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At Financial Pointe, our team works closely with successful individuals — such as those who are about to retire or who are currently retired — throughout Southern California.

These people most likely do not have the time, expe… professionally as they manage their careers and bus…

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Keeping You In the Know

The Draft 1040

Adjusted for the Tax Law Changes

Elad Goren

Principal and
Co-founder

Steve Thomas

Principal and
Co-founder

The ratification of the 16th Amendment allowed for the collection of income tax. Starting in 1913, American taxpayers used IRS Form 1040 to prepare and file their tax returns. The first tax return was three pages with only one page of instructions. Over the last 100+ years, the length of the instructions has changed numerous times.

In 2017, Congress passed the largest piece of tax reform legislation in over three decades. To conform to the changes that need to be implemented due to this new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the IRS released over 50 drafts or revised forms and schedules on its website in June.

The most anticipated one was the 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return form. As promised, the "postcard" size was achieved, and Form 1040 was reduced to one double-sided half page, as compared to the previous two full pages. The objective was to simplify the tax reporting process for many taxpayers. The first page is primarily text data including contact information, social security number, filing status, dependents, signature, and of course, the option to donate to the presidential election campaign. The second page is dedicated to the actual monetary information needed to complete this tax form. This new 1040 also consolidates and replaces 1040A and 1040EZ, two forms that will no longer be necessary. This means that starting in 2019 (for 2018 tax returns), all 150 million taxpayers will be using the same form.

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 2018

DRAFT AS OF
July 31, 2018
DO NOT FILE

Form 1040 (2018)

DRAFT AS OF
July 31, 2018
DO NOT FILE

The Treasury projects that 65% of taxpayers will only have to file the new 1040, plus at most one additional schedule. However, that leaves the remaining 35% potentially finding this attempt at simplification more confusing than ever.

OCTOBER 4, 2018

Q3 Newsletter - 2018

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Q2
2018

Quarterly Economic Update

Steve Thomas

Principal and Co-founder

Elad Goren

Principal and Co-founder

The second quarter of 2018 contained ups, downs and tariffs. Equity prices were very volatile as investors seemed to back off of many industrial heavy-weights, while favoring large technology companies. Although the tensions of trade wars, tariffs, political uncertainty in the Eurozone and slowing momentum in the global economy surfaced, many indexes seemed to finish the quarter slightly higher.

While still below January 2018 highs, the S & P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both rose for the quarter.

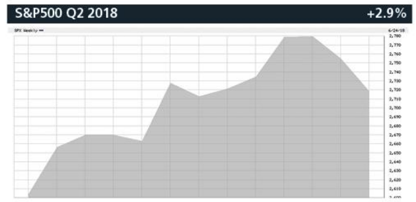
The Dow ended the quarter on a sour note, losing over 300 points in the last week of trading to bring its quarterly gain to less than 1%. The S & P 500 also fell in the quarter's last week of trading, but it ended the quarter with a gain of 2.9%.

Some risk-oriented investors were rewarded this quarter. An example is Netflix, which, despite its price earnings multiple of over 200 (which by definition makes it risky) rose over 30%.

Jim Paulson, Chief Market Strategist at Leuthold Group warned that, "A lot of the investing public is invested in the same things." Although high flying technology companies did reward some investors, he is concerned about the risk factors and their possible price decline for investors.

DJIA Q2 2018 +0.7%

S&P500 Q2 2018 +2.9%



bigcharts.com

MONEY RATES
(As posted in Barron's 7/1/2017)

	LATEST WEEK	YR AGO
Fed Funds Rate (Avg. weekly auction -c)	1.91	1.16%
Bank Money Market -z	0.20	0.12%
12-month Cert -z	0.65	0.35%

c- Annualized yields, adjusted for constant maturity, reported by the Fed Reserve on a weekly average basis.
z- Bankrate.com (Source: Barrons', bankrate.com)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Q2 Newsletter - 2018

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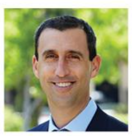
Q1
2018

Quarterly Economic Update



Elad Goren

Principal and Co-founder

Steve Thomas

Principal and Co-founder

After a blockbuster start to 2018, equity markets have been caught in a vicious circle of trading over the quarter's last two months, with volatility and uncertainty taking center stage. While a combination of factors like solid earnings, upbeat economic data and new tax legislation have fueled some rallies, inflation fears, protectionist and anti-trade Trump policies, Washington turmoil and faster-than-expected interest rate hikes continue to weigh on equity market returns.

The year started out strong for equities, however, by quarter's-end the elongated period of rising share prices and low volatility finally ended. For the quarter, the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted a quarterly decline of more than 2.3%, snapping the longest streak of quarterly gains for the blue-chip average since an 11-quarter rally that ended in the third quarter of 1997. The S&P 500 index ended the quarter with a 1.2% quarterly fall, ending its long winning stretch that started in 2015.

Seeking Alpha reports that while the first quarter of 2018 marked the first time in nine quarters, (dating back to 3Q15), that the S&P 500 produced a negative total return. Six of the most recent quarters with a negative total return - 3Q15, 4Q12, 2Q12, 3Q11, 2Q10, 1Q09 - were followed up by a quarter with a positive total return.

The technology sector, which was helping equities advance, experienced huge swings in the first quarter. It was a favored investment sector for many investors for the last few years. A surge from several leading technology stocks and the emergence of new cutting-edge technologies also added to the strength. Given its strong fundamentals, over the last few years, the sector easily survived a couple of massive sell-offs according to FactSet data.

MONEY RATES
(As posted in Barron's 10/2/2017)

	LATEST WEEK	YR AGO
Fed Funds Rate (Avg. weekly auction -c)	1.53	0.91%
Bank Money Market -z	0.15	0.11%
12-month Cert -z	0.49	0.34%

c- Annualized yields, adjusted for constant maturity, reported by the Fed Reserve on a weekly average basis.
z- Bankrate.com (Source: Barrons', bankrate.com)

SEPTEMBE

Q1 Newsle

Meet the Team Running Point for You

Talk to an Advisor Today

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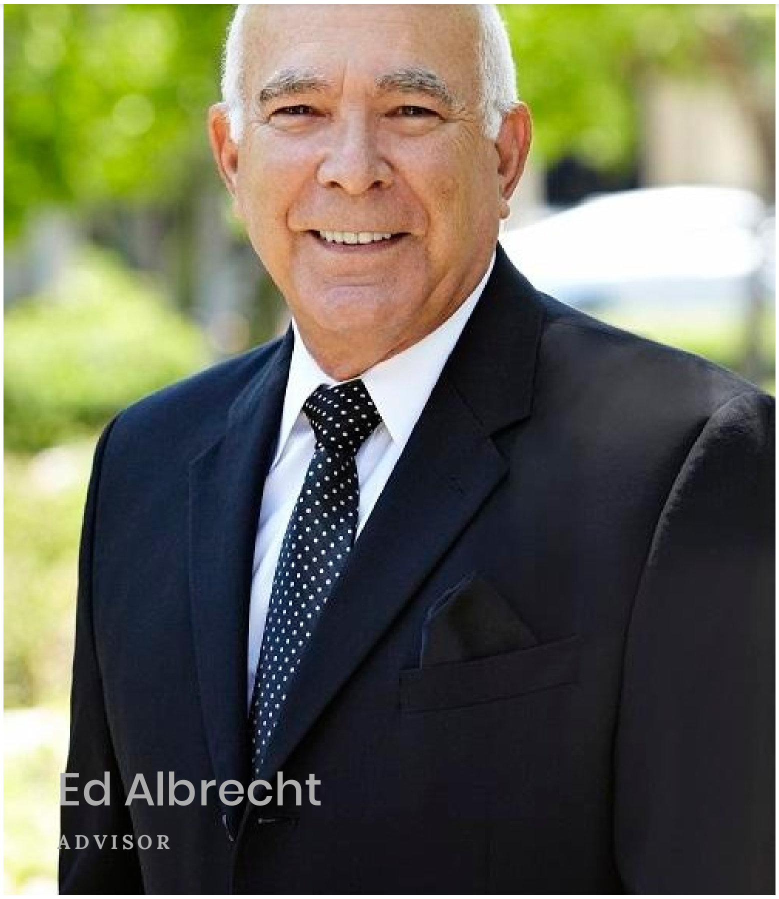

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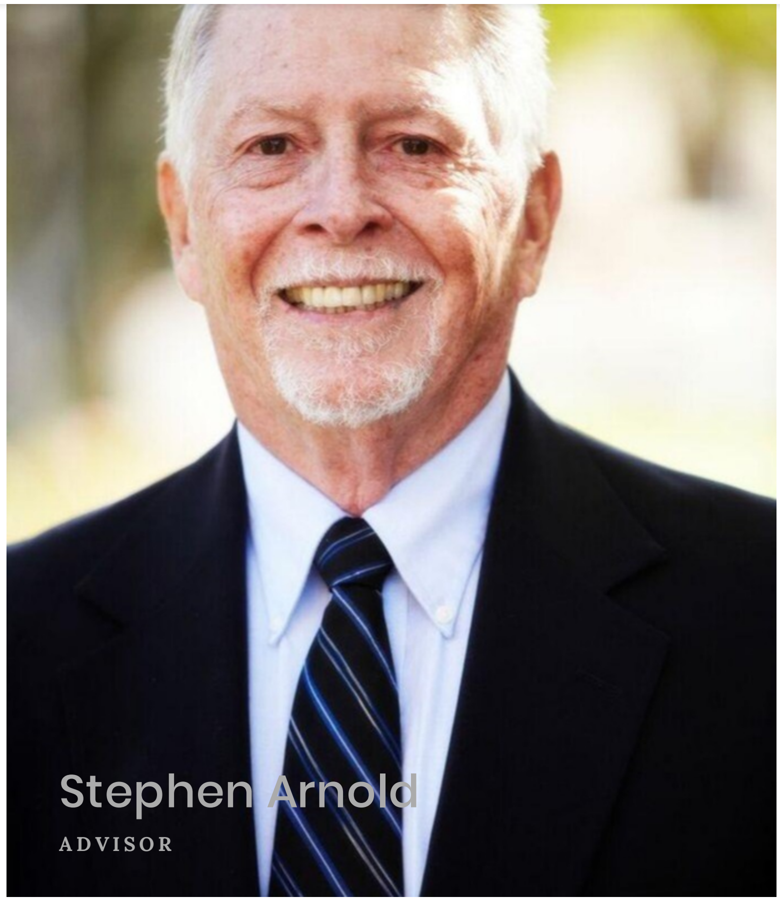
ADVISOR



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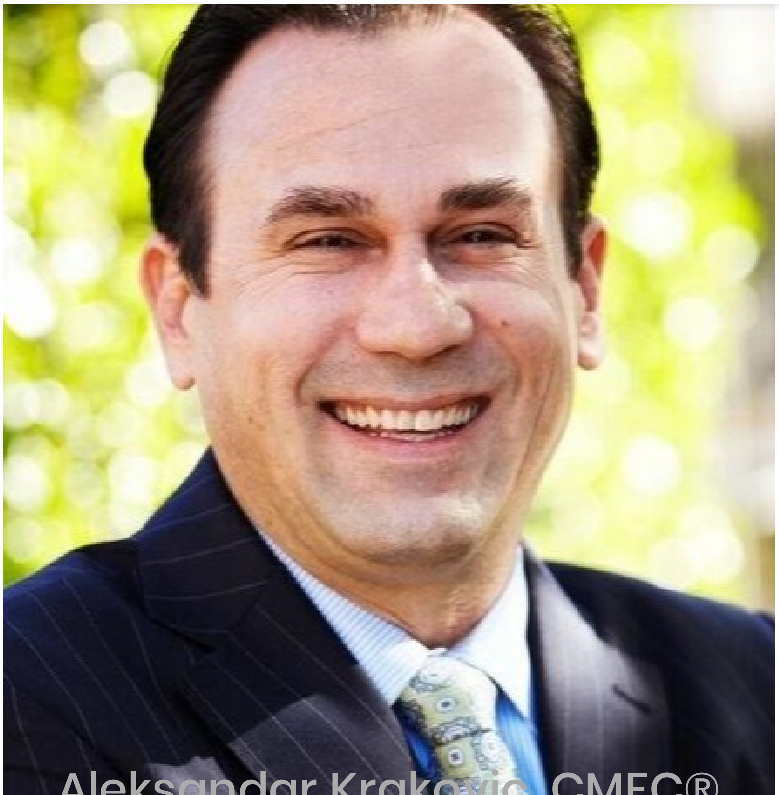

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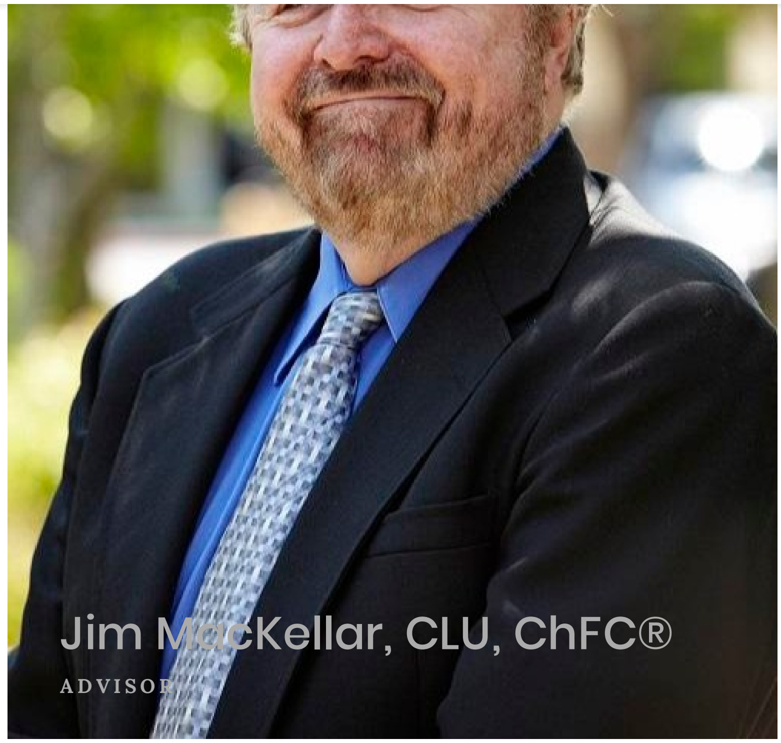

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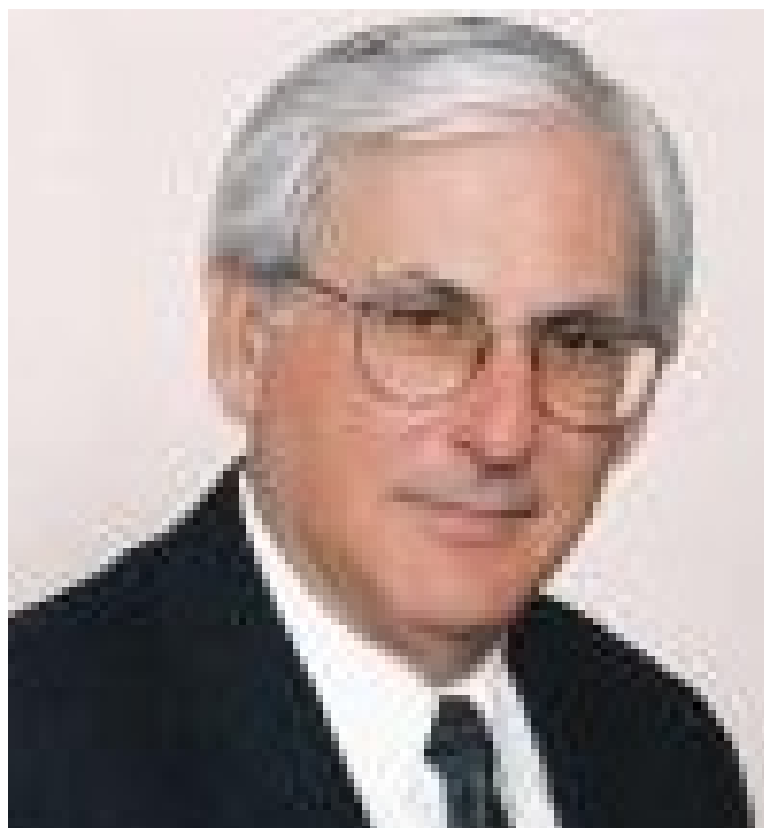

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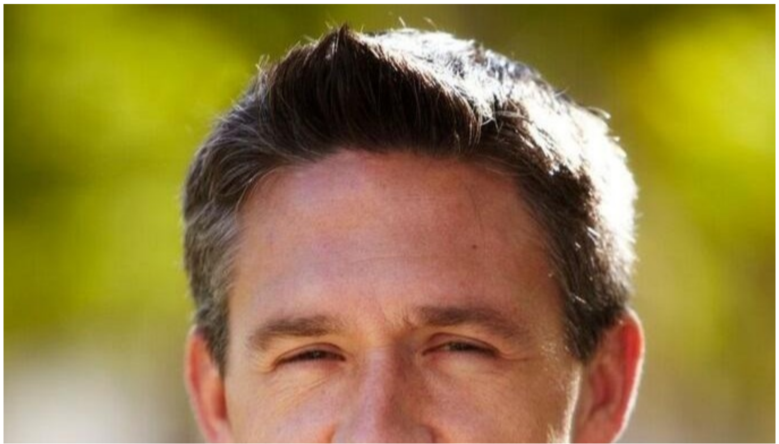

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FINANCIAL POINTE

Informed. Appropriate. Strategic.

Financial Decisions

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Financial Planning

Our proactive approach to client service is all about saving you time and providing you with a feeling of confidence.

This structure means we can meet all your financial needs, eliminating the complexities associated with working with more than one company.

At Financial Pointe, we believe in truly understanding your entire picture before developing a sound financial plan. By discussing your financial goals, timeframe for results, and risk upfront we can devise a better strategy for your unique situation. We'll take a look at things such as:

- ☑ Cash flow
- ☑ Assets

- Investments
- Tax strategies
- Business planning
- Executive compensation
- Fringe benefits
- Estate planning

As needed, we can help coordinate the financial planning process with you and other professionals such as attorneys, accountants, mortgage brokers, and property casualty insurance agents.

Investment Management

There's one common thread at the root of our investment services: You.

By understanding your current situation, investment objectives, and any unique challenges you face, our team will determine which risk/return profile best describes your tolerance for risk and provides a strong framework from which all your future financial decisions can be made.

As a Financial Pointe investment client, you can rest easy knowing your portfolio is continuously monitored and periodically rebalanced. This process helps us make sure your investments are constantly aligned with your long-term risk and return objectives.

Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy including asset allocation can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. Rebalancing investments may cause investors to incur transaction costs and, when rebalancing a non-retirement account, taxable events will be created that may increase your tax liability. Rebalancing a portfolio cannot assure a profit or protect against a loss in any given market environment.

Access Your Important Accounts

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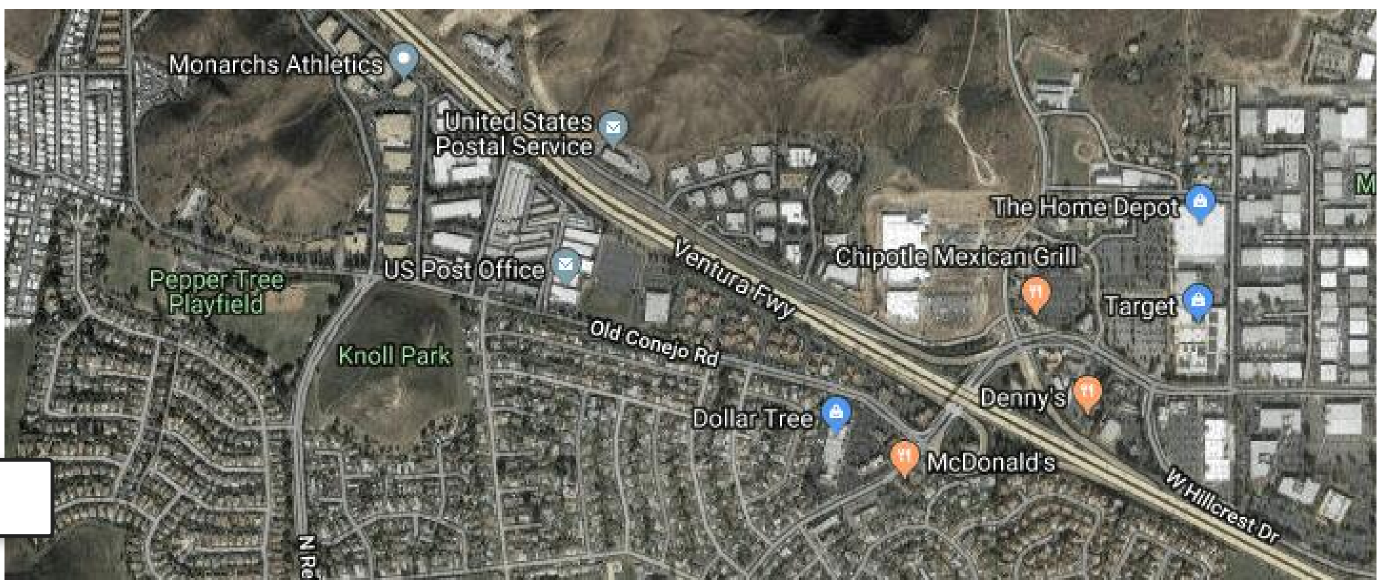
Let's Get to Work



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