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Argent Wealth Management and Pillar Financial Advisors to merge

Argent Wealth Management and Pillar Financial Advisors have merged effective November 1, 2013. The new firm, now known as Argent Wealth Management, LLC will manage a combined \$1.2 billion in client assets and will continue to offer a full spectrum of investment, tax, financial and estate planning services. The two firms will operate in their current locations until January 2014 when they will merge operations in Waltham.

Individually both greatly respected, fee-only firms have been providing independent investment and financial advisory services to high net worth individuals for over 20 years. The combined firm will continue to meet the needs of clients desiring objective advice and customized solutions.

"The Argent / Pillar merger is a merger of two firms of roughly equal size in terms of assets, numbers of clients and staff. Both firms, which have always admired and respected one another, are thriving as separate entities," said Argent president and founder David Duchesneau. "Our new company will be even better and deeper, with synergies and complementary strengths that exceed the stand-alone resources of the individual firms," he added.

"Combining our firms gives us the ability to grow while remaining a private company, with capabilities that are among the most sophisticated, comprehensive and respected in our industry," said Pillar president William Baldwin. "That's good for our business and our employees, and, most of all, the clients we serve." Mr. Baldwin is a past Chairman of the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA), the nation's leading organization dedicated to the advancement of fee-only comprehensive financial planning.

Both firms have highly credentialed professionals - attorneys, CPAs, CFA® charterholders and CFP® professionals - and take a team approach to helping clients coordinate and manage today's difficult financial decisions. As Argent Wealth Management, they will continue to provide superior service, personal attention and sophisticated investment and financial solutions.

"These firms have proud track records of consistent and successful personal service, a foundation that has yielded lasting relationships with clients as their needs and goals evolve," said Pillar Executive Vice President Beth Gamel. "We share a dedication to our clients and a commitment to delivering wisdom, knowledge and understanding, not just data and statistics." For seven consecutive years *Worth Magazine* named Gamel as one of the "best financial advisers" in the country, and in 2010 the Boston Estate Planning Council selected her as its Estate Planner of the Year.

DeVoe & Company acted as a consultant to Pillar Financial Advisors and Argent Wealth Management, providing business strategy guidance to help the organizations evaluate a proposed merger.