

For Immediate Release:

## **RVK, Inc. Announces Investment Program Review (IPR) Practice**



**Portland, Oregon – July 10, 2019.** RVK, Inc. (formerly known as R.V. Kuhns & Associates, Inc.), a national investment consulting firm, is launching a new specialty investment consulting practice – *Investment Program Review (IPR)*. The specialty practice will be led by Jim Voytko and Marcia Beard – two veteran investment consulting professionals with collectively more than 80 years of consulting and institutional investing experience with a wide variety of asset owners and client types.

Several emerging trends in the institutional investment landscape have driven the firm’s decision to formalize this practice area:

- Boards of trustees and investment committees have become increasingly concerned about the optimal structure of their investment programs. This is evident in the major role these discussions have within RVK’s industry-leading OCIO search, evaluation, and monitoring specialty practice. RVK has been directly retained in recent years to conduct investment program reviews by boards, investment committees and, at times, their oversight bodies.
- The standard “governance review” or “fiduciary audit”, as practiced for decades, is increasingly seen as tired, ineffective, and lacking focus. Often, these reviews have centered around simple checklists and abstract discussions of fiduciary duty, but they have been largely disconnected from the challenges and choices within the structure and operation of the entire investment program. The RVK IPR practice’s wide-ranging slate of services include board planning and operations, staff and portfolio alignment, investment program resources, organization and utilization, and investment operations issues. The practice will emphasize collaborative, pragmatic problem solving.
- Conducting an effective investment program review requires a project team that combines senior leadership with the type of first-class support in portfolio construction, risk management, manager research, operations, plan design, and fund analytics only available from a full service investment consulting firm. Ms. Beard – RVK’s IPR practice co-lead – noted that, “Given the importance that asset owners and plan sponsors operate within a sound governance structure, it is imperative that the IPRs are comprehensive and provide meaningful insights, both of which require resources and expertise already found within RVK.”
- Additionally, as Becky Gratsinger – RVK’s CEO – commented, “With our firm’s increasingly rare decision to remain solely focused on advising institutional clients with no conflicting business interests, we are widely regarded as providing the most trusted and objective counsel available to boards and investment committees seeking to improve their investment programs.”



Jim Voytko – RVK’s President and practice co-lead – put the IPR effort in broader perspective stating, “The launch of the Investment Program Review practice area is yet another addition to the growing areas of expertise within RVK, joining our specialty practice capabilities in areas such as **Asset/Liability, Investment Operations, Defined Contribution, Insurance, Multi-Asset Class Investment Manager Research, and OCIO Search, Evaluation, and Monitoring**. While the core of our business will always focus on general consulting services to institutional investors, these special capabilities give us a powerful edge in advising clients in many categories across all aspects of investing.”

RVK is currently engaged in conducting IPRs for a variety of asset owners and plan sponsors across many client types. Inquiries about the IPR practice and capabilities can be sent to Laura Daye, Business Development Associate.

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RVK, Inc. is a nationwide investment consulting firm with offices in Portland, OR; Boise; Chicago; and New York. The firm offers an extensive slate of general investment consulting services as well as specialty consulting in defined benefit and defined contribution plans, asset/liability studies, investment operations, OCIO evaluation, insurance assets, and traditional and alternative manager research – through both retainer relationships and project assignments.

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