

# MarketWise

## Beacon Street Group Announces Board of Directors for Post-Merger Public Company and Unveils New Company Name

May 24, 2021

*Board announced in anticipation of Beacon Street Group and Ascendant Digital Acquisition Corp. merger completion this Quarter ~*

*~ Mark Arnold to become Chairman; announces 9 Directors adding depth and diversity ~*

*~ Announces Company's intention to change name to MarketWise, LLC ~*

BALTIMORE, Md.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Beacon Street Group, LLC ("Beacon Street" or the "Company"), a leading multi-brand digital subscription services platform that provides premium financial research, software, education, and tools for self-directed investors, which recently announced it would become a public company via a merger with special purpose acquisition company Ascendant Digital Acquisition Corp. (NYSE: ACND) ('Ascendant'), today, announced its new Board of Directors, effective at the closing of the business combination transaction.

The Company also unveiled its new name, MarketWise, LLC. The Company is in the process of rebranding and will be updating its website and other materials to the MarketWise, LLC brand over the coming weeks. The Company's website will remain [beaconstreet.com](http://beaconstreet.com) until it is fully updated to reflect the new brand. Upon merger completion, the post-merger public Company will trade on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol "MKTW."

### Post-merger Board Member nominees are:

#### Mark Arnold, Chairman

Mr. Arnold is the Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for the overall strategic direction and operational performance of the Company. Prior to his promotion to CEO in 2017, Mr. Arnold served as Director of Business Development of Beacon Street and was responsible for all of the Company's business development efforts and acted as the lead point of contact for mergers and acquisitions activity at Beacon Street. He also served as a board member and oversaw a number of Beacon Street's operating brands. Prior to joining Beacon Street, Mr. Arnold was a corporate lawyer and spent fifteen years in private practice primarily handling mergers and acquisitions and venture capital transactions. He was a partner at Edwards Wildman LLP and prior to that worked at Holland & Knight LLP in its Miami office. Mr. Arnold graduated Cum Laude from Duke University with an A.B. in Public Policy Studies in 1994. He also obtained his JD with Honors and an MBA from the University of Florida in 1998.

#### Manuel "Manny" Borges, Independent

Mr. Borges currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Digital and Streaming for Univision, the leading Spanish-language content and media company in the U.S. From 2009, until its sale to Univision in early 2021, Mr. Borges was with VIX, Inc as their Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to VIX, Mr. Borges served as Senior Vice President of Finance for The Related Group and the Chief Financial Officer of Related International. Prior to that, Mr. Borges was with Radio Unica Communications Corp serving as Vice President of Finance and Chief Accounting Officer and played a key role in Radio Unica's IPO. Mr. Borges began his career as an Audit Manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers. He earned a Bachelor's of Accounting and a Master's of Accounting, both from Florida International University.

#### Elizabeth Burton, Independent

Ms. Burton has served as the Chief Investment Officer of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii ("HIERS") since 2018, where she oversees \$19 billion in pension fund assets. Prior to HIERS, beginning in 2016, Ms. Burton held multiple positions at the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, where she began as a Senior Investment Analyst and less than a year after joining, was named Managing Director of the Quant Strategies Group, serving as the Head of Risk for the \$55 billion plan and head of the \$5 billion Absolute Return Portfolio (Hedge Fund). Prior to joining the Maryland Pension System, Ms. Burton held multiple consulting positions at First Annapolis Consulting and William Street, where she advised clients on M&A transactions, partnership finance and corporate strategy. She also worked for Criterion Economics on expert witness testimony/analysis before the International Trade Commission on monopolization. Ms. Burton earned double degrees (French and Politics) from Washington and Lee University (2004) and an MBA from The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business (2011). Ms. Burton sits on the Board of Directors of Chartered Alternative Investment Association (CAIA). She also serves on the board of a private REIT and is a Trustee of The Hill School, a private boarding school. Ms. Burton was named one of Chief Investment Officer Magazine's Top-40-Under-40 in 2017 and to its Power 100 List for each of the last 3 years. She was also named to the 2020 All-Star Chief Investment Officers list by Trusted Insight.

#### Mark Gerhard, Independent

Mr. Gerhard has been Ascendant's Chief Executive Officer and a Director since March 2020. Mr Gerhard has been the Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Technology Officer of Disruptional Ltd (f/k/a Playfusion Ltd and Beauty Labs International Ltd), a video games studio involved in pioneering the intersection between linear and interactive entertainment, and, a next-generation artificial intelligence technology platform respectively, since January 2015. Mr Gerhard was previously the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Technology Officer of Jagex Game Studios, a British independent game developer and publisher, and the creator of RuneScape, a multi-award winning Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Mr Gerhard also serves as the Vice-Chairman of TIGA, a British trade body for video game developers and publishers. Mr Gerhard was also the Founder of the Ministry of Data, a developer of cybersecurity solutions. Mr Gerhard was also previously the Principal Security Officer at GTech Corporation, a national lottery company, from 2007 to 2008. Mr Gerhard has over 15 years of experience in the digital attention economy and holds multiple patents in the field.

#### Riaan Hodgson, Independent

Mr. Hodgson has been Ascendant's Chief Operating Officer and a Director since March 2020. Mr. Hodgson is also the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Beauty Labs International Ltd, a technology company that provides AI applications for beauty brands since January 2020. Mr. Hodgson has also been a director of Cambridge Venture Partners since January 2015, where he acts as an investor and advisor, focusing on technology and games. Previously, Mr. Hodgson was the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Disruptional Ltd (f/k/a PlayFusion Ltd). From April 2008 to January 2015, Mr. Hodgson was the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Jagex Game Studios, the makers of RuneScape. Mr. Hodgson is a chartered accountant, who trained with Ernst & Young and has finance and commerce degrees from North-West University.

**Paul Idzik, Independent**

Mr. Idzik has served as Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors of E\*Trade Financial Corporation from 2013-2016. He was also President of E\*TRADE Bank, as well as a member of its Board of Directors. Prior to E\*Trade, from 2008-2011, Mr. Idzik served as group Chief Executive Officer of DTZ Holdings PLC, a UK-headquartered international commercial real estate services firm with operations across 22 countries with over 7,000 employees, focusing primarily on the UK and China. From 1999 to 2008, Mr. Idzik held executive roles at Barclays; first as Chief Operating Officer of Barclays Capital then ultimately becoming Group Chief Operating Officer at Barclays PLC where he was tasked with driving a significant cross-business and cross-function change agenda. Prior to Barclays, Mr. Idzik spent over a decade as a partner in the Financial Services practice of Booz Allen Hamilton, advising retail, commercial, and investment banks on strategy and performance enhancement. Mr. Idzik earned double Bachelor's degrees in Economics and Computer Applications from the University of Notre Dame in 1983 and a Master's of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business in 1985.

**Michael Palmer**

Mr. Palmer has been a Managing Director and Chief Copywriter for Beacon Street since 2002. Mr. Palmer is responsible for helping to develop, train, and mentor copywriting teams at Beacon Street various businesses, and to also write marketing copy for these businesses. Mr. Palmer started working in the consumer publishing industry more than 25 years ago at International Living. He has worked as an assistant editor, managing editor, copywriter, and head copywriter since then, hiring and training many of the top copywriters at Beacon Street today. Mr. Palmer earned a B.A. in English from James Madison University and a M.A. in Publication Design from the University of Baltimore.

**Van Simmons, Independent**

Mr. Simmons has served as President of David Hall Rare Coins, Inc. since 1991. He also co-founded Collector's Universe (NASDAQ: CLCT), the leading grading and authentication service to the collectibles market. Mr. Simmons also served on its board of directors from 1999 through 2018. As a rare coin dealer since 1979, Mr. Simmons is widely regarded as the foregone authority on coin grading, having pioneered the coin grading standard in use today.

**Steve Sjuggerud**

Dr. Sjuggerud joined Beacon Street in 2001 and remains one of the Company's most prolific editors. Dr. Sjuggerud's franchise (True Wealth) covers 5 publications and accounts for over 100,000 paid subscriptions and nearly 800,000 free subscribers. Prior to joining the Beacon Street family, Dr. Sjuggerud published investment research continuously since 1996, and prior to that, was a stockbroker, a vice president of a global mutual fund and worked for a New York hedge-fund with \$900M in assets under management. From 2007 through 2008, Dr. Sjuggerud served on the board of directors of Stanley Gibbons Group, plc (SGI.L), a UK-based publicly-traded collectables company. Dr. Sjuggerud entered the University of Florida in 1988, at age 16, earning a degree in Finance. After leaving UF, he went on to earn a Master's in Business Administration and a Ph.D in Finance.

**About Beacon Street Group**

Founded with a mission to level the playing field for self-directed investors, today Beacon Street Group is a leading multi-brand subscription services platform providing premium financial research, software, education, and tools for investors.

With more than 20 years of operating history, Beacon Street is currently comprised of 12 primary customer-facing brands, offering more than 160 products, and serving a community of more than 11 million free and paid subscribers. Beacon Street's products are a trusted source for high-value financial research, education, actionable investment ideas, and investment software. Beacon Street is a 100% digital, direct-to-consumer company offering its research across a variety of platforms including mobile, desktops, and tablets. Beacon Street has a proven, agile, and scalable platform and its vision is to become the leading financial wellness solutions platform for self-directed investors.

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