

The MERRITT POINT MINUTE

GUIDING CLIENTS THROUGH THE COMPLEXITIES OF WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Q2 2026

Welcome to the Merritt Point Wealth Advisors team!



John Pasacreta
Managing Director



John Rotando
Managing Director



Jake Pasacreta
Associate



Nancy Meade
Senior Associate



Sandra Kapfer
Senior Associate

We are excited to announce John Pasacreta and John Rotando have joined Merritt Point Wealth Advisors in our Old Greenwich office along with their associate Sandra Kapfer, Nancy Meade, and Jake Pasacreta. Welcome to the team!

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Team Birthdays



Andrew Pillarella
Vice President
Investments
April 5th



Steven Belport
Senior Vice President
Investments
April 7th



Michelle D'Ambrosio
Senior Associate
Team Administrator
April 7th



Ana Johns
Operations Manager
April 13th



John Rotando
Managing Director
April 25th



Rebecca Scala
Associate
May 3rd



Nancy Meade
Senior Associate
May 28th



David C. Belport, MBA, CIMA®
Managing Director Investments
Senior PIM Portfolio Manager
June 3rd



Sheila Spicehandler
Senior Vice President
June 16th



Roberta Anderson, CFP®
Vice President Investments
June 18th



Melinda Lapert
Operations Manager
June 24th

Economic Commentary (Q4 2025 - Q1 2026)

Q4 2025 data show a clear deceleration from the strong Q3 performance. The Bureau of Economic Analysis' advance estimate reported 1.4% annualized GDP growth in Q4 2025, while subsequent estimates revised growth down to 0.5%. This marks a steep slowdown from the 4.4% expansion recorded in Q3 2025. The deceleration reflected weaker government spending, softer exports, and a cooling in consumer outlays, even as investment remained a modest positive contributor.

Underlying demand indicators also softened. Real final sales to private domestic purchasers rose 2.4% in the advance estimate, but later revisions showed consumer spending growing at 1.9%, down from earlier readings. Government spending contracted sharply due to the late-2025 federal shutdown, subtracting 0.99 percentage points from GDP growth. Exports fell 3.2%, the largest drop since mid-2023.

Inflation pressures remained uneven. The Q4 2025 gross domestic purchases price index rose 3.7%, while the PCE price index increased 2.9% and core PCE 2.7%. Tariff-related cost pressures continued to influence goods categories, and services inflation remained sticky.

Early Q1 2026 Outlook

While full Q1 2026 GDP data are not yet available, Trading Economics' consensus and model-based expectations place Q1 growth around 1.1-1.5%. This suggests continued modest expansion but little sign of a return to the strong mid-2025 momentum. Contributing factors include:

- Tighter financial conditions, with higher borrowing costs weighing on business investment and household credit demand.
- Slower hiring, following a largely jobless 2025 expansion in which only 116,000 jobs were added for the year.
- Softening consumer spending, particularly in goods, as real disposable income growth remains constrained by inflation and policy uncertainty.



Ross Bauer
Founder, COO

Welcome to the Merritt Point Wealth Advisors team!

We are excited to announce

PAOLO THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR, PARTNER, CFP®

has joined
Merritt Point Wealth Advisors



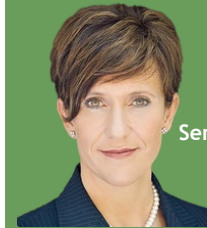
We are also proud to announce the opening
of our Houston, Texas, location.

We're thrilled to welcome Paolo Thompson CFP®, Executive Managing Director, and Senior Associate Jared Mitchell to Merritt Point Wealth Advisors as we opened our new Houston, TX location.

Their leadership and expertise strengthen our commitment to serving clients with excellence.

Welcome to the team!

Team Anniversaries



Ingrid Dikmen
Senior Vice President
Investments
Senior PIM Portfolio Manager
5 Years



Anthony D'Ambrosio
Executive Managing Director,
Partner
Wealth Advisor Senior PIM
Portfolio Manager
4 Years



Michelle D'Ambrosio
Senior Associate
Team Administrator
4 Years



Michael A Salimbene
Executive Managing Director,
Partner
Wealth Advisor Senior PIM
Portfolio Manager
4 Years



Rob Schaefer, CFP®
Senior Wealth Planning
Strategist
4 Years



Jonathan Nuzzaci
Executive Director
Investments
4 Years



Jenna Signorile
Associate
2 Years

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Jason Andrews, CEO - Forbes Interview



Jason Andrews
Founder, CEO

In January, our CEO Jason Andrews was invited to participate in an interview with Forbes. In the interview, Jason spoke on client relationships, investment philosophy, and the competitive edge of our team.

Please click the link provided below to read the full interview:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2026/01/07/17-billion-wells-fargo-team-wants-clients-to-call-when-they-cant-sleep/>

Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network (FiNet) Growth Forum - April 2026

We are proud to have had some of our advisors and associates representing Merritt Point Wealth Advisors at the Wells Fargo Northeast FiNet Growth Forum in Danbury, CT.



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Awards and Recognition



We are pleased to announce Beth has been recognized as a

2026 Award Recipient

Beth Cutler
Founder, President



Beth Cutler, Founder, President, was awarded by Forbes for 2026 Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State. We are thrilled to share this information with you!

2026 Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State: Awarded February 2026; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 6/30/24-6/30/25 (Source: [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)) The Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria.

We are pleased to announce Anthony has been recognized as a

2026 Award Recipient



Anthony D'Ambrosio
Executive Managing Director, Partner
Wealth Advisor – Senior PIM Portfolio Manager

We are pleased to announce Anthony D'Ambrosio has been recognized for the 2026 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors Award.

Congratulations Anthony!

2026 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors; Awarded April 2026; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 6/30/24- 6/30/25 (Source: [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)). The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria.

Awards and Recognition (continued)



We are pleased to announce that Merritt Point Wealth Advisors has been awarded 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams.

2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams: Awarded January 2026; Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on the time period from 3/31/24 - 3/31/25 (Source: [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)). The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management (minimum variable by state), revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for rating. This rating is not related to the quality of the investment advice and based solely on the disclosed criteria. 12,787 wealth management teams were considered for the rating; 6,149 (48% of candidates) were named 2026 Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Clients,

Spring is in the air, and summer is just around the corner. At Merritt Point Wealth Advisors, this is a welcome time of year to pause, enjoy the season, and stay mindful of the planning opportunities that come with it.



Jason Andrews
Founder, CEO

As the pace of the year picks up, we remain focused on helping clients stay organized and prepared. Whether the conversation is about long-term strategy, market changes, or important planning decisions, our goal is to provide steady guidance and support through every season.

Over the last year, our team has expanded in meaningful ways, including adding new advisory talent, broadening our footprint, and continuing to strengthen the resources we bring to clients and partners. We believe this growth has enhanced our ability to deliver the thoughtful, client-focused guidance that remains at the heart of what we do.

We are grateful for the trust you place in us and for the opportunity to continue serving you with care and attention.

Wishing you a wonderful spring and a happy start to summer.

Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN), Member SIPC. Merritt Point Wealth Advisors is a separate entity from WFAFN.

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