



The Virtus Group

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**MARK CRUISE AMONG “BEST OF BEST” FINANCIAL ADVISORS ATTENDING BARRON’S
*TOP INDEPENDENT ADVISORS SUMMIT***

Orlando, FL (March 24, 2017)—**Mark S. Cruise, ChFC, MBA** attended the ninth-annual *Barron’s Top Independent Advisors Summit*, hosted by *Barron’s* magazine to promote best practices in the industry and the value of advice to the investing public. The invitation-only conference was held at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, FL – March 22-24, 2017.

Many of the Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors in the U.S., as ranked and published in *Barron’s* August 22, 2016 issue, were in attendance. This annual ranking is the basis for the Top Independent Advisor’s Summit and the advisors are chosen based on the volume of assets overseen by the advisors and their teams and the quality of the advisors’ practices. The top 100 Independent Advisors are comprised of Registered Independent Advisors and Advisors from Independent Broker Dealers. A total of 350 elite advisors took part in the event.

This exclusive conference is designed to promote best practices and generate new ideas across the industry. Attendees conducted workshops led by the Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors that explored current issues of importance ranging from portfolio construction and management to investing in overseas markets, managing risk, technology applications and client relations.

“Investors today are looking to generate income while protecting their portfolios against downside risk,” said Sterling Shea, Head of Advisory Programs. “These top-tier advisors have clients that depend on them to meet critical financial goals for themselves, their families, their businesses or their institutional funds. Advisors will leave this conference better equipped to do just that.”

Mark S. Cruise was one of the 350 financial advisors who were either selected by *Barron’s* or their affiliated firm to participate in the event. Associated participating firms included: *Advisor Group, Ameriprise Financial Services, Charles Schwab, Fidelity Investments, LPL Financial, Pershing, Raymond James, TD Ameritrade Institutional, and Wells Fargo Financial Network.*

For more information about *Barron’s* conferences, please go to barrons-conferences.com

About Barron's

Barron's (www.barrons.com) is America's premier financial magazine, renowned for its market-moving stories. Published by Dow Jones & Company since 1921, it reaches an influential audience of senior corporate decision makers, institutional investors, individual investors and financial professionals. With new content available every week in print and every business day online, Barron's provides readers with a comprehensive review of the market's recent activity, coupled with in-depth, sophisticated reports on what's likely to happen in the market in the days and weeks to come. As a result, Barron's is the financial information source these powerful people rely on for market information, ideas and insights they can use to increase their professional success and enhance their personal, financial well-being.

The "Barron's Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors" is a select group of individuals who are screened on a number of different criteria. Among factors the survey takes into consideration are the overall size and success of practices, the quality of service provided to clients, adherence to high standards of industry regulatory compliance, and leadership in "best practices" of wealth management. Portfolio performance is not a factor.

Attendees of the Barron's Conference were comprised of the independent advisors listed in "Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors", (August 22, 2016) as well as financial advisors who were chosen by Barron's or their associated firms.

About LPL Financial

LPL Financial, a wholly owned subsidiary of LPL Financial Holdings Inc. (NASDAQ: LPLA), is the nation's largest independent broker-dealer (based on total revenues, *Financial Planning* magazine, June 1996-2016), an RIA custodian, and an independent consultant to retirement plans. LPL Financial offers proprietary technology, comprehensive clearing and compliance services, practice management programs and training, and independent research to more than 13,600 financial advisors and approximately 700 financial institutions. In addition, LPL Financial supports approximately 4,500 financial advisors licensed with insurance companies by providing customized clearing, advisory platforms and technology solutions. LPL Financial and its affiliates have more than 3,000 employees with primary offices in Boston, Charlotte, and San Diego. For more information, please visit www.lpl.com.

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