



Thank You Steve Levey!

Brian J. Friedman, CFA

Steve Officially Retired from GHPIA on December 31, 2014

We wish Steve a long and happy retirement and we are sad to see him go. Steve Levey, Bob Hochstadt and I were the founding partners of GHP Investment Advisors, Inc. Steve was a trailblazer within the field of financial planning. CPAs are often thought to be risk averse and lacking innovation, but Steve's career certainly did not fit this stereotype. Perhaps his background in music helped him see the world a little differently.

As a kid Steve played clarinet and saxophone in his dad's band – the Nate Levey Band. Many older people today remember Steve playing at weddings and bar mitzvahs. In college Steve attended the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver for three years before switching to the business school to study accounting. I once asked him why he majored in accounting. He replied that growing up with a musical father he was clueless about business. As a senior in a rush to change his major, he glanced at the business school catalogue and chose accounting because it started with "A" and was the first choice on the alphabetical list! He saw too many starving musicians and knew he somehow wanted a career in business.

Even as Steve built his accounting career, Steve continued to work as a professional musician throughout his 20's. He sometimes filled in with the symphony or even with popular bands passing through town. Steve's decision to become a CPA proved a sound career choice, but he often joked he was a disappointment to his musically oriented parents. He gave his mother a T-shirt with the caption "Don't Tell My Mom I'm a CPA, She Thinks I Play Piano in a Bordello".

Along with his outstanding musical ability Steve also had a tremendous memory, two skills he combined to win cash and prizes on the hit 1980's game show "Name That Tune". Clients often marveled at Steve's ability to recall details of their personal and financial lives. A feat made even more amazing when one beheld the mountains of paper in his disheveled office. Steve turned his less than stellar organizational skills into an advantage by constantly searching for improved technology tools to help him and his financial planning practice become more efficient and impactful. For 25 years Steve wrote articles and lectured at conferences about the latest technology trends.

Steve is a Financial Planning Pioneer

In the 1980's Steve Levey and Bob Hochstadt pioneered a relatively new field within the accounting profession: Financial Planning. Steve's positive attitude toward innovation and technology paid off as he and Bob developed many of the financial planning techniques we still use today. For many years Steve was a national member of the Personal Financial Planning Committee of the AICPA (American Institute for Certified Public Accountants). When the Colorado Society of CPAs developed the Personal Financial Specialist (PFS) designation he was one of the first to earn the PFS credential. Shortly thereafter the AICPA adopted Colorado's program on a national basis.



A designation only available to CPA financial planners, a PFS “allows CPAs to gain and demonstrate competence and confidence in providing estate, tax, retirement, risk management and/or investment planning advice to individuals, families and business owners through experience, education, examination and a resulting credential (www.aicpa.org).” Ultimately Steve twice served as the National Chairperson for the AICPA’s Personal Financial Planning Conference. Steve encouraged Bob to earn a PFS several years later, and today our colleagues Jerry Kaiser, Angie Kennedy and Sebrina Ivey also hold this prestigious designation.

1995: CPAs Allowed to Enter the Investment Industry

In 1995 the AICPA changed the rules governing the accounting profession. Prior to this time CPAs were prohibited from providing investment advice. Steve and Bob referred their clients to other financial services firms, which typically meant working with commissioned brokers. Brokers often placed their compensation needs ahead of their clients’ financial interests, disillusioning Steve and Bob with the brokerage industry. Fortunately the new industry of Registered Investment Advisors was rapidly rising as an alternative to traditional “retail” financial services firms. In 1996 Steve and Bob established GHP Investment Advisors, Inc. to take advantage of the regulatory shift. They soon discovered, however, that investment management required additional expertise beyond their own skills in tax and financial planning.

Wealth Management = Asset Management + Financial Planning

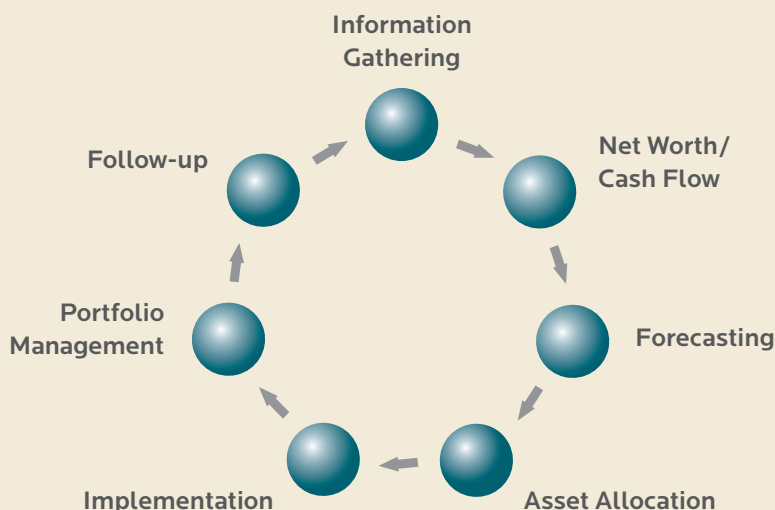
Sensing opportunity to build a “Wealth Management” firm, I also paid careful attention to the changing rules governing the CPA profession. By combining a CPA’s strong reputation for objectivity, as well as tax advice and estate planning, I believed that with the right kind of CPA partner we could create a much more holistic and comprehensive service offering. I was aware of “Family Offices” that catered to extremely wealthy families combining their financial advice needs under a single roof. My goal was to partner with CPAs to create a “Family Office for the Millionaire Next Door.”



One day I was reading an article in Forbes magazine that featured extensive comments from Steve Levey. I had never met Steve, but I noticed he worked for the firm Gelfond, Hochstadt Pangburn, P.C. I was aware of GHP because Bob Hochstadt was a family friend. I immediately asked my father to reacquaint me with Bob. Bob brought Steve to our first meeting and it was immediately apparent that we all shared a common vision. My background in the asset management industry meshed well with their financial planning practices.



After a year of discussions and planning, I joined GHP Investment Advisors, Inc. on January 1, 1999 as President and Chief Investment Officer. Steve and Bob allowed me the freedom to manage the firm according to our shared vision and we have had very little conflict in our 16 years of partnership. From very small beginnings in 1999, today we exceed \$900 million in assets under management with a strong team of 14 highly skilled employees. Our relationship with Crowe GHP Horwath, P.C. (the new name for the old Gelfond, Hochstadt Pangburn, P.C.) remains strong and has grown to include other accounting firms such as KKB, P.C. and The Schaffer Group, P.C.



Steve's Shocking Diagnosis

Every summer we hold a strategic planning retreat and Steve is always an active and creative participant in our discussions. So we were all surprised in June 2013 when Steve received a text message during our retreat and bolted from the meeting in mid-sentence. The next day we learned Steve had received a devastating diagnosis: advanced lung and brain cancer. Steve's doctors immediately removed his larger brain tumors and subjected him to radiation treatment. Fortunately Steve was a candidate for new genetic therapies which have thus far proved very successful at controlling his cancer. Although Steve cannot work any longer, he is otherwise doing quite well. He celebrated his 63rd birthday on March 30th and is approaching the second anniversary of his diagnosis.

In a few months Steve and Cyndi are moving to San Diego to be closer to their son Dan who was recently married. They often visit their other son Andy, his wife Elizabeth, and their granddaughter Austen in Montreal. Bob and I are sad to end our many years of successful partnership with Steve, but he continues to live a very active and happy life in retirement. We hope this continues for many years to come.

Meanwhile, the precedents Steve helped establish live on in GHP Investment Advisors, Inc. Financial Planning remains a core discipline with an orientation toward cutting edge services, advice and technology. The relationships Steve and Bob nurtured with their clients will always remain a core value of ours. We will turn to Steve for informal advice and consultations as long as he is willing and able. I thank Steve for our 16 years of partnership and friendship and I hope we will still reminisce about the "good old days" 16 years from now.



Market Summary



The GHPIA Equity Valuation Dashboard

Asset Class	Price/ Earnings 2015:Q1	P/E Benchmark	Over/ Under Valuation	Price/Book Value 2015:Q1	P/BV Benchmark	Over/ Under Valuation	Price/ Cash Flow 2015:Q1	P/CF Benchmark	Over/ Under Valuation
Large-Cap Growth Stocks	22.0	27.0	-18.5%	4.6	5.7	-19.3%	14.7	17.5	-16.0%
Large-Cap Value Stocks	15.3	20.2	-24.3%	2.0	2.5	-20.0%	8.9	13.1	-32.1%
Mid-Cap Growth Stocks	26.4	24.8	6.5%	3.9	4.5	-13.3%	16.1	16.1	0.0%
Mid-Cap Value Stocks	20.0	19.1	4.7%	1.8	2.2	-18.2%	9.7	12.4	-21.8%
Small-Cap Growth Stocks	26.7	23.2	15.1%	3.0	3.5	-14.3%	14.7	15.0	-2.0%
Small-Cap Value Stocks	32.7	18.2	79.7%	1.6	2.1	-23.8%	4.1	11.8	-65.3%

*Please note that the P/E data reported above are based on "as reported" earnings information rather than "operating" earnings. "As reported" earnings include one time write-offs whereas "operating" earnings reflect the profitability of a company as a going concern. We believe P/E ratios based on operating earnings are a better long-term valuation indicator, but Standard and Poor's does not report this information for the style indexes used in our calculations. To address this issue we have also included Price to Book Value (P/BV) and Price to Cash Flow (P/CF) data, which are other important valuation indicators.

GHP Investment Advisors, Inc. benchmarks are based on proprietary models. P/E, P/BV and P/CF data are provided by Bloomberg L.P. as of 04/01/2015.

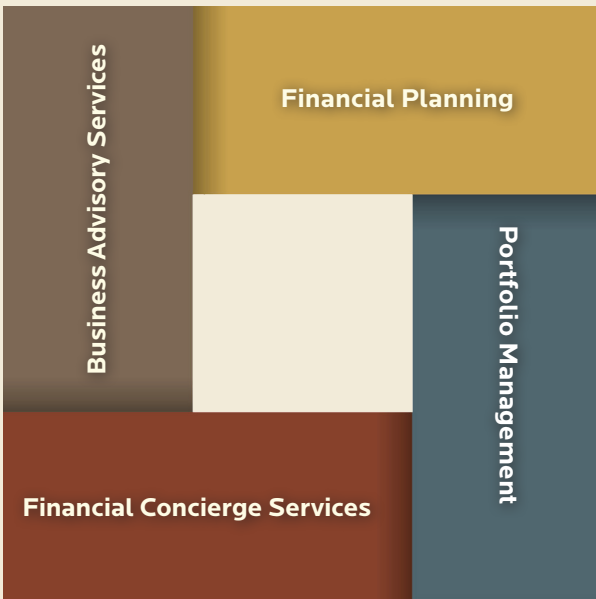
Returns by Index

Index	2015:Q1
DJIA*	0.33%
NASDAQ*	3.79%
S&P 500*	0.95%
S&P 500/Growth	2.06%
S&P 500/Value	-1.30%
S&P MidCap 400/Growth	7.23%
S&P MidCap 400/Value	2.38%
S&P SmallCap 600/Growth	6.28%
S&P SmallCap 600/Value	0.91%
MSCI EAFE	4.19%

Source: Bloomberg L.P. as of 04/01/2015.

*Dividends Reinvested.





Financial Planning

We create a personalized financial plan to help you meet your wealth management goals – and give you peace of mind.



Portfolio Management

We develop and implement an integrated portfolio investment strategy, taking into account your individual investment goals, time horizon and risk tolerance.



Financial Concierge Services

We relieve you of the everyday burden of your financial affairs.



Business Advisory Services

We help you drive your continued success as a business owner, executive or entrepreneur.

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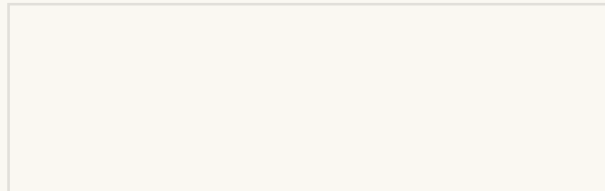
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