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Sonal Desai, Ph.D. is Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the Franklin Templeton Fixed Income Group. In this role, Dr. Desai oversees Franklin's Municipal, Corporate Credit, Floating Rate Securitized, Multisector, Global (including Emerging Markets), Money Market, and Local Asset Management Fixed Income teams, and co-chairs the Group's Fixed Income Policy Committee. She is a member of Franklin Resources' Executive Committee, a small group of the company's top leaders responsible for shaping the firm's overall strategy. In addition, she serves on the firm's Management and Investment Committees.

Dr. Desai is also a portfolio manager for a number of strategies, including Core Plus, Strategic Income, Low Duration, Global Absolute Return, and Global Fixed Income.

Dr. Desai joined Franklin Templeton in 2009 from Thames River Capital in London. Previous to her current role, she served as a portfolio manager with Dr. Michael Hasenstab for the flagship Templeton Global Bond and Templeton Global Return strategies, as well as Director of Research for Templeton Global Macro, shaping the team's research agenda of in-depth global macroeconomic analysis covering thematic topics, regional and country analyses, and interest rate, currency and sovereign credit market outlooks. She started her career as an assistant professor of economics at the University of Pittsburgh, and then worked for over six years at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. Following this, she joined the private financial sector and worked for about five years as director and senior economist for Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in London.

Dr. Desai holds a Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University and a B.A. in economics from Delhi University. She was part of the Templeton Global Bond Fund portfolio management team named Morningstar's Fixed Income Manager of the Year in Canada in 2013.