SPECIAL REPORT | HEDGE FUNDS

Best 100 Hedge Funds

As industry assets pass \$2 trillion, mortgage specialists surge to the top.

By Eric Uhlfelder
Photograph by Peter Murphy

CHRISTIAN ZUGEL ENJOYS HIGH SPEEDS MORE THAN most people. A native of Stuttgart, Germany, home to Porsche and Mercedes, the 52-year old fell in love with cars at an early age and today races on the amateur-motor circuit at tracks like Daytona, where he pushes his Porsche Spyder to speeds near 200 miles per hour.

He moves through the financial world at a pretty good clip, too. The former head of high-yield bond trading at JPMorgan, Zugel created Zais Group back in 1997. The asset manager now oversees \$6.4 billion from its main office in Red Bank, New Jersey, as well as newer outposts in London and Shanghai. His \$418 million Zais Opportunity Fund, which buys portions of collateralized-loan obligations, also has taken the winner's checkered flag in *Barron's* annual ranking of the Top 100 Hedge Funds. The fund returned an average of 78.5% annually to its investors in the three years ending 2011. (Complete tables start on page 28.)

"I'm drawn to [racing and investing] out of a desire to excel in challenging environments and to control my own destiny," says Zugel, who holds a masters degree in economics from the University of Mannheim in Germany. "Both require discipline and consistency, and keen understanding of acceleration and break points."

The last three years have provided a smooth track for hedge managers like Zugel who negotiate the complicated world of fixed-income assets, including asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities. They were at the heart of the credit crisis in 2008 but have recovered strongly since. In the case of asset-backed securities, "they were hammered so excessively that when markets finally normalized, it set the stage for a powerful rebound that has continued to this day," he says. Zugel's fund was badly hit in 2008, having lost 73.6%, but survived and has roared back impressively.

That financial crisis is fading in the rear-view mirror. Five of *Barron's* top seven funds invested in mortgage- or asset-backed securities.

No. 2 on our list is Metacapital Mortgage Opportunities, founded by Deepak Narula, a former head mortgage trader at Lehman Brothers who started his firm in 2001. He created this fund, which has averaged an annual gain of 62%



in the last three years, near the height of the turmoil in 2008 just as his one-time employer was imploding.

Most recently, Metacapital has played the unexpected stability in Americans' mortgage-repayment rates. "Government policy targeted certain homeowners to refinance their mortgages at lower rates," he explains. That might have sent some prices lower. Narula didn't believe it would happen. He was right, and Metacapital profited "as payments continued to flow into these securities."

Another beneficiary of strong mortgage securities markets is 68-year old, former philosophy professor Don Brownstein and his SPM Structured Servicing Holdings fund. The blandly-named \$1.7 billion fund, which relies on the research of about a dozen Ph.D.s., has soared by 61.84% per year on average over the last three years. A second Brownstein mortgage vehicle was No. 4 and the \$1.4 billion Providence MBS fund ranked seventh among the Top 100.

The best-performing equity-only hedge fund in our ranking was the long-only Cambrian Fund, posting a three-year annualized return of 28.38%.

Some absent from this year's Top 100 correctly anticipated the meltdown but later strayed into other sorts of investments. Notably missing this year is John Paulson, who's best known for shorting mortgage-backed securities in 2007, when his Paulson Credit Fund rose close to 600%.

His event-driven Advantage fund made our list the previous four years. It was down 36% last year, sidelining his three-year performance. And Philip Falcone's Harbinger Capital Partners fund also disappeared from the Top 100 ranking, following his losing bet on LightSquared, the wireless venture that recently filed for Chapter 11. Falcone, too, anticipated the credit crisis, but he's struggled in its aftermath.

The declining fortunes of some prominent mortgage bears isn't the only sign that the effects of 2008's collapse are receding. HFR, which researches the business, reports that in 2011 hedgefund assets broke the \$2 trillion mark, exceeding the year-end 2007 pre-crisis peak of \$1.87 trillion. It had declined as low as \$1.4 trillion in 2008. And the number of funds reporting as of first quarter 2012 has now eclipsed the December 2007 level of 7,634, rising to 7,659.

Hedge funds' flexibility is one reason they've proved so durable. Top-performing funds like those of Ray Dalio's Bridgewater Associates (see story,

page P21) or David Tepper's Palomino fund combine stocks, bonds, currencies, and commodities. Multi-strategy funds, most of which fared poorly when virtually all assets declined in 2008, have seen some of the strongest gains since.

The average three-year annualized returns of *Barron's* leading multi-strategy firms soared to 25.71% from last year's

15.23%, led by the \$840 million GLG Market Neutral Fund (No. 14). It has averaged a gain of 35.45% over the last three years. Even Zugel's seemingly narrow asset-backed fund can spread its bets among many corporate borrowers.

The diversified approach has done well, explains Andrew Redleaf, CEO and manager of the 22nd-ranked Whitebox Multi-Strategy Fund, because it allows managers to exploit the rotation in leading strategies, a particular advantage as different classes have constantly jockeyed for leadership since the markets finally bottomed. "We also have the flexibility to navigate the volatility that's been part of the recovery," he adds.

That's in part the idea behind Bain Capital's Absolute Return Capital Partners Fund, which seeks relative value and was No. 72 on the Top 100 list with a three-year return of 19.44%. The fund also handles a small (\$250,000 to \$500,000) part of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's blind trust as well as a bigger IRA, according to public filings. Of course, Romney retired from the private-equity firm in 1999, and his investments today are spread among a large number of vehicles across many asset classes and managers.

Although declining to confirm or deny Romney's passive stake, Jeffrey Woolbert, portfolio manager, explains that in 2004 Bain set out to diversify the firm's holdings beyond the its private-equity and credit portfolios. The result, he says, is that they "looked to apply the relative value approach to additional esoteric asset classes like currencies, rates, and commodities." Not only have the returns been strong but assets have jumped to above \$2 billion as foundations and pension funds have put money in.

The financial crisis proved the power of Absolute Return's diversification, says Woolbert. The fund lost just 6% in 2008, and recovered sharply from even that small decline in the first two months of 2009, when equity markets were falling. The fund earned 31% in 2009. "We're most proud of the fact that we've generated returns with negligible co-relation with equities," says Woolbert.

Barron's numbers suggest just how important the ability to change lanes is. Our list is dominated by firms that have the freedom to go long or short and to shift among markets. In the last three years, the Top 100's average annualized hedge fund returns were an impressive 25.55%. This was nearly triple the 9.05% average return of Barclay-Hedge's main fund index and nearly double the Standard & Poor's 500 index's gain since the end of 2008.

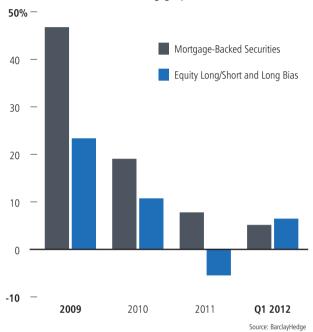
Many hedge funds got a big boost in this year's ranking because we use a three-year return, which means that 2008, for our ranking purposes, no longer exists. That brought back some names we haven't seen in awhile. For instance, multi-strategy manager Citadel, which had been off our list since 2007, came in 21st this year with a three-year annualized gain of 29.36%. Another returning member was the event-driven Third Point Offshore Fund, No. 42.

Making its first appearance on our list is equity long/short Omega Capital Partners fund, managed by respected Wall Street veteran Leon Cooperman, whose offering returned more than 21.57% annually over the past three years.

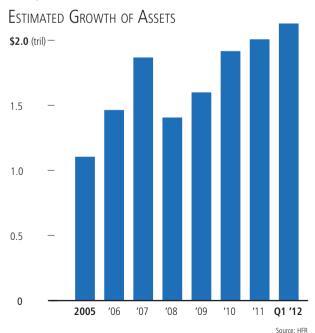
Nearly making the cut this year were well-known names like Steve Cohen's SAC Capital International fund and Elliott International. A little further off the mark were D.E. Shaw, Brevan Howard, Cerberus, Farallon, and King Street.

Barron's hedge-fund ranking highlights what's possible from this community for investors looking to create a diversified portfolio, possibly securing above-market returns. It isn't a recommendation to chase last year's victors. To sidestep funds that benefit from a momentary jump in a certain industry or asset type, we exclude funds that invest in a single country, sector, commodities or narrow asset types. Our

PALE IN COMPARISON Stock hedge funds have lagged behind more obscure vehicles like mortgage specialists since 2008's crash.



REPLENISHED Far from giving up on hedge funds, investors have poured money into them in the last three years. Assets exceed \$2 trillion.



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minimum fund size is \$300 million, to include those vehicles that offer some stability and liquidity. We worked with two hedge-fund database outfits to compile our list, Barclay-Hedge (barclayhedge.com) and Morningstar (alternativeinvestments.morningstar.com), which sort through thousands of funds to meet our basic criteria. We then contact each of the screen firms to verify their results. With the help of Barron's contributing editor Erin Arvedlund, we also tapped into additional trusted sources for information, which we have used in gathering data.

So what will the rest of 2012 look like? Slowing growth, more European debt woes, and an overextended stock-rally have made a number of our leading hedge funds nervous. JPMorgan's \$2 billion trading loss also raised concerns about the state of big financial institutions and regulatory risk. (Funds Nos. 68 and 89, BlueCrest Capital and BlueMountain Credit Alternatives, wouldn't comment on reports that they were on the profitable side of the bank's trades.)

But the managers also see opportunities in stocks, bonds and commodities.

Whitebox's Redleaf sees especially good value in large-cap equities. He points out that in recent years, the trailing price-earnings multiple of small- and mid-cap shares (as measured by the Russell 2000) has widened considerably over the S&P 500's multiple. Driven by mid- and small-cap stock gains, the multiple of the Russell last week stood at 28.67, versus 13.45 for the S&P 500. At the same time, the spread of price-to-book ratios, (large caps' are normally bigger) have also narrowed to multi-year lows. Redleaf believes these trends will reverse.

The money manager is optimistic based on positive U.S. fundamentals, supported by strong corporate balance sheets, stable and accessible capital markets, a modest rebound in manufacturing and continued GDP growth.

Bain's Absolute Return fund has moved into the commodities markets, which now represent about 40% of its total number of bets, an unusually large portion for a macro fund, according to Woolbert. Commodities prices have suffered due to the recent anxiety about the strength of global growth in China, the U.S. and Europe.

As strong as fixed-income performance has been, bonds still hold a lot of opportunities.

Growing restrictions on dealer-capital lending and bank proprietary trading (which JPMorgan's big loss likely ensures) will accelerate market illiquidity and dislocation, according to GLG Market Neutral manager Steve Roth. He sees significant arbitrage opportunities among various capital securities opened up both by sovereign-debt problems and vulnerable banks, especially in Europe. Distressed-debt specialist Edward Mulé, whose Silver Point Capital fund is No. 54 on our list, agrees that the ongoing deleveraging of financial institutions will offer opportunities to credit investors over the next year.

Any additional central-bank intervention could also generate distortions in sovereign debt that nimble hedge-fund managers can exploit.

As is often the case, many hedge funds will race toward the roadside pile-up, hoping to profitably pick through the debris. \blacksquare

-Additional reporting by Jack Willoughby

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OUR TOP 100 HEDGE FUNDS Riding the recovery in credit and equities, the best-performing hedge managers easily beat both the Standard & Poor's 500 and the BarclayHedge index over the three years ending in 2011. Mortgage- and asset-backed specialists have remained the dominant money spinners while multi-strategy funds gained in the post-crisis environment. No. 1 was Zais Opportunity, with a remarkable three-year average return of 78.49%. With 2008's disaster no longer in the tally, familiar names like Citadel have regained their place. A familiar name joining the list this year: Leon Cooperman's Omega Capital Partners.

| Ra | nk 2010 | Fund Name | Fund Assets (\$ mil) | , , | 3-Year Compound Annual Return | | Company/Location | Total Firm Assets (\$ mil) |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | N.R. | Zais Opportunity Ltd Class B | 418 | Structured Credit | 78.49% | 33.09% | Zais Group / Red Bank, N.J. | 6,400 |
| 2. | N.R. | Metacapital Mortgage Opportunities Ltd | 853 | Mortgage-Backed Securities | 61.99 | 23.61 | Metacapital Management / New York | 853 |
| 3. | 2. | SPM Structured Servicing Holdings LP | 1,682 | Mortgage-Backed Securities-Non-Agen | cy 61.84 | 19.63 | Structured Portfolio Management / Stamford, Conn. | 3,049 |
| 4. | N.R. | SPM Directional Mortgage Prepay | 645 | Mortgage-Backed Securities-Agency | 50.73 | 27.10 | Structured Portfolio Management / Stamford, Conn. | 3,049 |
| 5. | N.R. | Marwyn Value Investors LP | 303 | Event Driven | 50.30 | 26.74 | Marwyn Investment Mgmt / London | 479 |
| 6. | 18. | ECF Value LP | 847 | Event Driven | 45.50 | 2.65 | Gates Capital Management / New York | 847 |
| 7. | 1. | Providence MBS Ltd | 1,393 | Mortgage-Backed Securities | 45.04 | 25.39 | Providence Investment Mgmt / Providence, R.I. | 1,393 |
| 8. | 29. | Barnegat Ltd Series B | 501 | Fixed-Income Arbitrage | 44.16 | 11.17 | Barnegat Fund Mgmt / Hoboken, N.J. | 501 |
| 9. | 45. | VR Global Partners LP | 1,504 | Emerging Markets/Distressed | 44.13 | 3.56 | VR Advisory Services / Dubai | 1,504 |
| 10. | 7. | Palomino Ltd | 4,400 | Distressed Credit/Opportunistic | 41.49 | -3.55 | Appaloosa / Chatham, N.J. | 12,000 |
| 11. | 8. | Investcorp Silverback Arbitrage | 778 | Diversified Arbitrage | 41.44 | 5.01 | Investcorp Investment Advisers / New York | 4,700 |
| 12. | N.R. | Pine River Fixed Income Ltd | 1,866 | Mortgage-Backed Securities | 38.60 | 4.78 | Pine River Capital Mgmt / Minnetonka, Minn. | 5,500 |
| 13. | N.R. | Alden Global Distressed Opportunities Ltd | 1,889 | Distressed Securities | 36.06 | -20.36 | Alden Global Capital / New York | 2,500 |
| 14. | N.R. | GLG Market Neutral | 840 | Multi-Strategy | 35.45 | 0.80 | GLG Partners / London | 26,400 |
| 15. | N.R. | Autonomy Global Macro | 1,200 | Global Macro | 34.52 | 13.61 | Autonomy Capital / New York | 2,200 |
| 16. | 4. | Element Capital Ltd | 3,118 | Macro/Relative Value | 34.03 | 5.54 | Element Capital Management / New York | 3,118 |
| 17. | N.R. | Pine River Master Ltd | 1,069 | Multi-Strategy | 31.99 | 5.72 | Pine River Capital Mgmt / Minnetonka, Minn. | 5,500 |
| 18. | N.R. | Serengeti Opportunities | 580 | Event Driven | 31.94 | -1.10 | Serengeti Asset Management / New York | 846 |
| 19. | 6. | NZC Guggenheim | 992 | Opportunistic Credit | 31.82 | 11.21 | Guggenheim Partners / New York | 125,000 |
| 20. | 68. | Danske Invest Hedge Fixed Income Strategies | 625 | Fixed-Income Relative Value Arbitrage | 31.77 | 19.18 | Danske Capital / Copenhagen | 105,660 |
| 21. | N.R. | Citadel Kensington Global Strategies Ltd | 5,999 | Multi-Strategy | 29.36 | 20.30 | Citadel / Chicago | 12,000 |
| 22. | 66. | Whitebox Multi-Strategy LP | 967 | Multi-Strategy | 29.16 | 1.46 | · | 2,270 |
| 23. | N.R. | GCA Credit Opportunities Offshore Ltd | 522 | <u></u> | 28.49 | 4.48 | Whitebox Advisors / Minneapolis Global Credit Advisers / New York | 522 |
| 23. 24. | N.R. | Cambrian Ltd | 649 | Credit Long/Short | | | , | |
| 2 4 . 25. | N.R. | GoldenTree Master Ltd | 2,575 | Equity/Long | 28.38 27.95 | -1.63 -0.27 | Atlantic Investment Management / New York | 1,544 |
| 26. | N.R. | ValueAct Capital Master LP | <u> </u> | Credit | 27.95 | | GoldenTree Asset Management / New York | 14,200 N.A. |
| | | | 6,582 | Equity Long/Short | | 14.40 | ValueAct Capital Management / San Francisco | |
| 27. | N.R. | Titan Partners LP | 444 | U.S. Equity/Long | 26.54 | 3.70 | HHR Asset Mgmt / Berkeley Heights, N.J. | 1,368 |
| 28. | N.R. | Quantitative Tactical Aggressive Ltd | 704 5.061 | Equity Long/Short | 26.49 | 38.65 | Quantitative Investment Mgmt / Charlottesville, Va. | 704 |
| 29. 30. | N.R. | Discovery Global Opportunity Ltd | 5,061 | Emerging Markets Multi-Asset | 25.95 | 3.58 | Discovery Capital Mgmt / South Norwalk, Conn. | 6,673 |
| 31. | 12. | Libra LP | 2,003 | Equity Long/Short | 25.89 | -9.85 | Libra Advisors / New York | 2,003 |
| | N.R. | Centerbridge Credit Partners LP | 7,640 | Distressed Credit | 25.20 | 0.03 | Centerbridge Hedge Advisors / New York | 17,361 |
| 32. | 14. | Pharo Trading Ltd | 460 | Emerging Markets/Macro | 25.03 | -2.64 | Pharo Global Advisors / London | 2,900 |
| 33. | N.R. | Passport Special Opportunities LP Kayne Anderson Capital Income Partners (QP) | 522 | Global Equity Long/Short | 25.00 | -20.00 | Passport Capital / San Francisco | 3,800 |
| 34. | N.R. N.R. | • | 440 | Multi-Strategy | 24.93 | 7.18 | Kayne Anderson Capital Adv. / Los Angeles | 14,200 |
| 35. 36. | | Vertex Fund Class A | 951 | Multi-Strategy | 24.78 | -11.70 | Vertex One Asset Management / Vancouver | 1,260 |
| | N.R. | PH & N Absolute Return A | 699 | Multi-Strategy | 24.59 | 8.15 | RBC Global Asset Mgmt / Vancouver | 252,649 |
| 37. | 69. | Trilogy Financial Partners International Ltd Lazard Rathmore Ltd | 1,050 | Credit Long/Short | 24.07 | 2.31 | Trilogy Capital / Greenwich, Conn. | 1,354 |
| 38. | N.R. | | 436 | Convertible Arbitrage | 23.64 | -1.65 | Lazard Asset Management / New York | 127,000 |
| 39. | 53. | Finisterre Sovereign Debt Fund | 595 | Emerging Markets: Global | 23.09 | 10.34 | Finisterre Capital / London | 1,738 |
| 40. | N.R. | Glenview Capital Partners Ltd Pimco Absolute Return Fund IV | 3,585 | Equity Long/Short | 22.87 | -11.00 | Glenview Capital Management / New York | 5,255 ¹ |
| 41. | 54. | | 2,157 | Credit Long/Short | 22.81 | 1.82 | Pimco / Newport Beach, Calif. | 1,400,000 |
| 42. | N.R. | Third Point Offshore Ltd | 6,939 | Event Driven | 22.80 | 0.00 | Third Point LLC / New York | 7,500 |
| 43. | 35. | Pure Alpha Fund II | 57,080 | Global Macro | 22.75 | 25.34 | Bridgewater Associates / Westport, Conn. | 120,300 |
| 44. | 17. | GS Gamma Investments Ltd | 848 | Mortgage-Backed Securities | 22.57 | 12.07 | GS Gamma Advisors / New York | 848 |
| 45. | 13. | CQS Directional Opportunities Fund Ltd Class A (US | | Multi-Strategy | 22.54 | -10.47 | CQS / London | 10,400 |
| 46. | N.R. | Guggenheim Prtnrs Opportunistic Invst Grade Secu | | Structured Credit | 22.31 | 10.86 | Guggenheim Partners / New York | 125,000 |
| 47. 40 | N.R. | Green HG LLC | 1,577 | Emerging Markets: Multi-Strategy | 22.22 | -5.71 17.29 | CSHG / Sao Paulo | 29,200 |
| 48. 40 | N.R. | Value Partners Classic Class A | 1,596 | Emerging Markets: Asia | 22.07 | -17.28 | Value Partners Ltd. / Hong Kong | 2,636 |
| 49. | 65. | Fore Multi Strategy Master Ltd | 1,522 | Multi-Strategy | 22.03 | 7.86 | Fore Research & Mgmt / New York | 2,415 |
| 50. | N.R. | CapeView Recovery (USD) | 384 10,404 ² | European Credit | 21.84 | 1.49 | CapeView Capital / London | 630 |
| 51. | 41. | Pershing Square LP | 10,404 | Equity Long/Short | 21.71 | -1.16 | Pershing Square Capital Mgmt / New York | 10,404 |

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| Ra 2011 | nk 2010 | Fund Name | Fund Assets (\$ mil) | Fund Strategy | 3-Year Compound Annual Return | 2011 Return | Company/Location | Total Firm Assets (\$ mil) |
|----------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 52. | N.R. | AQR Global Asset Allocation Full Risk | 900 | Global Macro | 21.70% | -1.10% | AQR Capital Management / Greenwich, Conn. | 44,200 |
| 53. | 97. | Wolverine Convertible Arbitrage Ltd | 1,543 | Relative Value/Arbitrage | 21.67 | 3.10 | Wolverine Asset Mgmt / Chicago | 1,588 |
| 54. | N.R. | Silver Point Capital Offshore Ltd | 6,600 | Distressed Credit | 21.66 | 4.53 | Silver Point Capital, LP / Greenwich, Conn. | 6,600 |
| 55. | N.R. | AQR Absolute Return | 1,300 | Multi-Strategy | 21.60 | 10.80 | AQR Capital Mgmt / Greenwich, Conn. | 44,200 |
| 56. | N.R. | Omega Capital Partners LP | 5,572 | Equity Long/Short | 21.58 | -1.59 | Omega Advisors, New York | 5,615 |
| 57. | N.R. | R3 Ltd | 960 | Credit Long/Short | 21.13 | 2.50 | BlackRock / New York | 3,513,000 |
| 58. | N.R. | Silver Lake Credit LP Class A | 355 | Credit Long/Short | 21.00 | -13.68 | Silver Lake Financial Mgmt / San Francisco | 408 |
| 59. | 52. | AQR Global Risk Premium Tactical Moderate Risk | 800 | Global Macro | 20.70 | 7.40 | AQR Capital Mgmt / Greenwich, Conn. | 44,200 |
| 60. | 22. | Friedberg Global Macro Ltd | 1,207 | Global Macro | 20.67 | 40.86 | Friedberg Mercantile Group / Toronto | 2,900 |
| 61. | N.R. | Teton Capital Partners LP | 388 | Global Equity Long/Short | 20.62 | 1.46 | Ancient Art / Austin, Tex. | 388 |
| 62. | 32. | Obsidian | 594 ³ | Fixed-Income Arbitrage | 20.46 | -13.51 | BlackRock / New York | 3,513,000 |
| 63. | N.R. | Drawbridge Special Opportunities LP | 5,165 | Distressed Credit | 20.27 | 10.91 | Fortress Investment Group / New York | 43,700 |
| 64. | 60. | Bay Resource Partners Offshore Ltd | 2,450 | U.S. Long/Short Equity | 20.25 | -6.91 | GMT Capital / Atlanta | 4,631 |
| 65. | 55. | Nektar | 3,301 | Fixed-Income Relative Value/Global Ma | acro 19.93 | 7.60 | Brummer & Partners / Stockholm | 13,435 |
| 66. | N.R. | York Select LP | 950 | Event Driven | 19.92 | -18.63 | York Capital Management / New York | 12,800 |
| 67. | N.R. | Tiger Global LP | 6,862 | Equity Long/Short | 19.82 | 46.30 | Tiger Global Management / New York | 12,400 |
| 68. | 24. | BlueCrest Capital International Ltd | 9,900 | Global Macro | 19.74 | 5.89 | BlueCrest Capital Mgmt / Guernsey, United Kingdom | 28,600 |
| 69. | 33. | Rimrock High Income PLUS (Cayman) Ltd | 687 | Credit Long/Short | 19.71 | 7.48 | Rimrock Capital Mgmt / San Juan Capistrano, Calif. | 1,500 |
| 70. | 27. | Stelliam | 464 | U.S. Equity Long/Short | 19.55 | 3.59 | Stelliam Investment Mgmt / New York | 795 |
| 71. | 72. | Venor Capital Offshore Ltd | 581 | Event Driven | 19.51 | -4.48 | Venor Capital Management / New York | 688 |
| 72. | N.R. | Absolute Return Capital Partners LP | 2,355 | Global Macro | 19.46 | 31.00 | Bain Capital / Boston | 60,000 |
| 73. | N.R. | Canyon Value Realization LP | 7,505 | Credit/Event Driven | 19.20 | -4.66 | Canyon Capital Advisors / Los Angeles | 17,400 |
| 74. | N.R. | Everest Capital Emerging Markets | 345 | Emerging-Market Equity Long/Short | 19.09 | -13.85 | Everest Capital / Miami | 1,700 |
| 75 . | N.R. | OCP Debt Opportunity Int'l Ltd | 320 | Event Driven/Distressed Debt | 19.08 | -1.41 | Onex Credit Partners / Englewood Cliffs, N.J. | 1,466 |
| 76. | N.R. | Lone Cascade | 9,377 | Global Equity/Long | 19.02 | -1.80 | Lone Pine Capital / Greenwich, Conn. | 17,000 |
| 77. | N.R. | Graham Discretionary Portfolio - 12V | 1,717 | Macro | 18.93 | 6.86 | Graham Capital Mgmt / Rowayton, Conn. | 7,700 |
| 78. | N.R. | Lone Dragon | 1,941 | Emerging-Market Equity/Long | 18.77 | -21.80 | Lone Pine Capital / Greenwich, Conn. | 17,000 |
| 79. | N.R. | Allard Growth | 480 | Asian Equity/Long | 18.77 | -6.36 | Allard Partners Ltd / Hong Kong | 807 |
| 80. | N.R. | Mariner Partners LP | 1,000 | Diversified Arbitrage | 18.34 | 6.33 | Mariner Investment Group / Harrison, NY | 11,363 |
| 81. | N.R. | Monarch Debt Recovery Ltd | 1,730 | Distressed Credit | 17.88 | -0.45 | Monarch Alternative Capital LP / New York | 4,200 |
| 82. | N.R. | Forum Global Opportunities Ltd | 376 | Macro | 17.85 | 3.58 | Forum Asset Management / New York | 481 |
| 83. | N.R. | Greenlight Capital Qualified LP | 2,056 | Equity Long/Short | 17.82 | 2.95 | Greenlight Capital / New York | 7,728 |
| 84. | 20. | Quaesta Capital Bond Global Select | 841 | Global Macro | 17.37 | 2.49 | Quaesta Capital / Frankfurt | 3,200 |
| 85. | 62. | Halcyon Offshore Asset-Backed Value Ltd | 1,600 | Distressed Asset-Backed Securities | 17.25 | 4.12 | Halcyon Asset Management / New York | 9,500 |
| 86. | N.R. | All Weather @ 12% Ltd | 45,990 | Global Macro | 17.24 | 19.50 | Bridgewater Associates / Westport, Conn. | 120,300 |
| 87. | N.R. | Penn Core High Yield Bond Fund II LP | 384 | High-Yield Fixed Income | 17.04 | 4.72 | Penn Capital Management / Philadelphia | 5,712 |
| 88. | 59 . | Black River Fixed Income Relative Value Opportunity | Ltd 1,520 | Fixed-Income Relative Value | 16.91 | 9.04 | Black River Asset Mgmt / Minnetonka, Minn. | 5,690 |
| 89. | 63. | Blue Mountain Credit Alternatives Ltd | 3,500 | Credit Long/Short | 16.90 | 3.56 | Blue Mountain Capital Mgmt / New York | 7,200 |
| 90. | 21. | Waterstone Market Neutral OffShore Ltd | 1,200 | Convertible Arbitrage/Credit | 16.85 | 0.74 | Waterstone Capital Mgmt / Plymouth, N.H. | 1,811 |
| 91. | N.R. | ESL Partners LP | 7,800 ⁴ | Equity Long/Short | 16.69 | -11.70 | ESL Investments / Greenwich, Conn. | 10,000 |
| 92. | N.R. | J. Caird Investors (Bermuda) | 687 | Equity Long/Short | 16.59 | -10.47 | Wellington Management / Boston | 651,496 |
| 93. | N.R. | Litespeed Offshore Ltd | 1,050 | Event Driven | 16.57 | 4.35 | Litespeed Management / New York | 1,050 |
| 94. | N.R. | Contrarian Capital Fund I | 2,176 | Distressed Securities | 16.46 | -1.32 | Contrarian Capital Mgmt / Greenwich, Conn. | 3,152 |
| 95. | N.R. | UBS O'Connor Global Multi-Strategy Alpha Ltd | 3,225 | Multi-Strategy | 16.42 | 2.47 | UBS O'Connor / Chicago | 6,405 |
| 96. | N.R. | SIA Long-Term Investment Classic (EUR) | 332 | Equity/Long | 16.31 | -19.72 | SIA Funds / Ziegelbruecke, Switzerland | 516 |
| 97. | N.R. | Davidson Kempner Distressed Opportunities Intl Ltd | 1,186 | Distressed Credit | 16.24 | -2.46 | Davidson Kempner Capital / New York | 16,990 |
| 98. | N.R. | Avenue International Ltd | 2,025 | Distressed Credit | 16.18 | -13.00 | Avenue Capital / New York | 13,100 ⁵ |
| 99. | N.R. | Permal Fixed Income Special Opportunities Ltd | 435 | Emerging Markets Fixed Income | 16.12 | 11.33 | Permal Asset Management / New York | 20,000 |
| 100. | N.R. | JAT Capital Ltd | 2,400 | Equity Long/Short | 16.10 | 17.40 | JAT Capital Management / Greenwich, Conn. | 2,400 |
| | | Barron's Top 100 Hedge Fund Average | | | 25.55 | 4.00 | | |
| | | BarclayHedge Fund Index | | | 9.05 | -5.48 | | |
| | | S&P 500 Total Return | | | 14.11 | 2.11 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Fund Assets include both on- and off-shore funds. Fund Name: When there are on- and off-shore funds, the fund name cited is the larger of the two, with LP typically indicating off-shore. The cited fund is the source for the performance numbers. 1. Total firm assets includes only equity assets. 2. Pershing Square Capital is reporting performance of the Master Feeder Fund. 3. Obsidian fund assets are through September 2011. 4. ESL fund assets was reported by the Wall Street Journal in late December 2011, and ESL will not confirm it. 5. Data as of March 2012. N.R.=Not Ranked. NA=Not Available.