities	11.0%	5.0%	-6.0%
Long Equities	36.0%	30.0%	-6.0%
Private Equity	14.5%	18.0%	3.5%
Venture Capital	3.5%	7.0%	3.5%
Inflation-Linked Bonds	5.0%	5.0%	—
Real Estate	7.0%	8.0%	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Expected Return</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Expected Standard Deviation</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Equivalent Net Equity Beta (risk level)</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Private Markets (illiquid)</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

Source: Partners Capital

TAA and SAA portfolio returns are hypothetical return expectations that do not represent actual trading. They are based on simulations with forward looking assumption, which have inherent limitations. Net hypothetical returns are calculated net of 0.5% management fees and 5% performance fees. Actual fees charged may vary depending on any negotiated client fee.

## Tactical Asset Allocation

All changes discussed here reference our model portfolio for a large non-taxable institutional investor denominated in USD. The direction of these changes will be relevant to our taxable clients as well, but with different allocations depending on each client's tax situation.

Our Tactical Asset Allocation process seeks to optimise performance across our macro scenarios over the next 12-18 months. One of our founding principles is that attempting to time the entry and exit from markets will generally lead to sub-par returns over the long run. Instead, we believe the best method for securing attractive returns over the business cycle involves setting an appropriate risk budget range using our Equivalent Net Equity Beta (ENEB) framework and allocating that risk across different types of market risk, including equities, credit, interest rates and inflation. In this way, we ensure that portfolios are well positioned for where we are in a cycle, remain diversified across return drivers and provide robust returns across different macroeconomic scenarios.

### 2023 Tactical Asset Allocation

The 2023 TAA positions the portfolio for an environment of heightened macro volatility, particularly around the rate of change of key variables such as interest rates and inflation. The resulting portfolio will position for our base case in which growth slows and inflation pressures ease, while offering a measure of protection against the possibility of a policy error induced recession in the next 12-18 months. The TAA is also designed to allocate capital in line with our core multi-year investment themes. Below we outline the changes relative to our 2022 TAA.

**Cash (+2% increase):** We define Cash as deposits in bank accounts, certificates of deposit, daily-liquidity money market funds and short-dated government bonds of less than 2-year maturity. The recommendation to add 2% to cash relates specifically to very short-dated bonds or T-bills, where yields have increased significantly relative to last year, and are also higher than yields of longer maturity bonds, given the inversion of the yield curve. As of late February 2023, a 2-year bond in the US, UK and Germany had a yield to maturity of 4.7%, 3.9% and 3.0%, respectively. Cash provides insulation against downside volatility and serves as a source of liquidity to deploy into opportunities created by volatility.

**Private Debt (+1% increase):** Clients should boost their Private Debt allocation further if liquidity permits, with a focus on “capital solutions” and specialists in fields that require expert underwriting (e.g., healthcare, emerging technology, portfolio financing). Constrained capital availability is creating a compelling opportunity set for private lenders. Banks have reduced lending activity in the face of higher capital requirements, increased loss reserves and lower deposits due to declining household savings. Meanwhile, US leveraged loan issuance declined 70% year-on-year in 2022 to the lowest level since 2011 amid reduced demand from collateralised loan obligation (CLO) buyers, constraining access for issuers to public debt markets. These market dynamics leave limited financing options for sponsors and corporates looking to raise debt capital for acquisitions and refinancings, with private lenders now stepping in to fulfil the needs of often higher-quality issuers at attractive yields.

**Absolute Return (+1% increase):** As outlined in our core investment themes, we expect the ‘Great Moderation’ of the last decades to give way to a period of heightened ‘Macro Volatility’. Specific segments of Absolute Return are likely to perform well in this environment, particularly fundamental equity long/short, statistical arbitrage and fixed-income relative value. We focus on allocations on multi-strategy funds for cash efficiency and enhanced risk management, as well as to strategy specialists to shape overall portfolio balance and to enhance returns.

**Private Equity (+2% increase):** The increased allocation to Private Equity (PE) is skewed towards the continued build out Venture Capital allocations, where we have developed strong access and relationships to several top tier established and emerging managers, and pricing has recently improved. In buyouts, we seek to partner with sector specialists and lower middle market generalists who are able to leverage sourcing and information advantages to acquire quality businesses at reasonable valuations and drive post-acquisition operational value-add (PAOVA) via revenue growth and margin improvement. We also aim to leverage our relationships with managers to source co-investments that can reduce management fees and carried interest expenses while simultaneously concentrating capital in the sub-sectors in which they excel.

**Public Equities (-5% decrease):** We reduce Hedged Equities and Long Equities by 5% relative to last year. While Hedged Equities bears the brunt of this with a -4% reduction, some of this reflects the recategorisation of low and high beta equity managers as either Absolute Return or Long Equities – as discussed in the SAA section above. The reduction in Public Equities does not reflect an outright negative view on equities, but rather a relative preference for Private Equity where opportunities appear more attractive, Private Debt where the contractual nature of the return is more certain, Absolute Return where some strategies are likely to benefit from the current environment and Cash, which now has an attractive yield and provides portfolio construction benefits.

**Real Estate (-1% decrease):** We modestly reduce the allocation to Real Estate, primarily in response to the increased financing cost and reduced leverage levels available as banks decrease their loan books in response to the uncertain economic backdrop. We are cautious about the outlook for Commercial Real estate, particularly the Office, Retail and Hospitality sectors which are highly sensitive to the economic growth and already appear to be suffering from oversupply. There are still attractive opportunities in Real Estate, and we focus primarily on opportunistic managers with “buy-upgrade-sell” model of investing to drive returns.

**Source of portfolio duration (EUR and GBP investors only):** In the middle of 2022, for US investors, we rotated 2.5% out of TIPS and into nominal Treasuries after nominal yields had risen by more than real yields (i.e., after TIPS had provided a degree of shelter from the impact of rising yields). We did not do this for EUR and GBP investors, as the risks of stagflation in Europe was greater due to the sharp rise in energy prices following the war in Ukraine, and inflation-linked bonds (ILBs) typically provide the best protection from stagflation. However, as the risk of an energy crisis and protracted stagflation lessens, we recommend that EUR and GBP denominated portfolios rotate some exposure from ILBs into nominal bonds, as nominal bonds typically provide better protection from an outright recession, which is now the more probable downside scenario across all developed markets. The capital weighting to government bonds and ILBs does not change, but the allocation ratio should be adjusted to match that of the SAA benchmark.

Exhibit 2 summarises our recommended 2023 TAA for a non-taxable investor and contrasts it with the 2022 TAA. There is a notable change to the liquidity structure in the TAA, which adds +2% to private markets relative to last year, but also increases the allocation to highly liquid assets (i.e., short-duration bonds) by +2%. The intention here is to harvest the better opportunities in private markets, but also to increase the flexibility in the portfolio so that we can be more nimble to what is likely to be a volatile market environment.

We have modified versions of the TAA for our US, UK and other taxpaying clients with changes that move in a similar direction. A more detailed summary of our views of each asset class is provided in the asset class sections of this publication.

## Exhibit 2 Changes in Tactical Asset Allocation

Asset Class	New SAA	2022 TAA	2023 TAA	Change in TAA vs. 2022	Notes
Cash	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	2.0%	Tactical addition to money-market or short-duration fixed income with high liquidity.
Government Bonds	5.0%	2.5%	2.5%	—	With the yield curve the most inverted it has been in over 40 years, investors are overpaying for duration risk. The source of duration in portfolios is under regular review, and we may add to long-dated government bonds if the curve flattens or 10yr yields rise materially above 4%.
Liquid Credit	2.0%	5.0%	5.0%	—	Strong recovery in Q4 2022 has caused spreads to tighten back to long-term averages. Shift capital away from passive beta 1 exposure in favour of structured credit or relative value managers.
Private Debt	7.0%	8.0%	9.0%	1.0%	Increase Private Debt allocation further if liquidity permits. Focus on “capital solutions” and specialists in fields that require expert underwriting (e.g., healthcare, emerging technology, portfolio financing).
Absolute Return	12.0%	14.0%	15.0%	1.0%	Higher macro volatility and stock market dispersion offer strong “cash-plus” return opportunities for equity and non-equity-oriented strategies. Allocate to multi-strategy funds for cash efficiency and enhanced risk management, as well as to strategy specialists to shape overall portfolio balance and enhance returns.
Hedged Equities	5.0%	11.0%	7.0%	-4.0%	Significant reduction relative to last year partly reflects reclassification of some managers as either Absolute Return or Long Equities depending on their normative beta to equities. The additional reduction in allocation is based on a relative value assessment of the asset classes’ prospects in an environment of macro uncertainty and rising interest rates, particularly in comparison to asset classes such as Absolute Return.
Long Equities	30.0%	29.0%	28.0%	-1.0%	Maintain a balanced mix of factors, as well as regional and sectoral exposures. Bring China and overall emerging markets to “market weight” at c. 3.5% and 10% of long equities, respectively. Transition from China should be gradual. Emerging Markets equities exposure (ex China) to be implemented passively.
Private Equity	18.0%	14.5%	15.0%	0.5%	Particularly high conviction in buyout managers that possess an ability to “buy complexity” and drive post-acquisition value creation.
Venture Capital	7.0%	3.5%	5.0%	1.5%	Continue to build out Venture Capital allocations with focus on early stage as we have developed strong access and relationships to several top tier established and emerging managers in the asset class.
Inflation-Linked Bonds	5.0%	2.5%	2.5%	—	Maintain small allocation to protect against exogenous supply shocks. Skew allocation towards front end of the curve which is more responsive to near-term inflationary pressures.
Real Estate	8.0%	9.0%	8.0%	-1.0%	Focus on opportunistic real estate with “buy-upgrade-sell” model to drive returns. Bias towards industrial and multi-family given low vacancy and ability of owners to increase rents at or above inflation. Modest reduction in allocation stems from cautious outlook for commercial and retail and impact of higher debt financing costs.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>—</b>	
ENEB	0.66	0.63	0.63	0.00	
Illiquid Assets	40%	35%	37%	2.0%	
Highly Liquid Assets (Cash, Bonds, ILBs, 0.5x Credit)	12.0%	8.5%	10.5%	2.0%	

Source: Partners Capital

## Portfolio Duration

Exhibit 3 below shows the portfolio-weighted duration resulting from nominal and inflation-linked bonds as well as from any credit investments. It does not include interest rate sensitivity of other asset classes such as property and growth equities, as their statistical relationship to interest rates is less consistent. We are currently targeting a look-through duration of 0.6 years in our USD and EUR-denominated portfolios relative to the SAA duration of 0.8 years. For GBP denominated portfolios the TAA portfolio-weighted duration is 0.9 years compared to a benchmark duration of 1.5 years. The longer duration of GBP portfolios is largely a reflection of the long market duration of the Inflation-Linked Gilt All Stock index of 17 years.

## Expected Returns from 2023 TAA

In Exhibit 4 below we summarise our 2023 return forecasts by asset class for our downside, base case and upside scenarios, as well as the long-term return that we expect to earn over the next 10 years. The short-term returns are for the 12-months starting 31 January 2023. In the base case, which we assign a 60% probability, we expect the model portfolio Tactical Asset Allocation to produce a return of roughly 6% net of fees over the next 12 months. The heightened uncertainty puts an unusually wide error band around this. Specifically, in a policy error induced recession, we anticipate the portfolio will

### Exhibit 3

#### Estimated look-through portfolio duration exposure by client currency

Asset Class	SAA	TAA	US		UK		Europe	
			Default Benchmark	Duration	Default Benchmark	Duration	Default Benchmark	Duration
Government Bonds	5.0%	2.5%	Barclays Treasury 5-10 Years TR	6.3	FTSE A British Govt All Stocks TR	9.5	Citigroup EMU GBI TR	7.3
Liquid Credit - IG	0.0%	0.0%	Barclays US Corporate BBB	7.5	Barclays Global Corporate BBB TR LC	6.0	Barclays Global Corporate BBB TR LC	6.0
Liquid Credit -HY	2.0%	5.0%	Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield TR	3.8	50/50 Barclays Global HY / CS Leveraged Loan	2.0	50/50 Barclays Global HY / CS Leveraged Loan	2.0
Private Debt	7.0%	9.0%	Partners Capital Private Debt Vehicle	1.3	Partners Capital Private Debt Vehicle	1.3	Partners Capital Private Debt Vehicle	1.3
Inflation-Linked Bonds	5.0%	2.5%	Barclays U.S. TIPS TR	6.6	FTSE A (Index-Linked) British Govt All Stocks TR	17.1	Barclays Euro Govt Inflation Linked TR EUR	7.8
<b>SAA Weighted Duration</b>				<b>0.8</b>		<b>1.5</b>		<b>0.8</b>
<b>TAA Weighted Duration</b>				<b>0.6</b>		<b>0.9</b>		<b>0.6</b>
<b>Duration Gap</b>				<b>-0.2</b>		<b>-0.6</b>		<b>-0.3</b>

Source: Barclays, Bloomberg, Partners Capital

## Exhibit 4

Expected 12-month returns by scenario (starting 31 Jan 2022, includes alpha and beta assumptions)

Asset Class	Allocations			Short-Term, Scenario Specific Forecast (Inc. Alpha)				10-year Return Forecast
	2023 SAA	2023 TAA	Deviation	Downside (20%)	Base Case (60%)	Upside (20%)	Expected Value	
Cash	1.0%	3.0%	2.0%	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.0%	3.5%
Fixed Income	5.0%	2.5%	-2.5%	13.2%	1.8%	-4.4%	2.8%	3.5%
Liquid Credit	2.0%	5.0%	3.0%	-9.2%	5.9%	7.4%	3.1%	7.5%
Private Debt	7.0%	9.0%	2.0%	-11.4%	8.0%	9.9%	4.5%	10.0%
Absolute Return	12.0%	15.0%	3.0%	3.2%	7.0%	8.2%	6.4%	7.0%
Hedged Equities	5.0%	7.0%	2.0%	-8.1%	5.8%	10.9%	4.0%	7.8%
Long Equities	30.0%	28.0%	-2.0%	-21.0%	5.1%	15.0%	1.9%	9.0%
Private Equity	18.0%	15.0%	-3.0%	-18.0%	7.6%	17.5%	4.5%	12.5%
Venture Capital	7.0%	5.0%	-2.0%	-19.8%	8.6%	19.6%	5.1%	14.5%
Inflation-Linked Bonds	5.0%	2.5%	-2.5%	2.3%	1.0%	0.4%	1.2%	3.5%
Commodities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-20.0%	4.0%	10.0%	0.4%	4.0%
Private Equity Real Estate	8.0%	8.0%	0.0%	-7.7%	7.0%	8.8%	4.4%	10.5%
SAA	100%			-11.7%	6.0%	12.0%	3.7%	9.8%
TAA		100%		-11.2%	6.2%	11.8%	3.9%	9.6%

Note: Short-term assumptions are for the 12-months starting 31 January 2023

Source: Partners Capital analysis

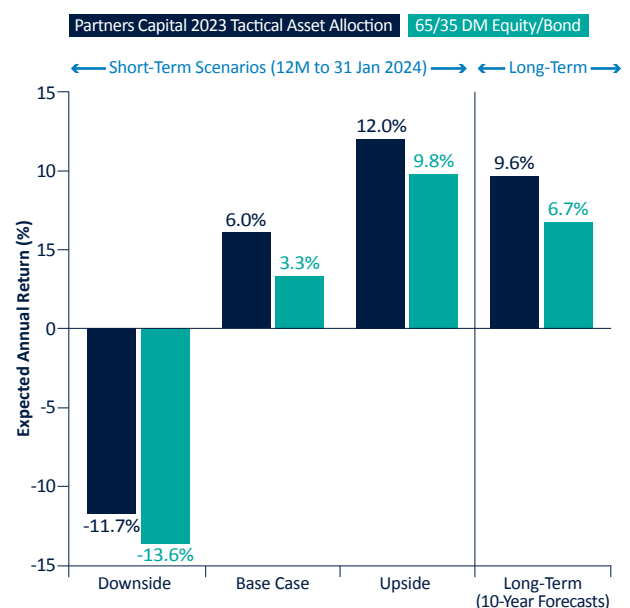
Hypothetical return expectations do not represent actual trading and are based on simulations with forward looking assumptions, which have inherent limitations. No representation is being made that any investor will or is likely to achieve returns similar to those shown. Such forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

decline by roughly -11%, while in the upside scenario of a soft landing, the portfolio is expected to rise +12% - both scenarios are assigned a probability of 20%. Over a 10-year investment horizon, over which the benefit of diversification plays more of a role via active rebalancing, we expect the portfolio to deliver returns closer to 10% p.a. net of fees.

These portfolio return assumptions compare favourably to the expected return of a 65/35 mix of Developed Market Equities and Government Bonds. The respective returns are shown in Exhibit 5 below. We expect our 2023 TAA portfolio to outperform a 65/35 equity/bond index by c.2-2.5% in most scenarios.

## Exhibit 5

Portfolio returns by scenario, Partners Capital TAA vs. a 65/35 Equity/Bond benchmark



Source: Partners Capital

# Sub-asset class positioning

Within each asset class, we favour particular strategies or sub-asset classes. Our asset class summary pages at the end of this publication provide more detail on sub-strategy attractiveness and our 2023 strategic priorities for each asset class. Exhibit 6 below summarises our sub-asset class skews across each asset class.

## Exhibit 6

### Partners Capital sub-asset class positioning

Asset Class	Most Negative	Negative	Neutral	Positive	Most Positive
Cash, Fixed Income, Inflation-Linked Bonds, Gold, Commodities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German Bunds</li> <li>UK Gilts</li> <li>US Treasuries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inflation-Linked Bonds</li> <li>Gold</li> <li>Commodities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash (incl. low-duration government bonds)</li> </ul>	
Liquid Credit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consumer Lending</li> <li>Specialised Short-Duration Lending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Yield Bonds</li> <li>Leveraged Loans</li> <li>EM LC/USD Bonds</li> <li>CMBS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aviation Debt</li> <li>Event-Driven Credit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mezzanine and IG GLO Debt</li> <li>RMBS</li> </ul>
Private Debt and Uncorrelated Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EM Direct Lending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insurance</li> <li>Life Settlements</li> <li>Mezzanine Lending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royalties</li> <li>Real Estate Lending</li> <li>CLO Equity and Debt</li> <li>Litigation Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MM Direct Lending</li> <li>Asset-backed Lending</li> <li>Drug Trial Financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Solutions</li> <li>Specialty Lending (tech, healthcare)</li> </ul>
Absolute Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinsurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed Futures/CTAs</li> <li>Risk Premia</li> <li>Event/Distressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Macro/Trading</li> <li>Convertible Arbitrage</li> <li>Credit L/S</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merger Arbitrage</li> <li>Fixed Income RV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental ELS (risk-managed)</li> <li>Statistical Arbitrage</li> </ul>
Public Equities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generalist Managers</li> <li>Mid-net Long/Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China</li> <li>Global EM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Tech</li> <li>Sustainability</li> <li>Europe Value-Oriented</li> <li>US Small Cap Quality-Oriented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Sciences</li> </ul>
Buyouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Markets (ex-Asia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asia Buyouts</li> <li>Distressed/Turnaround</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large Cap Buyouts</li> <li>European Buyouts</li> <li>Secondaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sector Specialists Buyouts</li> <li>Lower Mid-Markets Buyouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex Situations Buyouts</li> <li>Co-Investment</li> </ul>
Venture Capital		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China</li> <li>Deep Tech</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late-Stage</li> <li>Growth Equity</li> <li>Life Sciences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US</li> <li>Europe</li> <li>Enterprise Software</li> <li>Consumer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early-Stage</li> </ul>
Real Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging Markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office</li> <li>Retail</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospitality</li> <li>Core-Plus Property</li> <li>REITS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multifamily</li> <li>Industrial/Logistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunistic (incl. Capital Solutions, Loan Workouts)</li> </ul>

Source: Partners Capital



## Taxable Client Asset Allocation

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All changes discussed above reference our model portfolio for a large non-taxable institutional investor denominated in USD. The direction of these changes will be relevant to our taxable clients as well, but with different starting and ending allocations based on each client's tax situation.

For our tax paying clients, our goal is to maximise expected after-tax results from a multi-asset class portfolio with a relatively high level of certainty. To do this, we have developed the following four Golden Rules of Tax-Efficient Investing:

1. Increase portfolio risk to reflect the dampening effects of taxation
2. Allocate across asset classes based on after-tax returns, volatility and correlations
3. Select asset managers based on a range of after-tax expected returns
4. Utilise tax efficient structures

The practical implications of the above golden rules will vary depending on the underlying investors status, location and objectives.

**US Taxpayers:** To improve the overall tax efficiency of our US taxable portfolios we bias them toward advantaged asset classes such as Public Equities, Private Equity and Real Estate. In addition, we consider municipal bonds in place of Treasuries and structured inflation-linked municipal bonds (municipal bonds plus a return swap linked to the Consumer Price Index) in place of traditional inflation-linked bonds. Conversely, we avoid tax-inefficient asset classes with low manager outperformance (alpha) potential such as Liquid Credit and are highly selective on Absolute Return and Hedged Equities. The least tax-efficient asset classes are yield-based including Liquid Credit, Inflation-Linked Bonds, traditional fixed income (such as Treasuries) and Private Debt because the income stream is subject to the higher ordinary income tax rates.

**UK Taxpayers:** Unlike some other European tax regimes, the UK taxes capital gains, dividends and income differently. Strategies appropriate for non-taxpaying entities such as charitable endowments may not be appropriate for a tax-paying investor and vice versa. It is for this reason that we strongly recommend UK taxpayers invest via flagship multi-asset class fund, optimised for UK tax investing and structured in a manner that facilitates the offsetting of fees and expenses against income, the roll-up of capital gains within the portfolio and allows income to be taxed at the lower dividend tax rate. As with the US taxpayer portfolio, the allocation is skewed toward Equities given capital gains tax treatment combined with a good menu of reporting status funds. Absolute Return provide better after-tax returns than fixed income where we can find funds with reporting status or truly exceptional performers where we do not mind paying the tax.

If you would like further information on optimising your portfolio for after-tax returns, there are whitepapers on this subject available on our website. We are also actively monitoring potential tax changes across regions and will let clients know as soon as there is confirmation of what the likely changes may be.

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