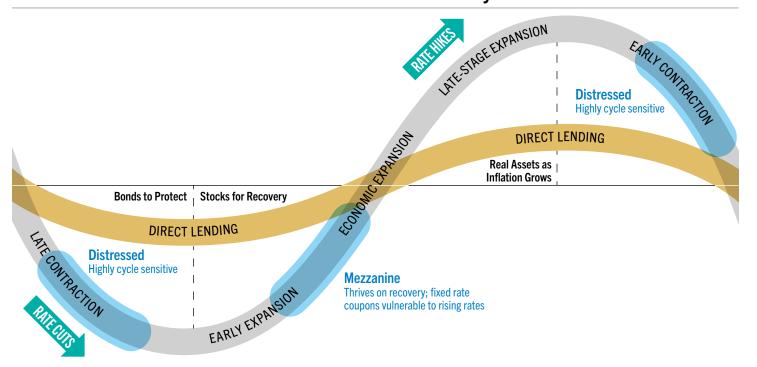
# Direct Lending: An "All Weather" Asset?

**Direct lending** tends to be more insulated from business and interest rate cycles than other public and private investments.

### **Asset Class Performance Across Business and Interest Rate Cycles**



Direct lending is not immune to cycle risk, but its floating-rate nature and seniority in the capital stack may help preserve capital. By mitigating these cyclical risks, direct lending may be the closest to an "all weather" strategic allocation in corporate credit.

#### **Smoother Sailing**

- Economic and rate cycles
   can smile or frown on different
   assets at different times: stocks
   in recovery; bonds to protect
   in a contraction; commodities
   and other real assets as
   inflation rises.
- Other segments of private credit can also be quite rewarding, but may depend heavily on the timing of the investment (e.g., "distressed" investing).
- We believe direct lending—
  with lower sensitivity to rate
  risk, high correlation to CPI and
  less vulnerability to credit risk
  in market downturns—tends to
  manage through both rate and
  economic cycles with a good
  degree of resilience.

Source: Cambridge Associates and Golub Capital.

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