

Best Financial Planners (Individual Planners)

Methodology:

D Magazine asked every CFP in the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Financial Planning Association to cast an online ballot. They were asked to name peers, both inside and outside their firms, whom they considered to be the most skilled and experienced financial planners in the industry. Outside-firm votes counted more than inside-firm votes and self-nominations were tossed out. A panel of esteemed local financial planners reviewed the list. Only CFPs made the list.

Voting Criteria/Procedures:

- a. **Requirements for voters:**
 - i. Ballots will be sent via email
 - ii. Voters are limited to a total of 5 votes, and no more than 2 votes can be for members of their own company
 - iii. No self-nominations are allowed
 - iv. Must be an active member of the FPA
 - v. Must have an office based within D Magazine's geographic boundaries, which include Tarrant County
- b. **Requirements for winners:**
 - i. Must be an active member of the FPA
 - ii. Must have an office based within D Magazine's geographic boundaries, which include Tarrant County
 - iii. Must receive at least one vote to be eligible to win. Preference is given to nominees with at least two votes from outside their own firm.
 - iv. Must be in good standing. Brokerage checks and CFP checks will be conducted during the first round of fact check. Any issues identified will be investigated by D Magazine.
 - v. Must be accepting new clients at the time of the list's publication
 - vi. Must have a minimum of 5 years' experience as a financial planner
 - vii. Must currently lead client engagement

Important Notes:

Edit sends out the ballots to Melissa Brennan as she then distributes to FPA members, (she is able to make sure ballots are sent to those that are current members and therefore eligible). D Magazine does not send out ballots via HubSpot like other programs as we do not have access to the FPA internal database other than through Melissa

Top Wealth Managers (Entire Wealth Management Firm)

Methodology:

We asked every wealth management firm and team in the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Financial Planning Association, Chartered Financial Analyst Institute, and the Investments and Wealth Institute to tell us about their practices. The final list was selected based on these criteria: top firms or teams must have total assets under management for individual clients of at least \$100 million; average assets under management per client of at least \$1 million; a 95 percent client retention rate over the last two years; and no current disciplinary actions. Additionally, all firms (or teams, should the team be applying as an entity separate from its parent company) must have been in existence for at least five years as of the application deadline. They must also hold themselves out as fiduciaries for their clients and provide them with a written disclosure. A panel of esteemed local wealth managers reviewed the final list. All numbers are current as of the application deadline.

Voting Criteria/Procedures:

- a. **Requirements for winners:**
 - viii. Ballots will be sent via email
 - ix. No self-nominations are allowed
 - x. Must have average assets under management per client of at least \$1 million
 - xi. Must have a 95% client retention rate over the last two years.
 - xii. No current disciplinary actions
 - xiii. Must have an office based within D Magazine's geographic boundaries, which include Tarrant County

Additionally, all firms (or teams, should the team be applying as an entity separate from its parent company) must have been in existence for at least five years as of the application deadline. If you have been in existence for less than 5 years, please provide a history of your entity.