



VZD CAPITAL MANAGEMENT: IN THE NEWS

In a rapidly changing world, **VZD CAPITAL MANAGEMENT** is committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals, multigenerational families and entrepreneurs by navigating the ever-changing markets with customized investment management solutions delivered one client at a time. We are honored to be recognized by the *Kansas City Business Journal* as a member of the Fast 50: Fastest-Growing Area Businesses. **VZD** was categorized under “Young Guns,” a category featuring relatively new companies with skyrocketing growth despite being start-ups. VZD ranked **Number 3** with average annual revenue growth of **323.83 percent** from 2012 – 2014.

Marquita Miller, writing for BlackEnterprise.com, also interviewed me this July. I was honored to receive this national recognition for being the first African American female to own 100 percent of a Registered Investment Advisory firm in the Midwest, and one of only a few within the U.S. This was a remarkable opportunity to share the successful tactics and strategies for change agents and trailblazers in business. However, these honors are a direct reflection of the valued clients that VZD serves.

Second quarter investors were bombarded with redundant headlines suggesting that “the sky is falling” and that a major correction was right around the corner. Wall Street tumbled as self-directed investors fled equities on continuing news of the Greek debt crisis. Plus, U.S. investors were worried about Puerto Rico’s debt problem and a bear market in China caused many investors to sit on the sidelines, hoarding cash and waiting for an SOS sign before re-entering the market. Despite the headlines, the S&P 500 ended with a flat performance of 0.28 percent for the quarter.

In an overvalued market, any news, even things like the Greek default predictions that don't directly impact U.S. investors, can create higher-than-usual market volatility. The Greek situation is unlikely to change the positive economic trajectory for Europe or the U.S., but it may continue to rattle the market for a short period of time. Meanwhile, VZD remains confident and optimistic that our domestic companies will continue to grow earnings at a reasonable rate. Our confidence contributes to our high standards for separating market noise from facts. The trending stories on the nightly news don't interfere with our proprietary screening standards and ongoing proactive monitoring processes. We are long-term oriented but believe in rebalancing and utilizing active investment management practices. Our goal is to navigate around behavioral economics and concentrate on the opportunities that the markets offer regardless of the investment climate.

Essentially, U.S. equities have swung between monthly gains and losses this year as mixed economic data prompted concerns about whether or not the economic recovery has enough strength to warrant higher interest rates. Others view the current volatility as an opportunity to purchase companies that offer diversification to their portfolios. The fact is that the market has not witnessed a correction of any major proportion in excess of 10 percent since the stock market began to turn up in March 2009. Many companies have been the victim of unrealistic expectations and punishment and now offer opportunities for investors to implement a "buy low and sell high" philosophy.

Please stay tuned to next quarter's episode of "the price is right," meaning no one can accurately predict the final countdown for 2015. However, we stand available to offer emergency assistance to minimize your fears and continue to grow your assets – regardless of market conditions. If you have friends or family who might benefit from our customized investment management services, please feel free to refer them to www.vzdcap.com or call us at (816) 726-7066.

As always, we appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in us. Continued success and blessings – always!

With Gratitude,

Ethel J. Davis