

How should the markets affect your life?

BY MICHAEL KROL, CFP®, CPA



Clockwise, from top right: Matthew Helfrich, John Waldron, Benjamin Greenfeld, Chris Roe, Michael Krol, Jim Mendelson

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TEAM

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Benjamin M. Greenfeld, CFP[®], Chief Investment Officer

Jim Mendelson, Managing Director

Michael Krol, CFP[®], CPA, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Service Officer

Chris Roe, CPA/PFS, Managing Director

FINANCIAL SERVICES EXPERIENCE

112+ years (combined)

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

\$1.1 billion (as of 12/31/2014)

MINIMUM FEE FOR INITIAL MEETING

None required

MINIMUM NET WORTH REQUIREMENT

55 million

LARGEST CLIENT NET WORTH

Confidential

COMPENSATION METHOD

Asset-based (investment services), hourly and fixed fees

PRIMARY CUSTODIANS FOR INVESTOR ASSETS

Fidelity Family Office Services and Pershing

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Planning and investment advisory services

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o one can predict what is going to happen in the investment markets. Even Warren Buffett, perhaps the greatest investor of all time, implores investors to stop trying to predict the direction of the stock market, the economy or elections.

And, as it turns out, it is actually unnecessary to try to predict the direction of the markets, because what happens in the markets should never affect an investor's life

But how can this be possible? The S&P lost 50 percent of its value in the recent Great Recession. And in that same decade, NASDAQ lost nearly 80 percent of its value after the bursting of the "tech bubble."

Then there is the Chinese stock market, which has gained more than 100 percent on eight separate occasions during its relatively brief history. So, shouldn't investors change their plans based on the impact these wild market swings could have on their portfolios?

Our answer is an emphatic no. Whether the time frame was the Great Recession of 2008-2009, the bear market of 2000-2002 or even the choppy

markets of early 2016, we have fielded the same inquiries from current and prospective clients, including:

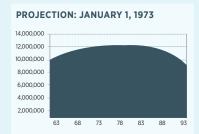
- Do I need to change my spending?
- Do I need to change my retirement
- Will this impact the legacy I will be able to leave for my family and charitable interests?

As we tell all of our clients, in both great times and bad ones, our job as your advisor is to develop a plan that accounts for the events that cannot be predicted.

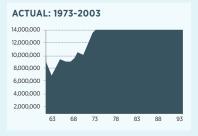
An interesting example of this is illustrated in the three charts to the right. Advisors use these cash-flow projections to help clients decide when they should retire or to help set appropriate spending levels.

The first two charts were predictive projections run in 1973 and 1975, respectively, to help a client determine if he or she had enough portfolio assets to support a particular lifestyle. As you can see, a very different picture was painted before and after the bear market of the early 1970s.

The third chart is what the client actually experienced with an appropriate portfolio. An advisor using these projections and counseling a client to change his/her lifestyle after the bear market would have been making a terrible mistake.







Our job as your advisor is to develop a plan that accounts for the events that cannot be predicted.

The moral of this story is simple: You should not have to change your lifestyle or your financial plans based upon bear markets, bull markets or anything in between. And, if you are receiving advice to the contrary, you might want to consider seeking new professional advice. •

♠ ABOUT US •

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