



NEWS RELEASE

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Brown Smith Wallace Principal Earns Prestigious CFA Designation

Brad Pursel completes rigorous credential process through the CFA Institute

St. Louis (November 7, 2008) --- Brad Pursel, a principal in Brown Smith Wallace's Financial Advisory Services Group, has recently earned the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation from the CFA Institute, a global non-profit organization of investment professionals.

The CFA designation is a renowned credential for investment analysis and management. The CFA program sets a globally recognized standard for measuring the competence and integrity of financial analysts, portfolio managers and investment advisers.

"The CFA designation is widely recognized as the most challenging designation to obtain in the investment profession, making it the ultimate credential in this field," said Jeffrey Smith, managing member and co-founder, Brown Smith Wallace. "Brad not only reached a milestone in his professional development, but enhanced his ability to deliver the best service possible to our clients."

Recipients of the CFA designation must successfully complete a graduate-level, self-study curriculum and series of three intensive examinations taken sequentially over at least two years. Pass rates at each of the three exam levels have averaged around 50 percent. Because of the rigor of the program, only about one in five candidates who enter the program successfully complete all the requirements to earn the charter.

"Achieving the CFA designation was a great personal challenge, due to the thoroughness of the content and rigor of the program, which included over 750 hours studying for the exams," said

Pursel. “My success is reflective of the Brown Smith Wallace team, which continuously improves their skills and abilities so they can better serve their clients.”

Pursel has served in the professional services field for more than 10 years, and holds bachelor degrees in accounting and finance from the University of Maryland and an MBA from Washington University. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV) from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is also an Accredited Senior Appraiser with the American Society of Appraisers.

Brown Smith Wallace is the second-largest locally owned independent full-service CPA and business consulting firm in Missouri with 200 employees throughout the region. Brown Smith Wallace is the only CPA and business consulting firm that makes A Measurable Difference to its clients by delivering six measurable differences, which include providing a guarantee in writing. For more information, visit www.bswllc.com or call 636-754-0201.

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