



# SIG Claims GIPS Compliance, Calls For OCIO Transparency

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Outsourced cio firm **Strategic Investment Group** has claimed compliance with Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS) as part of its efforts to provide greater transparency to investors and the overall sector, Managing Director **Nikki Kraus** said.



**Nikki Kraus, CFA**

The firm's decision to become independently GIPS-verified stems from growing investor demand for clear, quantifiable track records that can be brought to outsourced cio searches, she said.

"GIPS puts a stake in the ground," Kraus said of the standard Strategic hopes to set in the space.

Strategic was independently verified for the period of Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2016 by **The Spaulding Group**.

While it is not clear how many outsourced cio firms currently claim GIPS compliance, NPNNews contacted the most commonly cited firms that offer discretionary investment services to nonprofit clients based on reported mandate wins in the past three years.

**Russell Investments** Spokeswoman **Kate Bauman** said that the firm's performance is GIPS compliant across several strategies, including its institutional outsourced cio funds.

Media staff or outsourced cio leaders at **Cambridge Associates**, **SEI Investments**, **Perella Weinberg Partners**, **Northern Trust**, **Commonfund**, **Hall Capital Partners**, **Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting** and **Hirtle Callaghan & Co.** were unable to provide further information by press time.

Strategic's performance record is comprised of aggregate discretionary client portfolios that have similar diversified asset allocations to ensure continuity across the track record, she said.

The firm hopes that by taking this step, it will serve as a call to action to its outsourced cio peers to make accurate, appropriate information more accessible to institutions as they review search candidates, increase overall traction for the space when it comes to trust and transparency and even the playing field among providers, Kraus said.

"The OCIO industry has experienced, and continues to experience, rapid growth

both in the number of participants and the range of service models, making the asset owner's task in selecting an appropriate partner more difficult," said **Kenneth Grossfield**, chief administrative officer and general counsel of Strategic, in a statement. "We firmly believe that by claiming GIPS compliance, we are taking an important step towards standardizing one fundamental aspect of this evaluation process – the review of a firm's actual client performance."

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Strategic has long been vocal on its calls for performance and fee transparency among its peers, previously releasing white papers in 2014 and 2015 addressing those topics (NPN, 2/19/15; 11/13/14).