

Public Pension Fund Awards for Excellence

Equity Manager Of the Year

Artio Global Investors



*Rudolph-Riad
Younes*

Artio's ability to detect impending problems through a treacherous year, as well as its openness with clients when markets clenched up, had clients and consultants singing praises. The firm's flagship international strategy, led by **Rudolph-Riad Younes**, in particular stood out last year.

The play that particularly impressed the industry took place mid-year, when Younes shifted the portfolio out of commodity-heavy Russia and Brazil before the commodity bubble burst in July. The portfolio had been heavy in those areas for about nine years, reaping the rewards of rising commodity prices, Younes said.

"[Artio] has a knack for moving its portfolio quickly to take advantage of opportunities, or to get out of the way of

icebergs," said **Dale Connors**, managing director for **Watershed Investment Consulting**. "[The firm has] a dynamic process and is extremely nimble." In addition to Younes' foresight into the commodities market, the portfolio's underweighting in cyclical, aversion to insurance and modest overweighting in recession-resistant sectors helped buoy it through rough waters.

Still, there were few places to hide last year, and Artio couldn't trade in all of its Eastern European holdings before the area got hit by the global downturn. Clients have commended the firm for being upfront and honest about exposure. "They are ready to tell us about the pain as much as about the success, which is especially important in this environment," said **Tom Ford**, interim retirement administrator at **Santa Barbara County Employee Retirement System**. "We don't have to contact them; the firm contacts us and is 'Johnny-on-the-spot' with information."

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