Changemakers who helped shape private debt

As we look back on 10 years of extraordinary growth for the asset class, we select 30 of the pivotal figures in private debt's evolution. By Andy Thomson

> ith annual deployment now reaching north of \$100 billion and the size of some individu-

al loans now in excess of the \$1 billion mark, private debt has truly come of age. But, from its cottage industry origins prior to the global financial crisis, the remarkable growth of the asset class would not have happened without the equally remarkable contributions of some of its leading figures.

In pulling together this collection of 30 of the industry's "Changemakers", we have drawn upon some of our prior rankings, such as "Most Influential" and "Women of Influence", but have added some new names as well. Of course, with an almost unlimited number of contenders, it's not possible to be scientific in our assessment of who belongs on the list and who doesn't. Nonetheless, we have striven to make the list as credible as possible, while recognising a range of different types of achievement.

So what qualifies anyone for "Changemaker" status? Again, there's little room for science but plenty for imagination and flexibility. It might involve driving forward an area of speciality finance (such as maritime or consumer loans), developing cutting-edge approaches to ESG, or being the LP that decided to place private debt firmly at the heart of strategic allocations. All these examples and plenty more are represented in our top 30.

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Koenig is another long-standing industry veteran who has helped create a distinct identity for Monroe Capital in the US mid-market via a diverse strategic platform that straddles the likes of direct lending, asset-based lending, speciality fi nance, opportunistic credit and equity. The chairman and chief executive officer of Monroe, Koenig's roles also include being president and CEO of Monroe Capital Corporation, a publicly traded BDC. Prior to founding Monroe in 2004, Koenig was president and CEO of Hilco Capital, a junior secured/mezzanine debt fund. Earlier he had spent 13 years at Chicago-based law firm Holleb & Coff.