# DESIGN BUILD PROTECT

Our Advisory Process For Clients



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#### What Is Asset Class Investing?

Asset Class Investing is a passive investment approach that draws on the research of some of the academic community's most innovative and respected thinkers and economists. As its name suggests, rather than trying to pick stocks or industry sectors, asset class investing focuses on asset classes — which are simply any group of securities (such as U.S. Large Companies and Emerging Markets) that exhibit similar risk and return investment characteristics and perform similarly in any given market environment.

Asset class investing carefully controls the investments included in each Asset Class, aiming to give investors a consistent risk exposure to a given market segment. While a number of investment vehicles can be employed to implement Asset Class Investing, using institutional mutual funds specifically designed for their asset class characteristics can greatly simplify the process.

Asset allocation does not assure a profit or protect against losses.

# **INVESTING BEGINS WITH YOU**

While it is easy to get caught up in the state of the economy or the latest "hot" stock, we believe passionately that the way you invest should be aligned with where you are in your life...not with the short-term ups and downs of markets.

You should have a financial blueprint to help you manage your opportunities, needs, concerns and goals.

We call this approach **Asset Class Investing** and believe it makes good sense as you plan for both today and tomorrow.

There are three things to remember about how Asset Class Investing can work for you and your family:

- It focuses your investment portfolio on meeting your life goals. It is an approach designed to help you manage towards your most important goals rather than to short-term market trends.
- 2. It is based on science and academic research. It combines the latest discoveries in economics and investing with almost 90 years of market data and insights as well as in-depth studies of investor psychology and behavior.
- 3. It is a disciplined and structured approach. It helps protect against the common behavioral mistakes that can compromise your long-term financial goals.

There is no assurance or guarantee any investment goal or objective will be achieved or maintained.

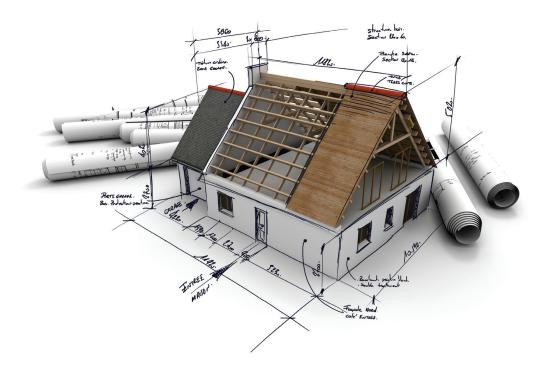
### Let us show you how it could work for you.



#### **Every Good Portfolio Is Designed To Help Meet Your Specific Goals**

We like to think of your goals in terms of life goals. It just makes good sense to start with the things that will be important to you and then construct an investment plan to help you get there.

Consider the ultimate goals that your investment portfolio will have to serve. While it is easy to look at the overall performance of a given investment, you will gain a better sense of how you are doing if you first set your life and financial goals, then measure the effectiveness of your strategy against those goals.



#### You Need To Consider These 3 Issues For Your Portfolio

 Short-Term Needs: This is money you will need for immediate expenses, fixed obligations — such as a mortgage — and essential spending, as well as the unexpected.

Remember that a pension plan, savings accounts, insurance payouts, etc. can look after these expenses. If you are still working, you are likely using a portion of your current salary to cover your short-term needs.

2. **Future lifestyle:** You want to enjoy your lifestyle today AND tomorrow, so consider key factors such as inflation and taxes, as well as fees and expenses.

Your plan should reflect how these factors may affect the overall growth of the money that you will need to reach your goals.

3. Long-Term Comfort: This is money that you will need to invest so that you will not worry unnecessarily. It can also include assets outside your portfolio, such as your house, an inheritance, a pension, etc.





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"Risk" can be defined in many ways, but what should concern most investors is the possibility that your plans may not go as expected.

Over the life of your plan, there will be some risks that could affect your ability to reach your goals.

The most common risks that you will have to account for in your investment plan are:

 Market volatility. Market volatility simply means that the value of your investments will change over time. In fact, prices on investments — including the world's great companies — are changing all the time, sometimes second by second. But when major changes happen quickly and dramatically, many investors lose sight of the big picture or even panic.

What you can do about it: Remember that market volatility is more a short-term phenomenon than a long-term risk. In general, the longer you stay invested, the less volatile your investments should be. Professional guidance can also help.

Entrust your investments to financial advisors (and money managers) who take a long-term approach.



2. "Headline" and economic risk. Markets are often strongly impacted by investor sentiment. When people are optimistic, they are more likely to invest in the future — if they are pessimistic based on what they read in the morning news, they will tend to keep their money on the sidelines.

What you can do about it: Since there will always be political and economic risks around the world that can affect your investments in the short-run, reframe how you view the performance of your portfolio. Rather than compare your holdings to a benchmark like the S&P 500 or Russell 2000, assess whether your investments are on track to reach your life goals.

 Investor risk. If we could remove emotions from investing, markets would be much more predictable. Investor risk not only results from short-term optimism or pessimism about markets — it also results from how you personally handle the day-to-day ups and downs.

What you can do about it: Don't allow yourself to be swayed by the media or investment "gurus" who claim that they can predict where markets are going. Also, be aware of your own emotions and biases and how they can impact your success as an investor. Working with a trusted advisor can help you keep your life goals in clear view and avoid making impulsive decisions.



### Investing To Reach Your Goals Means Gathering As Much Expertise On Your Side As You Can

Almost 90 years of academic research has taught us that there are 3 important decisions that must be made when building an investment portfolio.

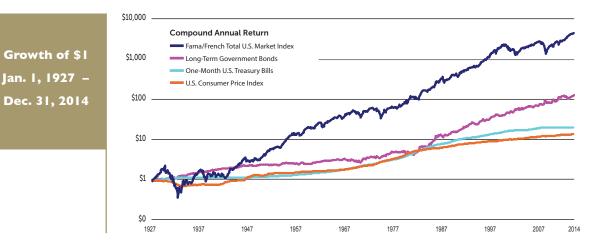
- I. How you allocate your portfolio between stocks and short-term bonds
- 2. How you allocate your portfolio between U.S. stocks and International stocks
- 3. Your comfort with key risk factors

Even though each market boom or bust can make it seem as if the old rules no longer apply, we believe — and the data shows — that markets are very consistent over time. We think there will always be companies all around the world worth investing in.

#### DECISION I — HOW YOU ALLOCATE YOUR PORTFOLIO BETWEEN STOCKS AND SHORT-TERM BONDS

From the smartphone in your pocket to the department store where you buy your clothes, many companies that are a big part of our lives are public companies that are listed for trading on a major stock exchange. Not all of them are big with well-known brand names and not all will be successful long term.

However, one of the best opportunities to grow your money over the long term can come from making an investment in capitalism and the stock market. This chart is a good illustration of the long-term growth of U.S. businesses over the past almost 90 years. If your grandparents had invested \$1 in the stock market in 1927 and just left it alone, by the end of 2014 that \$1 would have grown to \$4,500! That same \$1 invested in One-Month T-Bills would be worth \$20, and if invested in Long-Term Government Bonds, it would be worth \$125.



Risks associated with investing in stocks potentially include increased volatility (up and down movement in the value of your assets) and loss of principal. Indexes are unmanaged baskets of securities that investors cannot directly invest in. Index performance does not reflect the fees or expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Hypothetical value of \$1 invested at the beginning of 1927 and kept invested through December 31, 2014. Assumes reinvestment of income and no transaction costs or taxes. This is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any investment. Total returns in U.S. dollars. Long-Term Government Bonds, One-Month U.S. Treasury Bills, and U.S. Consumer Price Index (inflation), source: Morningstar's 2014 Stocks, Bonds, Bills, And Inflation Yearbook (2015); Fama/French Total U.S. Market Index provided by Fama/French from Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP) data. Includes all NYSE securities (plus Amex equivalents since July 1962 and NASDAQ equivalents since 1973), including utilities. T Bills and government bonds are backed by the U.S. government and guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest. T Bills and government bonds are subject to interest rate and inflation risk and their values will decline as interest rates rise.

Most investors need to include some of the growth potential of stocks in their portfolios, but as anyone who has invested over the last decade knows, stocks can be risky.

Which is why many investors also allocate some of their portfolio to bonds.

How much to allocate to stocks versus bonds is the first key decision for investors. This is determined by such important factors as your goals, the time frame for these goals and your comfort with risk.

# DESIGN BUILD PROTECT

# Build Your Plan Using Scientific and Academic Research

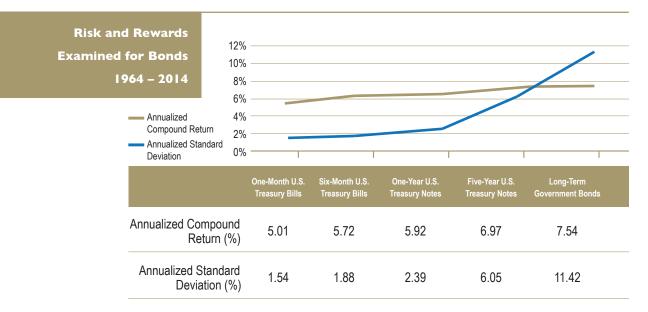
We use bonds to try and decrease volatility and manage risk in a portfolio. Like a shock absorber, bonds are intended to create a less bumpy investment ride, with less dramatic ups and downs than a pure stock portfolio. They also seek to provide a steady income stream in a variety of market conditions.

But not all bonds are created equal.

To be an effective "shock absorber," the portfolio should contain bonds with shorter maturities and higher quality. Here's why:

- Bonds with shorter maturities typically have a 3 to 5 year "lifespan" and do not go up and down in value at the same time or to the same extent as stocks. Generally, longer maturity bonds entail more risk.
- Higher-quality bonds can help decrease the volatility in your portfolio and lower the risk of a default.

The chart on the next page illustrates the risk and reward to portfolios from bond holdings. Of note is the lower volatility of short-term bonds that you can see represented by the standard deviation number (how much the portfolio goes up or down in a year). Note also that investors are typically not properly compensated for the additional risk of longer-term bonds.



Source: One-Month U.S. Treasury Bills, Five-Year U.S. Treasury Notes, and Twenty-Year (Long-Term) U.S. Government Bonds provided by Ibbotson Associates. Six-Month U.S. Treasury Bills provided by CRSP (1964-1977) and Merrill Lynch (1978-present). One-Year U.S. Treasury Notes provided by the Center for Research in Security Prices (1964-May 1991) and Merrill Lynch (June 1991-present). Morningstar data ©2014 Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation Yearbook (2015), Morningstar. The Merrill Lynch Indices are used with permission; copyright 2014 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated; all rights reserved. Assumes reinvestment of dividends. Past performance is not indicative of future results. All investments involve risk. Standard deviation annualized from quarterly data. Standard deviation is a statistical measurement of how far the return of a security (or index) moves above or below its average value. The greater the standard deviation, the riskier an investment is considered to be. Bonds are subject to market and interest rate risk. Bond values will decline as interest rates rise, issuer's credit-worthiness declines, and are subject to availability and changes in price.

#### What does this mean for your plan?

Intuitively, it makes sense that companies as a whole will grow over the long run, so stocks should provide a better return on investment than bonds. While you can never be certain about market direction in the short term, you really are investing your nest egg in the long-term potential of capitalism. Across all the traumatic world events over this time period, from the Great Depression to World War II to the Great Recession of recent years, you still earned a solid return by investing and staying invested. But risks like war and economic downturn also point out why we believe most portfolios should also contain some short-term bonds.

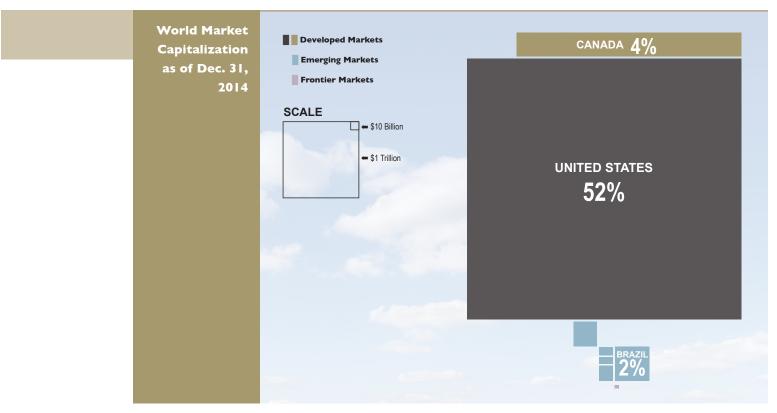


#### DECISION 2 — HOW YOU ALLOCATE YOUR PORTFOLIO BETWEEN U.S. STOCKS AND INTERNATIONAL STOCKS

Now that you understand how to diversify by investing in both stocks and shortterm bonds, it makes sense to apply diversification to the global markets. Today, more than 48% of the worldwide stock investment opportunities are outside of the U.S. markets! As the chart below shows, many countries around the world have sizable markets.

In fact, when it comes to stock market performance, the United States is hardly world class.

As the chart at the right shows, over the last 10 years (through 2014), America ranked only 22nd in terms of annualized performance, returning 7.16%. The top-ranked market over this time, Philippines, returned a whopping 17.65%.



Source: Dimensional. In US dollars. Market cap data is free-float adjusted from Bloomberg securities data. Many small nations not displayed. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. Past Performance is not indicative of future results. All investments involve risk. Foreign securities involve additional risks including foreign currency changes, taxes and different accounting and financial reporting methods.

10-Putting Asset Class Investing to Work for You



#### Ranking of Markets Around the World

Based on Ten-Year Performance in US Dollars Annualized Returns Year Ending December 31, 2014

1. Philippines 2. Peru 3. Colombia 4. Indonesia 5. Egypt 6. China 7. Thailand 8. Denmark 9. India 10. Mexico 11. Malaysia 12. Singapore 13. Brazil 14. Hong Kong 15. South Africa 16. Korea 17. Switzerland 18. Australia 19. Turkev 20. Sweden 21. Canada 22. USA

23. Chile 24. Germany 25. Netherlands 26. Taiwan 27. Israel 28. Czech Republic 29. Norway 30. New Zealand 31. UK 32. Spain 33. Finland 34. Poland 35. France 36. Belgium 37. Japan 38. Russia 39. Italy 40. Hungary 41. Portugal 42. Austria 43. Ireland 44. Greece

Source: Morningstar Direct 2015. Countries represented by their respective MSCI IMI (net div.).



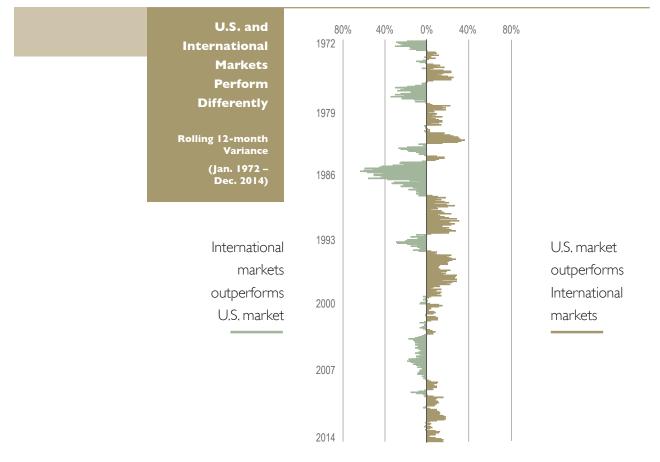
Countries represented by their respective MSCI IMI(net div.). Indexes are unmanaged baskets of securities in which investors cannot directly invest; they do not reflect the payment of advisory fees or other expenses associated with specific investments or the management of an actual portfolio.

# DESIGN BUILD PROTECT

### Build Your Plan Using Scientific and Academic Research

Since nobody knows what the future will bring, we believe it is important to invest in the U.S. as well as markets around the world.

And as the chart below shows, when the U.S. is underperforming, international may outperform...and vice versa. This means that incorporating both international and domestic stocks into a portfolio increases diversification and potentially lowers volatility.



Past Performance is not indicative of future results. All investments involve risk. Foreign securities involve additional risks including foreign currency changes, taxes and different accounting and financial reporting methods. International market performance represented by the MSCI EAFE Index (Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australasia, Far East Index), comprised of over 1,000 companies representing the stock markets of Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East, and is an unmanaged index. EAFE represents non-U.S. large stocks. U.S. market performance represented by the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, an unmanaged market value-weighted index of 500 stocks that are traded on the NYSE, AMEX and NASDAQ. The weightings make each company's influence on the index performance directly proportional to that company's market value.

This is why we build asset class portfolios that typically contain over 9,000 companies in 45 countries, representing 35 currencies.

While we love the great U.S. companies, the science suggests that investing in thousands of stocks globally can help decrease the overall risk of the portfolio and may increase your return.

The reason is simple: if you own a lot of companies around the world you will not need to panic if any one company — or even one country — experiences losses.

Capitalism and creation of wealth are a worldwide phenomena and the countries with the highest and lowest returns change year by year.

International stocks can be riskier than U.S. stocks and are subject to a variety of additional risks, including currency and political risks.

That is why investors must carefully decide how they will allocate the stock portion of their





#### Build Your Plan Using Scientific and Academic Research

#### **DECISION 3 — YOUR COMFORT WITH KEY RISK FACTORS**

When you consider all you want to achieve in life — today, tomorrow and for many years to come — how hard does your money have to work to help you get there?

We intuitively understand that a risk is only worth taking when there is a corresponding reward. The old saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained" applies well to investing, since all types of investing involve taking on some risk.

In 1992, academic research by Professors Ken French and Eugene Fama Sr., identified two stock risk factors — small companies and value companies — that investors should expect to be compensated for. As an investor, you need to decide how much of these risks you are willing to take. As the chart at right shows, the greater the risk exposure, the greater the expected long-term return.



Whenever you hear some money manager on the news bragging about performance, think of this "risk factor" chart. Did the manager do better or worse than he should have?

# Small companies are inherently riskier than large companies and historically have outperformed.

Conventional wisdom might say that we would get better returns by investing in large, well-known companies than we would by investing in smaller, riskier companies.

Surprisingly, the science tells us something quite different. Did you know that from 1927 to 2014, smaller companies in the U.S. have outperformed large companies by more than 3.9% on average annually? (See the chart on p. 17 for more details). If you are seeking a greater rate of return, consider allocating a portion of your portfolio to smaller companies to provide you with a potential engine of growth. Though small company stocks are more volatile than large company stocks, their return has been greater over time.

Small company stocks may be subject to a higher degree of market risk than the securities of more established companies because they may be more volatile and less liquid.





# Value companies are inherently riskier than growth companies and historically have outperformed.

Value stocks are usually associated with corporations that have experienced slower earnings growth or sales, or have recently experienced business difficulties, causing their stock prices to fall. These companies are often regarded as turnaround opportunities, where a change in management, strategy or other factors could improve the company's prospects and its earnings.

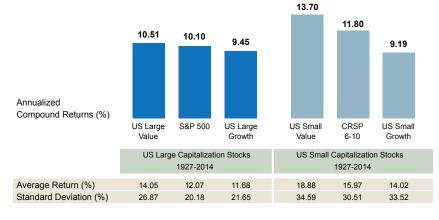
Historically, the earning streams of value stocks have been much more uncertain than growth stocks. This means the market has to assign them lower prices in order to attract investors. Historically, large U.S. value stocks have grown more than 10.5% per year, vs. 9.5% annually for U.S. large growth stocks..

Though they are riskier than growth companies, value companies may lead to potentially higher expected returns.

The risks associated with investing in stocks and overweighting small company and value stocks potentially include increased volatility (up and down movement in the value of your assets) and loss of principal.

#### Size & Value Effects Are Strong Globally

As the chart below shows, the higher historical returns offered by small stocks and value stocks are global — occurring not just in the U.S., but in developed countries around the world and even in emerging markets. But small and value also are much more volatile (that is what a higher "standard deviation" means). You can't get return without risk.





Indices are not available for direct investment. Their performance does not reflect the expenses associated with the management of an actual portfolio. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. US value and growth index data (ex utilities) provided by Fama/French. The S&P data are provided by Standard & Poor's Index Services Group. CRSP data provided by the Center for Research in Security Prices, University of Chicago. International Value and Growth data provided by Fama/French from Bloomberg and MSCI securities data. International Small data compiled by Dimensional from Bloomberg, StyleResearch, London Business School, and Nomura Securities data. MSCI EAFE Index is net of foreign withholding taxes on dividends; copyright MSCI 2015, all rights reserved. Emerging markets index data simulated by Fama/French from countries in the IFC Investable Universe; simulations are free-float weighted both within each country and across all countries.

Values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated. There is always the risk that an investor may lose money. Small company risk: Securities of small firms are often less liquid than those of large companies. As a result, small company stocks may fluctuate relatively more in price. Emerging markets risk: Numerous emerging countries have experienced serious, and potentially continuing, economic and political problems. Stock markets in many emerging countries are relatively small, expensive, and risky. Foreigners are often limited in their ability to invest in, and withdraw assets from, these markets. Additional restrictions may be imposed under other conditions. Foreign securities and currencies risk: Foreign securities prices may decline or fluctuate because of: (a) economic or political actions of foreign governments, and/or (b) less regulated or liquid securities markets. Investors holding these securities are also exposed to foreign currency risk (the possibility that foreign currency will fluctuate in value against the US dollar). Fixed income investments are subject to interest rate and credit risk.

## DESIGN BUILD PROTECT

**Protect Your Future with a Disciplined and Structured Approach** 

To be a successful investor you need discipline and structure — and ongoing education — to manage THROUGH markets rather than TO markets.

You don't want to "guess" when it comes to investing to meet your life goals. And don't let emotions derail your best laid plans.

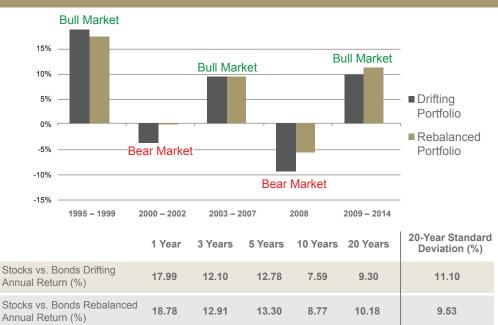


"Because investing is such an inexact science, it is far better to be approximately right, than precisely wrong."

#### PREVENT YOUR PORTFOLIO FROM DRIFTING WITH REBALANCING

Rebalancing helps keep your portfolio allocated to your desired mix of stocks and bonds, and is an important step that many people neglect when they try to manage their own investments. Without rebalancing — which involves selling some of your investments and purchasing others to maintain your preferred asset allocation — your portfolio can drift from one level of risk to another as the markets change. This drift can add extra risk to your plan that you never intended or expected.

As you can see from this chart, the annually rebalanced portfolio was historically less volatile over the last twenty years. It may not have soared as much during bull markets, but it didn't decline as much during bear markets. And overall, it offered slightly better performance with less risk than the drifting, un-rebalanced portfolio.



Rebalancing and a 50% Stocks/50% Bonds Portfolio 1995 - 2014

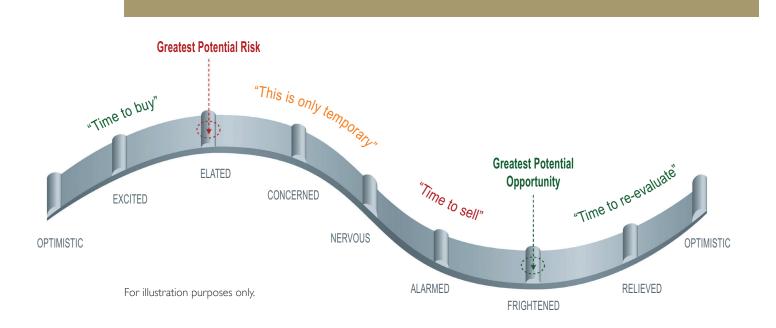
Data source: Morningstar Direct 2015. Past performance is no indication of future results. All investments involve risk, including loss of principal. Stocks are represented by the S&P 500 Index. Bonds are represented by the SBBI Long-Term Bond Index. Indexes are unmanaged baskets of securities in which investors cannot invest and do not reflect the payment of advisory fees associated with a mutual fund or separate account. Returns assume dividend and capital gain reinvestment. Rebalancing does not guarantee a return or protect against a loss. The buying and selling of securities for the purpose of rebalancing may have adverse tax consequences.

#### PROTECT YOUR PLAN FROM YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR

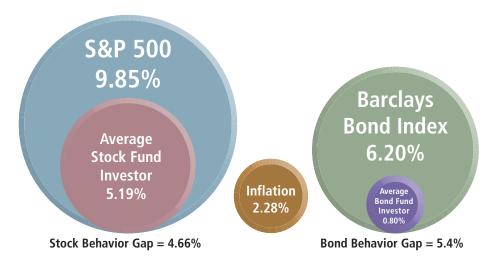
Investing can be an emotional roller coaster. In this age of the "24-hour news cycle" it is easy to forget the role that maintaining our investment portfolios can play in achieving our long-term goals. It can be difficult to stay focused on the long term when the short term consumes our thoughts and emotions.

As the illustration below shows, at the moment of greatest potential risk, many want to invest even more money. And at the moment of greatest potential opportunity, many are tempted to sell.

The Cycle of Market Emotions



Just to show you how investors can sabotage their returns when they don't take a longterm perspective, consider the chart on the next page which shows that over the last 20 years, the average investor did substantially worse than major indices. As you can see below, although the S&P 500 returned 9.85%, the average stock investor earned only 5.19%.



Average stock investor and average bond investor performances were used from a DALBAR study, Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior (QAIB), 04/2015. QAIB calculates investor returns as the change in assets after excluding sales, redemptions, and exchanges. This method of calculation captures realized and unrealized capital gains, dividends, interest, trading costs, sales charges, fees, expenses, and any other costs. After calculating investor returns in dollar terms (above), two percentages are calculated: Total investor return rate for the period and annualized investor return rate. Total return rate is determined by calculating the investor return dollars as a percentage of the net of the sales, redemptions, and exchanges for the period. The fact that buy-and-hold has been a successful strategy in the past does not guarantee that it will continue to be successful in the future. S&P 500 returns do not take into consideration any fees.

Why the big difference? Many investors think they know when to buy and sell. But this means they have to be right twice: picking the right time to buy and the right time to sell. That is a pretty tall order!

Other investors might give in to panic or even greed and make hasty, emotional decisions, like pulling out of the market when stocks are losing.

Whatever the reason, the results as a whole are shocking. The average stock investor in the study above underperformed the S&P 500 by almost 5% each and every year. A gap that large can have a real impact over time on an investor's long-term goals — even quality of life.



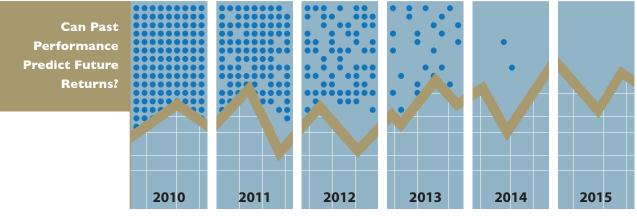
# **Protect Your Future with a Disciplined** and Structured Approach

#### **DON'T TRY TO OUTGUESS THE MARKETS**

If one thing is clear from the past several decades of modern investing it is this: you have a better chance of achieving your goals if you invest broadly in markets and don't try to guess what they will do next.

But even with a well-built plan, many investors still fall prey to the notion that they can find a better investment manager. Perhaps they think that a manager's recent outperformance will continue. Or that they can identify the next "hot" manager.

If only it were that easy. As the chart below shows, even very successful managers have had a hard time maintaining their stellar records.



#### U.S. Equity Mutual Funds Maintaining Top Quartile Performance

Represented by managers with 12 month trailing outperformance to March of each year. Data source: Standard & Poor's Does Past Performance Matter? The Persistence Scorecard, June 2014 and www.nytimes.com/2015/04/05/your-money/measure-for-measure-index-funds-rule.html Beating an unmanaged index like the S&P 500 isn't easy. The S&P Dow Jones Indices team looked at 2,862 U.S. stock mutual funds that had been around for at least 12 months as of March 2010.

They tracked the performance of the top quartile (top 25%) for the following four 12-month periods through March 2014, and found that only 2 of these funds actually managed to achieve top quartile performance for those 5 successive years! A year later, by March 2015, even those two managers were unable to maintain their top performance.

These results are consistent with a large body of research which shows that most top performing managers are unable to maintain their strong track records over time. Chances are good that if you find a manager touting "great" results, those results will not be so impressive in the future.

This is why we believe that instead of struggling to beat the markets you should focus on capturing market returns. Backed by science and research, not guesswork, this approach aims to offer you the highest probability of achieving your long-term plan.



#### **WORKING TOGETHER**

As an independent advisor we act as a valued partner who can help tie your investment plan to your overall life plan. Not only can we provide you with guidance, counseling, monitoring and discipline, we can be a valued catalyst to encourage you to plan ahead for the expected and unexpected.

We are dedicated to helping you reach your goals and believe strongly that our approach can make a real difference as we work together to:

- I. Design a plan to meet your life goals
- 2. Build your plan using scientific and academic research
- 3. Protect your plan with a disciplined and structured approach

#### Our Commitment

We consider your life goals first and then work with you as a coach, guide, mentor and educator to help you keep your plan in focus.

We provide you with **clarity**, helping you understand the things you should plan for, the things you should be concerned about and the things that you shouldn't.

We provide you with **insight**, based on our experience and knowledge of investing and how markets work, as well as how best to achieve your goals.

We work as your **partner**, providing you with counsel on an ongoing basis and are a valuable resource as you make the best use of your financial resources to lead a fulfilling life.



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