

Leading Investment Consultants Form Deep Advisory Relationships

2015 Greenwich Leaders: U.S. Investment Consulting

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For the first time, Greenwich Associates is publicly recognizing the best in U.S. institutional investment consulting by naming Greenwich Quality LeadersSM in the industry.

The 2015 Greenwich Quality Leaders in U.S. Investment Consulting for large consultants are Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting, Mercer and Summit Strategies Group. CAPTRUST Financial Advisors, Marquette Associates and Pavilion Advisory Group claim the title of 2015 Quality Leaders for mid-sized firms.

Greenwich Quality Leaders – 2015



Overall U.S. Investment Consulting

Large Consultants

Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting
Mercer
Summit Strategies Group

Mid-sized Consultants

CAPTRUST Financial Advisors
Marquette Associates
Pavilion Advisory Group

Note: Based on interviews with 1,341 institutional investors. Quality leaders are listed in alphabetical order.

Source: Greenwich Associates 2015 U.S. Institutional Investors Study

In 2015, Greenwich Associates interviewed 1,341 senior professionals at corporate and union funds, public funds, endowments and foundations, insurance general accounts, and healthcare organizations with either pension or investment pool assets greater than \$150 million. Study participants were asked to provide quantitative and qualitative evaluations of their investment consultants.

Based on those responses, Greenwich Associates calculates a score on the Greenwich Quality IndexSM for each consultant named. Consultants with scores that top those awarded to competitors by a statistically significant margin are named Greenwich Quality Leaders.

In investment consulting, GQI scores are driven by client ratings in four main areas:

1. Investment Counseling: Ideas, advice and guidance on best practices. Because the advice provided by consultants now ranges from both specific investment products and asset classes to asset allocation, liability-related issues and other portfolio-wide strategies, this counsel must be based on a deep understanding of the client's goals and objectives. In addition, it must be delivered by a capable consultant and deemed credible by the investment committee or board of trustees.

2. Manager Selection: Greenwich Associates assesses both consultants' knowledge of the universe of investment managers and client satisfaction with the consultants' recommendations.

3. Client Service: Are clients satisfied with coverage and service? Does the consultant have the right resources allocated to the account? How useful are personal meetings with the consultant? Are the consultant's written investment performance reviews and other materials timely and valuable? How responsive is the consultant to client requests?

4. Commercial Arrangement: Client perceptions of the value they receive for the fees they pay.

The firms recognized as Greenwich Quality Leaders have excelled in all four of these areas and, as a result, have formed the deep advisory relationships desired by plan sponsors in today's complex market. "These firms demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the client's needs, they have the expertise to recommend

the right solutions, and they identify the most effective managers to implement and execute these strategies,” says Greenwich Associates consultant Andrew McCollum.

The Greenwich Quality Leaders share another important trait: High-quality field consultants. Effective field consultants are the lynchpin to any consulting relationship, but top-quality professionals are in limited supply. “Large consultants have in the past struggled to find and retain the number of quality field consultants needed to cover their client portfolios,” says Greenwich Associates consultant Davis Walmsley. “The performance of Aon, Mercer and Summit shows these firms are bucking this trend and deploying teams of top-quality field consultants.”

Consultants Andrew McCollum, Davis Walmsley, Rodger Smith, Sara Sikes, and Christopher Dunn advise on the investment management market in the United States.

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The findings reported in this document reflect solely the views reported to Greenwich Associates by the research participants. They do not represent opinions or endorsements by Greenwich Associates or its staff. Interviewees may be asked about their use of and demand for financial products and services and about investment practices in relevant financial markets. Greenwich Associates compiles the data received, conducts statistical analysis and reviews for presentation purposes in order to produce the final results.

METHODOLOGY

Between July and October 2015, Greenwich Associates conducted 1,341 interviews with senior professionals at corporate and union funds, public funds, endowments and foundations, insurance general accounts, and healthcare organizations with either pension or investment pool assets

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