



Wayne Farlow asked me to review his book and offer suggestions. It was so well written and comprehensive, that I had precious few comments.

I recommend the *Financial Abundance Guide* as a reference that anyone serious about financial planning have available. It covers a wide range of topics from tax effects to the many peculiarities of Social Security benefits. Some of this material is hard to find even with a diligent Web search.

This is an excellent source for many of the details that can affect both how much people should save before retirement or spend after retirement. The details can make a big difference. I have illustrated this in two books I was asked to write for Wiley & Sons: *J. K. Lasser's Your Winning Retirement Plan* and *Getting Started in a Financially Secure Retirement*. If I had Mr. Farlow's book at my side, the tasks would have been easier.

I have assisted journalists from The Wall Street Journal several times to illustrate that the majority of Web and commercially available retirement programs would come up with vastly different conclusions using the same circumstances for each program input. In some cases, pre-retirement projections by some would show no more savings were needed with others showed that very large new annual savings additions would be required.

By reverse engineering, I was able to uncover the source of the problems in most cases of commercial planning errors. The causes were often the kind of things addressed in Mr. Farlow's book. For example, taxes can make a large difference as can misunderstanding whether an input should be a present or a future value or whether it should be inflation adjusted or not. Mr. Farlow's book is very careful about such things.

This is a reference that should be useful to both professional financial planners and laymen who are willing to apply themselves to the task and either use a comprehensive commercial planning program or have the technical and financial knowledge to produce their own spreadsheets.

The *Financial Abundance Guide* should also be a good reference for financial journalists who often need this kind of background, not just to write the articles, but also to know what kind of questions to ask when they interview experts for their views. The same could be said of clients who are seeking help from a professional. A little preparation with help from this book could pay big dividends by getting to the crucial points early and decisively.

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