

## **FPS Financial, Inc. Analyzes Current Market Climate with Harvard Business School Professors**

**New Brighton, MN. (February 11, 2009)**—Michael Ovshak, CFP® and President of FPS Financial, Inc. in New Brighton, MN, gathered with a group of elite financial advisors on January 25–27, 2009, in Boston, Massachusetts, to attend Commonwealth Financial Network®'s (Commonwealth) Chairman's Retreat. In conjunction with Harvard Business School (HBS) professors, Chairman's Retreat utilizes a classroom format and the HBS case study method. Ovshak, along with other Chairman's Retreat colleagues, examined the current market climate in order to provide continued leadership and education to investors.

Commonwealth, FPS Financial, Inc.'s independent broker/dealer, is an unprecedented nine-time winner of *Investment Advisor* magazine's Broker/Dealer of the Year\* award. Chairman's Retreat is Commonwealth's highest level of recognition and is structured as an intensive, high-level educational experience. Attendees, along with senior officials of Commonwealth, reviewed curricula and listened to lectures under the tutelage of two HBS professors.

Forest L. Reinhardt, John D. Black Professor of Business Administration at HBS and an authority on analyzing the economic, political, social, and legal environment of business, led an analysis of the current economic situation. Frances X. Frei, associate professor of business administration in the Technology and Operations Management unit at HBS, guided case study analyses of Apple Inc. and Ernest Shackleton's epic voyage on the *Endurance*—two powerful examples of advancing leadership in challenging environments.

“Michael Ovshak and his team at FPS Financial are proven leaders in any environment,” said Wayne Bloom, Commonwealth's CEO. “But we know these are extraordinary times, and by partnering with HBS professors, our advisors receive tangible tools and resources to strengthen the core of their firms so that they can continue to provide the highest level of communication, education, and service to their clients.”

Attendees were required to review and analyze each case before arriving at Chairman's Retreat. While in the classroom, Professor Frei assisted advisors in extracting primary principles of service excellence from Apple and Ernest Shackleton and applying them to the businesses of independent financial advisors.

“I have forged strong relationships with each of my clients and attending Chairman's Retreat exemplifies my continued commitment to being their primary financial consultant in any economic environment,” said Ovshak. “It's not enough to rest on my past successes, and by attending Chairman's Retreat I have had the unique advantage of viewing my clients' circumstances in light of the economic challenges that are shaping our financial future today.”

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FPS Financial, Inc. is a locally owned financial services practice with headquarters in New Brighton, MN. As an independent advisor, Michael Ovshak serves his clients as a financial advisor in numerous areas of financial services and investment products.

Founded in 1979, Commonwealth Financial Network, member FINRA/SIPC, is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a leading, privately owned independent broker/dealer, with offices in Waltham, Massachusetts, and San Diego, California. The firm supports more than 1,200 independent financial advisors nationwide and makes available a comprehensive array of financial products and services.

\*based on advisor satisfaction

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