

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## IMEA Announces 2026 Executive Committee and Council Leadership *Reflecting Strong Industry Leadership and Continued Momentum*

February 23, 2026 — The Investment Management Education Alliance (IMEA) today announced its 2026 Executive Committee and Council Leadership, reinforcing the organization's commitment to member-led governance and cross-functional collaboration across the asset management industry.

"IMEA's strength has always been rooted in the caliber and commitment of its member leaders," said Kimber Lintz, executive director of IMEA. "Our executive committee and committee chairs represent some of the most respected voices across distribution, marketing, product, and data intelligence. Their leadership ensures IMEA remains a forward-looking, member-driven organization where industry professionals can collaborate, share best practices, and shape the future of investment management."

To carry this momentum forward, IMEA announced a distinguished group of industry leaders to serve on its Executive Committee which reflects the organization's member-driven governance model and cross-functional leadership from some of the industry's most respected firms:

### 2026 Executive Committee

- **James Cove**, Chair  
Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing Officer, *Natixis Investment Managers*
- **Alex Gardner**, Treasurer  
Managing Director, Product & Strategy, *Diamond Hill*
- **Rocco Benedetto**, Vice President  
Head of Field Sales, U.S. Wealth Management Intermediaries, *Invesco Distributors, Inc.*
- **Annie Brown**, Vice President  
Co-Head of U.S. Intermediary Wealth Management, *T. Rowe Price*
- **Vicki Lester**, Vice President  
Vice President and Head of Segment Marketing, Consulting and Development, *Columbia Threadneedle Investments*
- **Ed Nini**, Vice President  
Managing Director and Head of Product, *Principal Asset Management*

"It's a privilege to join the Executive Committee of the IMEA," said Ed Nini, managing director and head of product at Principal Asset Management. "The organization's commitment to elevating investment management education is critical to the future of our industry, and I'm excited to collaborate with fellow Committee members to expand access, innovation, and long-term value for the next generation of professionals."

Building on the strategic oversight of the Executive Committee, IMEA announced council leadership roles which play a critical role in shaping the organization's year-round programming and initiatives.

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### **Council Leadership Driving IMEA Programming**

IMEA's councils bring together subject matter experts from member firms to guide conference content, roundtables, and peer exchanges aligned to the evolving needs of the industry. Councils are chaired by senior leaders actively shaping the industry:

#### **Distribution Intelligence Council**

Ken Burd, Co-Chair | Director, Distribution BI & Analytics, *Principal Asset Management*

Matt Machut, Co-Chair | Managing Director, Global Head of Distribution Strategy and Enablement, *Goldman Sachs Asset Management*

#### **Distribution Council**

James Adams, Co-Chair | CIMO, Managing Director, Global Strategic Accounts, *MFS Investment Management*

David Borrelli, Co-Chair | Senior Vice President, National Sales Director, *Invesco*

#### **Internal Sales Desk Council**

Beau Bokelman, Co-Chair | Managing Director, Head of Internal Sales, *Janus Henderson Investors*

Bill Jacobs, Co-Chair | Senior Vice President, Head of Internal Sales for U.S. Wealth, *Franklin Templeton Investments*

#### **Marketing Council**

Jessica Fernandez, Co-Chair | Global Chief Marketing Officer, *Direxion*

Tara Giuliano, Co-Chair | Chief Marketing Officer, *Nuveen*

#### **National Accounts Council**

Sean Mackley, Chair | Head of Broker / Dealer National Accounts & Centers of Influence, *T. Rowe Price*

#### **Product Council**

Michael Twohig, Chair | Head of U.S. Public Product Development, *Goldman Sachs Asset Management*

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#### **About IMEA**

*The Investment Management Education Alliance (IMEA) is a leading trade group dedicated to advancing the asset management industry through education, collaboration, and innovation. IMEA provides a platform for industry professionals to connect, exchange ideas, and stay informed about the latest developments in investment management. With a commitment to excellence and member-driven initiatives, IMEA continues to be a trusted resource and advocate for its diverse membership base. For more information, visit [www.imeaconnect.com](http://www.imeaconnect.com).*