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Signature Estate & Investment Advisors LLC

Vince A. DiLeva, MS, CFP®, AIF®, Senior Partner

“Emerging markets: Is now the time?”

By Vince A. DiLeva

Are the emerging equity and fixed income markets going to do well again? As of this writing (December 2013), we have seen U.S. equities post returns in excess of 20 percent while equities and bonds in the emerging markets have shown a loss for 2013.

The U.S. economy has been improving over the last four years, and now the European economies are showing signs of stabilization and improvement, too. Meanwhile, many other parts of the world continue to struggle. The U.S. dollar is strong; global commodity demand is weak, and inflation is at a minimum. These factors, as well as others, have pushed emerging market equities and fixed-income prices lower over the last 12 months.

Most investors do not have significant exposure in emerging market equities, let alone emerging market bonds. This might be where an opportunity presents itself to investors. Most investors have flocked to U.S. equities in the last year and pushed U.S. markets

to full valuation. With U.S. markets at all-time highs, it might be time to rebalance and invest a portion of the portfolio elsewhere.

The expectations are that interest rates will remain low and may go lower in the emerging markets. If global growth remains tentative, and we do not have inflation, it is unlikely that rates will move higher in the emerging markets. This might mean an opportunity to lock in yields in emerging market bonds at 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent while the 10-Year Treasury is around 2.7 percent today. If we have continued anemic growth in the emerging markets, and rates go lower, you could see price appreciation in those bonds that complements the yield. **Over the next few years, as interest rates move higher in the U.S. and put pressure on U.S. bond prices, emerging markets will be an excellent way to diversify the fixed income portion of your portfolio.**

The global economic recovery is showing some pockets of strength.

The continued recovery in the United States and European economies should start to support growth in China and other emerging economies. In 2013 China's GDP data only showed a mild slowdown in comparison to that of 2012. It's expected that China's growth will continue to slow over the next few years as its economy continues to mature. But as global growth improves and commodity usage increases, those factors should improve the economies of such countries as China and Brazil.

I would take emerging equity and fixed income market declines as opportunities to add these investments in a portfolio. They are a very volatile part of the market, but I would consider them a buying opportunity, as those markets look like a value.

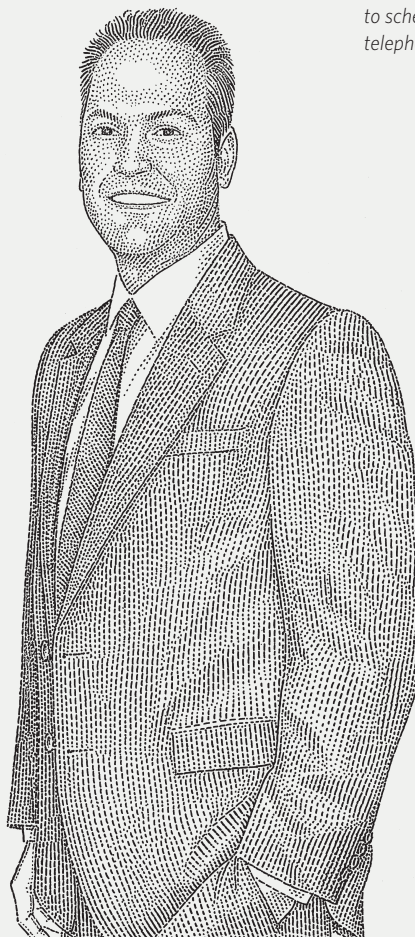
We will need improved global growth from the United States and Europe to pull the emerging markets with us. They will eventually rise with the tide, and I believe this opportunity is getting closer. ☺

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“With U.S. markets at all-time highs, it might be time to rebalance and invest a portion of the portfolio elsewhere.”

—Vince A. DiLeva



IF I WEREN'T A WEALTH ADVISOR, I'D BE...

An architect

How to reach Vince A. DiLeva

Please call my office at 310.712.2320 to schedule a meeting, either over the telephone or face to face.

MY HOBBIES ARE...

Coaching, surfing, CrossFit and golfing

MY FAVORITE VACATION SPOT...

Costa Rica

About Vince A. DiLeva

Vince A. DiLeva has been in the financial services industry for 17 years. He joined Signature Estate & Investment Advisors LLC in 1997 as the firm was first opening its doors. In less than 10 years, SEIA reached its \$1 billion in assets under management milestone, and the following year, Mr. DiLeva was named a senior partner. Mr. DiLeva is a Certified Financial Planner™ professional and holds an MS degree in financial services. He specializes in investment management and overall wealth management strategies for affluent individuals and corporations. Mr. DiLeva lives in Redondo Beach, Calif., with his wife and three children.

Assets Under Management
\$390 million (DiLeva)
\$3.4 billion (firm, as of 9/30/13)

Minimum Fee for Initial Meeting
None required

Minimum Net Worth Requirement
\$500,000 (for investment services)
\$5 million (Private Client Group)

Largest Client Net Worth **Confidential**

Financial Services Experience
17 years

Compensation Method
Asset-based and fixed fees

Primary Custodian for Investor Assets
Charles Schwab and Fidelity

Professional Services Provided
Investment advisory services, money management services and retirement and estate planning

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