BRIAN J. LEITE, DrBA, CFA, CFP, CPFA, CEBS

Scholar-Practitioner | Finance Faculty Member | Department Chair

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Scholar-practitioner and Department Chair with prior senior leadership experience in institutional asset management and defined-contribution investment strategy. Research examines how institutional investment structures shape individual retirement outcomes, with particular emphasis on target-date funds, behavioral asset allocation, fiduciary governance, and economic freedom.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Salve Regina University

- Director and Anita and Robert R. Young Endowed Chair, Jean and David W. Wallace Department of Business and Economics, 2025–Present
- Assistant Professor of Finance and Graduate Program Director, MBA, 2022–2025

Northwestern University

- Adjunct Professor, School of Continuing Studies, 2005

EDUCATION

Doctor of Business Administration (Finance), DePaul University, 2021

- Dissertation: "Does ESG Matter? ESG Scores and the Stock Price Response to New Information"

Master of Business Administration (Finance), Providence College

Bachelor of Arts (History: Early Modern Europe), Rhode Island College

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Professional Certifications

- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- Certified Financial Planner (CFP)
- Certified Plan Fiduciary Advisor (CPFA)
- Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS)
- Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA)
- Retirement Plan Analyst (RPA)
- Group Benefits Analyst (GBA)

Executive Programs

- CFA/HBS Investment Workshop, Harvard Business School
- IMCA Alternative Investments Program
- CFA Asset Allocation Seminar

SCHOLARSHIP AND INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Research examines how institutional environments shape investment behavior and economic outcomes, with current emphasis on retirement investment defaults, fiduciary governance, ESG information, and economic freedom.

Scholarly Book, Forthcoming

Leite, Brian J. *The Retirement Black Box: Decoding the Hidden Architecture of Target-Date Funds*. Advantage/Forbes Books (distributed by Simon & Schuster), forthcoming January 5, 2027. Manuscript accepted.

- Sole-authored book integrating asset allocation theory, behavioral finance, and fiduciary governance to evaluate target-date funds as institutional retirement defaults. Develops a framework for analyzing glide-path construction, implementation structure, and retirement-income risk assumptions in defined-contribution plans.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Leite, Brian J., and Uysal, Vahap B. 2023. "Does ESG Matter to Investors? ESG Scores and the Stock Price Response to New Information." Global Finance Journal 57.

Witham, Adam, and **Leite, Brian J**. 2023. "Business is Hopping: The Effects of Deregulation on Southern Craft Beer." Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy 53(1).

Witham, Adam, **Leite, Brian J.**, and Starzecki, Teresa. 2023. "Boat Length and Newport-to-Bermuda Race Results." Sports Economics Review 4.

Manuscripts Submitted and Under Review

Leite, Brian J., Townsend, David, and Uysal, Vahap B. "Investors, Sentiment, and New Information: How Sentiment Influences the Stock Price Response to Credit Rating Changes." Submitted to Global Finance Journal.

Leite, Brian J., and Uysal, Vahap B. "From Headlines to Holdings: ESG Regulatory News and Mutual Fund Flows." Submitted to Global Finance Journal.

Research in Progress

Witham, Adam, and **Leite, Brian J**. "A Perfect Competition for APEE's Future."

Leite, Brian J., and Witham, Adam. "Economic Freedom of the Canadian Provinces and Relative Economic Outcomes."

Witham, Adam, **Leite, Brian J.**, and Starzecki, Teresa. "Economic Freedom and Nobel Prize Winners."

Starzecki, Teresa, Witham, Adam, and **Leite, Brian J**. "Bucks or Berks: Assessing Favorableness on the River at the Henley Royal Regatta."

Witham, Adam, **Leite, Brian J.**, and Starzecki, Teresa. "The Most and Least-Discussed Sports: An Accounting of the Literature."

Applied Research Publications

Maloor, Srinivas, Sumsion, Brett, and **Leite, Brian J**. 2017. "Using Regime-Based Analysis to Build a Resilient Glide Path." Fidelity Leadership Series.

Cohen, Timothy, Nielson, Darby, **Leite, Brian J.**, and Browder, Andrew. 2014. "Active Share: A Misunderstood Measure in Manager Selection." Fidelity Leadership Series.

Cohen, Timothy, Nielson, Darby, and **Leite, Brian J**. 2014. "Active Investing: The Cyclicality of Performance in the U.S. Large-Cap Equity Market." Fidelity Leadership Series.

Leite, Brian J., Taylor, Kathleen, and Shaw, Andrew. 2016. "Effective Plan Design and Glide Path Choices Can Help Drive Better Outcomes." BenefitsPRO Magazine.

Conference Presentations and Research Dissemination

- "A Perfect Competition for APEE's Future." Association of Private Enterprise Education, 2026.
- "Economic Freedom of the Canadian Provinces and Entrepreneurial Activity." Association of Private Enterprise Education, 2024.
- "Boat Length and Performance in the Newport-Bermuda Race." Association of Private Enterprise Education, 2023.
- "Does ESG Matter?" Society of North American Scholars Conference, 2022.
- "Does ESG Matter?" DePaul University Financial Research Seminar Series, 2021.

GRANTS AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

George I. Alden Trust Grant — Business and Data Analytics Laboratory | Salve Regina University, 2026

Played a substantive role in developing the successful institutional grant proposal securing $175,000 to establish a Business and Data Analytics Laboratory, including the academic rationale, proposed technological resources, and anticipated applications across business and economics curricula.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Courses Taught, Salve Regina University

- Introduction to Financial Management
- Advanced Financial Management and Modeling
- Investment Planning
- Portfolio Management
- Personal Financial Planning
- Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management (Graduate)

Courses Developed

MGT 430 — Portfolio Management

Advanced undergraduate applied investment-management course integrating CFA curriculum and ethical decision frameworks.

MGT 563 — Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management

Graduate investment-management course supporting the MBA Finance concentration.

Program and Curriculum Development

• **Wealth Management Minor**: Developed the curriculum proposal for a new Wealth Management minor, including course selection, sequencing, prerequisite structure, and alignment with professional financial-planning competencies; led the proposal through departmental and university approval processes.

• **International Business Major Redesign**: Provided overall academic direction and oversight for the redesign of the existing Global Business and Economics major into a more contemporary International Business major; led the proposal through departmental and university approval processes.

• **Finance Major Redesign**: Led the comprehensive revision of the Finance major, including curriculum benchmarking, course development and refinement, incorporation of contemporary finance content, and development of pathways aligned with corporate finance and wealth-management career interests; co-led the proposal through departmental and university curriculum processes.

• **Business Administration Major Redesign**: Led the curriculum-development process for a comprehensive revision of the Business Administration major, including review of existing requirements, modernization of curricular content and structure, and development and advancement of the revised proposal through the university approval process.

• **Master of Business Administration Curriculum and Delivery Redesign**: As Graduate Program Director, led a restructuring of the MBA curriculum to strengthen academic rigor, relevance, and student engagement. Introduced core coursework in data analytics and visualization, managerial economics, and organizational behavior; incorporated synchronous learning components into the predominantly asynchronous program; and increased reliance on full-time faculty for core-course delivery.

Additional Teaching and Student Engagement

- CFA Institute Research Challenge, Faculty Advisor, 2024–2026
- MBA Academic Advisor, approximately 90 students, 2023–2025
- Sophomore Studio panelist and presenter, 2024 and 2025
- Academic Admitted Students presenter, 2022 and 2024

- First-Year Student Academic Advisor, 2022

Prior Teaching, Northwestern University

- Investments
- Financial Literacy

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Leadership and Governance

- Department Chair, Business and Economics, 2025–Present
- Graduate Program Director, MBA, 2023–2025
- Faculty Salary and Benefits Committee Chair, 2022–2025
- Salve Regina 403(b) Retirement Plan Fiduciary Committee, 2023–Present
- University Liaison to CFA Institute, 2022–Present
- Graduate Council, 2024–Present

Curriculum and Institutional Service

- Core Curriculum Renewal Liaison
- Finance Curriculum Redesign Committee, Co-Chair
- Business Administration Curriculum Committee, Chair
- Academic Open House volunteer, 2021, 2022, and 2025

Faculty Search Committees

- Visiting Professor and Graduate Program Director, Health Care Administration, 2024
- Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Economics, 2024
- Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Marketing, 2023
- Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee, Marketing, 2022

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- Peer Reviewer, International Journal of Finance & Economics, multiple manuscripts, 2023–Present
- Peer Reviewer, Journal of Wealth Management, multiple manuscripts, 2022–Present
- Conference Discussant, Global Finance Journal Conference on CSR, the Economy and Financial Markets, 2022

Board and Fiduciary Service

- Member, Board of Directors, Covenant Trust Company, appointed for three-year term beginning November 2026
- Pension Board, Town of Narragansett, Rhode Island, 2023–2025
- Advisory Board, DePaul Doctor of Business Administration Program, 2021–2024
- Advisory Council, Providence College School of Business, 2017
- Financial Advisory Board, City of Naperville, Illinois, 2003–2007

Professional and Community Service

- Board Volunteer, Providence CFA Society. 2026–Present
- CFA Examination Grader, CFA Institute, multiple years
- Education Committee, CFA Society of Chicago, 2005–2006

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Invited Professional Presentations

- “Market Review and Secular Outlook.” Chicago Fiduciary Forum, 2026.

- "Market Outlook — 2026." Boston Fiduciary and Investment Lunch & Learn, 2025.
- "Market Outlook: Secular Themes and Implications for Investors." Boston Fiduciary and Investment Lunch and Learn, 2024.
- "Careers in Finance and Investment Management." DePaul University / Driehaus Capital Summer Investment Challenge, 2021.
- Student Stock Pitch Judge, DePaul University / Driehaus Capital Summer Investment Challenge, 2020.

Public Scholarship and Media Contributions

- "Expert Thoughts on Total Visa Credit Card." WalletHub, 2023. https://wallethub.com/edu/cc/total-visa-credit-card-review/25995#expert=Brian_Leite
- "The Future of Target-Date Funds." 401k TV, 2016. https://401ktv.com/?s=brian+leite
- "DC Plan Sponsors Hyper-Focused on Fees." Employee Benefit News, 2015. https://www.benefitnews.com/news/dc-plan-sponsors-hyper-focused-on-fees

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Founder and Principal, Fiduciary Governance Advisors, LLC — Providence, Rhode Island | 2026–Present

Independent consulting practice focused on investment fiduciary governance, retirement investment structures, and qualified default investment alternatives. Engages selectively with consulting and advisory firms on research, strategy, governance, and professional education assignments.

Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Fidelity Institutional Wealth Advisor — Boston, Massachusetts | 2020–2021

Created and led the Investment Office for a new Fidelity registered investment adviser supporting institutional and intermediary clients.

Head of Consultant Relations, Fidelity Institutional Asset Management — Smithfield, Rhode Island | 2017–2020

Led strategy, oversight, and execution for Fidelity's investment and defined-contribution consultant-relations effort across North America; co-led the institutional investment distribution business.

Head of Institutional Portfolio Management, Fidelity Management & Research — Boston, Massachusetts | 2012–2017

Led and set strategic direction for institutional portfolio-management teams representing Fidelity's equity, high-income, and asset-allocation capabilities.

Vice President and Strategic Segment Head of Investment Consulting, Fidelity Workplace Solutions — Chicago and Boston | 2000–2012

Managed senior investment consultants serving Fidelity's largest defined-contribution and multi-practice clients, representing approximately $600 billion in administered assets.

Earlier Professional Experience

- Senior Investment Research Analyst, New England Securities Corporation / MetLife, 2000
- Senior Investment Performance Analyst, Russell/Mellon Analytical Services — The Boston Company, 1998–2000
- Retirement Plan Specialist, Putnam Investments, 1997–1998
- Senior Loan Officer and Underwriter, Home Loan and Investment Bank, F.S.B., 1995–1997
- Senior Military Intelligence Analyst, Rhode Island Army National Guard, 1990–1999

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- CFA Institute
- CFA Society Boston

- CFA Society Providence
- CFP Board
- National Association of Plan Advisors
- Financial Management Association
- Association of Private Enterprise Education

TECHNICAL RESEARCH TOOLS

Bloomberg • FactSet • Morningstar Direct • MPI Stylus • Orion Risk Intelligence • eVestment • YCharts • Stata • SPSS