



February 2018 – Stairway Partners Receives Five “Top Guns” Awards Including Two for *Manager of the Decade*

We are pleased to announce that Stairway Partners has again been recognized for its investment performance by PSN with *Top Guns* status. Through the fourth quarter of 2017, five of our strategy composites received awards. Most notably, the Stairway Partners Conservative and Tax-Managed Conservative Asset Allocation strategy composites earned *Manager of the Decade* awards within PSN’s separate account database in the Global/International Balanced Universe. 2017 is the third consecutive year that we have received this award for our ten-year performance. We also earned *Four Star* awards within PSN’s separate account database in the ETF Global Balanced Universe for our Stairway Partners Growth, Tax-Managed Growth and Tax-Managed Moderate Asset Allocation strategy composites. *Four Star* was the highest award given in the ETF Global Balanced Universe in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The PSN separate account database is managed by Informa Investment Solutions and is the longest-running investment manager database in North America. For their *Top Guns* awards, PSN ranks thousands of separately managed portfolio strategies across dozens of universes. Both PSN’s ETF Global Balanced Universe and Global/International Balanced Universe have a style benchmark which is comprised of 60% global equities and 40% global bonds.

The Global/International Balanced universe included 392 distinct investment strategies in the fourth quarter of 2017. To qualify for *Manager of the Decade* status, a strategy must have had returns that are greater than the style benchmark for the latest ten-year period, while also maintaining a standard deviation of returns (risk) which is less than the style benchmark. PSN then ranks those strategies by their ten-year return and designates the ten best as the *Top Guns*.

The ETF Global Balanced universe included 229 distinct investment strategies in the fourth quarter. To qualify for *Four Star* status in an ETF category, a strategy must have returns greater than the style benchmark for the three latest three-year rolling periods. PSN then ranks strategies by their latest three-year return and designates the five best as the *Top Guns*.

We are honored to once again receive recognition for the long-term performance of our portfolios from an organization like PSN. We firmly believe that our results come from our commitment to a disciplined investment process, which focuses on prudent policy development, long-term fundamental capital market analysis and efficient execution of strategy.

For more information, please email us at stairwaypartners@stairwaypartners.com or visit our website at www.stairwaypartners.com.