

#### FUND LAUNCH 10 SEP, 2024

## Boutique launches funds for ex-Schroders Asia alts head

Singapore-based Cornerpiece Capital Partners is lining up three funds, including two for Ranjiv Raman, who joined as head of investments earlier this year.

BY JAMES PHILLIPPS

Boutique Cornerpiece Capital Partners is launching three funds, including global multi-asset and Asian equity strategies for ex-Schroders Wealth Management Asia investment boss Ranjiv Raman.

The Singapore-based money manager is also raising \$20m-40m for a healthcare-focused private equity fund, which is being advised by professor Michael Rossbach, formerly of the Genome Institute of Singapore.

Raman, who joined Cornerpiece as head of investments in March via a very brief stint at Wrise Investments, will effectively replicate the multi-asset and Asian equity mandates he ran at Schroders WM. He was latterly regional head of private market markets and equities at the British wealth manager, where he spent 14 years.

The multi-asset strategy will be positioned as a core holding for Cornerpiece's clients, which include accredited investors, single- and multi-family offices. Besides providing exposure to traditional asset classes like equities and bonds, it will also hold a position in a quant-based exchange traded fund strategy run by a third-party manager.

The Asian equity strategy will take a 'more opportunistic' approach, Raman said. At Schroders he oversaw both high conviction and dividend Asian equity mandates.

The strategies are set for a fourth quarter launch. They will be run using actively managed certificates, structured by Swiss investment firm Vontobel, which Raman said are transparent and cost-effective.

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'The beauty is I can launch an AMC per client and they can buy it off the shelf, so they don't need to move their custody,' he told Citywire Asia.

Cornerpiece is currently in 'advanced' stage talks with two family offices over fundraising for its planned healthcare private equity fund. The strategy will invest across the healthcare spectrum in areas such as biotechnology and medtech, aiming to identify long-term 'game-changers'.

Raman said bringing in a high-profile expert to run the rule over the science underpinning potential investments provides a differentiator and an additional layer of due diligence.

#### **Future plans**

Since joining Cornerpiece, where he was reunited with former Schroders colleague Thomas Forster, the firm's business development director, Raman said a lot of his early focus was on building the infrastructure to support the upcoming launches. DBS and LGT have been signed up as custodian banks for the strategies.

Cornerpiece has traditionally focused on alternative investments, including private equity and trade finance, and says it has advised on deals topping \$1bn.

Raman sees opportunities to package up individual invoice financing arrangements into a structure accessible to wealth clients, down the line.

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