

A photograph of a sailboat on the ocean at sunset. The sail is a light tan color with dark blue trim. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The water is dark blue with white foam from the boat's wake. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

# GET YOUR RETIREMENT BACK ON COURSE

More Choice, More Flexibility  
and Investment Advice on Your  
401(k), 403(b) and 457

# NOW YOU'RE IN CHARGE

## The Plight of the Individual Investor

It has long been known that individual investors do not typically fare well in their efforts at do-it-yourself investing. This notion has been validated by numerous studies, including one by Dalbar, Inc., which revealed the staggering margin by which the average individual investor trails the returns of the broader market.

As the chart shows, the study revealed the S&P 500\* returned 9.22% while equity investor's return over that same period was a paltry 5.02%, a difference of 4.20% annually.

The average fixed income investor fared no better over the same period, achieving 0.71% annual while the Barclays Aggregate Bond Index\* averaged 5.74%, a difference of 5.03% annually.

Why is the individual investor so inept at capturing the returns of the market? In a word: Emotions.

Emotion drives investors to buy the latest hot investment near its peak and sell the investment after riding it to the bottom on

its inevitable slide downward. The “buy high, sell low” scenario is unfortunately not just an anecdote, but is very real for many individual investors.

The end result is simple. Buying on greed and selling on fear might satisfy short term emotional needs, but the lack of discipline may compromise long-term objectives.

## Are You a Prudent Saver?

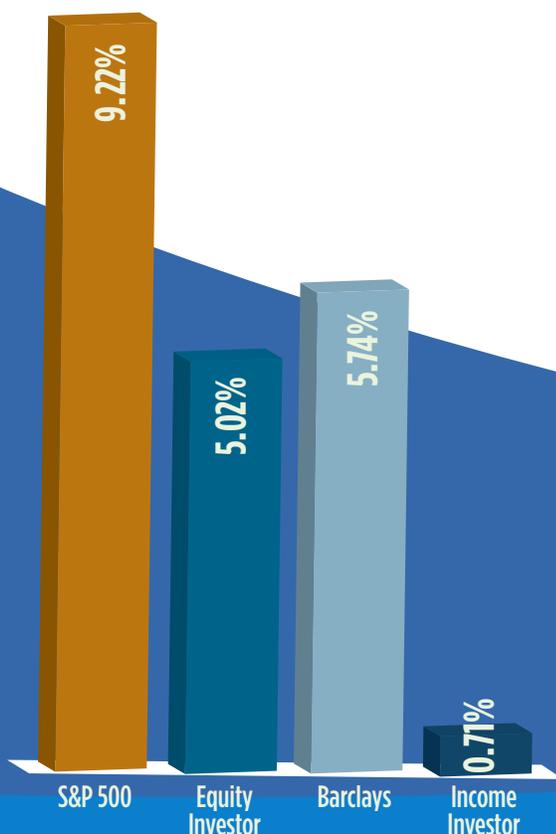
Do you have the time, training and temperament to make good decisions? The vast majority of participants in a company retirement plan do not pay the needed amount of attention to their initial investment selection. Moreover, statistics show plan participants rarely revisit their choices over time as their objectives change and markets evolve.

# 7 WAYS

## TO MESS UP YOUR 401(k)\*\*

- 1 Don't sign up
- 2 Don't get the full company match
- 3 Take too much risk
- 4 Take too little risk
- 5 Follow the crowd
- 6 Take out loans
- 7 Cash it out

**WOULD YOUR ADVISOR  
LET YOU MAKE THESE  
MISTAKES?**



**Dalbar Study  
Annualized  
Returns  
1995-2014<sup>†</sup>**

# The Self-Directed Brokerage Account (SDBA)

Over the past few years many employers have enhanced their retirement plans to include a brokerage window opportunity so that plan participants have more choice and greater flexibility with their retirement investments. This option, known as the Self Directed Brokerage Account (SDBA), exists in 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans where participants will have access to professional management, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and ETFs.

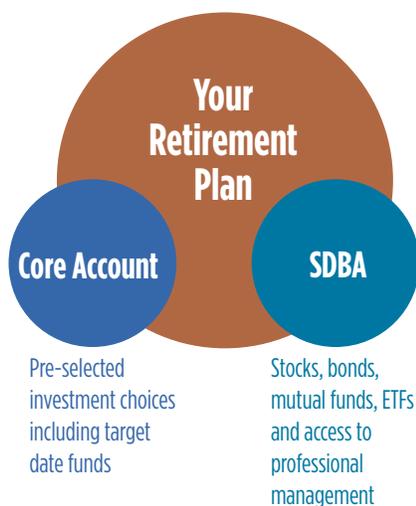
## How it Works

Plans that offer the SDBA option provide the opportunity for employees to take full control of a portion of their current retirement account by linking it to the existing Core account. In doing so, participants expand the range of investment choices beyond the Core investments and will have access

to the same management style as High Net worth Investors, Institutions and Foundations.

The Core account refers to the retirement account through the employer that offers limited, pre-selected investment choices. The SDBA is very similar to traditional brokerage accounts which exists as an eligible option on retirement plans. Employers that offer the SDBA option allow the employees to transfer a portion of their investments from the Core account to SDBA. Through this account employees have access to investment choices such as mutual funds, stocks, bonds and access to professional investment advice through a Registered Investment Advisor.

SDBAs are currently the most underutilized investment options in 401(k), 403(b) and 457 accounts. However, this option should be used by investors who feel comfortable managing their own risk or are working with a professional Investment Advisor.



The SDBA or a “brokerage window” is a choice on eligible plans that offers investment choices such as mutual funds, stocks, bonds, and access to fiduciary investment advice through a registered investment advisor.

The source for The Plight of the Individual Investor is *The Tyranny of Choice* by N. Scott Pritchard, AIFA®, Capital Directions, LLC.

†Dalbar's 20th Annual Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior 2014: Average equity investor and average bond investor performance results are calculated using data supplied by the Investment company Institute. Investor returns are represented by the change in total mutual fund assets after excluding sales, redemptions and exchanges. This method of calculation captures realized and unrealized capital gains, dividends, interest, trading costs, sales charges, fees and any other costs.

\*The Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the Barclays Aggregate Bond Index are unmanaged groups of securities considered to be representative of the stock market and bond market in general. Indexes are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

\*\*Source: MSN Money staff writer Liz Pulliam, September 23, 2009

# ADVICE MATTERS

Recent studies emphasize the importance of client-advisor conversations. These reports prove that advisors can add 3% to clients' net returns<sup>1</sup> and retirement savers who sought investing advice enjoyed a median annual return almost 3% higher than those who didn't – even after the fees they paid for that advice<sup>2</sup>.

## Target Date Funds vs Personal Advice

Target Date Funds (TDFs) shift investors from stocks to bonds over time in an effort to become more conservative as retirement approaches. This transition is referred to as a "glide path" and while the basic concept seems reasonable, TDFs are widely criticized for the limits of their mass market approach. TDFs cannot incorporate all the relevant personal facts that determine the ideal allocation for one's retirement investments, and investors can find themselves either forfeiting needed growth or accepting unnecessary exposure to an increasingly volatile market.

By definition, a TDF is a fund of fund model that invests predominantly or exclusively in mutual funds with a certain maturity or specified date in mind, typically the time at which a participant is planning on retiring. Because TDFs are designed to change their allocation and objectives overtime, it is important for investors to revisit their investment selection periodically to make sure that the investment selected is consistent with their goals and objectives. TDFs are not guaranteed and past performance does not guarantee future results.

Don't settle for a generic TDF that was designed for millions of participants when you can determine and create your personal retirement date portfolio. With advice from the advisor you trust, you can have comprehensive investment management and cohesive financial planning in your company retirement plan.

**Don't let Wall Street determine *your* future.  
Take back control of your retirement.**



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Sources: <sup>1</sup>Vanguard's study based on their Alpha framework. *Putting a value on your value: Quantifying Vanguard Advisor's Alpha*, Vanguard Research, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>The study of 14 large retirement plans with more than 723,000 individual participants and over 55 billion in assets, by Aon Hewitt, a consulting firm, and Financial Engines, an investment advisory firm, between 2006-2012.

## WITH ADVICE

### ADVISORS CAN ADD VALUE<sup>1</sup>:

- As effective behavioral coaches (up to 1.5%)
- Applying asset allocation strategy (up to 0.75%)
- Employing cost effective investments (up to 0.45%)
- Managing allocations and rebalancing (up to 0.35%)
- Managing a spending strategy (up to 0.70%)

## WITHOUT ADVICE

### Portfolios of people who didn't get help suffered from<sup>2</sup>:

- Inappropriate risk levels
- Market timing mistakes
- Misunderstanding risks and market volatility