

Financial Advice to Forget



The worst financial advice ever.

"No enemy is worse than bad advice."

Sophocles

3

Hope from a debt survivor.

Client of the Month.

4

This month's recipe, a few laughs and how to connect with us on online.

Cook, Laugh, Connect.

Having financial problems can be like having a baby - a lot of people have been through it, and many of them have advice to share, whether or not you ask for it. The truth is, while they mean well, most people are not qualified to dole out financial guidance, especially when it comes to complex and sometimes very personal issues like credit card debt and major purchases.

We've collected a few of the most common "tips" to leave rather than take. If you're facing a major financial decision, we recommend you seek out professional, expert advice - not hearsay from the neighbors. If you need to talk to about debt settlement, don't hesitate to call us up. We've been dealing with debt disasters for more than 20 years and if we can't help, we can find someone who can.

Stop Listening on page 2.



Forget it.

Your guide to
the most
misguided
financial
advice

Student loans are a good investment. Yes, education can be an investment, but signing up for tens of thousands of dollars of debt without considering what the return will be is not setting yourself up to succeed. Before taking on student debt, consider future salary, job market, hiring rate, etc. and evaluate the investment just like you would a stock.

Buy a car based on the affordability of the monthly payment. Thinking about a big purchase, like a car or a house, in terms of monthly payments is important for budgeting, but it can mask the true cost. Salespeople are trained to get you fixated on a monthly number, because it's easier to swallow. It's important to always do the math and consider how much the purchase will cost you in the long run - you may find that over time, you're paying for a Maserati but driving a Dodge Neon.

Don't rent if you can buy. If you're reading this, chances are you are a survivor of one of the worst recessions our country has seen, caused by a housing bubble inflated by bad loans. Yes, buying a house can be a great investment, but it all depends on the terms. Don't blindly buy. If you're in the market for a house, be sure to consult an expert and

understand exactly what you're getting into.

Fill-in-the-blank stock is a guaranteed winner. There is a myth that you can make a lot of cash quickly by investing in a particular stock or company that's really hot right now, but over the long haul, it's not the best way to invest for strategic growth. You should only plan to invest a small portion of your portfolio into individual stock picking if it's an area of interest for you. Otherwise, the right way to build out a healthy portfolio that will stand the test of time before you retire is to diversify, not put all your eggs in one basket.

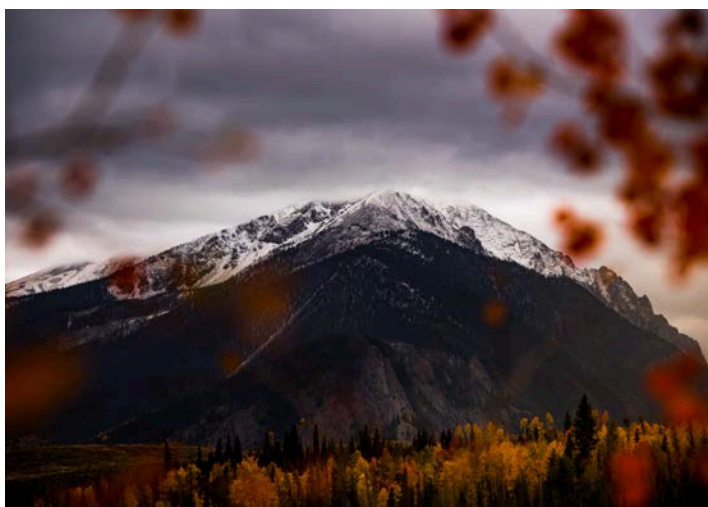
Pay off unsecured debt with a home equity loan. When constantly hounded by credit card or medical bill collectors, you might start to think that taking out a home equity loan to pay those debts is an easy way to stop the annoying phone calls. Be warned: this is very dangerous. You run the risk of losing your home.

YOLO. It's true, you do only live once. But that doesn't mean you are going to die tomorrow, and assuming you don't, you still have to

(Continued on next page.)

eat. We all have to make decisions that weigh today's pleasures with tomorrow's, and sometimes that means saying no to a purchase as a gift to your future self.

Always listen to your elders. Yes, we need to respect our parents and those that have more life experience. But the fact is, financial problems know no age - there are people of all generations with bad financial advice to give. Find sources you trust that you can talk through major financial decisions with. Great Uncle Dave may know how to bring a car back from the dead but that doesn't mean he's any better than your average Joe at budgeting, no matter how old he is.



**Superior
Introductions**

We'd like to take some time to introduce you to our team.

Hello! I am Bailey - paralegal and negotiator here at Superior Debt. I primarily do negotiations, but when I get to put on my paralegal hat, I often get to interact directly with our clients; it is always great to be able to put a voice with the name of a client! I have been with Superior Debt for almost 5 years and I am happy to work for a company that truly cares about the best interests of its clients - it is not often you find a business like that anymore. I obtained my Paralegal degree in 2008 and am currently back in school to obtain my degree in Human Resource Management.

and paddle-boarding. Winter means watching the snow fall and reading in front of the fireplace. I am an animal lover - I have two kitties and an American Bulldog. I could not imagine life without them! Also, I am a self-proclaimed foodie and coffee addict. Rarely does anyone see me around the office without food or a coffee in hand!

I am a Colorado native and I absolutely love all of the activities this state has to offer. I am lucky enough to live in a state that delivers all four seasons. Warm weather means mountain drives, hiking, camping,



Chocolate Bar Fondue

Impress your Valentine with this simple but decadent (and affordable) dessert.

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup heavy cream
- 1 pound milk or dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 pint fresh strawberries
- 1 store-bought angel food cake, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 8 ounces dried fruit, such as pineapple slices and figs

Directions

In a small saucepan, over low heat, warm the cream and chocolate. Stir until the chocolate melts. Transfer the fondue to a serving bowl.

Serve immediately with forks and foods for dipping strawberries, angel food cake, and dried fruit.



Laughing Matters

There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

"Video game-maker Atari has filed for bankruptcy. Atari fans are so upset they're organizing a massive letter-writing campaign to President Reagan." –Conan O'Brien

"According to a new poll, a majority of women want their man to propose on Valentine's Day. And the same poll revealed men would rather propose on April Fool's Day."

Connect with Superior

For more money-saving tips and a place to give us feedback, check out our blog at <http://superiordebtrelief.com/blog> or follow us on Facebook and Twitter [@SuperiorDebt](#).

Refer-a-Friend

Know someone who could also benefit from our services? Contact one of our member services representatives to join our refer-a-friend program

Who We Are

Established in 1998, Superior Debt Services is a debt relief company committed to ethically helping consumers lower their credit card debt while encouraging healthy financial habits. Find out more at superiordebtrelief.com.