

SPRING 2023

# INNOVIEWS



## Innovest's Latest Updates And Articles From Thought Leaders In The Firm

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### NEW INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS

Brown & Caldwell

City of Tempe

Colorado School of Mines

Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute

McClure Concrete

National Environmental Health Association

Pueblo Water

University of Colorado

*It is not known whether the listed clients approve or disapprove of the services provided. The new clients on page one are listed with their approval and permission.*

## Business and Stewardship



**Richard Todd**  
Principal, CEO, and Co-founder

CS Lewis said, "If God is satisfied with the work, the work may be satisfied with itself." Work is a form of participating in God's creation. Similarly, a business, profit or nonprofit, is more than a way to make a living: it is a way of serving people.

An organization's culture is simply defined as the shared values and practices that align them. In other words, it is the glue that holds an organization together. The more successful the company, the more its leaders tend to care about its culture. Perhaps less successful organizations do not have the priority or the longevity to define their culture, but they certainly have one and it is likely negative.

Christian business leaders should consider a culture of stewardship. Innovest's mission defines our culture: "We are not just an investment firm. We are stewards to our clients, professionals, and the community." Pedro Arrupe, former Superior General of the Jesuits, popularized the phrase

for those following a Christian path: "Men and women for others". Stewardship is not only a concrete concept for all Christians, but a powerful culture for all businesses.

### Why a Stewardship culture?

- 2+2=5: Employees who are men and women for others, are great teammates. They strive for the best outcome for clients and work together because they truly care about each other.
- Low employee turnover: Employees recognize the value that they add, the quality of friendships, and are proud to be at the firm.
- Demand to join the organization: The firm will become known as a great place to work that high-quality individuals ask for the opportunity to join.
- Individual character greatly improves: Monsignor James Shea of the University of

Mary, an expert on business, and leadership speaks about, “Linking Sundays and Mondays”, or having character stay consistent throughout the week. Stewardship becomes a way of life and does not turn off and on. It becomes the basis of their character.

- Greater employee responsibility and accountability: It is easy to delegate when employees are eager to add value. Often business owners (like me) struggle with control, and when they finally relent, the stewardship culture takes over and creates a better organization!

#### Tips on Creating a Stewardship Culture

- Flatten Corporate Structure: It is hard for entrepreneurs to let go, and I know from experience. Consider forming committees and task forces to spread responsibilities and tackle issues. Employees thrive with responsibility and accountability.
- 360° Reviews: Teammates should formally review each other. The reviews should weigh heavily by their supervisors in overall performance evaluation and compensation, especially bonuses.
- Celebrate Small Successes: ‘We Love Mondays at Innovest’ is a weekly communication that I send to the entire firm. Only positive announcements are highlighted, with special recognition of great service to a client or a colleague. All employees, especially managers, should pass along exceptional actions. Awards and rewards are also given throughout the year for great “Service to Others.”
- Encourage Philanthropy: Consider forming a committee to determine service work on behalf of the firm and financial stipends to charities. Volunteering generates team building, comradery, and a great sense of accomplishment. In the last year, Innovest employees worked at homeless shelters, built trails, and painted houses.

- Character First: Make strong character the most important characteristic of a new hire. If your firm has low-character employees, replace them. The best source of high character candidates comes from your current employees, clients, and friends of the firm.
- Hire Only Stewards: When interviewing, look for a multitude of demonstrated examples of stewardship in their life. Arrogance and self-centeredness are the opposite of the virtue humility.
- It Starts at the Top: Leadership must be involved in philanthropy and the community. Getting involved in the Christian Community is easy. Innovest’s philanthropic mission is inner city education. Our greatest gift is employing four inner city Arrupe Jesuit students through a work study program.
- Build Community in Your Firm: To avoid any finger pointing between departments, comradery must be developed within the firm. Innovest sponsors a weekly lunch for its employees, but only if they attend the whole lunch hour. A round-robin personal update helps keep up with each other. Further, participants are not allowed to discuss work, or a minor fine is levied.
- Family First: As an employer, you want your people to do whatever it takes to get the job done—for the client and your colleagues. We acknowledge family accomplishments. We especially encourage our employees to attend their children’s events, even if they occur during the work day.

Billy Graham said, “Since the beginning, work has been a part of God’s plan for humanity. He created it. That means you can view the act of working as a gift.” The gift of a stewardship culture creates a healthier organization, customers are better served, and society greatly improves.

## Hard Landing, Soft Landing, or No Landing at All?



Steven Fraley, CFA, MBA  
Principal, Director



Nancy Rimington  
Vice President

Equity and bond markets are often impacted by global events and the overall health and direction of the economy. This has been increasingly relevant over the last few years amidst a global health pandemic, a war in Ukraine, and the highest U.S. inflation in more than 40 years. Recent failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Credit Suisse have contributed to an understandable dip in consumer sentiment. This shaken confidence can lead to increased concerns and fears about what’s to come and cause a ripple effect in investment markets.







While inflation in the U.S. appears to be under less pressure than just a few months ago, fears of sustained higher interest rates and, ultimately, a recession are still on the minds of many. The markets are climbing a wall of worry and consumer sentiment is near an all-time low. But it isn’t all doom and gloom ahead, and where markets go from here really depends on a few possible outcomes.

The first consideration is whether we experience a hard landing, where the economy experiences a sharp contraction, ultimately leading to a deeper recession. This scenario is often precipitated by a financial crisis and would result in significant declines in corporate earnings and economic growth, likely pushing interest rates and equities meaningfully lower.

A soft landing is also possible, where the Fed successfully maneuvers the economy into a gradual slowdown, with inflation moving towards the long-term target of 2%. In this scenario, the economy would probably enter a mild recession or potentially avoid a recession all together. Rates would likely move sideways or come down slowly and equities could potentially move higher. While this is certainly the most desirable outcome, the deep inversion of the yield curve this year puts the odds of a soft landing more diminished.

A third scenario would be where there is essentially no landing at all, where the economy remains relatively strong, inflation remains above trend, and the Fed is forced to hike rates more than expected. However, the deep inversion of the yield curve this year may be telling us that the odds for this scenario are relatively low. For each of these outcomes, the impact on client portfolios and asset allocation could be very different.

We don’t know what will happen from here, but history has demonstrated that when investors have reached low points in optimism about the direction of the economy, stocks have typically ended much higher, on average, just one year later. Additionally, following substantial declines in the stock market (over 25%, peak to trough), patient investors have been rewarded with very robust long-term performance (3-, 5-, and 10-year) in subsequent periods. While we can’t predict future returns, there

	Hard landing (deep recession)	Soft landing (mild or no recession)	No landing (no recession near term)
 <b>Inflation</b>	• Disinflationary process slows	• Eases and returns to pre-2022 levels	• Inflation remains high despite aggressive fed policy action
 <b>Fed</b>	• Overtightens policy or acts too aggressively; subsequent cuts could be needed	• Pauses rate hikes, then slowly lowers back down to neutral	• Further hikes necessary and higher for longer rates
 <b>Labor</b>	• Spike in unemployment	• Moderate increase in unemployment, but no spike • Job openings decline	• Tight and resilient labor market; absorbs rate increases
 <b>Consumer</b>	• Broad pullback in spending, credit and increased delinquencies	• Mild spending declines	• Spending remains resilient, driving sticky inflation
 <b>Economy</b>	• Steeply negative GDP growth	• Moderate, but positive growth	• Positive GDP growth, but uncertainty around a recession persists
 <b>Market</b>	• Increased volatility and price pressure	• Restored price stability	• Increased volatility; potential for sideways/choppy price action

Source: Lincoln Financial

is an increased likelihood of strong stock performance after periods of market declines, and that recessions ultimately set the stage for the next period of economic growth.

January economic data seemed to give investors more confidence in a possible soft-landing scenario, though February data caused investors to wane, indicating a more resilient economy and stickier-than-expected core inflation. As we entered March, central bank policy and geopolitical uncertainty were key themes still dominating headlines, with continued concerns over the possibility of a recession in the coming months.

What does all this mean for your investment portfolio? Our approach with clients has always been focused on process, not prediction, and reiterating the importance of diversification and a long-term mindset. While traditional stocks and bonds serve an important role within a diversified portfolio, alternative asset classes can help volatility and provide a different return stream than traditional asset classes.

Inflation-hedging assets like mid-stream energy, infrastructure real estate, and other real assets can play a huge part in portfolio exposure; they provided significant downside protection in 2022.

Exposure to high quality fixed income and cash not only can help provide downside protection during an economic contraction or hard landing scenario, but now provides meaningful income generation in portfolios. Deflation hedges are more commonly found

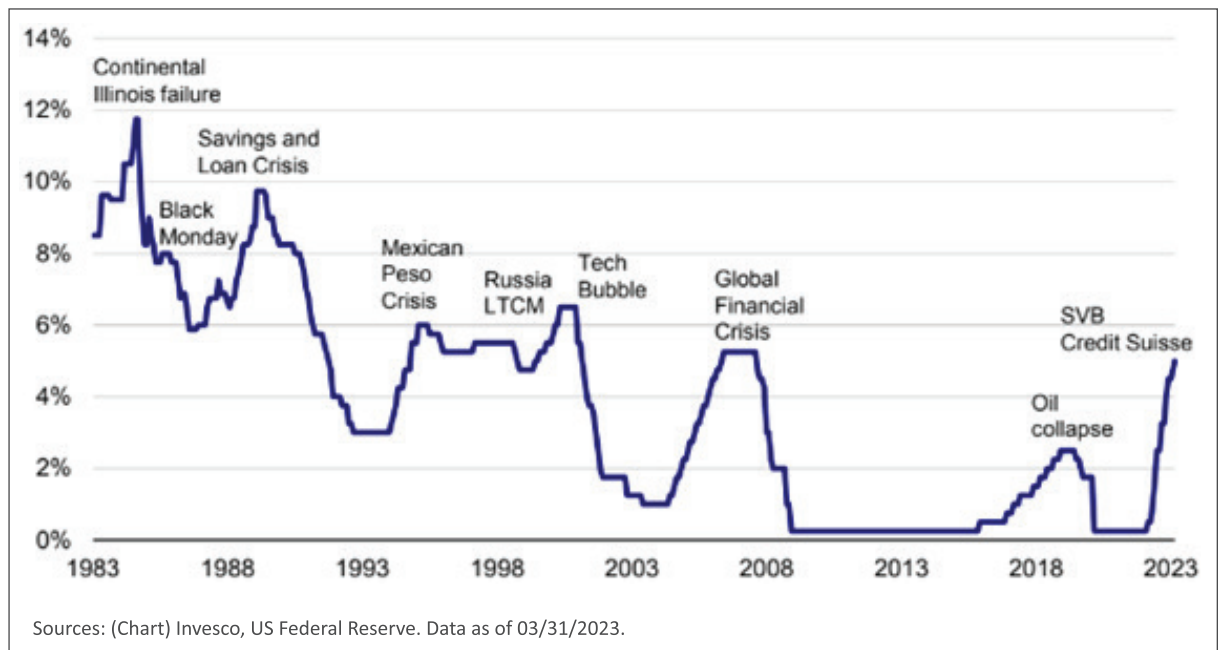
in areas like fixed income and are perhaps more attractive now due to the rise in interest rates, especially within high-quality/intermediate and long-term fixed income investments.

To date the Fed has raised its benchmark rate by 4.75% since March of 2022, marking the fastest pace of rate hikes since the early 1980s. Almost all previous rate tightening periods have resulted in some sort of financial crisis, and this time appears no different;

evidenced by some significant stresses in the broader banking system.

Economists are debating whether the aggressive action by the Fed will steer the US economy towards a hard landing and ultimately drive the economy into a recession. As the German economist Rudi Dornbusch said, “economic expansions do not die of old age; they are murdered by the Federal Reserve.” Will this time be any different? Can the fed successfully bring down inflation without a significant economic downturn and navigate us towards a soft landing scenario?

History suggests that this might be a difficult objective, as the U.S. has entered a recession following the last five periods when inflation peaked above 5%. No matter the outcome, our clients can benefit from following a prudent investment process that reinforces the importance of asset allocation, downside risk mitigation, and a long-term focus.



# The Navigators



As a provider of investment advice to numerous nonprofit organizations, Innovest has the privilege of introducing you to some of our fantastic clients. This month we are proud to feature the Navigators.

The Navigators is an international, interdenominational Christian ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus and helps people grow in their relationship with Him through discipleship, creating spiritual generations of believers. Since its founding in 1933, The Navigators has upheld their mission “To know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same®.” To share the gospel and disciple all people in all places, The Navigators includes a wide variety of ministries and a broad family of missionaries, supporters, and volunteers. The Navigators reaches and disciples people in need of the gospel where they work, live, worship, and play: on college

campuses and military bases, in inner cities, workplaces, churches, and local communities, and in hard-to-reach places.

How someone usually gets their start in the Navigators is through a collegiate ministry or on a military base. They are taught by a “disciplemaker” through Life-to-Life® discipleship to read the Bible, pray, and intentionally walk in everyday life together. Soon they become a “disciplemaker” themselves. Once they move onto their next phase of life, these new disciples take these practices into churches, businesses, cities, and even to the other side of the world.

The Navigators employs 2,620 individuals and expands to over 1,200 locations across the world. To learn more about their incredible work, please visit their website at [navigators.org](http://navigators.org).

## Alternatives, Diversification, and a Forward-Looking Approach During a Downturn



Sloan Smith, CAIA, MBA, CPWA®  
Principal, Director

In both the equity and fixed income markets, 2022 was a historically difficult year. Global equities were down close to 18%, while high quality fixed income dropped nearly 13%, worst in approximately 100 years. But if we look at alternative asset classes, it tells a different story. Real estate, real assets, hedge funds, private equity, and private debt all outperformed both equities and fixed income in 2022 and played key roles in mitigating portfolio volatility. Including allocations to these asset classes further diversified portfolios and reduced drawdowns found in typical equity and fixed income portfolios. Utilizing a forward-looking approach helps minimize inflation and interest rate risk. Inflation-sensitive asset classes like infrastructure, farmland, timberland, and midstream energy benefitted portfolios, along with opportunistic fixed income managers who were able to reduce duration risk. Portfolios weren't immune to the struggles found in 2022, but diversifying through alternatives and following a prudent, forward-looking approach made the year significantly less painful.

### Benefits of Alternatives

Numerous alternatives asset classes were helped by the dramatic increase in inflation and interest rate risk over the course of 2022. They included:

1. **Real Estate** – private real estate was helped by increased rents tied to higher inflation and strong fundamentals. Multi-family and industrials saw the largest investment volume. For 2022, private

commercial real estate was up around 7.5% as measured by the NCREIF Open End Diversified Core Equity Real Estate Index (ODCE).

2. **Real Assets** – private infrastructure, timberland, farmland, and midstream energy saw strong performance in 2022. Strong demand in infrastructure led to meaningful premiums for container movement while port volumes remained close to all-time highs. For farmland, grain shortages in much of the world drove prices of some commodities to record levels. Timber pricing was robust considering housing remained at elevated levels. Lastly, midstream energy experienced strong outperformance due to the supply constraints driven by the Russia/Ukraine war.
3. **Hedge Funds** – there was wide return dispersion among different strategy types for hedge funds in 2022. However, as a whole, hedge funds were only down approximately 5.5% during 2022, which was robust relative to equity and fixed income. These strategies were able to capitalize on the rapid change in market dynamics and proved their worth as a key risk mitigators in portfolios.
4. **Private Debt** – interest in the private debt asset class is mainly due to its potential resilience, in part because of its seniority in the capital structure. Most private debt deals are floating rate in nature, which significantly minimizes interest rate risk. Private debt has become more practical in an environment where public

debt is offering comparatively less return to investors. Lastly, recent bankruptcies of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank have made the asset class even more attractive, going forward, as more businesses will search for financing through the private markets. Other alternatives performed relatively well and offer some unique opportunities going forward but face potential headwinds. They mainly include:

- Private Equity** – private equity faces increased borrowing costs caused by higher inflation. Issues in the public market in 2022 had an impact on exits, given that the market for initial public offerings (IPOs) dried up substantially. Nonetheless, opportunities in some areas remain strong. For example, private equity secondaries have become attractive. Large institutions (e.g., sovereign wealth and pension funds) have been forced to rebalance due to their private equity positions outperforming equities and fixed income. Therefore, these institutions need to sell some of their private equity portfolio to get back to their target allocations. In some cases, there have been discounts of 20% in the private equity secondary market, an attractive entry point for potential buyers.<sup>1</sup>

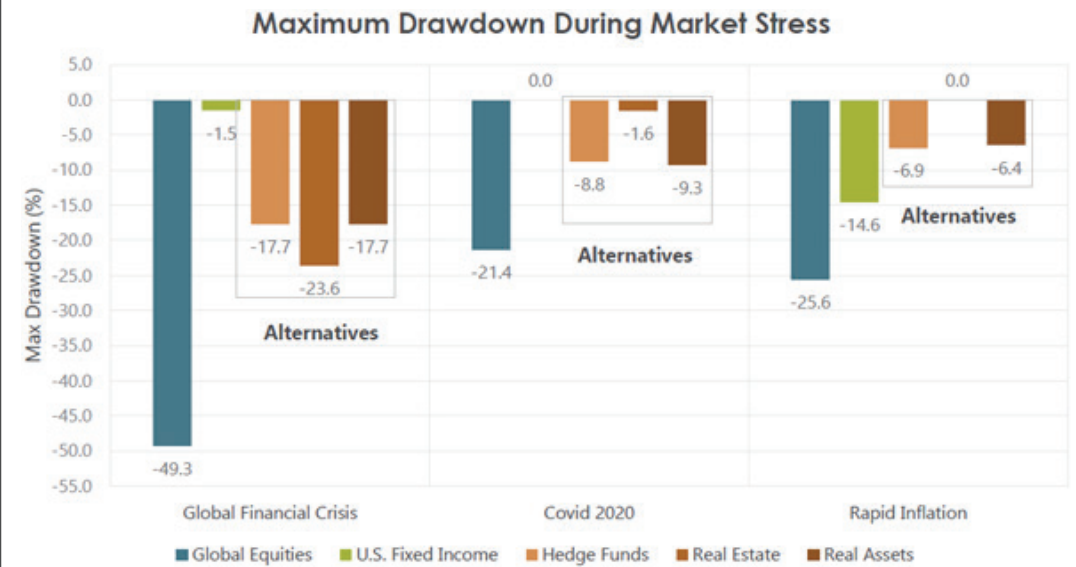
### Advantages of Diversification and a Forward-Looking Approach

Going into 2022, the US equity market experienced a strong year, while high quality fixed income was down modestly. However, substantial amounts of monetary and fiscal stimulus flooded the US economy following the COVID pandemic, which caused concerns about potential inflation. We made some changes to client portfolios which included adding inflationary assets (i.e., infrastructure, farmland, timberland, and midstream energy), incorporating opportunistic fixed income managers with limited duration to reduce interest rate risk, minimizing fixed income exposure, using the proceeds to invest in hedge funds to act as a fixed income proxy, and rebalancing portfolios to their target allocations. These changes further diversified portfolios utilizing a forward-looking approach.

We did not know how the market was going to perform in 2022, but we wanted to be prepared for any type of environment. Our clients were rewarded, from a relative standpoint. As inflation increased and interest rates rose at their fastest pace in 40 years, drawdowns in client portfolios were significantly less compared to an equity and fixed income-only portfolio. Real estate, real assets, private debt, and some private equity strategies recorded positive performance, which further assisted portfolios. Ultimately, the decision to enhance alternative exposure through diversification while applying a forward-looking methodology helped portfolios in 2022, and we believe that will remain the case going forward.

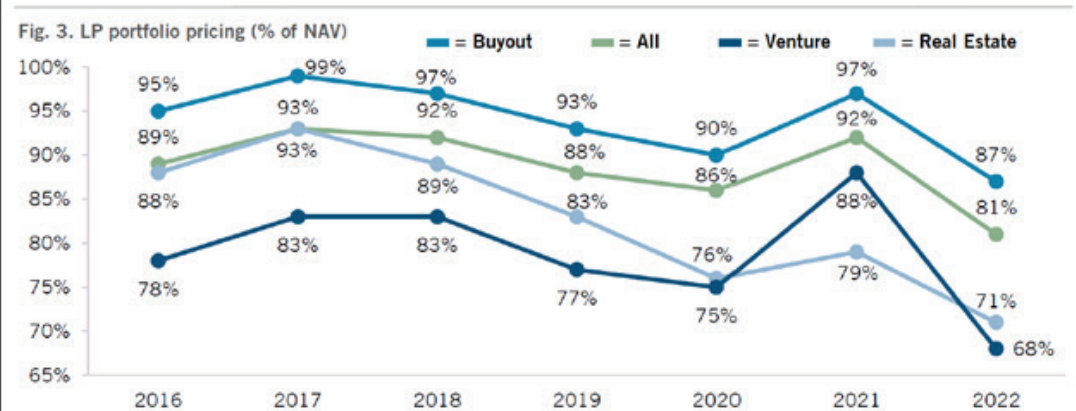
<sup>1</sup> Jeffries- Global Secondary Market Review – January 2023

**Figure 1: Maximum Drawdowns During Market Stress**



Source: Morningstar. Asset classes are represented by various indices as follows: Global Equities (MSCI ACWI). U.S. Fixed Income (Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index), Hedge Fund of Funds (HFRI Fund of Funds Composite Index, Real Estate (NCREIF Fund ODCE, Real Assets (25% NCREIF Timberland, 25% NCREIF Farmland, 50% MSCI ACWI Infrastructure Index). All returns are monthly besides Real Estate and Real Assets as they are marked quarterly.

**Figure 2: Private Equity Secondary Market Pricing**



Source: Jeffries- Global Secondary Market Review – January 2023

# Wall Street's Interests are Not Your Interests: A Case Study



**Richard Todd**  
*Principal, CEO, and Co-founder*

Over 25 years ago, Wendy Dominguez and I left our Wall Street firm to start an independent, fee-only fiduciary advisor. Back then, becoming independent was like oil and gas wildcatting; very few advisors were willing to escape from the security of a large firm. Most embraced the sales culture and massive conflicts of interest that compromise client advice, conflicts that are still very prevalent today. We forged our own path and formed Innovest.

Fortunately for the investor, more advisors left Wall Street over the years to serve investors in an unconflicted model. Interestingly, though, many independent and fee-only fiduciary firms are “hitting the high bid” and rejoining Wall Street for big cash, often to the detriment of their clients.

In our newsletter, InnoViews, we are bringing our readers a series of short, real-life examples of how the Wall Street culture takes advantage of clients. Some of the details are changed to protect the identity of the client, but the premise remains.

## **This Quarter's Story – Structured Contract**

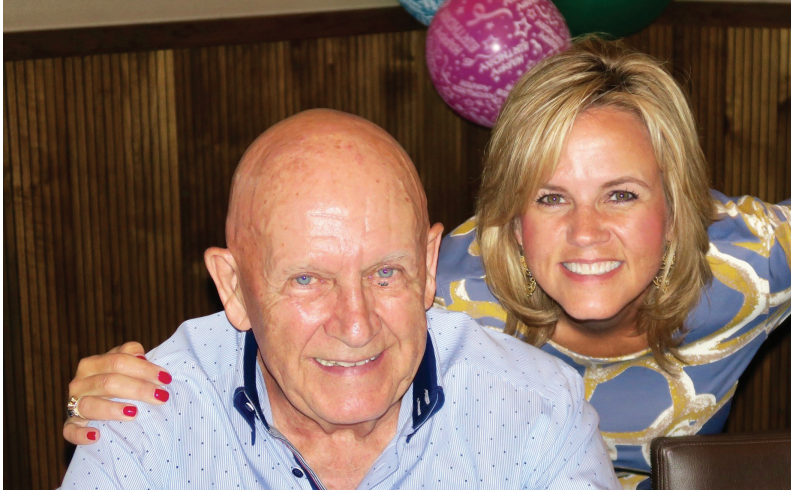
We were referred to an executive who had a single position in a publicly owned company worth just over \$25 million. The risk with any

single position is the potential for wide swings in value. Concentration can create enormous wealth, as well, but we all know stories of single stocks collapsing and decimating investors. In this case, the executive's law firm created a prepaid variable forward contract with his Wall Street broker. The terms seemed attractive: the sale of stock would be made to the brokerage company for the majority of the value of the of the position with a set variability of cash proceeds, a large loan against that security, and tax-deferred capital gains. It sounded very appealing to the executive, but there was a question that would not get answered: what is the broker making on the transaction?

Innovest recommended bidding out the transaction to various banks in a competitive process. In the end, the executive's contract was consummated successfully, but through this competitive process our client saved over \$900,000 from the original plan. Until competition was created, the broker-advisor was taking advantage of their relationship, making nearly a million dollars – far above the market for this type of transaction.

The moral of the story is this: because of their size, Wall Street likes to promote their pricing power. However, the culture of Wall Street dictates getting the most compensation that they can. The savvy investor will make sure the interests of the advisor aligns with theirs.





## Employee Spotlight

# Nancy Rimington

### Tell us about yourself:

I am the youngest of four girls, so my father had to have the patience of Job. We moved around throughout my childhood, eventually settling in Kansas City. Moving three times before the age of nine pushed me to adapt to new schools, meet new friends, and get familiar with new cities. Those experiences helped form some of my unique gifts -- identifying people's defining qualities, seeing how different people can work together productively, and learning to work with others in all situations.

I am a big Kansas City Chiefs fan, and I love watching hockey, baking and cooking, and sharing wine with family and friends. My zeal for throwing a great party has led friends to say I should have been an event planner. Travel invigorates me, and I love to visit a new place every year, but I also go back to my favorites, Paris and Italy. Outside of Christmas, Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday. Gathering around a table with family and friends and recognizing the joy, laughter, smiles, and love that circles the table is such a great way to celebrate the things we are grateful for.

My father greatly influenced who I am. He made a life-changing decision in May of 1957 to hang up his hockey skates and enter college to study theology. He became a pastor and spent years in church administration, leadership, finance, and economic development for various churches and Christian universities. He ultimately ended up as CFO for America's Christian Credit Union, retiring after more than 25 years. Throughout my childhood, I attended various church ministry and finance conferences and general assemblies with my family. I have distinct memories of an NACBA conference when I was six years old where my father was elected president, and I thought it meant we would soon be moving into the White House.

My passion for helping others build on their mission of financial development and stewardship of their capital also came from my father, and I will be forever grateful. He often told me this quote from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Giving comes in many forms, not all of them monetary. As I grow older and wiser, I think back to those times around our thanksgiving table. Not just a family gathering, it was inviting those less fortunate and realizing we can give back in ways that we may never know the outcome or impact it has on others.

I attribute my deep core values to my upbringing and the Christian heritage my parents provided. Out of these values emerges a defined purpose in life. I support organizations providing mentorship and financial literacy to children and young adults, including the Economic Literacy Colorado, Global Children's Financial Literacy Foundation, and Strong Women Strong Girls. I have a passion for helping others find their place and learn about saving for a solid financial future. Conducting financial literacy nights, helping with a stock market experience program, invest in girls programs, mentoring young girls, and teaching the basics of investing and financial stewardship have all been fulfilling ways to live out my values in my community.

### What attracted you to Innovest?

The most rewarding parts of my work are helping clients find great investments, solving problems, and building on retirement plans through various strategies. For the next chapter in my career, I wanted to find an investment consulting firm that resonated with me in caring for their clients and being good stewards of clients' capital. Helping with asset allocation and enabling plan participants to retire and reach their investment goals is a great way to give back. Innovest stood at the top of the list, hands down. Innovest is more than an investment consulting firm; they truly are thoughtful stewards responsible for their clients, professionals, and community. Everything I have done in my career, what I have learned, grown from, and accomplished, has led me here.

### How would you describe your expertise and experience?

I have over 25 years of investment experience across all asset classes. My background in the investment industry, in business development and client-facing roles across multiple asset classes and investment vehicles, working with retirement and government plans and nonprofits, and understanding the landscape of various plans provides me with a solid footing to help Innovest grow and continue to help their clients invest successfully. I bring experience in strategy and finalist presentations, manager research, on-site due diligence visits, and multiple asset classes and investments.

### Tell us something about you that we might be surprised by?

I was a contestant on The Price Is Right, with Bob Barker as the host. I spun the big wheel and everything!

# Around the Firm

## Team Updates and Progressions

Innovest celebrated Scott Middleton's fifteen years of service to Innovest and a terrific career. Happy retirement to Scott, and we will miss him!

We have some exciting team updates! Help us welcome our new team members Paul D'Alessandro (Vice President), Nancy Rimington (Vice President), Matt Foster (Analyst Assistant), Marisa Joseph (Analyst Assistant), and Natalie Kuzia (Analyst Assistant)! Innovest is also excited to announce that Joanne Cinalli has progressed to Senior Manager, Stephanie Dufano has progressed to Manager, Peter Girard has progressed to Lead Senior Analyst, Sydney Aeschlimann, Alexandra E. Johnson, and Brian Curran have all progressed to Senior Analyst, Sarah McGuire and Denise Rice have progressed to Analyst.

We are always thrilled when our employees pursue further education and credentials. Sydney Aeschlimann passed the Series 65 Exam. Also, Natalie Kuzia passed Level II of the CFA exam, and Brett Minnick passed Level III of the exam making him a CFA charterholder. The CFA charter designation represents one of the highest levels of recognition financial professionals can earn and demonstrates a finance professional's work ethic, analytical skills, and grounding in ethics.

Each month, Innovest employees recognize one team member who is an exemplary model of our main mission of stewardship. The recipients of the Service to Others monthly awards were Matt Popish in January, Abigail Thomas in February, and Eileen Pohs in March.

## Awards and Publications

Innovest was honored to have been recognized this quarter by external organizations. Innovest President and Co-founder Wendy Dominguez was named a finalist for the 10th Annual Family Wealth Report Awards in the category of Women in Wealth Advisory. Congratulations Wendy! Innovest has again been named to the National Association of Plan Advisors' (NAPA) top defined contribution (DC) advisor teams ranking us 12th in the Nation with assets under advisement of at least \$100 Million.

Innovest is also in the media this quarter! Innovest Consultants Dustin Roberts, MBA, QKA, AIF and Franklin Cornett, CFP® authored "Your 7 Point Year End Retirement Check List," which was recently published by 401K Specialist. Innovest Vice Presidents Brett Minnick and Kyli Soto authored "Does your 401k Plan Offer the Best Cash Options: What do employers need to know about capital preservation," published by BenefitsPro. Innovest CEO Richard Todd's article "Secular Firm Created a Christian Culture," was recently published by the Central Florida Christian Chamber of Commerce. Innovest Vice President

Paul D'Alessandro's article, "Donors: Beware of Nonprofits," was published in NonProfitPRO.

Lastly, congratulations to Innovest intern and Arrupe Jesuit High School Senior Jose Huerta on being awarded one of the Daniels Scholarships for the Class of 2023. Way to go, Jose!

## Innovest on Mission

We are proud to be a charitably focused firm and look forward to service opportunities each quarter. Innovest employees helped assemble and deliver healthy meals for Project Angel Heart. This organization continues to have a profound influence on the health outcomes of individuals living with life threatening illnesses. Our team also collected baby items for Marisol Homes. Marisol Homes provides safe and secure emergency and community-based housing for pregnant women and single women with children who are experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Innovest hosted Michael Connors and his dog, Brian, from ConnorsK9-Academy – P.A.W.S. (Pups Assisting Warriors to Succeed) at our recent Rocky Mountain Benefits Conference! Participants of the conference were encouraged to support P.A.W.S. during the lunch time break. Lastly, Innovest employees helped sort through donations and prepared and served meals for Volunteers of America Colorado (VOAC)! VOAC is a nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need transform their lives.

## Conferences, Speaking, Events, and Sponsorships

Innovest was out and about in the community this quarter with some exciting speaking opportunities. Wendy Dominguez was interviewed at NAPO's 34th Annual Police, Fire, EMS, and Municipal Employee Pension & Benefits Seminar in Las Vegas, NV. Also, Innovest was a proud sponsor of the Christian Leadership Alliance conference in Chicago. Sloan Smith, CAIA, CPWA® spoke on "Building a Biblically Responsible Portfolio," while Nancy Rimington delivered the "Economic Update - Looking Ahead in 2023 and Beyond: Key Implications for Portfolio Design." Rich Todd led the CFO Roundtable with insights on aligning vendor values.

We were thrilled to co-host the Rocky Mountain Benefits Plan Conference (RMBC) in Denver, CO with CliftonLarsonAllen. Innovest's Rick Rodgers and Dustin Roberts were featured speakers at this year's RMBC. The conference focused on the SECURE Act 2.0, ESG investing, the ESBA plan correction program, an economic update, and more. Thank you to all the attendees who joined us. It was great to be back in person this year!



**At Innovest Portfolio Solutions, we are more than an investment firm. We are thoughtful stewards responsible for our clients, professionals and community.**

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Bill Fender  
Peter Mustian, COO  
Steven Karsh  
Garry Beaulieu  
Gordon Tewel  
Nancy Swanson  
Kristy LeGrande  
Jared Martin  
Sloan Smith, Director  
Rick Rodgers  
Pam Cruz  
Paul Nacario  
Troy Jensen  
Steven Fraley, Director