

**Item 1: Cover Page  
Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
June 11, 2021**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (216) 800-9000 or [info@swpconnect.com](mailto:info@swpconnect.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority. Additional information about our firm is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching CRD #148586.

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of our firm and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Clients are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise clients for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd. is required to make clients aware of information that has changed since the last annual update to the Firm Brochure (“Brochure”) and that may be important to them. Clients can then determine whether to review the brochure in its entirety or to contact us with questions about the changes.

Since our last Brochure dated March 2021, our industry affiliations have changed as reflected in Item 10.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

Our firm is dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Ohio in 2008 and has been in business as an investment adviser since that time. Our firm is wholly owned by Mark Tepper.

Our firm provides asset management and investment consulting services for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizons. As a fiduciary it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing the client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication. Working with clients to understand their investment objectives while educating them about our process, facilitates the kind of working relationship we value.

### **Types of Advisory Services Offered**

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#### **Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

As part of our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service clients will be provided asset management and financial planning or consulting services. This service is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of a financial plan or consultation. Our firm conducts client meetings to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what is learned, an investment approach is presented to the client, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, ETFs, options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives. Upon client request, our firm provides a summary of observations and recommendations for the planning or consulting aspects of this service.

#### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

Our firm provides a variety of standalone financial planning and consulting services to clients for the management of financial resources based upon an analysis of current situation, goals, and objectives. Financial planning services will typically involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass Investment Planning, Life Insurance, Tax Concerns, Retirement Planning, College Planning, and Debt/Credit Planning, Estate Planning.

Written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client. Our firm provides clients with a summary of their financial situation, and observations for financial planning engagements. Financial consultations are not typically accompanied by a written summary of observations and recommendations, as the process is less formal than the planning service. Assuming that all the information and documents requested from the client are provided promptly,

plans or consultations are typically completed within 6 months of the client signing a contract with our firm.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our firm provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education.

Retirement Plan Consulting services typically include:

- Establishing an Investment Policy Statement – Our firm will assist in the development of a statement that summarizes the investment goals and objectives along with the broad strategies to be employed to meet the objectives.
- Investment Options – Our firm will work with the Plan Sponsor to evaluate existing investment options and make recommendations for appropriate changes.
- Asset Allocation and Portfolio Construction – Our firm will develop strategic asset allocation models to aid Participants in developing strategies to meet their investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation and tolerance for risk.
- Investment Monitoring – Our firm will monitor the performance of the investments and notify the client in the event of over/underperformance and in times of market volatility.

In providing services for retirement plan consulting, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, “Excluded Assets”).

All retirement plan consulting services shall be in compliance with the applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans (“Plan”) governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointment to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) or 3(38) of ERISA as designated by the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

### **Newsletters:**

Our firm provides free newsletters, to clients and potential clients who sign up to receive them through our firm’s website.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

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Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients. General investment advice will be offered to our Financial Planning & Consulting, Retirement Plan Consulting, clients.

Each Comprehensive Portfolio Management client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in

certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account.

### **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

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Our firm does not offer or sponsor a wrap fee program.

### **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

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Our firm has the following assets under management:

<b>Discretionary Amount</b>	<b>Non-discretionary Amount</b>	<b>Date Calculated</b>
\$399,300,000	\$2,100,000	December 31, 2020

In addition to the above regulatory assets under management, we also provide non-management advisory services on an additional \$146,900,000 not included in regulatory assets under management above (also calculated as of December 31, 2020).

## **Item 5: Fees & Compensation**

### **Compensation for Our Advisory Services**

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#### **Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Percentage of Assets Charge</b>
\$0 to \$500,000	2.00%
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	1.60%
\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	1.20%
\$2,000,001 to \$10,000,000	1.00%
Over \$10,000,000	0.80%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the Client. Annualized fees are typically paid quarterly in advance and are calculated based on the value of assets in the account under our firm's management as of the end of the last business day of the previous quarter. Fees are generally negotiable and the final fee schedule is attached as an exhibit to the Investment Advisory Contract entered into between our firm and the clients.

Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter. Our firm does not offer direct invoicing. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

- a) The client's independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly showing the market values for each security included in the Assets and all account disbursements, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm;
- b) Clients will provide authorization permitting our firm to be directly paid by these terms. Our firm will send an invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If our firm sends a copy of our invoice to the client, legend urging the comparison of information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian will be included.

### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

Our firm charges on an hourly or flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$200. Flat fees range from \$495 to \$19,995. Our firm will not require a retainer exceeding \$1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our Retirement Plan Consulting services are billed on an hourly or flat fee basis or a fee based on the percentage of Plan assets under management. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$250. Our flat fees range from \$750 to \$10,000. Fees based on a percentage of managed Plan assets will not exceed 2.00%. The fee-paying arrangements for Retirement Plan Consulting service will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be detailed in the signed consulting agreement. Clients will be invoiced directly for the fees.

### **Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

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Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts (see Item 12, which discusses our brokerage practices). These transaction fees are separate from our firm's advisory fees and will be disclosed by the chosen custodian. Clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees, initial or deferred sales charges, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, and other fund expenses). Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

### **Termination & Refunds**

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Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients may terminate their contracts without penalty, for full refund, within 5 business days of signing the advisory contract. Following that, refunds are given on a prorated basis, based on the number of days remaining in a quarter at the point of termination. Fees are not tiered – they are retroactive to the first dollar. SWP may withdraw advisory fees directly from the client's account, with written authorization. Fees that are collected in advance will be refunded based on the prorated amount of work completed up to the day of termination. The fee refunded will be the balance of the fees collected in advance minus the daily rate times the number of days in the quarter up to and including the day of termination. (The daily rate is calculated by dividing the quarterly fee by the number of days in the termination quarter).

Financial Planning & Consulting clients may terminate their agreement at any time before the delivery of a financial plan by providing written notice. For purposes of calculating refunds, all work performed by us up to the point of termination shall be calculated at the hourly fee currently in effect. Clients will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned fees based on the time and effort expended by our firm.

Either party to a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement may terminate at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Full refunds will only be made in cases where cancellation occurs within 5 business days of signing an agreement. After 5 business days from initial signing, either

party must provide the other party 30 days written notice to terminate billing. Billing will terminate 30 days after receipt of termination notice. Clients will be charged on a pro-rata basis, which takes into account work completed by our firm on behalf of the client. Clients will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered up to the point of termination (determined as 30 days from receipt of said written notice) and such fees will be due and payable.

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

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Our firm and representatives do not sell securities for a commission in advisory accounts.

## **Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management**

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements**

Our firm serves the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- Our firm requires a minimum account balance of \$250,000 for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. Generally, this minimum account balance requirement is negotiable and would be required throughout the course of the client's relationship with our firm.

## **Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss**

### **Methods of Analysis and Associated Risks**

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We use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

**Charting Analysis** involves the use of patterns in performance charts. Our firm uses this technique to search for patterns used to help predict favorable conditions for buying and/or selling a security.

**Fundamental Analysis** involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

**Technical Analysis** involves the analysis of past market data, primarily price and volume.

Our judgment about the attractiveness, value and potential appreciation of a particular asset class or individual security may be incorrect, and there is no guarantee that the securities we select will perform as anticipated. The value of an individual security can be more volatile than the market as



a whole, or our intrinsic value approach may fail to produce the intended results. Our estimate of a security's intrinsic value may be wrong or, even if our estimate of intrinsic value is correct, it may take a long time before the price and intrinsic value converge. As a result, there is a risk of loss of the assets we manage that is out of our control. We seek to reduce your risk through diversification. Although we will do our best in managing your assets, we cannot guarantee any level of performance or that you will not experience a loss in your assets.

Additionally, in performing our analysis, we may use commercially available information services and financial publications, research materials prepared by various broker-dealers and other research developed by other third-party providers. Our methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

### **Investment Strategies We Use**

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Our firm uses Long Term Trading and Short Term Trading. We utilize investment strategies that are designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Frequent trading, when done, can affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transaction costs and taxes.

### **Risk of Loss**

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Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and the account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and the account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that clients understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, are appropriately diversified in investments, and ask any questions.

### **Description of Material, Significant or Unusual Risks**

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#### **Risks Associated with Our Primary Client Investments**

The principal risks of the primary investments we use to construct client portfolios are as follows:

- *General Equity Market Risk* – Overall stock market risks may affect the value of investments in equity strategies. Factors such as U.S. economic growth and market conditions, interest rates, and political events affect the equity markets.
- *Interest Rate Risk* – Fixed income securities increase or decrease in value based on changes in interest rates. If rates increase, the value of fixed income securities generally declines. On the other hand, if rates fall, the value of the fixed income securities generally increases.
- *Credit Risk* – There is a risk that issuers of fixed income securities and counterparties will not make interest and/or principal payments on the securities they issue or that their payments will not be made when due. In addition, the credit quality of securities may be lowered if an issuer's financial condition changes. Lower credit quality may lead

to greater volatility in the price of a security, and that may affect liquidity and our ability to sell the security.

- *Call Risk* – There is a risk that falling interest rates will cause an issuer of fixed income securities to redeem (call) its high-yielding fixed income securities before their maturity date.
- *Mutual Fund and ETF Risk* – These funds face risks based on the investments they hold. For example, a sector stock fund (which invests in a single industry, such as telecommunications) is at risk that its price will decline due to developments in its industry.
- *Put and Call Options Risk* – As a seller (writer) of a put option, the adviser will tend to lose money if the value of the reference index or security falls below the strike price. As the seller (writer) of a call option, the adviser will tend to lose money if the value of the reference index or security rises above the strike price. As the buyer of a put or call option, the adviser risks losing the entire premium invested in the option if the adviser does not exercise the option.

### **Client Cash Balances**

Our firm generally invests client cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, our firm tries to achieve the highest return on client cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management, services, as applicable.

## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

## **Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations**

Mark Tepper is a licensed insurance agent and owner of Strategic Wealth Planners, LLC an insurance agency. In addition, representatives of our firm may be licensed insurance agents of Strategic Wealth Planners, LLC and offer advice and fixed insurance products and receive normal and customary commissions as a result of any purchases made by the clients. Clients are under no obligation to purchase these products. To mitigate this conflict of interest, disclosure is made to the client at time of purchase identifying the nature of the transaction and relationship, the role to be played by and any compensation paid to our advisory representatives. In every case the interests of the clients are placed before that of our advisory representatives.

Representatives of our firm are licensed or non-practicing attorneys with Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd. These services are independent of investment advisory services and are governed under a separate engagement agreement. Clients may be solicited to utilize these services, however, they are under no obligation to do so.

Our firm offers services through our network of investment advisor representatives (“Advisor Representatives” or “IARs”). IARs may have their own legal business entities whose trade names and logos are used for marketing purposes and may appear on marketing materials or client statements. Clients should understand that the businesses are legal entities of the IAR and not of our firm, Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd. The IARs are under the supervision of our firm, Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd., and the advisory services of the IAR are provided through our firm.

Strategic Wealth Partners, Ltd. has such an arrangement with Tasha Mauss, an IAR for our firm. Tasha Mauss is the sole owner of a business entity that uses the trade name/logo “Samara Capital” for the purposes described above.

### **Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading**

As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser’s responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm’s Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm’s Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demands the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate’s personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day unless included in a block trade.

### **Compliance with Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule**

Our firm provides investment advice to assets affected by the Department of Labor ("DOL") Fiduciary Rule for a level fee. As such, we abide by the Impartial Conduct Standards as defined by the DOL. To comply with these standards, our firm and our advisors give advice that is in our clients' best interest, charge no more than reasonable compensation (within the meaning of ERISA Section 408(b)(2) and Internal Revenue Code Section 4975(d)(2), and make no misleading statements about investment transactions, compensation, conflicts of interest, and any other matters related to investment decisions.

As a level-fee fiduciary, we maintain a non-variable compensation structure that is provided on the basis of a fixed percentage of the value of assets or a set fee that does not vary with the particular investment recommended, as opposed to a commission or other transaction based fee.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

### **Selecting a Brokerage Firm**

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Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets. Client assets must be maintained by a qualified custodian. Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. The factors considered, among others, are these:

- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors

- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Expertise as it relates to specific securities
- Financial condition
- Business reputation
- Quality of services

With this in consideration, our firm participates in the TD Ameritrade Institutional program, offered by TD Ameritrade Institutional, which is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. (“TD Ameritrade”), and the Fidelity Clearing & Custody Solutions® program, offered by Fidelity Investments Institutional Services Company, Inc. (“Fidelity” and together with TD Ameritrade, the “Custodians”) (the “Programs”). TD Ameritrade, member FINRA/SIPC, is an independent and unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer. Fidelity is a division of Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC, member FINRA/SIPC/NFA, an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA member.

TD Ameritrade and Fidelity each offers to independent investment advisors services that include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. We receive some benefits from the Custodians through its participation in the Programs. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 below.)

The Custodians may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. Research products and services may include: research reports on recommendations or other information about particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by the respective broker firm to us in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. The aforementioned research and brokerage services qualify for the safe harbor exemption defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which our firm has investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm’s choice of TD Ameritrade and Fidelity as a custodial recommendations. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend TD Ameritrade and Fidelity and have determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm’s clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

Our clients may pay a transaction fee or commission to TD Ameritrade and Fidelity that is higher than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where our firm determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the client as a whole.

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer’s services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients,

our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

### **Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not receive soft dollars in excess of what is allowed by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The safe harbor research products and services obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients but not necessarily all at any one particular time.

## **Client Brokerage Commissions**

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TD Ameritrade and Fidelity do not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm's use.

## **Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

## **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

## **Directed Brokerage**

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Our firm routinely requests that clients direct us to execute through a specified broker-dealer. Our firm recommends the use of TD Ameritrade or Fidelity. Each client will generally be required to establish their account(s) with TD Ameritrade or Fidelity if not already done. Please note that not all advisers have this requirement.

## **Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, our firm will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

## **Client-Directed Brokerage**

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Our firm allows clients to direct brokerage outside our recommendation. Our firm may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions. Client directed brokerage may cost clients more money. For example, in a directed brokerage account, clients may pay higher brokerage commissions because our firm may not be able to aggregate orders to reduce transaction costs, or clients may receive less favorable prices.

## **Aggregation of Purchases or Sales**

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Our firm provides investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when our firm believes that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, our firm attempts to allocate trade

executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

### **Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

Our management personnel or financial advisors review accounts on at least an annual basis for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Our firm does not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when our Comprehensive Portfolio Management, clients are contacted.

Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

Financial Planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. Our firm does not provide ongoing services to financial planning clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Financial Planning clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately engage our firm for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

Retirement Plan Consulting clients receive reviews of their retirement plans for the duration of the service. Our firm also provides ongoing services where clients are met with upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Retirement Plan Consulting clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their plans unless they choose to engage our firm for ongoing services.

### **Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation**

#### **TD Ameritrade and Fidelity**

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Our firm may recommend TD Ameritrade or Fidelity to clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our firm's participation in the Programs (described above in Item 12) and the investment advice given to clients, although we receive economic benefits through our participation in the Programs that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade and Fidelity retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving our firm's participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain



institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third party vendors. The Custodians may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by our firm's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by the Custodians through the Programs may benefit our firm but may not benefit our client accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at the Custodian. Other services made available by the Custodians are intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. The benefits received by our firm or our personnel through participation in the Programs do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to the Custodians. As part of our fiduciary duties to our clients, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of the Custodians for custody and brokerage services.

#### *Additional Services from TD Ameritrade*

Our firm also receives from TD Ameritrade certain additional economic benefits ("Additional Services") that may or may not be offered to any other independent investment advisors participating in the TD Ameritrade Program. Specifically, the Additional Services include portfolio management software programs that allow us to perform reporting, fee billing, trading, reconciliation and other account management functions for our clients. These services are provided by Orion Advisor Services, LLC. TD Ameritrade makes the Additional Services available to us in its sole discretion and at its own expense. We do not pay any fees to TD Ameritrade for the Additional Services. Advisor and TD Ameritrade have entered into a separate agreement ("Additional Services Addendum") to govern the terms of the provision of the Additional Services.

Our firm's receipt of Additional Services raises potential conflicts of interest. In providing Additional Services to us, TD Ameritrade most likely considers the amount and profitability to TD Ameritrade of the assets in, and trades placed for, our client accounts maintained with TD Ameritrade. TD Ameritrade has the right to terminate the Additional Services Addendum with us, in its sole discretion, provided certain conditions are met. Consequently, in order to continue to obtain the Additional Services from TD Ameritrade, our firm may have an incentive to recommend to our clients that the assets under management by our firm be held in custody with TD Ameritrade and to place transactions for client accounts with TD Ameritrade. Our firm's receipt of Additional Services does not diminish its duty to act in the best interests of our clients, including to seek best execution of trades for client accounts.

#### **Referral Fees**

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Our firm does not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm.

### **Item 15: Custody**

Our firm does not have custody of client funds or securities. All of our clients receive account statements directly from their qualified custodians at least quarterly upon opening of an account. If our firm decides to also send account statements to clients, such notice and account statements include a legend that recommends that the client compare the account statements received from

the qualified custodian with those received from our firm. Clients are encouraged to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed investment advisory client agreement. By granting investment discretion, our firm is authorized to execute securities transactions, determine which securities are bought and sold, and the total amount to be bought and sold. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgement.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

### **Item 18: Financial Information**

Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.