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Mike Acton is a Managing Director of the firm and AEW's Head of Research with responsibility for directing the activities of AEW Research, the firm's in-house research group. As one of the founding members of AEW Research in 1990, Mike has over three decades of expertise as an economic analyst and forecaster. The resources offered by AEW Research are an essential component of the firm's successful investment process. He collaborates closely with senior experts from all sectors of the firm to formulate core through opportunistic equity and debt investment strategies that align clients' risk and reward objectives with prevailing market prospects. Additionally, he played a vital role in shaping the strategy for AEW's listed securities business, which was launched in 1995. During his career, Mike has also actively contributed to the development of various proprietary research tools, notably playing a key role in the creation of the highly regarded and widely read AEW Relative Value Index. His important contributions to the advancement of research on real estate as an institutional asset class led to his 2023 PREA Graaskamp Research Award¹, a prestigious recognition to those who contribute to the common body of knowledge and insights gained through their significant research. He holds a permanent position on the Investment, Risk Management and Compliance Committees within the organization. Mike plays an integral part within the firm's Senior Leadership Team, actively contributing to AEW's overall strategic vision and direction. Prior to joining AEW, he was with DRI/McGraw-Hill where he managed the Metropolitan Area Forecasting Service. He is a graduate of Bates College (B.A.), and a CFA charterholder, as well as a member of the CFA Institute and CFA Society Boston.