

Good afternoon and Happy New Year clients and friends,

We hope you enjoyed the holidays and wish you well in 2023.

As this commentary reminds us, we have been through a lot the past three years. And yet stocks have still paid us in line with the historical averages.

We have been rolling out our new planning platform whereby we immunize as much as humanly possible our clients' essential lifestyles (food, shelter, clothing, etc.) and then take advantage of capitalism powered by human innovation with stocks to achieve growth. On any given day, the expected returns of stocks is positive; otherwise we wouldn't buy them. While we don't always get those positive returns, we do in any given year about 75% of the time.

Looking forward, Blackstone suggests we may see more ups and downs in the market until mid-year, and then a recovery comparable to 2009, which was a strong one.

Meantime, we are here to create and manage all-weather plans for you, so you can focus on more important things like your family, business, community so on.

My best,

*Dean*