



Empowered Future Report

Short term thoughts about long term matters

September 1, 2017

Quote of the Day:

*“The bubble logic driving tulipomania has since acquired a name: “the greater fool theory.” Although by any conventional measure it is folly to pay thousands for a tulip bulb (or for that matter an Internet stock), as long as there is an even greater fool out there willing to pay even more, doing so is the most logical thing in the world..” -- — Michael Pollan, *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World**

Workshop Invitation – “World’s Most Misunderstood Plant” on September 13th

Please RSVP soon to our next Capital Markets Outlook, 6pm on Wednesday, September 13th. Mike will start off the meeting with an update on the capital markets and our current strategy. It’s an interesting time in our economy with the new administration, many sources of geopolitical tension and stock indexes at or near all-time highs and you’ll want to hear our take on things.

As you know, we have a tradition of inviting a variety of expert guest speakers for a unique perspective to join us at these workshops. In the last few years we’ve had authors, physicians, technology experts, political commentators, filmmakers, attorneys and most recently a world renowned ophthalmologist and eye surgeon. While we don’t take unnecessary risk with your client portfolios, we’ve never balked at taking risks with the kind of value added presentations our clients

might find stimulating. Contrary to others in our industry, we've always believed that our clients are interested in and can handle thought provoking topics, when presented informally and in a fact based manner. It's no different this time as we've invited Jeffrey Friedland of Friedland Global Capital, to speak on the opportunities and perils of investing in marijuana. Jeff is a noted author and thought leader on emerging markets and has been a pioneer in the global cannabis industry.

*Jeff will be speaking about the industry, research and regulations generally and will be sharing his opinions only. Nothing in his presentation necessarily represents investment or social views or strategy of ALTIUS Financial, Inc. Any and all actions taken or not take by attendees as a result of what they hear or see in this presentation are purely their decisions. Any investment or health considerations should be made in their proper context and with individualized, appropriate professional assistance.

Reminder About Who Does What at ALTIUS

One of the things we pride ourselves on is offering personalized financial planning and investment services along with having world class, institutional partners. That means having the best tools, operating as a team and a laser focus on doing the right thing for you. In that regard, I want to briefly re-introduce you to the team members, who does what, as well as congratulate Taylor on a milestone!

1. Michael Williams – Financial Advisor/primary advice giver, portfolio manager and owner. I've been at this for 30+ years and feel more confident than ever about our ability to provide great value in our clients' most important life decisions as well as defending and growing their capital.
2. Tammy Kreger – Office Manager responsible for operations, account set-up and maintenance, client service, billing, vendor management, etc. Tammy has been at ALTIUS for over 12 years and, as you all know, is vital to our success.
3. Jennifer Kreger – Director of First Impressions responsible for all scheduling, marketing, event management, client service, etc. Jenn has been with us for approximately 5 years now and has proven to be a great asset to our clients and the firm.
4. Taylor McGowen – Planning Assistant responsible for client meeting prep/client summary letters/service deliverables, wealth planning analysis, online engagement with *My Empowered Future* tools, etc.

*Mike Rivers – Mike is not an employee of ALTIUS but is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and an independent equity research consultant who we rely on for some of our portfolio construction input. We've been working with Mike for over 10 years.

Help us congratulate Taylor on recently passing the series 65 exam which will allow her to be more fully involved in client acquisition and providing advice. This expands our overall capacity since she is now qualified to meet with clients individually, make her own planning recommendations and begin portfolio construction activities. This does not mean a dramatic change for anyone, yet you might be offered the opportunity to meet with Taylor separately - still under my close supervision and collaboration.

I'm thankful for such a great group of professionals to work with each day and appreciate all the wonderful feedback I receive from you about each of these individuals. We'll be updating our full bios on the website soon.

Have You Signed Up?

Have you signed up for our [ALTIUS Financial Weekly Digest](#)? In effort to help keep you better informed, we initiated these weekly news roundups to curate some of the top stories of the week for you, chosen to help you understand the markets and your investments. Occasionally, there's an off-topic or purely human interest article added just for fun and we've been getting great feedback on the quality and timeliness of these digests. Please continue to give us feedback on these articles and we also encourage you to forward and share any stories that may be helpful or interesting to a friend

TD Helping those Hit by Hurricane Harvey

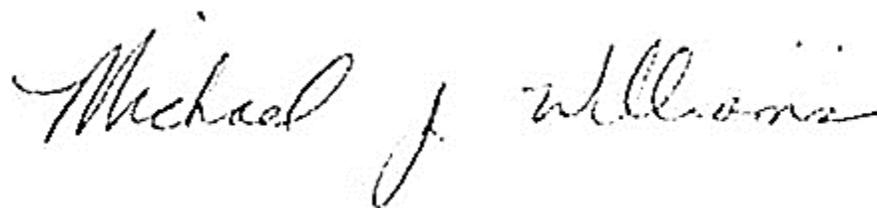
As many of you have heard me talk about, it's only in a free, voluntary and prosperous country where charity can truly make a difference. When you have prosperity, as in the creation of surplus value, as in profits....it's so much easier to share since there's plenty to share.

Well, as Hurricane Harvey continues to impact Texas and Louisiana with devastating damage and flooding, our thoughts are with those who are suffering and many of us want to help in some way. In an effort to help, TD Ameritrade announced that it will match client donations to the American Red Cross dollar for dollar up to \$500,000, doubling the impact of every dollar given. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit the [TD Ameritrade Disaster Relief Donation Site](https://www.redcross.org/donate/cm/tdameritrade-emp) : <https://www.redcross.org/donate/cm/tdameritrade-emp>

I hasten to add that we want to remember that any boost from rebuilding the impacted areas is not a net positive for the overall economy. Some of you know that I teach [Bastiat's Broken Window Fallacy](#) which simply demonstrates that resources required to replace what's lost are resources that can't be used to develop new things. In any case, I hope you'll consider joining me in this effort with a personal donation as well as keeping our economic thinking straight. Thank you!

Have a Fantastic Labor Day Weekend!

As the summer winds down, it's a such great time of year in Colorado. My kids are back in school – ask me about my road trip – and like many of you I enjoy getting to the mountains before it snows as well as some fantastic sporting events....with the Rockies still in playoff contention, the showdown tonight (Go Buffs and Rams – how's that for fence straddling?) and of course watching the US Open tennis championships. Whether it's firing up that bar-b-q or getting out for a round of golf or just enjoying and hugging those you love, we hope you'll enjoy the weather and the weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'W'.

Michael J. Williams, CFP

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