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Meet Wall Street's 2023 rising stars

Meeet the young leaders of Wall Street. These are the young professionals turning the uncertainty in today's economy into an opportunity, the trailblazers developing trends into tomorrow's hottest asset, and the influencers setting new playbooks for deals and trades.

Whether they're building out burgeoning private markets businesses within the world's largest bank, have a hand in financing some of the biggest deals of the past few years, or are providing an edge to top investors with complex and innovative products, these are the Wall Streeters to watch.

Insider tapped its contacts for ideas about individuals to include and received recommendations from bosses, colleagues, recruiters, and financial industry peers. We asked that nominees be based in the US, be 35 or under, and stand out among their peers to be eligible. The editors made final decisions.

Insider talked to these rising stars from leading firms like JPMorgan, Bridgewater, and Apollo, to reflect on their successes, challenges, and best career advice.

Yi Yi, 31, Citadel Securities - Early in her career as a fixed-income trader at Barclays, Yi felt the siren song of exotic and trendy trading products, and she considered moving into interest-rate options or credit derivatives like some of her peers. Instead, she decided to specialize in one of the most vanilla and liquid products on the market: US Treasury bonds.

Today, she's one of the most prolific interest-rate traders on Wall Street, serving as Citadel Securities' top trader in 20- to 30-year US Treasuries. Yi joined the firm in summer 2021, not long before the Federal Reserve began raising rates and spurring volatility in the Treasury market. Notional trading volumes at Citadel Securities for long-dated rates were up more than 35% in the first half of 2023 compared with mid-2021, according to people familiar with the matter, and trading counterparties — which include central banks, institutional investors, and hedge funds — have increased as well.

Trading profits under Yi have climbed and her responsibilities have expanded. She now trades the 10-year Treasury note,



CITADEL SECURITIES

Yi Yi, 31, Citadel Securities

too, and she's taken point on launching new trading products. In September, Yi led the company's launch of STRIP bonds.

When she was younger, the notion of working on a trading floor seemed far-fetched, given how shy and introverted she was. She signed up for speech and debate in high school to challenge herself and improve her public speaking. That helped when she landed an internship on Barclays' trading floor in college.

"I thought if I could make it on a trading floor, I could make it anywhere," Yi said.

She immersed herself in becoming an expert in US government bonds, and it paid off. She was trading her own interest-rate book within three years and earned an accelerated promotion to director in 2021.

"A lot of traders can fixate on the 'big' or 'exciting' trades, but you need to be able to focus and execute on the day-to-day. The trust with clients builds from that, and they'll naturally come to you with bigger and more complex trades," Yi said.

— Alex Morrell