ALPHA ARCHITECT
FIRM OVERVIEW
Firm Mission: Empower Investors Through Education

Wesley R. Gray, Ph.D. has been an active participant in financial markets throughout his career. He is the Founder, CEO and Co-CIO for Alpha Architect, an SEC-Registered Investment Advisor. Dr. Gray has published multiple academic articles and books, to include the co-authored books Quantitative Value, DIY Financial Advisor, and Quantitative Momentum.

Wesley R. Gray, Ph.D.
PhD/MBA, University of Chicago
BS Economics, Wharton
Captain, Marine Corps

Jack Vogel, Ph.D., conducts research in empirical asset pricing and behavioral finance, and has collaborated with Dr. Gray on multiple projects. He is the CFO and Co-CIO for Alpha Architect, an SEC-Registered Investment Advisor. Dr. Vogel has published multiple academic articles and co-authored the books DIY Financial Advisor, and Quantitative Momentum.

Jack R. Vogel, Ph.D.
PhD, Drexel University
MS Mathematics, Drexel Univ.
BS Mathematics, U. of Scranton

Published multiple research-focused finance books

Published in leading, peer-reviewed academic journals

Present in major publications + editor of academic website
- Wall Street Journal (multiple articles)
- CFA Institute (multiple articles)
- Forbes (multiple articles)
- Alpha Architect (editor)

Numerous working papers (more available upon request)
- “On the Performance of Cyclically Adjusted Valuation Measures”
- “Using Maximum Drawdown to Capture Tail Risk”
- “Does Complexity Imply Value? AAII Value Strategies from 1963 to 2013”
- “Limited Attention and Asset Price Efficiency”
Our Story is Rooted in **Research** and **Investor Education**

**Research attracts $Bn+ family office**

July ’10  
AUM ($M): $0

**We launch our ETF business**

Oct ’14  
AUM ($M): ~$100

Dec ’23  
AUM > $6B+

**Word gets out...**

Investors like our approach

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No Sales Reps. No Gimmicks. Pure Research and Education.
# Alpha Architect Business Overview

## Boutique Asset Management Firm (AUM: $6B+)\(^1\)
- Founded in 2010 as a quantitative consultant
- Launched asset management business in 2012

## Research Focused
- Multiple academic book and peer-reviewed article publications
- Multiple team members have advanced degrees and qualifications (e.g., CFA or Masters/PhD)

## Employee-Owned and Operated
- Employees own over 90% of the firm; seed investor owns a 5% royalty
- Strategic investor owns less than 10% of the firm

## Minority & Veteran Owned (Service-Disabled)
- Wesley (CEO): Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Roll No. 1202) & US Marine (disabled)
- Patrick (CCO/COO): US Marine (disabled)

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\(^1\) As of 12/31/2023.
Why We Exist
FIRM IMPACT MISSION

WE EMPOWER INVESTORS THROUGH EDUCATION
Our Core Beliefs Reinforce Our Impact Mission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR CORE BELIEFS</th>
<th>WHY IMPORTANT</th>
<th>MISSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Transparency, not Black-Boxes</td>
<td>Transparency increases trust for the process</td>
<td>Sustainable investors understand the plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Evidence-Based, not Stories</td>
<td>Evidence increases chance of success</td>
<td>Sustainable investors use data, not emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Systematic, not Ad-Hoc</td>
<td>Systematic eliminates human bias &amp; costs</td>
<td>Sustainable investors stay the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Win-Win, not Win-Lose</td>
<td>Win-Win cultures sustain long-term partnerships</td>
<td>Sustainable investors trust their advisors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education Helps Clients Become Better Investors
Education Develops Sustainable Investors

Our Approach
Sustainable Process

Our Clients
Sustainable Investors

Our Goal
Expected Long-Term Performance

Education is critical for cultivating long-term, sustainable investors

“Alpha” is Earned via Patience & Discipline
Why Does Sustainability Matter? **Good Behavior > High IQ**

We believe disciplined investors **earn returns** from less disciplined investors.

**9-Months of Extreme Relative Performance Pain**

- **Buffett: -39%**
- **QQQ: 110%**
- **Return Spread = 149%**

“Charlie, should we buy tech?”

“Warren Buffett may be losing his magic touch.”

Source: Factset. 6/1/1999 to 2/29/2000. The results are hypothetical results and are NOT an indicator of future results and do NOT represent returns that any investor actually attained. Please see disclosures for additional information. Additional information regarding the construction of these results is available upon request.
We Seek and Attract **E.D.U.C.A.T.E.D.** Clients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E</th>
<th>Empirical</th>
<th>Evidence-based. Show me the data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Disciplined</td>
<td>Long-term investors. Avoid short-term fads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Unassuming</td>
<td>Billionaires that drive Honda Civics. Disdain for flash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Committed</td>
<td>Long-term horizon. Not afraid of short-term volatility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Not satisfied with passive index performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Tax Aware</td>
<td>Looks for after tax results. Incorporates tax planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Economical</td>
<td>Understands price is what you pay. Value is what you get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Do It Yourself</td>
<td>An entrepreneurial spirit. Avoids the status quo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are NOT for everyone: Are you the right client?
What we Do: Affordable Alpha
What We Seek to Deliver: Affordable Alpha

We believe active management works...if it’s affordable

Why we believe our value proposition works

Affordable
• Our products are bought, not sold, which minimizes distribution costs
• We do more with less via low overhead and technology
• We focus on tax-efficient investment solutions

Alpha
• We have strong research capabilities and experience
• We are willing to be different: high active-share and concentration
• We invest in our own products and maintain a long-term perspective (i.e., strong incentive alignment)
We Seek Differentiation and Avoid “Closet-Indexing.”

Why Pay Fees for High Overlap with a Benchmark?

- Fund A: Actively Managed ETF with High Overlap (i.e., Low active share)
- Fund B: Actively Managed ETF with Low Overlap (i.e., High active share)
- Benchmark

NY Attorney General Comments on Closet-Indexing

- “Investors who choose to buy actively managed funds...should seek to understand what additional value they may obtain in exchange for higher fees.”
- “Active Share helps investors discern the overlap between an actively managed fund and the fund’s corresponding benchmark index...”
- “Similarly, Active Share may help an investor assess whether a fund’s fees are acceptable.”
- “Investors should seek to understand the Active Share metric and request Active Share information from their brokers or mutual fund providers if it is not publicly available.”


Our Strategies Leverage Our Research Capabilities

Managed Futures

Leverage

Risk Management

Long-Only Focused Factors

Managed Futures Overlay Strategies

Leverage and Shorting Strategies

Risk-Managed Strategies

US Value

US Momentum

Int’l Value

Int’l Momentum

Different Tools for Different Goals

*Managed futures are only available for Qualified Eligible Persons.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Recent Experience</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wes Gray</td>
<td>CEO/CIO</td>
<td>Alpha Architect (2010-Present)</td>
<td>Ph.D./M.B.A. Finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Drexel Finance Professor (2010-2014)</td>
<td>B.S. The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, magna cum laude</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US Marine Corps Captain (2004-2008)</td>
<td>Series 65 and 3 licenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics Instructor (2008-2009)</td>
<td>M.S. Mathematics, Drexel University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B.S. Mathematics, University of Scranton, summa cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Series 65 license and 3 licenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Algeco Scotsman (2014)</td>
<td>B.S. The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, cum laude</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CFA Level III Candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Kirlin</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Alpha Architect (2017- present)</td>
<td>B.A. Economics, Fordham University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Revenue Shares (2013-2017)</td>
<td>CFA Level II Candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NYSE (2009-2013)</td>
<td>Series 65 license</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Entity Structure**

Empirical Finance, LLC  
"Holding Company"

Alpha Architect, LLC  
"Alpha Architect"  
CRD: 153905  
NFA: 0480044

Empowered Funds, LLC  
"ETF Architect"  
CRD: 171412

Alpha Architect ETF  
Trust

**Entity Narrative**

- Empirical Finance, LLC is our top-level entity and owns 100% of Alpha Architect, LLC and Empowered Funds, LLC.
- Alpha Architect, LLC is an advisor entity that manages/maintains intellectual property and strategy distribution and does business as "Alpha Architect."
- Empowered Funds, LLC is an advisor entity that serves as an ETF white label servicing company and does business as "ETF Architect" or "EA Series Trust."

**Ownership Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Gray</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Vogel</td>
<td>15.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Cleary</td>
<td>13.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Babulak</td>
<td>9.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Kirlin</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are Thought Leaders in Quant and Factor Investing

We Publish Peer-reviewed Research

Contribute To National Outlets

And Our Approach Is Making News
Alpha Architect Corporate Structure

Entity Structure

Empirical Finance, LLC
"Holding Company"

Alpha Architect, LLC
"Alpha Architect"
CRD: 153905
NFA: 0480044

Empowered Funds, LLC
"ETF Architect"
CRD: 171412

Alpha Architect ETF Trust

Entity Narrative

• We do business under the brand of “Alpha Architect” or “ETF Architect”.

• Empirical Finance, LLC is our top-level entity and owns 100% of Alpha Architect, LLC and Empowered Funds, LLC.

• Alpha Architect, LLC is an advisor entity that generally manages our SMAs and intellectual property.

• Empowered Funds, LLC is an advisor entity that generally manages our ETF operations and does business as ETF Architect.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION - DISCLOSURES

There are risks involved with investing, including loss of principal. There is no assurance that the objectives of any strategy or fund will be achieved or will be successful. No investment strategy, including diversification, can protect against market risk or loss. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

There is a risk of substantial loss associated with trading commodities, futures, options and other financial instruments. Before trading, investors should carefully consider their financial position and risk tolerance to determine if the proposed trading style is appropriate. Investors should realize that when trading futures, commodities and/or granting/writing options one could lose the full balance of their account. It is also possible to lose more than the initial deposit when trading futures and/or granting/writing options. All funds committed to such a trading strategy should be purely risk capital.

Certain economic and market information contained herein has been obtained from published sources prepared by other parties, which in certain cases have not been updated through the date hereof. While such sources are believed to be reliable, neither Alpha Architect nor its affiliates assumes any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information and such information has not been independently verified by Alpha Architect.

Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual fund performance. References to an index do not imply that the portfolio will achieve returns, volatility or other results similar to that index. The composition of the index may not reflect the manner in which a portfolio is constructed in relation to expected or achieved returns, portfolio guidelines, restrictions, sectors, correlations, concentrations, volatility or tracking error targets, all of which are subject to change. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs, or expenses, which would reduce returns.

Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. There are no active components of indexes; therefore, using them as a proxy can be of limited value because there is no guarantee that the portfolio would have been managed to match the index. Realized returns and/or volatility may come in higher or lower than expected.

Annual performance is calculated based on monthly return streams, geometrically linked as of the end of the specified month end.

Results, unless cited otherwise, are shown gross of fees and do not reflect the effect of investment fees which would lower performance. Performance reflects the reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. The following hypothetical illustrates the compound effect fees have on investment return: For an account charged 1% with a stated annual return of 10%, the net total return before taxes would be reduced from 10% to 9%. A ten year investment of $100,000 at 10% would grow to $259,374, and at 9%, to $236,736 before taxes. For a complete description of all fees and expenses, please refer to Alpha Architect’s Form ADV Part 2A.
Performance figures contained herein are hypothetical, unaudited and prepared by Alpha Architect, LLC; hypothetical results are intended for illustrative purposes only.

Past performance is not indicative of future results, which may vary.

Hypothetical performance results (e.g., quantitative backtests) have many inherent limitations, some of which, but not all, are described herein. No representation is being made that any fund or account will or is likely to achieve profits or losses similar to those shown herein. In fact, there are frequently sharp differences between hypothetical performance results and the actual results subsequently realized by any particular trading program. One of the limitations of hypothetical performance results is that they are generally prepared with the benefit of hindsight. In addition, hypothetical trading does not involve financial risk, and no hypothetical trading record can completely account for the impact of financial risk in actual trading. For example, the ability to withstand losses or adhere to a particular trading program in spite of trading losses are material points which can adversely affect actual trading results. The hypothetical performance results contained herein represent the application of the quantitative models as currently in effect on the date first written above and there can be no assurance that the models will remain the same in the future or that an application of the current models in the future will produce similar results because the relevant market and economic conditions that prevailed during the hypothetical performance period will not necessarily recur. There are numerous other factors related to the markets in general or to the implementation of any specific trading program which cannot be fully accounted for in the preparation of hypothetical performance results, all of which can adversely affect actual trading results. Hypothetical performance results are presented for illustrative purposes only.

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The information contained in this communication is not meant to substitute for a thorough estate planning and is not meant to be legal and/or estate advice. It is intended to provide you with a preliminary outline of your goals. Please consult your legal counsel for additional information.

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Simulated Historical Performance: All returns are total returns and include the reinvestment of distributions (e.g., dividends).

Index Characteristics Data Source: Characteristics are from FactSet and derived via the ETFs that track the respective Indexes. Characteristics are holdings-weighted. The data for the performance and factor attribution analysis are from Alpha Architect and Solactive.

- The S&P 500 Index (SP500) is a capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of the broad U.S. equity market.
- The MSCI EAFE Index (EAFE) is a capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of developed market equities, excluding the U.S. and Canada.
- The MSCI World Index is a capitalization-weighted index that measures the performance of developed market equities.
- EBIT/TEV is defined as earnings before interest and taxes divided by total enterprise value.
- Momentum (2-12) is defined as the cumulative total return for the past 12 months, excluding the last (12th) month.
- Size is defined as the total market value of the company's listed equity.
- Return on assets is defined as net income divided by total assets.
- Compound annualized growth rate, or CAGR, is defined as the annualized growth of an initial investment to the ending investment value if you assume that the investment has been compounding over the time period.
- Standard Deviation: Sample standard deviation
- Downside Deviation: Sample standard deviation, but only monthly observations below 41.67bps (5%/12) are included in the calculation
- Sharpe Ratio (annualized): Average monthly return minus treasury bills divided by standard deviation
- Sortino Ratio (annualized): Average monthly return minus treasury bills divided by downside deviation
- Appraisal Ratio (annualized): CAPM regression intercept estimate divided by regression residual volatility
- Worst Drawdown: Worst peak to trough performance (measured based on monthly returns)
- Rolling X-Year Win %: Percentage of rolling X periods that a strategy outperforms
- Sum (5-Year Rolling MaxDD): Sum of all 5-Year rolling drawdowns
- Down %: The Down Number Ratio is a measure of the number of periods that the investment was down when the benchmark was down, divided by the number of periods that the benchmark was down. The smaller the ratio, the better
- Up %: The Up Number Ratio is a measure of the number of periods that the investment was up when the benchmark was up, divided by the number of periods that the benchmark was up. The larger the ratio, the better
- Tracking Error: Tracking Error is measured by taking the square root of the average of the squared deviations between the investment's returns and the benchmark’s returns
- Negative Correlation: Correlation of returns relative to benchmark returns when the benchmark is negative
- Positive Correlation: Correlation of returns relative to benchmark returns when the benchmark is positive

Performance figures contained herein are hypothetical, unaudited and prepared by Alpha Architect, LLC; hypothetical results are intended for illustrative purposes only. Past performance is not indicative of future results, which may vary. Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual fund performance. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs, or expenses, which would reduce returns. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index.
JOIN US!

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We Empower Investors Through Education | Affordable Alpha