

25 March 2010

Signia Wealth Ltd

("Signia")

Signia Wealth granted FSA authorisation

Newly established Signia Wealth Limited, an independent multi-client family office looking after the wealth management needs of Ultra High Net Worth individuals, families, companies and trusts announces that The Financial Services Authority has granted FSA authorisation.

Following the events of 2008 and the banking crisis, Signia was formed to meet client demand for innovative solutions, transparency and a dynamic, institutional approach to private client wealth management.

Signia has the support and expertise of a highly experienced advisory board comprising of leading financial and industry figures. **Jon Moulton, Dante Roscini, Stephen Vernon and Michael Balfour O.B.E.** provide unique and invaluable advice and guidance on the running of the business and future strategy and development.

Nathalie Dauriac-Stoebe, CEO of Signia Wealth, reveals:

"Clients were asking for an alternative to the traditional wealth management model. We are an entrepreneurial team selectively recruited from the Private Wealth Management Industry who strongly believe that we can make a real difference by giving clients what they want - true independence, a holistic approach to managing family wealth and the aligning of client and advisor interests."

The model is clearly appealing as individuals have been quick to show their support with Signia already having over £1bn funds under supervision. The office was established by Nathalie Dauriac-Stoebe and Gautam Batra and brings together a highly experienced team of multi-lingual bankers and investment managers from a variety of backgrounds.

Signia provides a comprehensive wealth management service to their clients including investment management on a discretionary and advisory basis as well as the structuring and lending services needed by ultra high net worth individuals and their families. All portfolios are managed on an absolute return basis aiming to deliver positive performance for clients, irrespective of market movements.

Gautam Batra, CIO of Signia Wealth, comments:

"Tactical positioning is going to be the key to generating absolute returns. My team will position client portfolios based on real investment conviction and not hiding behind a benchmark. Risk asset price levels are ill prepared for policy tightening measures that have already been embarked upon in developing economies. We understand that every client is unique and will deliver a tailored investment solution to meet their individual requirements."

Signia also places a strong emphasis on tax efficient structuring.

Martin Wilson, Head of Wealth Structuring at Signia Wealth, states:

“Efficient wealth structuring is critical and will become ever more so as we continue to see changes to legislative and fiscal regimes around the world.

“You can have the best advice in the world but where most tax planning falls down is when it comes to implementation. The ability to hold assets in different jurisdictions is essential and a concern that some people can have with the family office model is just how safe client assets are. Signia is able to hold assets on a custody basis with any institution giving clients the security and peace of mind that comes with having their funds held on a secure balance sheet but managed to their order on a truly bespoke basis by a team that they know and trust.”

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Notes to Editors:

Biographies

Nathalie Dauriac-Stoebe - CEO

Nathalie established Signia Wealth after leaving Coutts & Co where she spent nine years. Nathalie was a Senior Client Partner and founding member of the Coutts Private Office where she led the team looking after the bank’s Ultra High Net Worth international clients, especially UK resident non-domiciled individuals. Prior to joining Coutts & Co, Nathalie worked in Mergers & Acquisitions at Lazard & Co.

Gautam Batra - CIO

Gautam joins from Coutts & Co where he successfully managed the banks absolute return mandates and occupied the position of Investment Director for ten years focussing on Ultra High Net Worth clients. Gautam was part of the Investment strategy committee which determined the strategic asset allocation for the Bank’s investment portfolios. Prior to working at Coutts & Co, Gautam was a Vice President at Citibank for 8 years where he developed investment strategy and managed client investment portfolios.

David Hayes - Executive Director

David joins from Anglo Irish Bank where he was head of Private Banking UK, having set up the business in 2006. He focussed on sourcing and structuring leveraged real estate and private equity transactions ranging from \$50m to \$450m in the UK, US and Europe for syndication to High Net Worth clients. Prior to this David worked for Bank of Ireland Asset Management where he was

responsible for large institutional pension clients and Irish Intercontinental Bank as a property and corporate lender.

Martin Wilson - Head of Wealth Structuring

Martin is a Chartered tax adviser and spent 7 years at Grant Thornton both in the UK and US advising on a broad range of client matters before moving to Coutts & Co where he led the cross-border tax advisory team. He was latterly a Private Banker in the Coutts & Co Private Office with a particular focus on tax efficient wealth structuring and residence and domicile issues affecting Ultra High Net Worth clients and their families.