# 2025 LOS ANGELES FIVE STAR AWARD WINNERS

## FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL PROPRIETARY RESEARCH PROCESS

### NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Three sources of nominations:
- Firm nominations
- Peer nominations
- Prequalification based on industry credentials

### REGULATORY CONSUMER COMPLAINT REVIEW

All candidates must demonstrate a favorable regulatory history.

### CANDIDATE SUBMISSION OF PRACTICE INFORMATION

Candidates must complete either an online or over-the-phone interview.

### EVALUATION OF CANDIDATE PRACTICE

Candidates are evaluated on 10 objective evaluation and eligibility criteria.

### FIRM REVIEW OF AWARD CANDIDATE LIST

All candidates are reviewed by a representative of their firm before final selection.

### 2025 AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Finalization and announcement of Five Star Professional award winners.

These days, it takes a village to manage your financial world. Whether it is managing your assets with a wealth manager, navigating the ever-changing tax landscape, sorting out your estate and succession planning or picking the right life insurance, finding the right team can be a daunting task. In fact, many consumers have a hard time figuring out where to even begin.

Sometimes, a few simple questions can put you off on the right path. Asking a professional what makes working with them a unique experience can help you understand how they work and if their style meshes with your own.

This is a great place to start! Five Star Professional uses its own proprietary research methodology to name outstanding professionals, then works with publications such as *Los Angeles* magazine to spread the word about award winners. Each award candidate undergoes a thorough research process (detailed here) before being considered for the final list of award winners. For the complete list of winners, go to www.fivestarprofessional.com.

## RESEARCH DISCLOSURES

In order to consider a broad population of high-quality wealth managers and investment professionals, award candidates are identified by one of three sources: firm nomination, peer nomination or prequalification based on industry standing. Self-nominations are not accepted. Los Angeles-area award candidates were identified using internal and external research data. Candidates do not pay a fee to be considered or placed on the final lists of Five Star Wealth Managers or Five Star Investment Professionals.

- The Five Star award is not indicative of a professional's future performance.
- Wealth managers may or may not use discretion in their practice and therefore may not manage their clients' assets.
- The inclusion of a professional on the Five Star Wealth Manager list or the Five Star Investment Professional list should not be construed as an endorsement of the professional by Five Star Professional or *Los Angeles* magazine.
- Working with a Five Star Wealth Manager, Five Star Investment Professional or any professional is no guarantee as to future investment success, nor is there any guarantee that the selected professionals will be awarded this accomplishment by Five Star Professional in the future.
- Five Star Professional is not an advisory firm and the content of this article should not be considered financial advice. For more information on the Five Star Wealth Manager or Five Star Investment Professional award programs, research and selection criteria, go to fivestarprofessional.com/research.

## FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER

DETERMINATION OF AWARD WINNERS CRITERIA

Award candidates who satisfied 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria were named 2025 Five Star Wealth Managers. **Eligibility Criteria – Required:** 1. Credentialed as a registered investment adviser or a registered investment adviser representative. 2. Actively employed as a credentialed professional in the financial services industry for a minimum of five years. 3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review. 4. Fulfilled their firm review based on internal firm standards. 5. Accepting new clients. **Evaluation Criteria – Considered:** 6. One-year client retention rate. 7. Five-year client retention rate. 8. Non-institutional discretionary and/or non-discretionary client assets administered. 9. Number of client households served. 10. Education and professional designations. 4,745 award candidates in the Los Angeles area were considered for the Five Star Wealth Manager award. 163 (approximately 3% of the award candidates) were named 2025 Five Star Wealth Managers.

## FIVE STAR INVESTMENT PROFESSIONAL

DETERMINATION OF AWARD WINNERS CRITERIA

The investment professional award goes to estate planning attorneys, insurance agents and select others in the financial industry. **Eligibility Criteria – Required:** 1. Credentialed with appropriate state or industry licensures. 2. Actively employed as a credentialed professional in the financial services industry for a minimum of five years. 3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review. 4. Accepting new clients. **Evaluation Criteria – Considered:** 5. One-year client retention rate. 6. Five-year client retention rate. 7. Number of client households served. 8. Recent personal production and performance (industry specific criteria). 9. Education and professional designations/industry and board certifications. 10. Pro Bono and community service work. This year, we honored 1 Los Angeles-area investment professionals with the Five Star Investment Professional award.

# Coe Private Wealth Group of Wells Fargo Advisors


2015 – 2025 winner Robert Coe, Managing Director – Investments

## Our Commitment to You

- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning Strategies
- 401(k) Distribution Options
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- College Savings Planning

At Coe Private Wealth Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, we are committed to serving our clients' best interests through comprehensive investment planning and transparent communication. Our team works diligently to understand your unique financial goals and provide customized strategies to help you achieve them. We believe in full transparency, ensuring you're informed about the reasons behind our recommendations and any associated fees so you can make confident, educated decisions. We also prioritize building strong, long-term relationships, offering prompt, personalized attention whenever you have questions or concerns. Our approach is flexible and client-focused, allowing us to connect with you in person, by phone, or through email — whichever method works best for you. Your financial well-being is our top priority, and we're here to guide you through every step of your financial journey with dedication, integrity and a commitment to your success.

WELLS FARGO Advisors

225 S Lake Avenue, Suite 700 • Pasadena, CA 91101
Office: 626-583-4123 • Fax: 626-449-9564
robert.coe@wellsfargoadvisors.com
home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/Robert.Coe

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FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER AWARD WINNER

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wealth managers were considered for the award; 163 (3% of candidates) were named 2025 Five Star Wealth Managers. The following prior year statistics use this format: YEAR:
2022: 3,781, 150, 4%, 12/1/21, 3/29/21 - 10/1/21; 2021: 3,574, 168, 5%, 12/1/20, 3/30/20 - 10/9/20; 2020: 3,527, 158, 4%, 12/1/19, 3/1/19 - 10/25/19; 2019: 3,528,
11/1/15, 5/22/15 - 10/16/15; 2015: 3,105, 327, 11%, 12/1/14, 5/22/14 - 10/16/14; 2014: 6,088, 340, 6%, 12/1/13, 5/22/13 - 10/16/13; 2013: 3,488, 372, 11%, 12/1/12,

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manager has not; A. Been subject to a regulatory action that resulted in a license being suspended or revoked, or payment of a fine; B. Had more than a total of three settled or pending complaints filed against them and/or a total of five
complaints registered through FSP's consumer complaint process; feedback may not be representative of any one client's experience; C. Individually contributed to a financial settlement of a customer complaint; D. Filed for personal bankruptcy
6. One-year client retention rate; 7. Five-year client retention rate; 8. Non-institutional discretionary and/or non-discretionary client assets administered; 9. Number of client households served; 10. Education and professional designations.
assets. The inclusion of a wealth manager on the Five Star Wealth Manager list should not be construed as an endorsement of the wealth manager by FSP or this publication. Working with a Five Star Wealth Manager or any wealth manager
area investment professionals with the Five Star Investment Professional award.

All award winners are listed in this publication.

# Wealth Managers

## Financial Planning

**Dean A. Billman**
**Morgan Stanley** *Page 3*

Bradford Daniel Creger
BFF Financial, Inc.

Brett Eugene Dalton
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Robert Frank Farmer
Comprehensive Wealth Management

Adam S. Goldstein
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Victor Hazard
Hazard Financial

**Carolyn Hemann**
**Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC** *Page 4*

Christian Hernani Johnson
California Financial Partners

**Jean D. Koehler**
**Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC** *Page 4*

Arthur D. Kraus
Capital Intelligence Associates

Mitchell Kraus
Capital Intelligence Associates

Jennifer Han Malek
JHM Wealth Management, Inc.

James T. O'Grady
Braemar Wealth Management

**Elizabeth Pell**
**Morgan Stanley** *Page 4*

Jonathan F. Rowsey
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Jeffrey A. Taylor
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Huong Tran
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Kevin R. Whitten
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Kyle J. Whitten
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

## Investments

**Alberto Alvarez**
**Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC** *Page 4*

Christina Chiang Chou
Morgan Stanley

**Robert Coe**
**Wells Fargo Advisors** *Page 2*

Dan Fienberg
Wells Fargo Advisors/
The HF Retirement Group

Timothy Fitzgerald
Fitzgerald Financial Services

Jeramy Heath
Morgan Stanley

Matthew D. Heller
Willner Heller, LLC

Gregory Paul Kushner
Lido Advisors

Sheryl O'Donnell
Morgan Stanley

Josh Oder
Oder Investment Management, LLC

Lorand Parenteau
Cetera Advisors

Laura Marie Raulinaitis
Morgan Stanley

**Richard J. Ryan**
**Morgan Stanley** *Page 4*

Shannon M. Sutherland
Simple Impact

Steven Zorn
Oder Investment Management, LLC

*Continued on FS-5*



completed questionnaire was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria. 4,745 Los Angeles-area # Considered, # Winners, % of candidates, Issued Date, Research Period. 2024: 4,527, 158, 3%, 12/1/23, 2/13/23 - 8/31/23; 2023: 3,629, 155, 4%, 12/1/22, 3/28/22 - 9/23/22; 154, 4%, 12/1/18, 3/26/18 - 10/16/18; 2018: 2,708, 154, 6%, 12/1/17, 3/23/17 - 10/13/17; 2017: 2,351, 287, 12%, 11/1/16, 2/25/16 - 10/24/16; 2016: 2,374, 298, 13%, 5/22/12 - 10/16/12; 2012: 1,019, 176, 17%, 11/1/11, 5/22/11 - 10/16/11.

a registered investment adviser representative; 2. Actively licensed as a RIA or as a principal of a registered investment adviser firm for a minimum of 5 years; 3. Favorable regulatory and complaint history review (As defined by FSP, the wealth settled, pending, dismissed or denied complaints with any regulatory authority or FSP's consumer complaint process. Unfavorable feedback may have been discovered through a check of complaints registered with a regulatory authority or within the past 11 years; E. Been terminated from a financial services firm within the past 11 years; F. Been convicted of a felony); 4. Fulfilled their firm review based on internal standards; 5. Accepting new clients. Evaluation criteria – considered: FSP does not evaluate quality of services provided to clients. The award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance. Wealth managers may or may not use discretion in their practice and therefore may not manage their clients' is no guarantee as to future investment success, nor is there any guarantee that the selected wealth managers will be awarded this accomplishment by FSP in the future. Visit www.fivestarprofessional.com. This year, we honored 1 Los Angeles

## Elizabeth Pell

Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor, CFP®, CIMA®, CRPS®, CRPC®


Morgan Stanley

21650 Oxnard Street, Suite 1800
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Phone: 818-713-4779
elizabeth.pell@morganstanley.com
advisor.morganstanley.com/elizabeth.pell

**Managing Wealth Begins With a Holistic, Comprehensive Understanding of You.**

As a Certified Financial Planner®, Elizabeth Pell develops, implements and monitors custom financial plans. She works with affluent individuals and businesses. Her goal is to empower clients and give them confidence. Ms. Pell started in the business with Morgan Stanley in 2006. She focuses on retirement planning, tax minimization strategies and creating income streams. Elizabeth is a 2016, 2017, 2022 and 2025 Five Star Wealth Manager award winner.

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FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER AWARD WINNER

## Jean D. Koehler

CLTC®, CRPC®, RICP®, Financial Advisor, CA Insurance Lic. 0C96997


Ameriprise Financial

55 E Huntington Drive, Suite 340
Arcadia, CA 91006
Office: 626-254-0455
Toll-free: 800-268-1155
jean.d.koehler@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/jean.d.koehler

***Confident Retirement*® approach: Live Confidently Today and in the Future.**

- **Wealth preservation strategies and estate planning strategies**

I am passionate about working with clients to help them plan to meet their financial needs now and in the future. I will look at your entire financial picture, including cash reserves, estate planning strategies, investments, insurance and retirement planning. I also ask targeted questions and listen closely to your answers. That way, you can feel more confident that the advice I provide reflects your personal dreams and goals. Additionally, I am a 2013 – 2025 Five Star Wealth Manager.

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FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER AWARD WINNER

## Carolyn Hemann

CFP®, Private Wealth Advisor


Ameriprise Financial

Hemann, Preator & Associates
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Office: 310-477-2500
carolyn.f.hemann@ampf.com

**Experience Makes the Difference**

- **Over 31 years of experience**
- **2009 Ameriprise Circle of Success Diamond Ring award recipient**

Carolyn, a 2013 – 2020 and 2022 – 2025 Five Star Wealth Manager award winner, has been guiding clients toward financial independence for more than 31 years. She is passionate about providing timely, quality financial advice and financial planning that can lead to peace of mind for her clients.

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FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER AWARD WINNER

## Richard J. Ryan

Portfolio Management Director, First Vice President, Financial Advisor


Morgan Stanley

21650 Oxnard Street, Suite 1800
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Direct: 818-715-1894
richard.j.ryan@morganstanley.com
fa.morganstanley.com/richard.j.ryan

Markets change. With 43 years of experience, I can be your guide through the investing jungle. My job is to help you optimize the return on your assets in a way designed to help you meet your goals while seeking to minimize the risks involved. My clients seek my assistance to do just that. I am a 2013 – 2025 Five Star Wealth Manager award winner.

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FIVE STAR WEALTH MANAGER AWARD WINNER

## Alberto Alvarez

CFP®, CRPC®, APMA®, Private Wealth Advisor


Castlewatch Wealth Ameriprise Financial

535 N Brand Boulevard, Suite 1000
Glendale, CA 91203
Phone: 818-662-1999
albert.d.alvarez@ampf.com
www.castlewatch.com

Alberto is a 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020 – 2025 Five Star Wealth Manager.

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*Continued from FS-3*

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## Wealth Manager

W. Kent Althouse · Sagient

John Gerard Arensdorf · TSG Wealth Management

Roberta Bautista Armijo · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

James Edgar Berliner · Westmount Partners

Curt Mitchell Biren · Kayne Anderson Rudnick

Bryan Hutchings Bishop · Generate Wealth, LLC

Gregory Alan Bishop · Equitable Advisors, LLC

Sean Dewayne Blackwood · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Michael Burke · Morgan Stanley

Joel Berke Callagan · Wealth Enhancement Advisory Services, LLC

Jennifer Leah Capo · Generate Wealth, LLC

Tracy Albert Chan · LPL Financial

Jeremy William Chang · Wealth Enhancement Advisory Services, LLC

Christina Chanpong Chanpong Stieg · Merrill Lynch

Rob Jeehoon Choi · Morgan Stanley

Andrea Lashaun Collins · Charles Schwab & Co. Inc.

Christian Raul Cordoba · California Retirement Advisors

Jonathan Tad Corob · Wells Fargo Advisors

Robert James Curtiss · SEIA

Robert Walter Dalie · Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

Angela Anne Dax · Dax Wealth Management Group

John Thomas DiCiaccio · Snowden Lane Partners

David Eliott Doll · Morgan Stanley

**Richard A. Downer · Morgan Stanley**

Benjamin Franklin Duckett · Morgan Stanley

Lee Jay Dunayer · Morgan Stanley

Deborah W. Ellis · Investor's Fiduciary Advisor Network, LLC

Michelle Fenton E. Fenton · Centaurus Financial, Inc.

John Christopher Fleishman · Morgan Stanley

Mitchell Freedman · MFAC Financial Advisors, Inc.

Ryan Robert Fullarton · Morgan Stanley

Travis Anthony Gabler · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Dustin L. Gale · Kayne Anderson Rudnick

Alex Ganapolsky · Wells Fargo Advisors

Jonathan Louis Gerber · RVW Wealth

Jeffrey Ronald Germain · Wells Fargo Advisors

Carlos Antonio Getino · LPL Financial

Jennifer Ann Giacalone · Hazard Financial

Laura Anne Gilman · Wealth Enhancement Advisory Services, LLC

Daniel L. Gracy · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Mark Richard Grimme · Morgan Stanley

Todd Adam Gurvis · Trilogy Financial

Gregory Louis Gutierrez · Wells Fargo Advisors

Anush Haddadian · IFP Securities, Inc.

Gregg Lawrence Haglund · Wells Fargo Advisors

Ali Arash Hashemian · Kinetic Financial

Sayeed Hasnat · Innovative Wealth Strategies

Paul Francis Heising · Moran, Heising, McElravey & Sowder, LLC

Stephen George Hekimian · Morgan Stanley

David Aaron Horvitz · Cheviot Value Management

Howard Arthur Huckins · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Ivan Illan · AWAIM

Susan Baringer Inwood · Wells Fargo Advisors

Jesse Howard Israel · Capstone Partners

Perry James Johnson III · Trilogy Financial

Jill Helene Kasen · The Financial Destinations Group

Sean J. Kennally · Morgan Stanley

Rick H. Koff · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Farid Antonio Krizman · TIAA-CREF

Lily L. Ku · Wealth Enhancement Advisory Services, LLC

Paul Peter Lakon · Morgan Stanley

Shawn Stauffer Landis · HCR Wealth Advisors

Christopher John Laubach · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Jin Lee · Mainstream Capital Management

Evan Robert Levy · Lido Advisors

Chris Richard Luechtefeld · Morgan Stanley

Mary Katherine Mac Nee · Morgan Stanley

Bhagwati Mahendru · Mahendru Financial Group

Bruce Ansel Mandel · Wealth Enhancement Advisory Services LLC

Lisa Ann Margulies · Regatta Capital Group, LLC

KC Christopher Martel · Companion Wealth Management

Jose A. Martinez · Merrill Lynch

Brent Markey Mason · Mason and Associates, Inc.

William John McBride Jr. · McBride Wealth Management

Robert Francis McClure · McClure Investment Management, LLC

David John Medina · Stewardship Financial

Ara Kevork Mekhitarian · Encore Capital Management

Hugh Ari Meyer · Highline Wealth Partners

Ryan Takashi Narasaki · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Anastasia Sophia Nikolaou · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Masood Mass Noorzay · Wells Fargo Advisors

Mark Anthony Nordbrock · Equitable Advisors, LLC

David Richard Norris · Morgan Stanley

René Nourse · Urban Wealth Management Group

Joe O'Boyle · O'Boyle Wealth Management

James Stuart Olson · LPL Financial

Ryan Tetsuo Onishi · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

David Allan Papale · Wells Fargo Advisors

Roger Phillip Park · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Amit R. Patel · Patel & Associates

Joseph Lavoyd Pates · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Anthony Andres Perez · Perez Advisor Services, Inc.

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Mark Jay Pomerantz · Raymond James & Associates

Caleb Padraig Powell · Kayne Anderson Rudnick

Erika Renata Puzik · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Amanda Kate Ragde · Morgan Stanley

Jorge Villarante Ragde · Morgan Stanley

Trevor R. Randall · Randall Wealth Management Group

Vicky Hung Rangsuebsin · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Barak Raviv · Morgan Stanley

Michael Aaron Resnik · LPL Financial

Andrew Rome · SEIA

Gail Rodricks Roque · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Jean Marie Ruimy · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Jeff Mark Runyan · Runyan Capital Advisors

Charles George Salfity · LPL Financial

Jeana Nicole Schkud · Morgan Stanley

Daniel C. Schwarber · Merrill Lynch

John Michael Scott · Wells Fargo Advisors

Maxwell Benjamin Shapiro · Householder Group Estate and Retirement Specialists

Anny Cho-Fang Shen · Morgan Stanley

David Shidoosh · Shidoosh Wealth Management, LLC

Jeffrey Kenneth Stark · LPL Financial

John Tan · LPL Financial

Christiane Tomasi · CS TOMASI Wealth Management

Duc Tien Tran · Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Steven Josh Uy · Eagle Strategies, LLC

Javier R. Valenzuela · Golden Eagle Wealth Management

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James Maxwell Whiting · Cheviot Value Management

Michael Allen Wilhite · Morgan Stanley

Deborah Lynn Wilkins Betters · Morgan Stanley

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## Investment Professional

Alfonso Bundoc · Premier Tax Service

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