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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Crest Launches Independent Affiliate Practice with Benjamin F. Edwards, Managing \$479 Million in Assets

The premier Pacific Northwest practice chooses Edwards for its next chapter of independent growth, boosting the firm's national footprint

ST. LOUIS, July 7, 2026 – St. Louis-based wealth management firm Benjamin F. Edwards announced today that Columbia Crest Financial Advisors, with offices in Chehalis, Washington, and Roseburg, Oregon, has joined the firm as an independent affiliate.

The Columbia Crest team, formerly affiliated with Stifel Independent Advisors, includes Financial Advisors Laura Nelson, Trina Whitten, Silas Newkirk, and Noah May along with Branch Support Associates Amber Buck, Ashlyn Wood and Bekah Fouts. Together, the team brings more than 70 years of combined financial services experience and oversees approximately \$479 million in assets under management.

Columbia Crest Financial Advisors selected Benjamin F. Edwards following a comprehensive review of independent advisor platforms.

“We are proud to welcome Columbia Crest Financial Advisors to Benjamin F. Edwards,” said Tad Edwards, Chairman and CEO of Benjamin F. Edwards. “Laura, Trina, Silas, Noah, and their talented support team have built a client-focused practice rooted in relationships, service, and community. Their commitment to helping clients pursue the financial future they envision fits exceptionally well with our firm’s values and our independent advisor model.”

Backed by deep experience across financial planning, investment advice and client service, Columbia Crest Financial Advisors aims to be a direct connection to the financial future clients have always envisioned.

“We are excited to begin this next chapter with Benjamin F. Edwards,” said Laura Nelson, Financial Advisor with Columbia Crest Financial Advisors. “After reviewing several firms, we felt Benjamin F. Edwards offered the right combination of independence, advisor support and a client-first culture. Our team is deeply committed to the individuals and families we serve, and this affiliation allows us to continue that work with the resources and flexibility we need to grow.”

The Columbia Crest Financial Advisors team serves clients through offices in Chehalis, Washington, and Roseburg, Oregon. The team’s Chehalis, WA, mailing address is 2540 New Kresky Ave., Suite A, Chehalis, WA 98532 and can be reached at 360-740-6450 or by fax at 360-740-6447. The team’s mailing address in Roseburg, OR, is 1700 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Ste 105, Roseburg, OR 97471 and can be reached at 541-671-2701 or by fax at 541-671-2705.

About Benjamin F. Edwards

Benjamin F. Edwards is a privately held, innovative wealth management firm with 100+ locations coast-to-coast in 36 states and more than \$56 billion* in assets under management. Tracing its roots to A.G. Edwards, the Edwards family legacy in the wealth management industry spans nearly 140 years over six generations. Advisors at Benjamin F. Edwards provide holistic wealth management, helping clients build the future they want on a foundation of trust, integrity and mutual respect -- principles that have guided the firm for generations. For more information, visit benjaminfedwards.com.

*As of 7/7/26

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