



## Investment Strategies

For Plan Sponsors

Your role comes with a heavy burden of accountability for the investment options offered to plan participants. Mesirow Financial's Fiduciary Partnership service helps to make your fiduciary duty more manageable. Through a customized, consultative approach, Mesirow Financial can provide a flexible fiduciary solution tailored to your needs.

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Through an extensive analysis of your retirement provider's investment landscape, Mesirow Financial will identify investment options appropriate for retirement investing and act as a fiduciary to the plan.

### Fiduciary Partnership Service Options

The first step toward meeting your fiduciary obligation, is to understand the options offered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). The level of fiduciary responsibility desired is a key element in determining which service is appropriate, and which shares or removes such obligation.

Mesirow Financial's Investment Strategies team is experienced in deciphering these requirements, and offers two types of fiduciary services for you.

#### Investment Advisory Service Under Section 3(21) of ERISA

Mesirow Financial will:

- Assist you in your fiduciary responsibilities with respect to investment selection and monitoring
- Create the Mesirow Financial Elite List that covers a broad menu of investment options in asset classes that are appropriate for long term retirement investing.

#### Investment Management Service Under Section 3(38) of ERISA

Mesirow Financial will:

- Assume full discretion for selecting, monitoring and (if necessary) replacing the investment options.
- Build multiple investment line-ups designed for varying plan demographics

### The Mesirow Financial POLICE Report®

Under both service options, each quarter, Mesirow Financial will monitor all investment options covered by the Fiduciary Partnership service both quantitatively and qualitatively. The Mesirow Financial POLICE Report® is a six category watch list, which monitors issues regarding:

**P**erformance - ranks all funds versus their appropriate peers

**O**rganization - tracks personnel and ownership changes

**L**egal - discloses lawsuits, settlements, or regulatory issues

**I**nvestment Policy - identifies changes in strategy and/or operations

**C**onsistent Style - pinpoints all style issues based on historical returns

**E**xpenses - compares fees to a peer group average to assess the competitiveness

## Legal Protection

As clearly defined in the plan sponsor agreement, Mesirow Financial will perform its duties and obligations with respect to investment option selection and monitoring consistent with the standards of ERISA. This agreement protects you from third-party lawsuits arising from issues regarding investment option selection and monitoring.

## Why use the Fiduciary Partnership Service?

Mesirow Financial:

- Defends all claims within the scope of its fiduciary duty on your behalf
- Is independent, diversified, well capitalized and properly insured for these services
- Utilizes the PrecisionAlpha® process, a proprietary quantitative manager selection methodology
- Conducts in-depth qualitative fund due diligence
- Delivers the Mesirow Financial POLICE Report®, a quarterly investment watch list

## About Mesirow Financial

Mesirow Financial is a diversified financial services firm headquartered in Chicago. Founded in 1937, we are an independent, primarily employee-owned firm with locations across the country and in London. With expertise in Investment Management, Global Markets, Insurance Services and Consulting, Mesirow Financial strives to meet the financial needs of institutions, public sector entities, corporations and individuals. For more information about Mesirow Financial, visit our website at [mesirowfinancial.com](http://mesirowfinancial.com).

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