



hooker & holcombe

YEAR IN REVIEW
2021





“Strong, enduring relationships begin with empowered professionals who share the client’s vision and work hard to ensure their success.”

That’s the real story behind the success of Hooker & Holcombe. As we enter our 66th year of providing retirement plan consulting, administration and institutional investment strategies, I take pride in the way we continue to transact business: personally, predictably, and with our clients’ goals in mind.

During the ups and downs of the past year, our commitment to our clients and to each other did not waiver. We continued to focus on balancing the health and welfare of our employees with government guidelines, while always staying true to the needs of our clients and their employees.

2021 brought hope for a return to normalcy. Although that wish was not fully realized, the firm continued to prosper and move forward:

- Several new faces joined the H&H team, further elevating the expertise and service we bring to our clients. The firm was also honored with being named to the **Best Places to Work in Connecticut** list again this year, a testament to the value we place on our most important asset, our employees.
- Our Actuarial Services Group continues to bring clients valued market insights to help them appreciate their pension and OPEB plan options. We produced our third annual Municipal Pension & OPEB report for Connecticut municipalities. COVID brought challenges and our experts quickly partnered with a prominent law firm to host a SECURE ACT 2.0 webinar outlining important legislative changes for plan sponsors.
- Online access and tools are increasingly important. That’s why our dedicated Pension Administration Services Group continues to enhance PensionEdge®, our online pension administration portal offering plan sponsors and participants direct access to their pension data. Supported by the H&H Service Center, participants can rely on fast and accurate answers from experienced professionals who know their plan provisions.
- Our Retirement Services Group built several new workflows to bring clients enhanced recordkeeping and TPA services for their defined contribution plans. Their dedication to delivering leading-edge technology remains strong as they continue to partner with Charles Schwab® to provide participants with enhanced website features.
- Our independent, award-winning Investment Advisory Group achieved a milestone by exceeding \$4.2 billion in assets under advisement, bringing value to each and every client through exceptional insight and a client-centric attitude. Proudly, and for the sixth year in a row, the Group was named to **PlanAdviser’s Top 100 Retirement Plan Advisers** list.

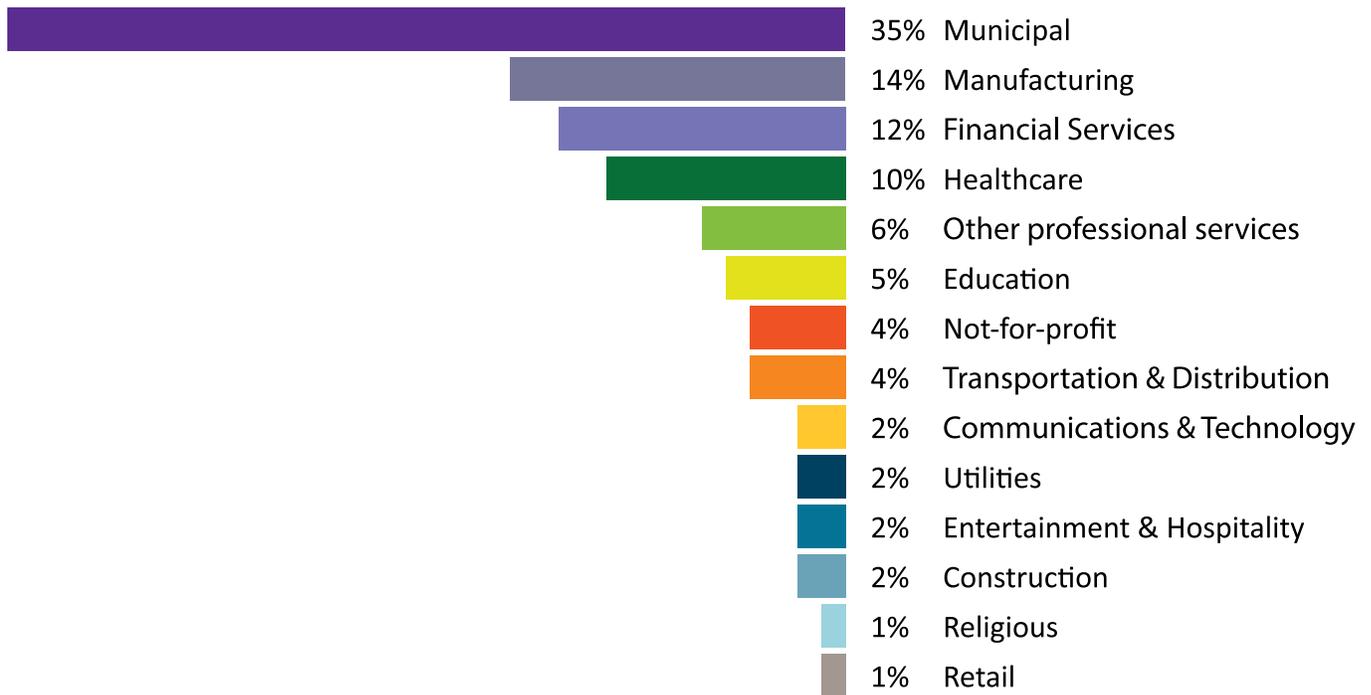
Despite present challenges, we pledge to hold on to past traditions that have made us a regional leader: first-class service, exceptional employees, and a dedication to putting our clients first in all that we do.

Thank you to our clients, business partners and employees. Your fortitude and spirit is amazing! Together, there is nothing we cannot overcome.

Richard S. Sych
President, Hooker & Holcombe

Award winning teams support clients across a spectrum of industries

Our comprehensive services provide clients with effective solutions for all types of employer-sponsored retirement plans. If restructuring a pension, creating an investment strategy, or working out a 401(k) plan to achieve maximum participation is in your future, our creative people and leading-edge technology are the fundamental elements to realizing results. No matter what your need, H&H is an all-in-one partner for companies of all sizes and in all industries.

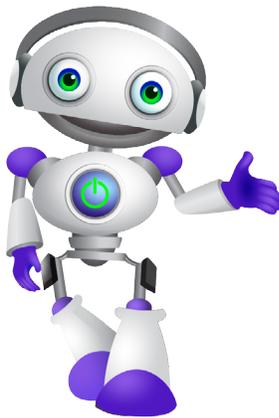


Services designed around our clients' needs



Keep doing what you do best. Our 3(38) retirement plan program will take care of the retirement stuff.

We can help you meet your fiduciary responsibilities quickly, easily and cost-effectively, while giving you and your employees select fund lineups, exceptional service, and online tools. [Learn more>](#)



For over 2 decades, our online PensionEdge® portal has provided plan sponsors and participants with instant access to pension information. [Learn more>](#)

2021's most highly-read articles...

Throughout the year, we provide clients and their employees with retirement tips, trends and information to help them make informed decisions. Below are the 10 most highly-read articles of 2021:

- 1 [Is your retirement birthday coming up?](#)
- 2 [2022 Retirement plan limits](#)
- 3 [H&H 401\(k\) calculator for participants](#)
- 4 [4 puzzle pieces in 4 parts of Medicare](#)
- 5 [Tax Savers Credit: you could get paid to save for retirement](#)
- 6 [Do you want to be taxed now or later?](#)
- 7 [Consider other options before taking a 401\(k\) withdrawal](#)
- 8 [ERISA update: 5 big changes plan sponsors need to know](#)
- 9 [Safe harbor and vesting options](#)
- 10 [Saving early for retirement](#)



Discover the advantages of adding the SuperSaver strategy to your retirement plan design.

While the normal Roth 401(k) plan provision is more widely understood, many plan sponsors and employees are not aware that there is another beneficial Roth conversion strategy. [Learn more>](#)



[Click here to join our email list >](#)

Commitment to our communities

Our employees are proud of the many organizations and events the firm supports each year. We sponsored a number of fundraising events in 2021, including the firm's ongoing commitment to Connecticut Children's, bringing joy to those facing unforeseen challenges. Below are some of the many organizations we supported:

American Red Cross (tornado response unit)

American School for the Deaf

Connecticut Education Foundation

Connecticut Children's

Day Kimball Healthcare

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation

Foodshare

Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity

JCC Annual Golf Tournament

Klingberg Family Centers

Danbury Lion's Club Mayor's Cup

Mount Sinai South Nassau

United Way

Wheeler



The fight against COVID continues to be a large part of our daily lives. We wish to say thank you to those who remain at the forefront of the pandemic, risking their own lives to make our lives better. Cheers to your resilience, passion and dedication.



Since 1956, Hooker & Holcombe has delivered the solutions needed to identify, achieve and exceed our clients' retirement plan goals.

ACTUARIAL SERVICES

Pension & OPEB Plans

- Actuarial valuations
- Benefit calculations
- Plan terminations
- Plan design & optimization
- Funding strategies
- Asset liability modeling
- De-risking strategies
- Experience studies
- Union negotiation planning
- Arbitration testimony

PENSION ADMINISTRATION

- Online pension administration for plan sponsors and participants
- Comprehensive, secure and easy-to-use database of all participant data
- Self- and full-service benefit calculations
- Storage of and access to all plan documents, including forms packages
- Participant statements and tools

H&H SERVICE CENTER

- Participant account assistance
- Forms audit & processing
- Benefit payment services

INVESTMENT ADVISORY

- Investment oversight
- Expense & performance audits
- Investment policy guidelines & objectives
- Asset allocation strategies
- Asset liability modeling
- Investment manager searches
- Fund evaluation & selection
- Performance monitoring & reporting
- Assistance with RFPs
- Executive & fiduciary workshops
- Financial wellness education

RETIREMENT SERVICES

Defined Contribution Plans

TPA & consulting

- Plan document
- Plan demographic analysis
- Plan design consultation & preparation
- Compliance testing
- Form 5500 preparation & filing
- Contribution calculations
- Participant education & communication
- Fee benchmarking

Recordkeeping

- Plan administration
- Data collection
- Benefit statements
- Management reports
- Daily or periodic valuations
- Loan, transfer, rollover & withdrawal determinations
- Retirement or termination payout calculations & vesting
- Processing investment trades

The "PLANADVISER Top 100 Retirement Plan Advisers" list is compiled from responses to the PLANADVISER Retirement Plan Adviser Survey. The list is drawn solely from a set of quantitative variables & information in the survey supplied by the advisers themselves. For an adviser to be eligible for recognition in the Top 100 for any calendar year, their firm had to submit a completed entry in the prior year to the Retirement Plan Adviser Survey. A sub-segment of the questions was used to determine eligibility for the Top 100. H&H qualified under the small team category. Go to planadviser.com/awards/2021-planadviser-top-100-retirement-plan-advisers/ for more information. No fee is charged to participate.

Hartford Business Journal's Best Places to Work: This program is open to all public and privately-held organizations with at least 15 employees working within the state of Connecticut. Organizations pay a fee to participate. Organizations go through a workplace assessment which includes a confidential employee survey and an inventory of company benefits and working conditions. Results are then tallied and the organizations that meet the minimum threshold score as determined by Best Places to Work are awarded the designation. Go to hartfordbusiness.com/article/hooker-holcombe for more information.

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