



"Many people consider their financial goals to be far more important than their personal goals. But the personal goals have to come first - the money is just a means to get there. So the first meeting sounds more like 'life planning' than financial planning, and that's the way it should be."



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**Darren L. Zagarola, CFP®, CPA, PFS**  
Partner

A certified financial planner, certified public accountant and personal financial specialist, Darren has more than 25 years of experience in the financial advisory world. His comprehensive and independent approach to financial planning gives clients confidence that his services and recommendations are free from conflict and truly tailored to their needs.

A strong advocate of socially responsible, values-driven investing, Darren helps interested clients to build an investment strategy in line with their personal values.

Darren is a partner in Access Wealth Planning, LLC, as well as its affiliate, EKS Associates. Previously, he was successful as the Director of Internal Audit of a multinational manufacturing firm and as an audit manager at Ernst & Young.

**In recognition of his work and the value he provides, Darren has been:**

- Named a FIVE STAR Professional Wealth Manager (multi-year winner);
- Featured on News 12 NJ's financial program, *It's Your Money*; First Business News TV's *Investing Climate*; and Money Radio 1510's *Business For Breakfast* broadcast;
- Published and quoted in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Daily News*, *Market Watch*, and *CNBC.com*, among others.

**Committed to giving back to his community, Darren is a:**

- Recurring educator at the Princeton Adult School, teaching a variety of financial planning and investment courses to help people feel empowered;
- Speaker at the Princeton Senior Resource Center on Senior Day, educating seniors on topics that are most relevant to them post-retirement;
- Volunteer presenter on financial topics to community and resource centers, non-profit groups and businesses;
- Supporter and sponsor of Cranford Jaycees.

Darren is a member of the Financial Planning Association, Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Societies of Certified Public Accountants.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from King's College, later obtained his CFP® designation from the College for Financial Planning (Denver, Colorado), and completed the financial planning program at Fairleigh Dickinson University. In addition, he earned the Personal Financial Specialist (PFS) designation, only granted to CPAs who meet stringent requirements of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).