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M&A

Corient Welcomes $21 Billion Summit Trail Advisors in Supersize Deal

Corient agreed to acquire Summit Trail Advisors, a New York-based RIA overseeing more than $21 billion for ultra-high-net-worth families and institutions. The deal, expected to close in the third quarter, marks one of Corient's largest transactions yet and deepens its family-office and multi-generational planning capabilities. Summit Trail's principals will become Corient partners, extending the aggregator's reach across major U.S. wealth markets.

M&A

Hightower Signature Wealth Grows by $2.5 Billion with Stearns Deal

Hightower Advisors added Stearns Financial Group, a North Carolina practice managing about $2.5 billion, to its Signature Wealth platform. The 30-person team, a Hightower affiliate since 2020, transitions into the fully integrated W-2 model, bringing Signature Wealth to roughly $40 billion in assets and underscoring Hightower's push toward a $50 billion target for the young platform.

M&A

Sequoia Financial Acquires $1.36B Twin Cities RIA

Sequoia Financial Group acquired All Star Financial, a Minneapolis–St. Paul wealth manager with about $796 million under management plus $566 million in retirement assets under advisement. The deal, Sequoia's first RIA acquisition of 2026, adds 14 employees and in-house tax professionals who will join Sequoia Tax Services, deepening the Akron-based firm's presence in the Upper Midwest.

M&A

Allworth Acquires $1.1B Tax-Focused RIA Sachetta

Allworth Financial acquired Sachetta, a Lynnfield, Massachusetts wealth and tax advisory firm managing $1.1 billion in assets, adding 21 professionals and roughly 630 households. The deal is among Allworth's first since taking on a new capital partnership led by Integrum Holdings in April, and builds on its strategy of pairing tax planning directly with client wealth management.

M&A

Merit Financial Advisors Acquires $900M Commonwealth Team

Merit Financial Advisors added The Bridgeway Group, a nine-person Southern California team managing about $900 million, marking the sixth former Commonwealth Financial Network practice to join Merit since LPL's acquisition of Commonwealth. The deal is Merit's ninth partnership of 2026 and brings its total assets from former Commonwealth teams to roughly $4.7 billion.

M&A

Hightower's Signature Wealth Platform Adds $275 Million Pennsylvania Firm

Hightower Advisors agreed to add Valley Financial Group, an Ambler, Pennsylvania practice managing about $275 million, to its Signature Wealth platform. It is the division's second external acquisition of 2026, expanding Hightower's Greater Philadelphia presence and continuing its build-out of a centralized, W-2-based advisory model since the platform's October 2025 launch.

M&A

Allworth Adds Bethesda RIA Arthur Stein Financial

Alongside its Sachetta deal, Allworth Financial acquired Arthur Stein Financial, a Bethesda, Maryland RIA with about $141 million in assets that specializes in planning for federal employees and retirees. The firm extends Allworth into the Mid-Atlantic and adds expertise in pensions, TSP allocations and federal benefits timing for a client base with specialized planning needs.

M&A

Simplicity Acquires Mid-Atlantic Wealth Advisory Group

Simplicity Group acquired Mid-Atlantic Wealth Advisory Group, a Pennsylvania RIA serving professionals, business owners and pre-retirees, with founders Dennis Maguire and Robert Sayre joining as partners. The firm will be renamed Simplicity Wealth Advisors and combined with Simplicity's securities and insurance platform as part of the firm's continued national expansion.

TALENT

iTP Partners Leaves Osaic to Launch RIA with Cetera's Blueprint

Cetera Financial Group added iTP Partners, a roughly $3.5 billion advisory practice, to its Blueprint RIA channel after the firm departed rival Osaic. Co-founders Bob Sansone and Jeff Hartman will launch an independent RIA, Blue Horizon Equity, bringing nearly 50 advisors onto Cetera's multi-custodial platform following a search among several broker-dealers.

TALENT

Edelman Financial Engines Taps OneDigital Alum as First Retirement Advisory Chief

Edelman Financial Engines named Christian Mango, a nearly 30-year retirement industry veteran, as senior vice president and retirement advisory practice leader. In the newly created role, Mango will grow Edelman's Retirement Plan Services business through acquisitions, advisor recruitment and organic growth, tightening the link between workplace retirement plans and individual financial planning.

TALENT

Raymond James Poaches Top Schwab RIA Custody Exec

Raymond James hired Schwab veteran Elyn Davis as senior vice president to lead client experience and strengthen its RIA custody business. Davis brings nearly three decades of experience serving small RIAs and family offices, as Raymond James looks to sharpen its RIA-hybrid competitiveness against pressure from LPL and Cetera's platforms.

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