InvestiQuant

Investor Spotlight: Mike Fickell

Client Since 2013 — Registered Investment Advisor

About Me

My name is Mike Fickell, and I am the co-owner and Chief Investment Officer of FC Wealth Solutions, a Fiduciary Registered Investment Advisor located in Westerville, Ohio. Prior to launching FC Wealth Solutions, I spent 15 years on Wall Street as an institutional portfolio manager in the hedge fund industry. I left that industry, moved my family to Ohio and started my RIA in 2016 to be closer to my family and for a change in lifestyle. I am an avid follower of the markets and love the challenges the markets present. I am married to my beautiful wife, Monica, and we have five children. When I am not studying markets and talking with clients, my favorite pastime is coaching my kid's youth sports teams.

Watch this 10 minute video for Mike's tips on due diligence, allocation size, and risk management.

My History with InvestiQuant

I have been a subscriber with Scott and his team at InvestiQuant since 2013 when I used to listen to his daily updates on the markets and subscribe to his gap fill probabilities. I used his data to successfully trade the opening gap for many years when I was a trader on Wall Street. I used to listen to Scott's takes on the market every morning before it opened. I attended a trading seminar he gave in 2015 and also presented at that conference on a similar ensemble approach I took on trading longer time frames. When I left Wall Street and started my own business in 2016, I found myself having less time to actively trade. By that time, my trust in their approach to trading the markets had grown to the point that I decided to invest in their program rather than trade it myself. Their deep knowledge of trading and their passion to continuously adapt their models to ever changing markets gave me confidence that they would do a better job than I could. This allowed me to focus my time on building my own business, a win-win decision for me.

My Investing Approach (and where IQ Autotrading fits in)

Prior to subscribing to their program, I predominately used the gap fill probabilities to decide on whether I would trade the open or not. I typically would average the historical win rates and profit factors across the four different futures contracts (S&P, Dow, Nasdaq and Russell) and if those

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averages were greater than 60% and a 1.3 profit factor, I would take the trade. Now, I just let Scott and his team at InvestiQuant do the work for me. I did not think I could crunch as much data and make more informed decisions as they could with their systems.

Although I now rely on Scott's algorithms to autotrade my account, my background as an active trader gave me unique insight into using alternative investments alongside traditional stocks and bonds. We believe allocating to alternative investments alongside traditional investments can improve risk adjusted returns, especially when traditional assets become volatile. This is a big part of what we do for our clients in our investment advisory business, and what makes us unique.

Tips for Investors Who Are New to Autotrading

I have two tips for those who are new to Autotrading.

First Tip: I would make this a portion of your overall investment plan, not your entire plan. We often suggest something between 5-25% of our client's portfolios are in alternative investments. The exact number would depend on their level of comfort with alternative investments and the underlying manager along with how it correlates with other parts of their portfolio and their income. If you allocate too much to it, you run the risk trying to micromanage it and/or bailing on it when it underperforms. If you don't allocate enough to it, it may not have an impact on the overall portfolio, especially if you view it as a hedge or offset to traditional stocks and bonds.

Second Tip: Set the proper expectations for it and then leave it alone. Do not expect it to always outperform traditional assets. It often does better when traditional assets are under duress but there could be times it could be down in those environments as well. Every strategy goes through periods of under-performance so do not be quick to judge.

More important to me when evaluating strategies and evaluating performances over long time periods, is whether the managers are invested in their own product, and how engaged and adaptive the managers are to continuously improving their strategy. Long-term value investors may not need to be very adaptive because that strategy has been around for hundreds of years, but short-term trading strategies need to be more adaptive because trading conditions evolve more frequently. InvestiQuant's commitment to investing in their own programs and their passion for continued improvement give me a ton of confidence that they are positioned to be as successful as anyone in this space.

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