

Diversity Leader Profile



YANA BARTON
Co-Head Specialty
Solutions Group,
Portfolio Manager

“There are many faces of success and your journey should be your own.”

Poised and eloquent, Yana Barton appears unflappable on her numerous television appearances, representing Morgan Stanley Investment Management (MSIM) and its core investment views through varying market conditions. Her platform as a portfolio manager running more than \$35bn in various equity strategies, wasn't built overnight. Yana's career spans over 25 years at Eaton Vance, working closely with high-profiled investors such as Duncan Richardson, former Equities CIO, and Tom Faust, chairman of MSIM.

“Oftentimes it is the scariest moments that prove to be the most pivotal in our lives.”

Yana's ability to keep an open mind to new opportunities has been key to her success. Yana started in Fund Administration and over an eighteen-month period, used her role to learn the ins and outs of the asset management business, fund operations and most importantly, connected with people in the firm. An opportunity to transition to equity research opened up and the rest is history. Despite her initial knowledge gap, Yana focused on bringing a differentiated value proposition to the fundamentally-focused investment team, particularly in the areas of risk management and portfolio construction. She said “yes” to a variety of projects and became a CFA charter holder.

A turning point in Yana's career came when many of her peers left the firm to pursue MBA programs. As enticing as that opportunity was, Yana carefully weighed the cost-and-benefits of that decision and took a pragmatic approach. At the time, Eaton Vance was growing rapidly, particularly in the equity group, which created favorable conditions for her to gain greater responsibility and focus on new product development. Just a few years later, she was asked to co-manage a new strategy, which has grown to more than \$7bn in total net assets.

“People are our most important asset. If you have the right people in the seat, then your only job is to let them execute.”

Yana is a mother of three children, working in a male-dominated industry with a non-traditional background. She brings her unique voice and perspective to the table, and always with great humility. She attributes her success and professional achievements to an amazing support network at home, at work and especially her team. She firmly believes in letting people do their jobs, while empowering them with the right mix of resources and support.

When asked about her proudest moment, Yana quickly responds: “WLE.” In partnership with other amazing women, Yana spearheaded WLE (Women's Leadership Exchange), an internal network created to provide support, resources and connections for women as they navigate various stages of their professional lives.

Today, as a member on the MSIM Operating Committee and Diversity Council, Yana still doesn't feel like she has 'made it.' As an immigrant from Ukraine, she is acutely aware that a sense of belonging is often a lifetime pursuit for many. Yet, Yana has learned to embrace this feeling of being the underdog. Her vision is to continue to grow the Specialty Solutions suite of offerings on the MSIM platform for years to come.