

Mike has been encompassed by the financial service profession his whole life. He pursued several financial service-related careers before joining Tyrpak Wealth Strategies in 2009.

Mike has focused his practice area on planning for professionals and small businesses including retirement plans, trusts and non-profits. In 2018 he earned the [Accredited Investment Fiduciary \(AIF®\)](#) designation from fi360. The AIF® prepares investment professionals and those managing investments on behalf of others to carry out their fiduciary responsibilities. To meet these responsibilities AIF® practitioners employ the Prudent Practices and Mike uses this process to train and consult investment committees to understand and implement best practices of fiduciary care for the groups they represent.

Working with clients to better understand their role in the financial planning process has always been central to Mike's practice. To help his clients better align their financial goals with their personal values he obtained the [Behavioral Financial Advisor \(BFA™\)](#) credential created by Kaplan Financial (now the College for Financial Planning) and think2perform. Behavioral finance is an important part of achieving goals in a financial plan as it focuses on how clients and advisors react to uncertainty and create a plan that prepares for that. This part of Mike's practice can involve working with families to determine their values and helping to align those values with their financial and personal goals.

He also holds the [Certified Plan Fiduciary Advisor \(CPFA®\)](#) designation from the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA) another important fiduciary credential developed by some of the nation's leading advisors and retirement plan experts. Advisors who earn the CPFA® demonstrate expertise required to act as a plan fiduciary or help plan fiduciaries manage their roles and responsibilities. In working with employer sponsored retirement plans, Mike analyzes the unique needs of the client and their business(es) to determine what solutions will work best for them. This custom approach utilizes many vehicles (401k, SIMPLE, SEP IRA, 403b) and various levels of advisory, investment options and platforms. Mike has also completed a NAPA certificate program in ESG (Environmental Social Governance) investing for 401(k) Plan Advisors and has written a [white paper on ESG investing](#).

For retirement plans Mike analyzes the unique needs of the client and their business(es) to determine what solutions will work best for them. This custom approach utilizes many vehicles (401k, SIMPLE, SEP IRA, 403b) and various levels of advisory, investment options and platforms.

Mike also works with his business clients to come up with a value of their business to include in their planning and portfolio. Mike completed the Certified Business Valuation Specialist™ (CBVS) program through the Business Valuation Institute of BizEquity. By providing his clients with this analysis he can better structure their retirement strategies as well as buy-sell coverage and estate and succession plans.

Mike can help business owners looking to:

- Decide what retirement plan works best for them
- Create a process to analyze their retirement plan
- Form an investment committee

- Develop an investment policy statement
- Engage employees in the retirement planning process
- Educate employees, owners, and boards on retirement plans
- Implement a Financial Wellness Program
- Find a value of their business to include in their portfolio

Mike has been published several times in the *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, one of the oldest practitioner Journals in the financial services arena.

“Twenty-first Century Competition: The Real Challenges for Young Advisors” *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, March 2015 Vol. 69, No. 2 p. 11-14

“Beating the Market: What Are Clients Really Asking You?” *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, July 2015 Vol. 69, No. 4 p. 14-16

“Balancing your life portfolio” *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, November 2015 Vol. 69, No. 6 p. 19-22

“Trust Me: Legacy Planning Is More Than Just Trusts and Wills” *Journal of Financial Service Professionals*, March 2016 Vol. 70, No. 2

Mike is heavily involved in his profession and the Buffalo-Niagara community. Mike is a Past President of the Buffalo Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals (FSP) where he has been a member since 2009. He has been a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) since 2013 and a NAIFA Financial Security Advocate as well as a member of Financial Planning Counselors of Western New York since 2014. Six-time Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) qualifying member including Court of the Table four times and Top of the Table twice. He was named to the Society of FSP *Top FSP Leaders 40 and Under* in 2012 and received a Paul Harris Fellow award from Rotary International in 2013. He has been a Rotarian since 2010 is currently serving as President of the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls, NY and has served as President of the Rotary Club of Amherst 2013-2014 as well as Roundabout Rotary Buffalo-Niagara President 2016-2017. He is a long-standing Board Member and current President of the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village.