Allocations and Performance Updates. We are pleased to report that Zuma Wealth client investments have participated soundly in recent market gains for the start of 2024. Portfolios are uniquely designed, never the industry standard one-size-fits-all

and tailored for general and individual risk and return parameters. There are ups and downs while investing, and over time stocks generally increase, while bonds provide more conservative returns. We remain optimistic and confident in your current allocation.

Continued Spring Melt-Up (or April Showers)?

The U.S. stock market posted solid gains for March, extending the winning streak to five straight months. While the statistics are impressive, they are also in the rearview mirror. April is often associated with rainy weather, but it is also a time of greenery and growth for the U.S. landscape. For stocks, it can also be a good month for increase with over 70% of months finishing in the green. The storyline for bonds remains as well: inflation is cooling, employment is stable, and the Federal Reserve is on track to cut interest rates during 2024.

We are sometimes asked whether to "wait for a dip" to add money into the investment markets. As we

reflect on that question, we present a study investing \$10,000 annually since 2000, buying stocks at the start of a year, the top or the market (for the year), the bottom, or holding an entire portfolio of Treasury bills. The conclusion is that investing at the worst time (for each of 23 years!) is still far better than sitting in cash, delivering nearly three times the wealth.



<u>Investment Philosophy.</u> We reiterate our overall philosophy of growing wealth and guarding the future. We do this by looking at risk and return both strategically and protectively. Strategically, through good offense, we combine different asset classes to create an allocation with great prospects for delivering the growth you seek while guarding against unnecessary risk. Protectively, through great defense, we incorporate data to flexibly respond to market information and to help guard against losses.

Thank you for your loyalty to Zuma Wealth.



Terri Spath

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