

The IBA's New Partner: Empire

The Empire Advisory Group, Inc. has joined forces with the Illinois Bankers Association as the exclusive, Preferred Provider for Corporate Retirement Plans. The Empire-IBA alliance provides the most flexible and cost-effective 401(k) Plan Platform in the industry, specifically designed for Banks and their Commercial Customers. The Illinois Bankers 401(k) Plan Platform provides a Custom-Built, Private-Label 401(k) Plan offering for each Bank and its Commercial Customers. Member Banks receive preferred pricing and can generate fees acting as Advisor, Trustee, or Relationship Manager.

The Illinois Bankers 401(k) Plan Platform has three major components: 1) the Chassis, 2) Plan Manager, and 3) Retire Trac.

THE CHASSIS:

The Illinois Bankers 401(k) Plan Platform delivers a web-based administrative and record keeping system offering the following benefits and features:

- Private Labeling for each Bank
- Custom Design for each Bank
- Significant Cost Reduction by crediting all 12(b)(1) fees back to each Plan
- Ability to hold Private Bank Stock in the Plan
- Ability to hold Private Corporate Stock in the Plan
- Self-Directed Accounts for employees
- Over 9,000 mutual funds for selection...per a "Fund Neutral" approach
- A "One-Click" Rollover Solution

PLAN MANAGER:

The Plan Manager System gives Plan Sponsors/Employers an effective, flexible and streamlined administrative process that reduces paperwork and the manual process normally associated with 401(k) Plans. Some of these functions include:

- Processing contributions
- Editing employee data
- Accessing forms and reports
- Processing loan and distribution requests
- Viewing participant activity
- **Performing a real-time comparison between an existing Plan vs. a proposed new Plan, including itemized cost reductions**

RETIRE TRAC:

The **PENSION PROTECTION ACT** was signed into legislation in August, 2006. **this landmark Legislation drastically changes the Retirement Plan landscape, especially**

for “**Fiduciaries**”. Heretofore, Plan Sponsors/Employers were merely responsible for the administrative oversight regarding their Plan’s provisions, with little regard for their employees’ ultimate benefits. **Now**, however, with the spotlight on the Fiduciary Role, the PPA requires that Plan Sponsors/Employers be held accountable for **providing adequate retirement benefits for their employees.**

Retire Trac was developed in direct response to the dictates of the PPA. This **Proprietary** program gives Employees and Fiduciaries an **interactive process** to continually monitor and manage investment performance and asset allocation to better ensure adequate benefits for retirement.

Retire Trac shows employees how to realize retirement objectives via a detailed analysis of their investment strategy, advice/guidance suggesting alternative strategies, and an illustration of account growth compared to Quarterly Benchmarks for documentation purposes.

Retire Trac also generates a quarterly **Employer-Fiduciary Report** which monitors:

- Retirement Income adequacy
- Quality and suitability of investments
- Quality of employee investing
- Participation levels among employees
- Adequacy of contribution levels

Thus, Sponsors/Employers receive enhanced Fiduciary Monitoring and **ERISA** compliance.

Feel free to visit Empire's website: www.empire4u.net and/or call: (217) 528-0047.