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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Benjamin F. Edwards Welcomes Johnson Bender Asset Management and Over \$300 Million in AUM to its Growing Independent Platform, Edwards Wealth Management**

**ST. LOUIS, March 31, 2026** – Benjamin F. Edwards is pleased to announce that Johnson Bender Asset Management, representing over \$300 million in assets under management (AUM), has joined Edwards Wealth Management (EWM), the firm’s rapidly expanding Independent Platform.

The move marks a significant milestone for both firms, as Johnson Bender Asset Management seeks to leverage the deep resources, middle-office support, and legacy-rich culture of Benjamin F. Edwards while maintaining the independent spirit that has defined their practice.

“We are thrilled to welcome the Johnson Bender team into the Edwards family,” said **Tad Edwards**, Chairman and CEO of Benjamin F. Edwards. “Our EWM platform was designed specifically for advisors who want the freedom of independence without the administrative burdens of running an entire back office. Johnson Bender shares our 'Golden Rule' philosophy and our commitment to putting the client’s interests above all else.”

Based in St. Louis, MO, Johnson Bender Asset Management is known for its sophisticated approach to wealth management and personalized client service. The Johnson Bender team is led by James L. Johnson III and Albert F. "Bear" Bender III. They are joined in their move to Edwards Wealth Management by their dedicated Operations Manager, Avri Bitz. By

joining the EWM platform, the team will gain access to Benjamin F. Edwards' robust technology suite, comprehensive research capabilities, and expert transition support, allowing them to focus more of their time on direct client engagement.

“Choosing a partner was about finding a firm that respected our autonomy while providing sophisticated technology as well as professional and friendly customer service our clients appreciate,” said Jim Johnson, Partner at Johnson Bender Asset Management. “The team at Edwards Wealth Management understands the nuances of our business and offers a boutique feel backed by national resources.”

The addition of Johnson Bender Asset Management continues the momentum for Edwards Wealth Management, which has seen increased interest from independent-minded advisors looking for a partnership rooted in high integrity and operational excellence.

### **About Benjamin F. Edwards**

With a legacy spanning over 135 years, Benjamin F. Edwards is a privately held full-service wealth management firm with 100+ offices in 34 states and more than \$50 billion in assets under management. The firm offers a wide array of financial products and advisory services and is committed to treating its clients with the same care and respect it would extend to its own family. For more information, visit [benjaminfedwards.com](http://benjaminfedwards.com).

### **About Edwards Wealth Management**

Edwards Wealth Management (EWM) is the branded RIA platform of Benjamin F. Edwards, designed to support independent advisors with comprehensive technology, compliance, and middle-office solutions.