



As a plan sponsor your goal is to implement a sound retirement program that offers your employees security, diversification and potential for growth. But with so many investment options to choose from, this task can be overwhelming. Your plan provider offers a strong foundation of diverse investment selections, yet without the tools and resources to adequately evaluate funds, you may be ill prepared to select the investments most appropriate for your participants.

Mesirow Financial Investment Strategies partners with you to develop an investment line up that enables plan participants to build prudent investment portfolios. With extensive market knowledge and cutting-edge analysis we provide professional guidance in creating your 401(k) program, including:

- Assistance with investment selection
- Fiduciary partnership relating to the investments selected for your program
- Quarterly investment monitoring and reporting
- Security in knowing that an independent, unbiased, third party is overseeing the fund selection for your retirement program

Fiduciary Partnership

Your role as a plan sponsor comes with a heavy burden of accountability for the investment options you offer to participants. As experts in fund selection and asset allocation we are confident in our recommendations and agree to share fiduciary responsibility with you with respect to the investment selections on the Mesirow Financial Elite List.

Innovative Asset Allocation and Fund Selection Methodology

We narrow the playing field by providing you with a manageable subset of investment options to choose from. Our methodology centers on selecting funds that can enhance performance while staying true to the investment strategy and asset allocation policy. We consider both style-pure and multi-style managers in our analysis, thereby expanding the spectrum of funds available to participants. Using a unique blend of quantitative and qualitative analysis, it is our goal to measure manager performance and determine their forecasted potential for excess returns.

Step-by Step Process

- Analyze the funds that comprise the universe of available investment options from your plan provider
- Apply quantitative analysis to classify funds into peer groups to identify those that have consistent style and can add excess return while controlling excess risk

With extensive market knowledge and cutting-edge analysis we provide professional guidance in creating your 401(k) program

- Determine preliminary list of selected funds categorized by asset class
- Perform qualitative review of fund managers using detailed questionnaires, manager interviews and holdings analysis
- Develop Mesirow Financial's Elite List, consisting of pre-selected investment options for your plan

Quarterly Reporting and Monitoring

Mesirow Financial provides the monitoring and reporting services necessary to keep you apprised about the investment options offered to your plan participants.

Through our partnership, you will receive extensive resources to assist in maintaining and monitoring your retirement program. Our detailed Quarterly Report includes:

- An updated Elite List with the recommended funds and a report outlining any changes to the recommended fund from previous quarters
- Market commentary on the previous quarter
- Performance summaries of all Elite Funds
- Individual fund statistics and select holdings information
- Outstanding issues on both a qualitative and quantitative basis on any funds on the Elite List

Recognized Industry Leaders

With 85 years of collective experience in the investment industry, our team has earned a reputation for integrity, service and performance among those in the asset allocation arena. In addition, we are supported by the comprehensive institutional investment management expertise of Mesirow Financial. From equities and fixed income to private equity, hedge funds and currency management, the firm is continually at the forefront in creating innovative and effective investment solutions for institutions all over the world.

Investment Strategies Division

Mesirow Financial Investment Strategies is a division of Mesirow Financial Investment Management, Inc., an SEC registered investment advisor. The group provides proprietary asset allocation research, sub-advisory services, fund selection, investment strategy and consulting capabilities for institutional investors such as insurance companies, mutual fund complexes, broker/dealers, and 401(k) plan sponsors. Our team has more than 85 years of combined industry experience and maintains a proven history of delivering cutting-edge quantitative analysis and portfolio modeling services to a breadth of clients.

About Mesirow Financial

Mesirow Financial is a diversified financial services firm headquartered in Chicago. Founded in 1937, we are an independent employee-owned firm with locations across the country and in London. With expertise in Investment Management, Investment Services, Insurance Services, Investment Banking, Consulting and Real Estate, Mesirow Financial strives to meet the financial needs of institutions, public sector entities, corporations and individuals and was named one of Chicago's Best Places to Work by *Crain's Chicago Business* in 2008. For more information about Mesirow Financial, visit our Web site at www.mesirowfinancial.com.

Securities offered through Mesirow Financial, Inc. Member NYSE, SIPC

Insurance services offered through Mesirow Insurance Services, Inc.

* Interim Management services provided by Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC

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