

Socially Responsible Investing

Financial Advisor Biography



Over 23 years of nonprofit leadership and advisory experience with deep community involvement

Darya Allen-Attar

Financial Advisor

Darya Allen-Attar is a Financial Advisor at the Santa Monica office of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. Drawing from over 23 years of experience at Morgan Stanley, Darya focuses on advising Endowment and Foundation clients on their investment portfolios. She provides a comprehensive institutional approach to the investment management of endowment portfolios for clients such as Operating Nonprofits, Family Foundations, and other Endowments. She is passionate about her work in aligning client portfolios with their values and creating impact. She focuses on socially responsible investing, and “Investing with Impact”. Mission focused investors are increasingly focused on aligning their invested capital with their values, and view evaluation of Environmental, Social and Governance matters as a key challenge or opportunity for their invested capital.

Darya has been recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as a top investment consultant in California, the LABJ Wealth Management Roundtable 2013. Prior to working in the Morgan Stanley Santa Monica office, Darya was a member of a team in Morgan Stanley’s Private Wealth Group in Century City, where her focus was on working with family wealth clients with complex investment and planning needs. Prior to becoming a Financial Advisor, Darya was the head of the Estate and Financial Planning Advisory Group in New York for Morgan Stanley Private Wealth, focusing on providing advice to the top family wealth clients of the firm and Morgan Stanley’s own Managing Directors. She came to Morgan Stanley from KPMG Peat Marwick in Chicago, where she worked as a Certified Public Accountant in the nonprofit tax group, working with leading nonprofit clients in the Midwest region. On a short break from her Morgan Stanley career, Darya and two other founders created a Hedge Fund consulting firm, “The Investment Consulting Group”, which provided customized hedge fund portfolio advice to Family Office clients, and sold the company within two years.

Darya’s has been recognized for her community service in California, by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as a leading woman “Making a Difference” in Los Angeles, Rising Star Category, LABJ 2013. She was also recognized as one of the “Most Powerful Women in California” by California Women Lead (November, 2016) for her community work and the advancement of women. She is the founder a women’s organizations focused on economic inclusivity, The Women Founders Network. Also founded by Darya is the group called Advisors in Philanthropy in Los Angeles, a big tent organization focused on bringing together wealth managers, foundation and nonprofit leaders to share in best practices. Darya serves on the Education Committee of the United States Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investing, and has taught classes for their education curriculum in socially responsible investing. Darya is a frequent speaker on how endowments and foundations can use their investment portfolios for impact. She is a key member of the Southern California Grant Makers organization, and very focused on the work of the Environmental Funders Group. She serves on the Board of Governance for the Westside Family YMCA. Sitting in a role with oversight over an investment portfolio for a large nonprofit, she is on the Investment Advisory Committee for the California Community Foundation (1.24 billion in assets).

Darya is accredited as an Illinois state Certified Public Accountant (Non Practice at Morgan Stanley), and earned her certificate in accounting from Northwestern University; her MBA is from Fordham University; and BA from Kalamazoo College. Darya was an adjunct professor of Finance at New York University. She has traveled extensively, and speaks four languages. She started her travels at the age of 19, completing a study of malnutrition in West Africa as her undergraduate thesis. Most recently, she was invited by the State Department to speak on Women’s Entrepreneurship at their international forums, hosted by US consulates. Darya enjoys global engagement, supporting women, and in all aspects of her life and work exhibits a commitment and passion to investing her time and treasure for and with environmental, social and governance impact.

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