



# 2011 Five Star Wealth Manager



## Andrea Cohen

Advisor for Affluent  
Individuals and Families

- Disciplined investment process with exceptional, long-term, audited results
- Client relationships built on integrity, trust, responsiveness and objective advice
- Investing side-by-side with our clients, unlike most advisors

*Andy is a Managing Director and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional*

Andy wants to thank her clients and peers for this acknowledgment as a 2011 Five Star Wealth Manager. She attributes her success to a genuine caring about her clients and working for a firm that always puts their clients' interests first. With more than 20 years of experience, Andy has extensive expertise with investments, retirement planning, income and estate tax, and wealth transfer strategies. She also works seamlessly with clients' tax advisers and estate planning attorneys. Her clients include professionals, business owners, independent women and retirees.

Andy works with a deep team at Kovitz Investment Group, including many CFP® practitioners, CPAs and CFAs. Kovitz manages more than \$2 billion of stocks, bonds, private equity and hedge fund assets for more than 900 families. Kovitz is one of the four largest independently owned registered investment advisors in the Chicago area, yet is agile enough to take advantage of short-lived market opportunities for its clients' benefit.



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Kovitz Investment Group was cited as the fourth largest Registered Investment Advisor in Chicago, based on assets under management, in "Bouncing Back" – FA Magazine, July, 2011.

As seen in *Chicago* magazine



# 2011 Chicago Five Star Wealth Managers

Five Star Professional partnered with *Chicago* magazine to determine the wealth managers in the Chicago area who provide exceptional service and overall satisfaction. The Five Star Professional research team contacted clients, peers and industry experts and asked if they had experience working with a wealth manager. Those who participated in the research provided the name of a wealth manager and rated that individual according to criteria such as integrity, value for fee charged and quality of recommendations. The survey data was collected and scored, resulting in the list of 2011 Chicago Five Star Wealth Managers. The research methodology allows no more than 7 percent of wealth managers to be named a Five Star Wealth Manager. This year's winners are listed and profiled in the following pages.

## Research Q&A

### *How are Five Star Wealth Managers selected?*

Five Star Professional surveyed 1 in 4 high-net-worth households (more than 237,000 households) and more than 14,500 registered financial services professionals in the Chicago area. Participants in the survey were asked to evaluate only those wealth managers they know through personal experience.

### *How many wealth managers receive the Five Star award?*

The final list of 2011 Chicago Five Star Wealth Managers is a select group, representing less than 2 percent of licensed wealth managers in the area.

### *Can wealth managers pay to be listed?*

No. Wealth managers cannot pay to be included in the research or on the final list. The evaluation process and the results are driven by research conducted with clients, peers and industry experts.

### *What criteria do you evaluate?*

The Five Star Wealth Manager research surveys focus on nine criteria: customer service, integrity, knowledge/expertise, communication, value for fee charged, meeting of financial objectives, post-sale service, quality of recommendations and overall satisfaction. Wealth managers, broadly defined, are those individuals who help you manage your financial world and/or implement aspects of your financial strategies.

### *How are the surveys scored?*

Both positive and negative evaluations are included in the scoring. Only wealth managers with more than five years of experience in the financial services industry are considered. Each wealth manager is reviewed for regulatory actions, civil judicial actions and customer complaints as reported by FINRA, the SEC, the State Board of Accountancy and the State Bar. The list is reviewed by a panel of industry experts before it is finalized. Safeguards are built into the review process to reduce the ability to influence the final list on the basis of company affiliation.

## Research DISCLOSURES

- The overall evaluation score of a wealth manager reflects an average of all respondents and may not be representative of any one client's experience.
- The Five Star award is not indicative of the wealth manager's future performance.
- Wealth managers may or may not use discretion in their practice and therefore may not manage their clients' assets.
- The inclusion of a wealth manager on the Five Star Wealth Manager list should not be construed as an endorsement of the wealth manager by Five Star Professional or *Chicago* magazine.
- Working with a Five Star Wealth Manager or any wealth manager is no guarantee as to future investment success, nor is there any guarantee that the selected wealth managers will be awarded this accomplishment by Five Star Professional in the future.
- The research process incorporates a statistically valid sample in order to identify the wealth managers in the local market who score highest in overall satisfaction. Wealth managers are not included on the list unless their score is statistically valid. At least 50% of the wealth managers in the market have a statistically valid score.
- Five Star Professional is not an advisory firm and the content of this article should not be considered financial advice. For more information on the Five Star award and the research/selection methodology, go to: [fivestarprofessional.com](http://fivestarprofessional.com).