

# BYRON KING

*Outstanding Investments and Energy & Scarcity Investor*



**Byron King** is the editor of *Outstanding Investments* and *Energy & Scarcity Investor*, as well as a contributor to the *Daily Reckoning* and the *Daily Resource Hunter*.

Reaching over 60,000 subscribers, his newsletters are highly respected and oft-cited by investors in energy and mining companies. In 2011, *The Hulbert Financial Digest* named *Outstanding Investments* as the top performing mining and energy newsletter out of 99 newsletters.

One word describes King: polymath. After majoring in geology and graduating with honors from Harvard, his first job was as a geologist with the Gulf Oil Company. Drilling wells and discovering oil wasn't enough.

So King joined the Navy, and after 12 months of advanced training, King qualified as a flight officer. He spent five years flying carrier-based jets and tracking Soviet submarines across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Then, King was assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, DC.

Eventually, King left active duty and joined the Naval Reserve. He spent 20 years working on assignments to Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. During this time he earned a diploma "with distinction" from the Naval War College. King has traveled to every U.S. state and territory and six of the seven continents. He has conducted site visits to mineral deposits in 26 countries and deep-water oil fields in five oceans.

King also holds a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He practiced law for 17 years, specializing in commercial litigation and bankruptcy.

Since joining Agora Financial in 2002, King has been interviewed by dozens of major print and broadcast media venues including *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *MSN Money*, *Marketwatch.com*, *Fox Business News*, *RT America, Inc. Magazine* and *PBS Newshour*. Throughout the BP well blowout in 2010 he was among the most highly sought after expert analysts.

# CHRIS MAYER

*Capital & Crisis and Mayer's Special Situations*



**Chris Mayer** is managing editor of the *Capital & Crisis* and *Mayer's Special Situations* newsletters, as well as a contributor to the *Daily Reckoning* and the *Daily Resource Hunter*.

His father was an insurance executive and his mother a banker, so business was always a topic of conversation at the Mayer dinner table. These conversations led to his reading and following the great investors of the time, Warren Buffet, Charlie Munger, Peter Lynch, etc., while still in high school.

Graduating *magna cum laude* in 1994 with a degree in finance from the University of Maryland, his first professional job was at the “blue blood/white shirt” Riggs National Bank in Washington, DC. Two years later he joined the newly formed corporate banking team at Citizens Savings Bank. A year later when Provident bought Citizens, he segued to that company, became its youngest vice president, and in his spare time, earned an MBA at the University of Maryland.

During this time, Mayer also began freelancing nights and weekends for publications such as the *Individual Investor Magazine*, *Grant's Investor*, and *The Mises Institute*. Inspired by Dr. Marc Faber, and his *Gloom, Boom and Doom Report*, he launched his own publication *Capital & Crisis*.

Based on direct experience in bank mergers and acquisitions, Mayer takes the position that most banks are opaque, complex, and highly leveraged. Therefore, as investments, he categorically believes they are high risk, as profits earned today often turn out to be borrowed against the losses of tomorrow. Many recent events support his perspective.

Mayer left the banking industry after ten years to combine his passions for writing and investing. He signed on with Agora Financial and brought *Capital & Crisis* with him. He also started the monthly newsletter *Mayer's Special Situations*.

Since joining Agora Financial in 2004, his globetrotting boots-on-the-ground research approach has provided unique insight to macro issues and micro investment opportunities resulting in an exceptional long-term track record of winning ideas.

In 2008, his book, *Invest Like a Dealmaker, Secrets of a Former Banking Insider*, was published by J. Wiley & Sons and well received by readers. His second book, *The World Right-Sdie Up*, is due in April of 2012.

# MICHAEL PENTO

*The Daily Reckoning and Whiskey & Gunpowder*



**Michael Pento** is a senior market analyst for Agora Financial and a contributor to the *Whiskey & Gunpowder* and *Daily Reckoning* newsletters. Pento is a well-established specialist in the Austrian School of economics and a regular guest on *Yahoo! Finance*, *CNBC*, *Bloomberg*, *FOX Business News* and other national media outlets. His market analysis can also be read in most major financial publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*. He also acts as a Financial Columnist for *Forbes* and is a blogger at the *Huffington Post*.

Recently, Pento successfully predicted the pulling back of copper prices from \$4.50 to \$4.00 per pound; he debated Rick Santelli — and ultimately won — on the merits of gold going much higher; and he forecast and analyzed the impact of “loosening” by the Federal Reserve Bank when the mainstream focus was on “tightening.” He brings a hard-driving, unapologetic approach to financial analysis and economic issues which is highly sought-after by investors and press alike.

Pento has two decades of experience as a top investment strategist. Prior to joining Agora Financial, he worked for an investment advisory firm where he helped create ETFs and UITs that were sold throughout Wall Street. Earlier in his career Pento spent two years on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. He has carried series 7, 63, 65, 55 and Life and Health Insurance Licenses. He graduated from Rowan University in 1991.

# DAN AMOSS, CFA

*Strategic Short Report*



**Dan Amoss, CFA**, is a student of the Austrian school of economics, a discipline that he uses to identify imbalances in specific sectors of the market. He tracks aggressive accounting and other red flags that the market typically misses. Amoss is a Maryland native, a graduate of Loyola University Maryland, and earned his CFA charter in 2005. In spring 2008, he recommended Lehman Brothers puts, advising readers to hold the position as the stock fell from \$45 to \$12. Amoss is managing editor of the *Strategic Short Report*.

# RAY BLANCO

*Technology Profits Confidential*



While other eighth graders were out playing soccer, **Ray Blanco** was in his basement learning how to build what's called a "Wilson Cloud Chamber" — a supercooled device for detecting particles of ionizing radiation. Now, he is an expert in advanced robotics, avionics, genomics, and biotechnology. Blanco was raised in Miami, FL, after his family fled Cuba in the 1960s. He is co-editor of *Technology Profits Confidential* and contributes to *Breakthrough Technology Alert* and *Penny Sleuth*.

# ABE COFNAS

*Strategic Currency Trader*



**Abe Cofnas** has been a full-time analyst of global currency trading for over twenty years and ranks among the top Foreign Exchange (Forex) traders working today. He has written four books on the subject. The most recent, *Sentiment Indicators* was published in 2010. Cofnas is the managing editor of the *Strategic Currency Trader*, Agora's primary source for currencies information. He has also been *Futures Magazine's* Forex Trader columnist since 2001, having written over 100 pieces.

# PATRICK COX

*Breakthrough Technology Alert and Technology Profits Confidential*



**Patrick Cox** brings two decades of experience in software, public policy, medical economics and biotechnology to the Agora Financial table. He is editor of the *Breakthrough Technology Alert* and *Technology Profits Confidential*, as well as a contributor to the *Daily Reckoning* and *Penny Sleuth*. Cox, who spent his early childhood on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana, studied at Boise State University and has written for *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Reason Magazine*. Additionally, his expertise has been called upon by *Fox Business* and *MarketWatch*.

# JONAS ELMERRAJI

*Penny Sleuth, Penny Momentum Trader and Penny Stock Fortunes*



A big-four public accounting alum, **Jonas Elmerraji** brings his readers extensive expertise in small-cap stocks and broad market moves. Elmerraji's interest in the market started with an investing course in elementary school — today he holds a degree in financial economics from UMBC and specializes in blending fundamental and technical analysis. Elmerraji has contributed to *Forbes*, *TheStreet.com*, and *Investors Business Daily* and has been cited by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for his expertise in penny stocks.

# GREG GUENTHNER

*Penny Stock Fortunes and Bulletin Board Elite*



**Greg Guenther** heads up Agora Financial's small-cap division and is the founder of one of the only independent OTC research advisories in the industry. A graduate of George Mason University, Guenther joined Agora in 2005 after several years as a journalist. He is managing editor of *Penny Stock Fortunes* and *Bulletin Board Elite*; and contributes to *Penny Sleuth*.

# JIM NELSON

*Lifetime Income Report and Total Income Alert*



**Jim Nelson** began his investing career during the tech boom at age 14 — with purchases of Starbucks and AOL. Early inspiration came from an old Tweedy Brown whitepaper: “What Works in the Market.” He graduated with a degree in Political Science from Pittsburgh University, Nelson focuses on income investing, including dividends, covered calls, and fixed-income. Additionally, he covers MLPs, ADRs, utilities, consumer staples and tobacco.

# STEVE SARNOFF

*Options Hotline*



**Steve Sarnoff** has been the editor of *Options Hotline* since 1999, taking over the role of his father: legendary author, researcher and options expert Paul Sarnoff. He pioneered the use of the Japanese candlestick charting technique — an ancient and accurate style of technical analysis that was virtually unknown to Western traders until just a few decades ago. He currently runs Sarnoff Samurai Strategies, Inc., based in San Diego.