## **Nicole Ferrell**

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**Client Event Wrap Up:** 

We would like to thank everyone who either attended or listened live to our October 5<sup>th</sup> client event at Lockkeepers. We had a great turnout and have already gotten many positive comments about the presentations. We want to thank SEI, JP Morgan, Assetmark and Schneider Smeltz Spieth & Bell, LLP for sponsoring the event.

<u>HERE</u> is the link to the PowerPoint Presentation used by the speakers.

To recap some of the main themes discussed by our three speakers and panelists:

- 1. We have seen a tremendous amount of economic growth the past year driven by an increase in consumer spending. Many parts of the economy have been close to pre-COVID levels, including travel and tourism. There has also been a massive amount of government stimulus injected into the economy.
- 2. The appreciation in financial assets, including real estate and investment portfolios, has caused a sharp rise in many individuals' wealth. Much of the stock market's appreciation the last year has been driven by a rise in corporate earnings, and a continued low interest rate environment.
- 3. The recent rise in interest rates has put pressure on bond prices, and inflation is a concern. It's expected that inflation will continue at a high rate in the coming months, but then moderate into 2022.
- 4. Volatility in the equity markets has been low since the March 2020 market correction, and intra- year declines are to be expected over the long term.
- 5. The benefits of staying invested in a diversified portfolio were illustrated over the past year and a half as those

- individuals who rode through 2020's volatility were rewarded.
- 6. Tax planning in the fourth quarter is important. Being aware of what marginal tax bracket you are in is critical, in order to plan for year-end capital gains or a possible Roth Conversion. For people who are itemizing deductions, accelerating some medical expenses or Charitable contributions into the current year ("Charitable Clumping") may be advisable.
- 7. Donor Advised Funds and donating RMD's to charity are two strategies to gift to charities while also getting a tax break. It's important to consult with a tax advisor to get their input as to how these strategies would directly impact you.
- 8. The SECURE act changed several retirement plan rules, including eliminating the Stretch IRA for many beneficiaries (spouses and other "Eligible Designated Beneficiaries" can still do a Stretch IRA). A new 10-year distribution period for beneficiaries such as children and grandchildren will make income taxes more burdensome. Leaving IRAs to charities is still tax-advantaged, and maybe now even more so compared to the alternatives.
- 9. Reviewing beneficiary designations on a regular basis is important to make sure they still meet your estate planning goals as life circumstances change.
- 10. Discussing your legal documents with an estate planning attorney is advisable to make sure the appropriate items are in place to achieve your goals and objectives.

If you were unable to attend, we had the 2021 event recorded and will let you know when it is available for viewing on our website.

## Office Update

Please note that our office will be closed Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Thanksgiving.

## Best Regards, The Parkhurst Team

1. Parkhurst Financial Services Client Event PowerPoint- October 5th, 2021







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