John Thiel is head of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. In this role, he is responsible for the strategic management of more than 15,000 financial advisers and 6,000 client associates from Merrill Lynch’s U.S. Wealth Management Group as well as more than 300 private wealth advisers in the Private Banking and Investment Group. Thiel is a member of the Global Wealth and Investment Management Executive Committee, the Risk Rating Executive Oversight Committee, the GWIM Product Approval Committee and is the executive sponsor for the GWIM Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Thiel joined the Private Banking and Investment Group in 2000. He opened the private wealth management business in the Pacific West Region as the regional managing director headquartered in San Francisco. During his tenure in San Francisco, he led the firm’s Leadership Advisory Council to Management as chairman from 2003-2005. He was named head of the Private Banking and Investment Group in 2006.

Thiel began his career with Merrill Lynch in 1989 as a financial adviser in Tampa. In 1995, he was selected to become part of the Global Private Client Advisory Division leadership team, later serving as the director in both Oakbrook and Northbrook, Ill.

Before joining Merrill Lynch, Thiel led a distinguished career in public accounting and the insurance industry. His background includes tax and estate planning experience along with financial operating expertise as a CPA with KPMG. Thiel also served as a senior instructor of the Dale Carnegie professional selling courses, helping countless students improve their skills in growing business.

As an advocate for finding a cure for cancer, Thiel serves as chairman of the Manhattan Region Financial Services Cares Board of the American Cancer Society.

Thiel received a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University. He became a Certified Public Accountant in 1985.