



Happy New Year! Welcome to McKinley Carter's new retirement resource newsletter, *Qualified*. This newsletter replaces our former "Retirement Rescue" communication. We chose the title — Qualified — to emphasize our work with *qualified* plans and to stress that our professional team is fully *qualified* and credentialed.

As fiduciary partners in your retirement plan, we are steadfast in our commitment to serving as your resource for qualified plan (401k, 403b, etc.) news, including the ever-changing legislative landscape. Qualified — your retirement resource — will be emailed on a quarterly basis, serving as a valuable resource to you; our fiduciary services are always available 24/7.

Our RPS Division currently serves over 52 Qualified Retirement Plans, manages over \$220M in fiduciary assets, and serves over 3,000 plan participants.

We look forward to an exciting 2021 as, together, we stand next to you as a Fiduciary, and along side your plan participants to help them achieve retirement readiness and financial fitness. **Learn more about our Retirement Plan Services division by watching this [video](#).**

Check out this quarter's curated stories and feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



## Garver Named Director of Retirement Plan Services

Last month, McKinley Carter announced the promotion of [Monica M. Garver, CPA, CFP, AIFA, CDFA](#) to director of the firm's Retirement Plan Services (RPS) division. As RPS Director, Garver works with the executive team to oversee all retirement plan services and components, and their delivery to the firm's Retirement Plan clients. Additionally, she works as a financial strategist in the Johnstown office where she provides her wealth management clients with unbiased advice that seeks to help them reach their life goals. She also serves on McKinley Carter's Investment Services Council (ISC), which oversees the design, communication, and implementation of its comprehensive investment programs.

Garver joined McKinley Carter in August 2019 with more than 35 years of professional experience in public accounting, bank trust services, financial planning, and investment management. A graduate of Duquesne University with a BS in Accounting, Monica is a National Registered Financial Advisor of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA). Additionally, in 2020, she was selected as an AIF® Item Writer, designating her as a contributor to the Accredited Investment Fiduciary certification program based on merit. Monica is also a recipient of Pittsburgh Magazine's "Five Star Wealth Manager Award."

"We are very pleased to see Monica move into this new Retirement Plan Services director role," said Brian Gongaware, CFP®, director of advisory services and chief compliance officer at McKinley Carter. "Monica's technical expertise, industry knowledge, and her vast experience working with retirement plan sponsors and plan participants, makes her a valuable resource to our business clients, both large and small."

Garver says she's excited about her expanded role and looks forward to supporting the firm's commitment to the retirement plan market in all regions in which it serves.

"We have such a deep bench of experience and expertise in retirement plans at McKinley Carter," Garver said, "so I'm very honored to lead that team and share our success story as fiduciary partners for our business owner clients and their plan participants."

McKinley Carter has served the retirement plan market for nearly two decades. In 2018, it earned the Fiduciary Excellence Certification from CEFEX®, the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence, LLC, which is the gold standard of retirement plan fiduciary services credentials. Learn more

about our [Retirement Plan Services team](#).



### **CEFEX Certification Renewed**

McKinley Carter (for the second consecutive year) participated in an annual audit by independent expert analysts. The annual audit continually verifies



MCWS' adherence to the standards-based assessment upon which CEFEX certification is achieved. CEFEX certification increases transparency and accountability; and therefore trust as it is often times referred to "the Gold Standard of Fiduciary Excellence." The annual audit fosters a culture of continuous improvement.

The CEFEX assessment process is based on the international standard, ISO 19011 Guideline for quality management system auditing. The assessment is evidence-based, and all work is reviewed by the CEFEX Registration Committee to ensure impartiality and consistency.

The assessment typically includes document review, client file sampling, on-site visits and interviews with senior representatives at the firm. The assessment is conducted by CEFEX Analysts who must hold the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst® designation and a minimum of the ASPPA 401(k) Administrator (QKA) designation for ASPPA certifications. CEFEX Analysts maintain annual assessment training.

Where applicable, the assessment methodology includes questionnaires on regulatory matters developed by expert attorneys.

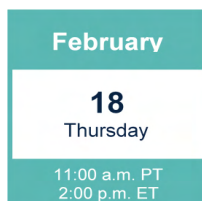
The CEFEX certification standards are organized according to a four-step management process. The steps are analogous to the global ISO 9000 Quality Management System standard, which emphasizes continual improvement in a decision-making process.

[Read more about what a CEFEX certified Advisor means to you!](#)

### **New! MASTER YOUR WEALTH Video Series**



In the last several weeks, McKinley Carter has released its new educational video series, Master Your Wealth. A variety of topics are discussed by our advisors as the series continues to grow. Of particular relevance to retirement plan sponsors and HR managers is "[How a CEFEX Certified Advisor Will Help Your Organization.](#)" A CEFEX certification helps determine the trustworthiness of investment fiduciaries. Watch this video to better understand how a CEFEX certified advisor can help your business with its retirement plan.



### **Legal & Regulatory Update Webinar**

**Join us and the Retirement Plan Advisory Group (RPAG) on Thursday, February 18th for our Legal & Regulatory Update.** Tom Bastin, JD, LLM, AIF, CEBS, managing director, will expertly guide this webinar and discuss several milestone issues to be discussed that impact DC plans, including new Secure Act features, litigation issues, Cyber Security, missing participants, fiduciary insurance, proxy voting regulations and more.

Tom uses his expertise in plan design, administration, recordkeeping,



compliance, investment analysis, fee analysis, vendor benchmarking, fiduciary governance and participant education to help plan sponsors and participants reach their retirement goals. *PlanAdvisor* ranked Tom one of the "Top 100 Retirement Plan Advisers" in 2013 and 2015. Financial Times ranked him one of the "Top 401 Retirement Advisers" in 2015.

Tom passed the FINRA Series 65 (NASAA-Investment Advisors Law Exam) license. He earned a Bachelor of Arts at Purdue University, a Juris Doctor at Nova University and an LL.M. in Taxation Law from the University of Miami.

**This session is pre-approved for HRCI and SHRM CE credits!**

**To register, first click [HERE](#) to email Associate Financial Strategist Kathy White all your contact information: your name, company name, title, address, and phone number. Kathy will follow-up shortly thereafter with the webinar Zoom link information.**

Some additional information in one line



McKinley Carter Wealth Services 2100 Market Street Wheeling WV 26003 United States

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