MEKETA

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15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 15 Years of Impact: Insights from Steve Hartt

Over the past 15 years, Steve Hartt has helped define what private markets advising looks like at Meketa.

STEVE HARTT, CAIA
MANAGING PRINCIPAL & PRIVATE MARKETS CONSULTANT

As a trusted consultant, team leader, and mentor, Steve Hartt has played a key role in some of the firm's most complex and high-profile client relationships, while also helping to launch new platforms like Meketa Capital. Whether guiding a public pension through program transformation or advising on co-investments, Steve brings both depth of experience and a clear sense of purpose to everything he does.

Outside of work, Steve is an avid cyclist—a passion that mirrors his professional ethos: steady, strategic, and always moving forward.

The following are five questions with Steve Hartt.

What first brought you to Meketa?

Steve Hartt ("SH"): I was first introduced to Meketa back in 2005, five years before I officially joined. At the time, I was working for a bank in New York, and we shared a client with Meketa. Meketa was advising them as they transitioned from fund-of-funds to direct fund investments, and I worked closely with their team during that shift. Over the next five years, I got to know John Haggerty, Steve McCourt, and others. I was struck by Meketa's rigor, its collaborative culture, and the genuine sense of mission it had in serving its clients. That experience stayed with me, and when the opportunity came to join the firm in 2010, I knew it was the right move."

As a coworker, Steve has the perfect mix of being both personable and matter of fact. He is very serious about his responsibilities in managing private equity portfolios; at the same time, he's at the top of my list of people to have a beer with.

Over his decades in the private equity markets, he has managed nearly every risk facing our clients.

John Haggerty
Managing Principal, Director of Private Market Investments

Looking back, what's been a defining client engagement for you?

SH: One of the most defining experiences in my career has been working with a large, complex institutional investor as their private equity consultant. When I became involved, the environment was challenging, leadership was in flux, and there was a healthy amount of skepticism around private equity as an asset class. Over time, through transparency, education, and persistence, we helped shift perceptions, build trust, and shape a more strategic, long-term investment program. The results speak for themselves: assets under management in the program have grown significantly, the pace of investment has accelerated, and the client has become more confident in the role private equity can play in meeting their objectives. It's been incredibly rewarding to support that evolution."

How did you approach changing perceptions around private equity?

SH: It started with listening and responding to stakeholder concerns. A lot of it came down to providing clear, honest answers to tough questions and demystifying how private equity works. We focused on separating facts from misconceptions and creating space for open, respectful dialogue. Building trust didn't happen overnight. It took consistency, transparency, and collaboration. But over time, as new decision makers came on board and gained a deeper understanding of the asset class, the narrative began to shift. The idea that private equity could be a meaningful return driver, especially in the long run, started to resonate.

How have you seen Meketa evolve during your time here?

SH: When I joined in 2010, private markets were already growing in importance for institutional investors, but that growth has only accelerated. We've helped clients scale their private equity programs, better understand liquidity management, and improve how they monitor investments. More recently, we have seen a strong push into co-investments, which I've been deeply involved with.

We're also adapting through the launch of Meketa Capital, which brings our private market expertise to the Registered Investment Advisor (RIA) community. This new initiative is exciting because it opens up access to private markets in a thoughtful way. It's a big opportunity for us to deliver value to a new segment of the market while building on the strengths we've developed over decades.

Don't accept a friendly cycling challenge from Steve–unless you are a beast or okay with losing.

John Haggerty
Managing Principal, Director of Private Market Investments

What continues to excite you about your role today?

SH: I feel incredibly fortunate. I get to lead our private equity and co-investment efforts, meet with managers whose stories and strategies continue to inspire me, and contribute to the strategic direction of the firm. Whether it's structuring our team to better identify top-tier managers or helping to shape Meketa Capital, there's a constant sense of forward motion. I love that balance of deep investment work and big-picture thinking. After 15 years, the work is still dynamic, still meaningful—and that's a great place to be.

Congratulations, Steve, and thank you for 15 years of thoughtful leadership, client commitment, and mentorship across the firm.

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