

**FINANCIAL ADVISORS**

**Types, titles, education** 

WM - Wealth Manager, bank employee

PB - Personal Banker, bank employee

Bank Trust Officer, bank employee

CFP - Certified Financial Planner

ChFC - Chartered Certified Financial Consultant

CLU - Chartered Life Underwriter, Life Insurance Agent

RIA - Registered Investment Advisor

CAP - Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy

Gift & Estate Tax Attorney, Board Certified only

Employees who give financial advice

at Banks (including our exchange banks), Brokerage Houses, Private Banks, and Accounting firms.

These firms / offices include:

KPMG accounting firm in several countries

Northern Trust private bank in several countries

Abbott Downing (affiliated with Wells Fargo Bank)

AmeriTrade

Charles Schwaab

Fischer Investments

Merrill Lynch 

Vanguard

Fidelity

Independent advisors

have generic titles:

Financial Advisors

Wealth Consultants

Wealth Planners

Related college degrees

Bachelor's degree in finance or economics

Master’s degree (MS) in finance or business administration (MBA) can be in finance, financial planning, economics, or other related subjects.

Law degrees (JD) are usually related to Tax attorneys. Taxation (domestic and international), conflicts with the IRS, and tax planning strategies are the usual practice areas.

Doctorate degrees (PhD) in finance or economics. Study is usually related to research, academics, or economics rather than hands-on financial advice but studies can vary widely.

Other educational and training influences

Sometimes an advisor’s education can include degrees in seemingly unrelated topics. Someone with a Masters in Social Work (MSW) could combine a degree in law to later be a terrific retirement and estate attorney for long term planning for the good of the family.

For a business attorney, I would prefer to consult one who has entrepreneurial experience (as opposed to someone who has only college training). An attorney who owns his own small firm is not enough. (Most attorneys are terrible business managers.) But someone who has launched a few businesses with great success and then decides to get a law degree so she can counsel small business owners truly knows the challenges I face.

Good Wikipedia article

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_adviser>

Article written by Canary Girl

