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Steve Cortes appears daily on CNBC's Fast Money "Halftime Report." He is the founder of Veracruz, a trading and consulting firm providing real-time market research to institutions and produces the "ETF Ladder" sector ranking for individual investors. His research covers global markets: from equities to currencies and fixed income. Mr. Cortes is a frequent speaker on investment strategy, global financial trends and market performance. He authored *Against the Herd: 6 Contrarian Investment Strategies You Should Follow*. Mr. Cortes graduated from Georgetown University, where he was a George Baker Scholar, was nominated by the University for Rhodes Scholarship and played varsity football. Mr. Cortes lives in Chicago with his wife and four children.