



## LYNN BURMEISTER, IACCP® - Chief Compliance Officer



Lynn joined Windgate Wealth Management in 2009 and oversees all compliance matters for the firm. She has been in the financial industry since 1980 and her experience includes work at Harris Associates, Gofen & Glossberg and Optimum Investments. Lynn is an Investment Adviser Certified Compliance Professional (IACCP), a designation awarded to individuals who complete a program of study, pass a certifying examination, and meet work experience, ethics and continuing education requirements..

**Q: What is a compliance program and why is it so crucial for Investment Advisory firms?**

lburmeister@perrittcap.com  
312-669-1650

**A:** Investment Advisory companies have many different areas of work and expertise. Each of these areas are very specific and often do not interact with other areas of work. Portfolio Managers evaluate investment opportunities, Trading professionals execute work with a network of brokers and Advisors communicate with clients. Compliance is the thread that binds all areas of an Investment Advisory firm together with a code of ethics and behavior standards for all employees and areas of business.

Based on laws passed by Congress, the Securities Exchange Commission, FINRA, and other regulatory agencies write guidelines and requirements for Investment Advisory firms to follow to help protect client's assets from misuse and abuse, and to assist an Investment Advisory firm with a strong commitment to its compliance program, in building a solid practice with a good reputation.

The Chief Compliance Officer's role in an Investment Advisory company is to "prevent, detect and correct" areas where policies may be weak or rules and regulations may have changed.

**Q: How does compliance relate to our clients?**

The trust that our clients place in us is one that I value and respect. I see my place in our relationship with clients as the system of checks and balances to create policies and procedures that enforce the fiduciary standards we are required to follow.





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**Q:** How did you come to Windgate Wealth Management?

**A:** I began my career in 1980 at a privately owned investment advisory firm where I reached a senior administrative position before ultimately leaving after the birth of my son in late 1990. After the birth of my son, I left the full-time work force and became a policies and procedures consultant for investment advisory firms throughout Chicago. I performed mock SEC audits and reviewed and re-wrote policies and procedures to bring firms in line with the changing compliance requirements set forth by the regulatory agencies. I met with senior management of these firms to make recommendations to improve their compliance programs, and held staff meetings to educate employees on best practices for account administration and compliance matters.

In 2005 when the Securities Exchange Commission required Investment Advisory firms to designate a Chief Compliance Officer, I was in the right place at the right time. With my children in middle and high school (having had a daughter 4 years after my son was born), I was ready to focus on building my career again and found a part time position at Windgate Wealth Management. I worked with Chief Compliance Officer Robert Laatz to bring policies and procedures up to date and audit client files for completeness. I eventually left Windgate to home school my daughter and prepare her for high school.

In 2009, when the Chief Compliance Officer announced his retirement, Mike Corbett contacted me about returning to Windgate to transition into the Chief Compliance Officer position. Again, perfect timing, as my daughter was entering high school, and I readily accepted the offer. I joined Windgate in December of 2009, was named CCO in February 2010 and Vice President/CCO of The Funds in May 2010. I look forward to serving as CCO in the upcoming years.

