# Investor Insights VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4 And Outlook

# UNCERTAINTY

There is nothing that creates anxiety about the future like a US Presidential election campaign. With all the heated rhetoric, claims and counter-claims, perceived threats and hollow promises, it's no wonder our lives experience such an emotional roller coaster. We long for the way things were. We seek stability in a world that seems to be spinning out of our control and we yearn for a sure thing, something certain to lead the way.

Well, if you listen to policy makers and other so-called experts in the US and around the world, the one sure thing they all seem to agree on is the need to avoid uncertainty.

As economist, Brian Wesbury noted, "They believe the battle against uncertainty is a neverending struggle and, if only the world were more certain, the economy would be doing much better."

Isn't it odd for policy makers and those who wish to lead us to feel this way? If you really want certainty, you could not get much more of it than in the old Soviet Union or, perhaps, present-day North Korea. Those economies minimize flexibility, choice and freedom, while maximizing certainty. It may be the certainty of a prison cell, a dead-end job, or religious persecution, but it's certainty nonetheless.

"By contrast, free-market capitalism is the opposite of a system built on certainty.

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# Announcing Our New Associate: Matthew Miller

I am writing to introduce Matt Miller to you. Matt recently joined our firm and will work along side me as an advisor, focusing on business growth and development while enhancing our client service experience. Matt and I met a few years ago. What immediately stood out to me was our shared business philosophy; namely, the best financial stewardship comes from taking care of each client as an individual and the financial roadmap is always best navigated by doing the right thing.

Matt brings with him over a decade of financial experience as a wealth advisor having worked with some of the world's largest financial institutions as well as multiple Fortune 500 companies. Matt's presence here will make sure we continue to grow while doing more of what we have always done best: providing you with the highest level of financial care.

When I started my financial planning practice in 1987 the stock market dropped 22% in one day; gas sold for 89 cents per gallon; interest rates stood at 8.75% and cell phones were still science fiction. Much has changed in the almost 30 years since. Although we continue to grow and are now one of the leading independent wealth management firms in the Northwest, what remains the same is our cornerstone mission of holistic financial planning.

I am sure you will enjoy meeting Matt. Thank you for your continued confidence and trust.

Respectfully,

James D Hallett President

# Matthew Miller-Bio



Over more than a decade working in financial services, Matt has worked with hundreds of individual, institutional, and non-profit investors in every corner of the United States. It has been his privilege to help bring to life their unique visions of a life well lived, and it's something that he looks forward to sharing with the clients of Hallett Advisors.

After earning his Finance degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Upstate New York, Matt began his career by managing departmental budgets for the General Electric Corporation.

After several years working for GE, he left the world of corporate finance to follow his passion for serving the financial needs of individual investors.

Before moving to the Pacific Northwest, Matt worked for some of the largest financial institutions on the globe. Over more than a decade, he has offered financial guidance to individuals and organizations in every corner of the United States and abroad. He is excited to put his knowledge and experience to work in his service to the clients of Hallett Advisors.

## UNCERTAINTY

No one knows for sure what will be invented or discovered next," said Wesbury.

In a country such as ours, based on free-market capitalism, uncertainty is a feature, not a problem to be solved.

Of course, not all certainty is bad. Certain parameters such as property rights and the rule of law can help entrepreneurial risk taking, which in turn can lead to improved standards of living.

Perhaps what we need this election season at the local, regional and national level is a reality check.

Life is uncertain. That is okay.

Life can also be rewarding and beautiful. Let us aspire to seek a greater good, to lend a hand to one another and to face the future with confidence. This will raise the tide that lifts our boats.

Of this I am certain.

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