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Recent AI Leadership Hires

Nine senior appointments across banking, asset management, private markets, insurance and fintech, with profiles of the executives and an assessment of what their new organisations are investing in AI.

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The market is now hiring operators, not evangelists.

The nine executives profiled here moved into newly senior AI roles at Apollo, Goldman Sachs, JPMorganChase, BlackRock, Wells Fargo, Arch, AIG and Robinhood. Read together, the moves describe a market that has finished experimenting and is staffing for production.

The hyperscalers are the talent pool. Four of the nine came directly from Amazon, AWS or Microsoft, and a fifth from Meta. Financial institutions are paying for people who have already run large-language-model products or agent platforms at global scale, then asking them to rebuild that inside a regulated balance sheet.

Titles have moved up a level. Apollo has created a Partner-level Chief AI Officer. Goldman has a Global Head of Agentic AI who is also a Tech Fellow, alongside a Partner running AI Engineering and Science. Arch has an SVP for Enterprise AI. Two years ago most of these mandates sat at director or head-of-data-science level; they now sit at MD, SVP and C-suite.

"Agentic" is in the job description. Three of the nine roles name agents explicitly, and every organisation in this report has disclosed an agent programme: Devin and Claude at Goldman,

Agentspace at Wells Fargo, a multi-agent underwriting architecture at AIG, agentic trading at Robinhood, in-house agent orchestration at JPMorgan.

The spending behind the hires is real. JPMorgan's 2026 technology budget is about \$19.8 billion with roughly \$2 billion a year on AI. Goldman has deployed agentic engineering across a 12,000-person developer base. AIG reports measurable underwriting gains from AIG Assist. Apollo is financing the AI build-out itself, including a roughly \$35 billion Broadcom deal, and says the capex cycle runs to at least 2028.

Insurance has caught up with banking. AIG and Arch are hiring at the same seniority as the banks, and AIG's architect, Peter Zaffino, has just left to run financial services at Palantir, a sign of how far the carrier's programme has travelled.

	Executive	New role	Organisation	Start	From
1	Michael Demissie	Partner and Chief AI Officer	 Apollo Global Management	September 2026	BNY
2	Hesaam Aslani	SVP, Enterprise AI – AI Technologies	 Arch Insurance Group	August 2026	Capgemini
3	Ravi Teja	EMD, Global Head of Agentic AI & Tech Fellow	 Goldman Sachs	July 2026	Microsoft
4	Aspi Havewala	Managing Director – Platforms, AI for Reliability, Premier Clients	 JPMorgan Chase	August 2026	Verizon
5	Rohit Mittal	Managing Director, Aladdin AI	 BlackRock	August 2026	Amazon
6	Satyajeet Randhawa	Managing Director, AI & Automation	 Wells Fargo	August 2026	Amazon Web Services
7	Shreyas Shrivastava	Managing Director, AI Engineering	 Goldman Sachs	November 2025	Capital One
8	Aleksandar Velkoski	Global Head of Applied Data Science, Generative AI	 AIG	August 2026	The Home Depot
9	Suraj Natarajan	Head of AI and Agent Platform	 Robinhood	August 2026	Intuit

About the profiles. Biographies are built from the executives' LinkedIn profiles as supplied to Willard Powell, cross-checked against public sources. Organisation commentary draws on company disclosures, earnings calls and press coverage through 23 September 2026; sources are listed at the end.



Michael Demissie

Partner and Chief AI Officer
Apollo Global Management

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
September 2026	New York	linkedin.com/in/michaeldemissie/
Education	MBA, MIT Sloan; M.Sc. Management Science & Engineering, Stanford	

Biography

Michael Demissie joins Apollo as Partner and Chief AI Officer after more than seven years at BNY, where he most recently ran Applied AI and Practice inside the bank's AI Hub. At BNY he stood up the Advanced Solutions Group, an enterprise-level capability charged with defining strategy and deploying AI-enabled assets, and earlier led the bank's Digital Assets Unit, which delivered digital-asset custody in 2022. Before BNY he spent seven years at State Street, rising to SVP for Business Transformation across lean, RPA and AI, following a stint as an engagement manager at Booz & Company in Dubai and an early career as a systems engineer at UTC Power. He is a rare profile: a technologist who has run innovation, digital assets and applied AI at two custodians, with strategy-consulting discipline behind it.

➤ BNY →  Apollo Global Management

2026–	Partner & Chief AI Officer	Apollo Global Management
2023–26	MD, Head of Applied AI and Practice	BNY
2019–23	MD, Head of Digital Assets Unit & Advanced Solutions	BNY
2012–19	SVP Business Transformation; MD roles	State Street
2008–12	Engagement Manager	Booz & Company, Dubai
2001–06	Senior Systems Engineer	UTC Power

Apollo Global Management and AI

Apollo's AI posture has shifted decisively in 2026. In August the firm named Katia Walsh, formerly Harvard Business School's first Chief Digital Officer and Levi Strauss's AI chief, as Managing Director to lead AI across its portfolio companies, and separately appointed a dedicated AI sector head to coordinate financing teams after its roughly \$35 billion Broadcom AI-infrastructure financing in June. President Jim Zelter has said AI capital-expenditure funding should stay healthy through at least 2028, positioning Apollo as a debt provider to the build-out as well as an equity investor. A Partner-level Chief AI Officer sits above that work: the mandate is firm-wide, spanning Apollo's own operations, its portfolio and its AI-financing thesis.



Hesaam Aslani

SVP, Enterprise AI – AI Technologies

Arch Insurance Group

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
August 2026	New York	linkedin.com/in/hesaamaslani/
Education		
Ph.D. and M.S. Structural Engineering, Stanford University		

Biography

Hesaam Aslani brings a quantitative-risk pedigree that is unusual among enterprise AI leaders. His Stanford doctorate developed probabilistic loss-estimation methodology for the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center, and his insurance career began in the model-risk and catastrophe-modelling world: nearly six years as Senior Director of Model Risk Management at AIG, overseeing validation of the general-insurance model suite, then Head of Economic Capital Modeling at Munich Re America. He crossed into AI leadership as SVP, AI & Analytics at QBE North America in 2020, and spent the last five years at Capgemini as its global AI and generative-AI leader for the insurance sector, advising carriers on scaled deployment. Arch has hired someone who can speak to actuaries, model-risk committees and engineers in the same meeting.

 Capgemini →  Arch Insurance Group

2026–	SVP, Enterprise AI – AI Technologies	Arch Insurance Group
2021–26	Global AI & Gen AI Leader, Insurance	Capgemini
2020–21	SVP, AI & Analytics	QBE North America
2018–20	Head of Economic Capital Modeling	Munich Re America
2012–18	Senior Director, Model Risk Management	AIG

 Arch Insurance Group and AI

Arch Capital Group, an S&P 500 specialty insurer, reinsurer and mortgage insurer with about \$26.9 billion of capital, has framed data-driven underwriting as its core differentiator, anchored by its internal Arch% Intelligence analytics platform. Its Strategic Analytics group describes itself as building AI-first, agent-driven products that combine frontier LLMs, multi-agent systems and retrieval-augmented generation, and reports having productionised dozens of generative-AI products over the past three years, with hiring now extending to multi-agent solutions that automate underwriting and claims decisions. Arch Insurance North America also appointed a new CIO, Imran Jalozie, in May 2026 to drive platform modernisation. Aslani's SVP role consolidates enterprise AI technology leadership on top of that foundation.



Ravi Teja
EMD, Global Head of Agentic AI & Tech Fellow
Goldman Sachs

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
July 2026	New York	linkedin.com/in/ravi-t-71819946/
Education		
M.S. Computer Science, University of Oklahoma		

Biography

Ravi Teja joined Goldman Sachs in July 2026 as Global Head of Agentic AI and was named a Tech Fellow the following month, a designation the firm reserves for its most senior technical leaders. He arrives from seven years at Microsoft, where he led a global AI, engineering and product organisation across the US, Europe and Asia building Azure and Microsoft Copilot capabilities on large language models. Before Microsoft he spent nearly six years at MSCI as Senior Director and GM, and earlier managed engineering at Oracle. The combination matters: he has built LLM-based products at hyperscaler scale and has run engineering inside a financial-data business, which is precisely the intersection Goldman's agentic programme now occupies.

 Microsoft →  Goldman Sachs

2026–	EMD, Global Head of Agentic AI; Tech Fellow	Goldman Sachs
2019–26	GM / Senior Director, AI Engineering & Product	Microsoft
2013–19	Senior Director, GM	MSCI
2013	Software Engineering Manager	Oracle

 Goldman Sachs and AI

Goldman has been the most aggressive Wall Street adopter of agentic AI. The firm was the first major bank to deploy Cognition's Devin autonomous software engineer in 2025, with CIO Marco Argenti describing it as a new employee that could scale to thousands of instances; in 2026 it expanded agentic work to Anthropic's Claude for trade, transaction, client-vetting and onboarding workflows. The multi-model GS AI Assistant has gone firm-wide to roughly 46,000 employees, and the OneGS 3.0 programme is a multi-year effort to rebuild the operating model around shared AI platforms. Goldman also hired Daniel Marcu as Partner and Global Head of AI Engineering and Science in 2025. Creating a global agentic-AI head at Tech Fellow level signals that agents are now a first-class platform, not an experiment.



Aspi Havewala

Managing Director – Platforms, AI for Reliability, Premier Clients
JPMorganChase

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
August 2026	Chicago	linkedin.com/in/aspih/
Education	M.S. Computer Science, Texas Tech; B.S. Computer Science, M.S. University	

Biography

Aspi Havewala spent a decade at Verizon, culminating as AVP of Infrastructure and Enterprise AI, where he architected and scaled the company's agentic-AI platform from pilots to enterprise-wide deployment and orchestrated infrastructure integration for the Frontier Communications acquisition. Earlier, as Global Head of Infrastructure Services and Digital Workplace and before that Director of Infrastructure, he ran technology for a 150,000-person workforce, delivered \$38 million in cumulative savings through a Google Workspace and SaaS migration, stood up a site-reliability-engineering team and governed more than 160,000 mobile devices. He has sat on the customer advisory boards of Citrix, Nutanix and HCL. At JPMorgan he takes a Managing Director seat combining platforms, AI for reliability and the technology serving premier clients.



2026–	MD – Platforms, AI for Reliability, Premier Clients	JPMorganChase
2023–26	AVP, Infrastructure and Enterprise AI	Verizon
2020–23	Global Head, Infrastructure Services & Digital Workplace	Verizon
2016–20	Director of Infrastructure	Verizon
2021–26	Customer Advisory Boards	Citrix · Nutanix · HCL

JPMorganChase and AI

JPMorgan runs the largest technology budget in banking, raised to about \$19.8 billion for 2026 with roughly \$1.2 billion of the increment earmarked for AI, and spends on the order of \$2 billion a year on AI specifically. Its proprietary LLM Suite has been rolled out to more than 200,000 employees, the bank doubled AI use cases in production during 2025, and it has begun deploying agentic AI for multistep tasks while insisting agent orchestration stays in-house rather than with a vendor. Jamie Dimon has said the AI investment has already paid for itself. Havewala's role, applying AI to platform reliability for the bank's most important clients, sits squarely on the operational side of that spend, where uptime is a client-experience metric.



Rohit Mittal

Managing Director, Aladdin AI
BlackRock

Start date

August 2026

Location

New York

LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/in/mittalrohit/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mittalrohit/)

Education

M.S. Computer Science, Rutgers; B.Tech. Computer Science, IIT (BHU) Varanasi

Biography

Rohit Mittal was one of the founding product managers of Amazon Bedrock, AWS's generative-AI platform, which scaled to more than 100,000 enterprise customers, and went on to lead multimodal product strategy for Amazon Nova, the company's family of frontier foundation models, running a team of more than 150 scientists, engineers and PMs and launching Nova Multimodal Embeddings. Before Amazon he spent a decade in financial data: Director of Product for Intelligence Analytics at LSEG, senior product roles at Refinitiv, and six years leading search and mobile for Thomson Reuters' Eikon terminal, where he shipped an NLP question-answering feature. He has represented Amazon in C-level briefings and presented AI roadmaps to the AWS and Amazon CEOs. He now leads the next-generation financial AI platform inside Aladdin.



Amazon



BlackRock

2026–	Managing Director, Aladdin AI	BlackRock
2022–26	Product Lead, Multimodal Generative AI (Bedrock, Nova)	Amazon
2019–22	Director of Product Management, Intelligence Analytics	LSEG
2018–19	Sr. Product Manager, Search, Personalization & AI/ML	Refinitiv
2012–18	Head of Structured Search and Mobile, Thomson Reuters Eikon	



BlackRock and AI

Aladdin is BlackRock's technology moat: the platform oversees on the order of \$21 trillion in assets across clients and generates roughly \$1.5 billion of external revenue. Larry Fink's letters since 2023 have framed AI as transformative, and his 2026 letter, written as the firm ended 2025 with a record \$14 trillion of AUM, argued that AI is creating wealth faster than it is distributing it. Product-wise, BlackRock has shipped Aladdin Copilot (built with Microsoft), an Auto Commentary feature for Aladdin Wealth adopted first by Morgan Stanley, and in May 2026 an AI-driven fund using Aladdin signals. Hiring a Bedrock and Nova product leader to run Aladdin AI is a statement that BlackRock intends to build foundation-model-grade product, not simply integrate vendors.



Satyajeet Randhawa

Managing Director, AI & Automation
Wells Fargo

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
August 2026	San Francisco Bay Area	linkedin.com/in/randhawa/
Education	Engineering leadership background; SDN and cloud-infrastructure specialist	

Biography

Satyajeet Randhawa comes to Wells Fargo from AWS, where as Director and GM of Internet Edge Services he secured multi-year executive funding to build the next-generation edge platform that now carries terabits per second of traffic between Amazon and the internet, and led the SDN controller teams that manage congestion and availability for customer traffic. He also used AI agents to improve observability and let engineers interrogate automated traffic-engineering decisions in natural language. Earlier he was SVP of Product Development at Virtana, where he unified multiple products into a SaaS observability platform and led technical diligence on acquisitions, and before that ran software-defined-networking engineering at Brocade and Lumina Networks. His track record is in large-scale automation of critical infrastructure, now pointed at a bank.

 Amazon Web Services →  Wells Fargo

2026–	Managing Director, AI & Automation	Wells Fargo
2022–26	Director / GM, AWS Internet Edge Services	Amazon Web Services
2018–22	SVP of Product Development	Virtana
2017–18	VP of Product Development	Lumina Networks
2015–17	Director, Software Engineering (Head of SDN)	Brocade

Wells Fargo and AI

Wells Fargo, with about \$2.1 trillion in assets, has been re-architecting its systems to embed agentic AI into core workflows rather than treating it as an IT upgrade. In August 2025 it expanded its Google Cloud partnership to deploy Agentspace agents to branch bankers, investment bankers and corporate teams, with more than 2,000 employees on the platform at launch and a bank-wide rollout planned; its Fargo virtual assistant already serves retail customers. The generative-AI organisation is led by consumer CIO Tracy Kerrins, and in January 2026 the bank hired AWS veteran Faraz Shafiq as head of AI products and solutions. Randhawa's AI & Automation mandate, and his AWS lineage, extend a clear pattern of Wells Fargo recruiting hyperscaler operators to industrialise automation.



Shreyas Shrivastava

Managing Director, AI Engineering
Goldman Sachs

Start date	Location	LinkedIn
November 2025	Dallas	linkedin.com/in/shreyasshrivastava2k1/
Education	M.S. Computer Science (Machine Learning), Columbia; B.Tech./M.Tech. IT, IIIT&M	

Biography

Shreyas Shrivastava returned to Goldman Sachs in November 2025 as Managing Director of AI Engineering, based in Dallas, nearly a decade after leaving the firm's investment-banking technology group. In between he built an applied-research career at Meta, spending eight years on AI/ML for enterprise products and rising from staff research scientist to Director of Applied Research, then moved to Capital One as VP of ML Engineering and Head of its Financial Services AI Labs. His early career was in risk modelling and analytics at Vichara Technologies in New York and Gurugram. He pairs deep applied-ML research management from big tech with two tours inside regulated financial institutions, and he anchors Goldman's AI engineering presence in its growing Dallas hub.



2025–	Managing Director, AI Engineering	Goldman Sachs
2024–25	VP, ML Engineering; Head of FS AI Labs	Capital One
2016–24	Director, Applied Research (AI/ML), Enterprise Products	Meta
2014–16	Sr. Software Engineer, Investment Banking Division	Goldman Sachs
2007–14	Software Engineer, Risk Modeling & Analytics	Vichara Technologies

Goldman Sachs and AI

Shrivastava's hire preceded Goldman's 2026 acceleration and sits within the same programme described above: Devin agentic engineering rolled out across a roughly 12,000-person developer workforce, Claude expanded into transaction and onboarding workflows, the model-agnostic GS AI Assistant deployed firm-wide, and OneGS 3.0 rebuilding the operating model around shared AI platforms. Goldman has said the goal is agents that eventually behave like a seasoned Goldman employee. An AI Engineering MD in Dallas, alongside a New York-based Global Head of Agentic AI, shows the firm distributing senior AI engineering leadership across its hubs rather than concentrating it at 200 West.



Aleksandar Velkoski

Global Head of Applied Data Science, Generative AI
AIG

Start date

August 2026

Location

Atlanta

LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/in/aleksandar-velkoski/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aleksandar-velkoski/)

Education

Doctor of Business Administration (Economics), Lawrence Tech; Executive Education, Wharton

Biography

Aleksandar Velkoski leads applied data science for generative AI globally at AIG, building agentic systems for claims, underwriting and policy administration, drafting global AI policy and governance standards, and designing a capability-based data-science and AI learning programme for the workforce. He arrives from five years at The Home Depot, where as Director of Data Science for Search and Recommendations he modernised search, recommendation and personalisation for the world's largest home-improvement retailer and was recognised by its executive leadership team for AI deployments that drove measurable shareholder value. For eight years he also taught AI and machine learning as an adjunct professor and Distinguished Faculty Fellow at DePaul University's Jarvis College of Computing. He combines consumer-scale personalisation experience with a governance and education mandate.



The Home Depot



AIG

2026–

Global Head of Applied Data Science,
Generative AI

AIG

2021–26

Director, Data Science, Search and
Recommendations

The Home Depot

2016–24

Adjunct Professor & Distinguished
Faculty Fellow

DePaul University



AIG and AI

AIG has been the insurance industry's most visible generative-AI adopter. Working with Palantir, Anthropic and AWS, it deployed AIG Assist for underwriting submission triage, reporting data-extraction accuracy up from about 75% to more than 90%, a 35% improvement in submit-to-bind for Lexington's middle-market property book, and over 370,000 Lexington submissions in 2025. On its Q1 2026 call the company described the next phase, a multi-agent underwriting architecture with purpose-built agents for ingestion, risk evaluation and pricing benchmarking under an orchestration layer, and it launched Lloyd's Syndicate 2479 as its first gen-AI-enabled special-purpose vehicle. Architect of that strategy Peter Zaffino left in September 2026 to lead financial services at Palantir, with Eric Andersen now CEO. Velkoski's role extends the agentic build from underwriting into claims and policy administration.



Suraj Natarajan
Head of AI and Agent Platform
Robinhood

Start date
August 2026

Location
Menlo Park

LinkedIn
[linkedin.com/in/suraj-natarajan/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/suraj-natarajan/)

Education
B.E. Electrical & Electronics Engineering, BITS Pilani

Biography

Suraj Natarajan spent fourteen years at Intuit, most recently leading AI Foundation engineering, where his team built one of the industry's first tax agents on ChatGPT and Claude and created the governed AI platform and registry of skills, tools, evaluations and guardrails that became the production rails for AI across Intuit's flagship products. He also ran exploratory bets on verifiable credentials, digital wallets and stablecoin payment rails. Earlier at Intuit he built a personalisation platform serving more than a billion recommendations a month and reimaged the QuickBooks developer ecosystem. Before that he led ad-serving engineering at Microsoft Bing and architected the migration of Yahoo!'s premium search advertisers to the Microsoft Advertising platform. He is a platform builder who has shipped production agents under real regulatory constraints.



 Robinhood and AI

Robinhood is positioning itself as an AI-native brokerage. It launched Cortex, an AI investing assistant, in 2025 and has since extended it to more than a million retail users and to advisors on its TradePMR platform; on 27 May 2026 it opened the platform to external agents, letting users connect Claude, ChatGPT, Codex and others to trade and make credit-card purchases through a native Model Context Protocol interface, with funds ring-fenced in dedicated agent accounts. CEO Vlad Tenev has said the end state is giving everyday investors the computational power of high-frequency firms. Internally the company reports an intentional investment in agent-based development for its own engineers. Natarajan's remit, the AI and agent platform, is the substrate for both.

2026–	Head of AI and Agent Platform	Robinhood
2012–26	Group Engineering Manager, AI Foundation (and prior platform roles)	Intuit
2010–12	Principal Software Engineering Manager, Ad Serving (Bing)	Microsoft
2007–10	Principal Software Engineer, Ad Platforms	Yahoo!
2000–07	Staff Software Engineer	Amdocs

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Biographical detail is drawn from LinkedIn profiles supplied to Willard Powell for each executive. Public-source material has been paraphrased and summarised; figures are as reported by the cited outlets and have not been independently audited. This report is for the information of Willard Powell clients and is not investment advice.

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