

TWO MINUTES WITH Burk Rosenthal Rosenthal Retirement Planning LP

After earning a degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Arlington, Burk Rosenthal was growing increasingly interested in his hobby of financial planning, but didn't think he could do it professionally because his degree was in another field. After encouragement from a friend who was successful in the industry, he decided to make a big career change and began working for Prudential Preferred Financial Services. In 1992, he launched his own firm, Rosenthal Retirement Planning LP, an independent investment advisory firm specializing in retirement planning. Today, the Fort Worth-based company has 26 employees and branches in Dallas and Las Colinas. Rosenthal was interviewed by staff writer Shashana Pearson-Hormillosa.

Q. Will the current economic conditions have any long-term effects on retirement planning?

A. The recent lending crisis is going to have an impact potentially for many years, but I don't see the difference between that and other setbacks we've seen in the industry over the years. The best thing is to plan and invest in your future, knowing there will be changes, and not use it as an excuse not to do something. Where the market is today or last week or last quarter should have very little impact on your long-term goals.

Q. How are baby boomers now facing retirement affected by the slowing economy?

A. A lot of baby boomers have decided to postpone their retirement dates. They should always make sure their planning is in line with age, goal and risk tolerance.

Q. What's the best advice you can offer with regard to planning for retirement?

A. The No. 1 thing is to not wait until the last minute and to make sure they know — or work with someone who



knows — the best time for them to retire. We had one client who would have had \$50,000 less if he'd retired even one day later than he did because of the way his plan was set up. A lot of retirement plans are very interest-rate sensitive; one week can make a tremendous difference.

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