



## **Leslie Global Wealth, LLC**

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### **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Leslie Global Wealth, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at (312) 946-1000 or email [clientservices@leslieglobalwealth.com](mailto:clientservices@leslieglobalwealth.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 Leslie Global Wealth, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

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

## **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

Leslie Global Wealth, LLC is required to advise you of any material changes to our Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update, identify those changes on the cover page of our Brochure or on the page immediately following the cover page, or in a separate communication accompanying our Brochure.

Since our last annual updating amendment dated March 13, 2019, there are no material changes to report.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

We are 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 in the State of Illinois. Our firm is solely owned by Barry D. Leslie, who has been in the financial services industry since 1998 and has been a registered investment adviser since 2002. In 2012, Barry D. Leslie formed Leslie Global Wealth, LLC.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we", "our" and "us" refer to Leslie Global Wealth, LLC and the words "you", "your" and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

### **Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer** **Comprehensive Portfolio Management Services**

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary comprehensive portfolio management services, where we emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our comprehensive portfolio management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be initially designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least annually and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

### **Financial Planning Services**

We provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services will 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 one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Cost Segregation Study, Corporate Structure, Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Our 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. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we refer clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialist, as necessary for non-advisory related services. For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we usually do not provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations as the process is less formal than our planning services. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client.

## **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers**

We provide clients with a list of investment advisory services of third party professional Portfolio Management firms for the individual management of client accounts. As part of this process, we assist clients in identifying an appropriate third party money manager. We provide initial due diligence on third party money managers and ongoing review of their management of your account.

In order to assist clients in the selection of a third party money manager, we typically gather information from the client about their financial situation, investment objectives, and reasonable restrictions they can impose on the management of the account, which are often very limited. It is important to note that we do not offer advice on any specific securities or other investments in connection with this service. Investment advice and trading of securities is only offered by or through third party money managers to clients.

We periodically review third party money managers' reports provided to the client, but no less often than on an annual basis. Our associates contact the clients from time to time, as agreed to with the client, in order to review their financial situation and objectives; communicate information to third party money managers as warranted; and, assist the client in understanding and evaluating the services provided by the third party money manager. The client will be expected to notify us of any changes in his/her financial situation, investment objectives, or account restrictions that could affect their account. The client may also directly contact the third party money manager managing the account or sponsoring the program.

### *Portfolio Management Services through LPL Financial*

When appropriate we have the ability to provide advisory services through certain programs sponsored by LPL Financial. Below is a brief description of each LPL advisory program available to us. For more information regarding LPL programs, including more information on the advisory services and fees that apply, the types of investments available in the programs and the potential conflicts of interest presented by the programs please see the LPL Financial Form ADV Part 2 or the applicable LPL program's Wrap Fee Program Brochure and the applicable LPL Financial client agreement.

### *Optimum Market Portfolios Programs (OMP)*

OMP offers clients the ability to participate in a professionally managed asset allocation program using Optimum Funds Class I shares. Under OMP, the client will authorize LPL Financial on a discretionary basis to purchase and sell Optimum Funds pursuant to investment objectives chosen by the client. We will assist the client in determining the suitability of OMP for the client and assist the client in setting an appropriate investment objective. Advisor will have discretion to select a mutual fund asset allocation portfolio designed by LPL consistent with the client's investment objective. LPL Financial will have discretion to purchase and sell Optimum Funds pursuant to the portfolio selected for the client. LPL Financial will also have the authority to rebalance the account. A minimum account value of \$15,000 is required for OMP. The OMP advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.50%.

### *Manager Access Select Program (MAS)*

Manager Access Select provides clients access to the investment advisory services of professional portfolio management firms for the individual management of client accounts. We will assist clients in identifying a third party portfolio manager (Portfolio Manager) from a list of Portfolio Managers made available by LPL Financial. The Portfolio Manager manages client's assets on a discretionary basis. We will provide initial and ongoing assistance regarding the Portfolio Manager selection process. A minimum account value of \$100,000 is required for Manager Access Select, however, in certain instances, the minimum account size may be lower or higher. The MAS advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.90%.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing our Financial Planning services and Referrals to Third Party Money Management services.

Each 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. Restrictions would be limited to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. We do not manage assets through other services.

### **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2019, we provide continuous management services for \$195,035,674 in client assets on a discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **How We Are Compensated for Our Advisory Services**

#### **Comprehensive Portfolio Management**

Assets Under Management	Annual Percentage of Assets Charge
Under \$5,000,000	Up to 2.50%
Over \$5,000,000	Up to 1.00%

Our firm's annualized fees are billed quarterly in advance, on a pro-rata basis, based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. The quarterly billing cycle is determined based on when the account was first opened.

Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from your managed account. At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in your paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above. LPL will make quarterly adjustments for deposits and withdrawals in client accounts. As part of the process, the client is made aware of the following:

- a. LPL Financial ("LPL") as your custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing all disbursements for your account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b. You provide authorization permitting LPL to deduct these fees;
- c. LPL calculates the advisory fees for all flat fee schedules and deducts them from your account.

#### **Financial Planning:**

We charge on a flat fee or hourly basis for our Financial Plans. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee that we charge you, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. Flat fees generally range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Our hourly fees range from \$125 to \$500. We require that you pay 50% of the fee in advance and the remaining portion upon the completion of the services rendered. At our discretion we may waive this deposit. We will not require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$500.

**Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:**

We are paid by third party money managers when we refer you to them and you decide to open a managed account. Third party money managers pay us a portion of the investment advisory fee that they charge you for managing your account. Fees paid to us by third party money managers are generally ongoing. All fees we receive from third party money managers and the written separate disclosures made to you regarding these comply with applicable state statutes and rules. The separate written disclosures you need to be provided include: a copy of the third party money manager's Form ADV Part 2, all relevant Brochures, a Solicitation Disclosure Statement detailing the exact fees we are paid and a copy of the third party money manager's privacy policy. The third party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them.

Third party money managers establish and maintain their own separate billing processes over which we have no control. In general, they will directly bill you and describe how this works in their separate written disclosure documents.

**Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

Non-Wrap fee clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees and will be disclosed by the firm that the trades are executed through. Also, clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, which we do not receive any part of: 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 and other fund expenses).

**Termination & Refunds**

We charge our advisory fees quarterly in advance. In the event that you wish to terminate your services, we will refund the unearned portion of our advisory fees to you. You need to contact us in writing and state that you wish to terminate our services. Upon receipt of your letter of termination, we will proceed to close out your account and process a pro-rata refund of unearned advisory fees.

**Commissionable Securities Sales**

In order to sell securities for a commission, our supervised persons are registered representatives of LPL Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. Our supervised persons may accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including distribution or service ("trail") fees from the sale of mutual funds and variable life insurance policies. You should be aware that the practice of accepting commissions for the sale of securities:

1. Presents a conflict of interest and gives our firm and/or supervised persons an incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received, rather than on your needs. We generally address commissionable sales conflicts that arise when explaining to clients that commissionable securities sales creates an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation we are/or our supervised persons may earn and/or when recommending commissionable mutual funds, explaining that "no-load" funds are also available.
2. In no way prohibits you from purchasing investment products recommended by us through other brokers or agents which are not affiliated with us.
3. Does not exceed more than 50% of our revenue.

**Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

We do not accept performance-based fees.

## Item 7 Types of Clients and Account Requirements

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;

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

- We require a minimum account balance of \$250,000 for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. This minimum account balance requirement is negotiable.
- At our discretion, we may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.
- We do not charge a minimum fee for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service.

## Item 8 Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

### Methods of Analysis

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

**Fundamental Analysis.** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be a good time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Asset Allocation.** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance. A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

**Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis.** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.

**Third-Party Money Manager Analysis.** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and

leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

**Quantitative Analysis.** We use quantitative analysis that may include mathematical analysis in an attempt to identify the impact of interest rate changes on individual securities and portfolios of securities. The results of our quantitative analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis.** We use qualitative analysis to evaluate individual securities, focusing on non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management and others not readily subject to measurement, and incorporate that analysis into our security selection process. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgement may prove incorrect.

**Risks for all forms of analysis.** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and well, 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**

We use the following strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations. Typically we employ this strategy when we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

**Long-Term Purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we may purchase securities with the idea of holding them for a relatively long time (typically held for at least a year). A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell. Typically we employ this sub-strategy when we believe the securities to be well valued; and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

**Short-Term Purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities we purchase.

**Margin Transactions.** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed for your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.

**Option Writing.** We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset. The two types of options are calls and puts:

1. A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
2. A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

We will use options to "hedge" a purchase of the underlying security; in other words, we will use an option purchase to limit the potential upside and downside of a security we have purchased for your portfolio.

We use "covered calls", in which we sell an option on a security you own. In this strategy, you receive a fee for making the option available, and the person purchasing the option has the right to buy the security from you at an agreed-upon price. We use a "spreading strategy", in which we purchase two or more option contracts (for example, a call option that you buy and a call option that you sell) for the same underlying security. This effectively puts you on both sides of the market, but with the ability to vary price, time and other factors.

**Fixed Income Portfolio Management Investment Strategies.** We believe that a conservative, risk-averse approach to fixed income management will provide both steady incremental out-performance, and low relative volatility. The disciplined process we employ in an effort to realize this philosophy is generally grounded in four key decisions:

1. Constraint of portfolio duration within a narrow range relative to the benchmark in order to limit exposure to market and interest rate risk.
2. Strategic allocations to key sectors to add value relative to the benchmark.
3. Proactive management of term structure to add value in different value yield curve environments.
4. Security selection based on rigorous credit and relative value analysis and broad diversification of non-government issuers.

Within our Fixed Income strategy, we use the following sub-strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such sub-categories are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations.

**Duration Constraints.** We adhere to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis. The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.

**Sector Allocation.** We allocate client assets to various sectors of the fixed income market, including US Treasury obligations, federal agency securities, corporate notes, mortgage-backed securities and others, based on our quantitative and qualitative analysis in order to manage client exposure to a given sector and to provide exposure to sectors we believe have good value. The risk of sector allocation is that clients may not participate fully in an increase in value in any specific sector.

**Security Selection.** We use externally generated credit research to evaluate securities we are considering for purchase. The ultimate decision to purchase or sell a security is based on the firm's evaluation of the current price for the security. The risk of security selection is that the methods of analysis employed will not provide accurate measurement of the risk association with each individual security.

**Cash Balances.** We generally invest client's cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, we try to achieve the highest return on our client's 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 asset management, as applicable.

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

### **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

We primarily recommend stocks, bonds, mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETFs"). However, we may recommend other types of investments as appropriate for you, since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with it.

**Stocks:** There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to: the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, more well established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

**Bonds:** Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return.

**Mutual Funds and ETFs:** Mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. Exchange traded funds differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are

"no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors.

## **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 and Affiliations**

Investment adviser representatives of our firm are also registered representatives with LPL, in which all brokerage transactions will be implemented through LPL. Investment adviser representatives are required to implement brokerage trades in this manner as a result of them being registered representatives with LPL. This relationship will be disclosed to all clients prior to any transactions being implemented. As a result of this relationship, we do not recommend directed brokerage trades, negotiating fees or commissions or receiving additional incentives from other broker/dealers for trades executed through them. However, clients will be made aware that as registered representatives, the investment adviser representatives receive services including but not limited to: administrative functions including portfolio pricing, account statement generation, fee calculations, back-office support, trade execution and research. Clients are not obligated to implement transactions through the investment adviser representatives in their separate capacities as registered representative. Clients' trades will always be implemented based on the goals and objectives of the client and not on the incentives to the representatives for implementing the trades. Our firm's management persons will only receive commissions for securities recommendations they make to brokerage clients in non-advisory accounts. Compensation for brokerage commissions of registered representatives of LPL are paid directly to the registered representative by LPL in their individual capacity and separate from Leslie Global Wealth, LLC.

Our advisory representatives may also be licensed to sell insurance products. As such, they may have an incentive to sell and recommend insurance products to advisory clients. When such recommendations or sales are made, a conflict of interest exists as our representative may earn insurance commissions for the sale of those products. Clients are under no obligation to purchase insurance products recommended to them by our advisory representatives.

The compensation paid to us by third party managers may vary, and thus, there may be a conflict of interest in recommending a manager who shares a larger portion of its advisory fees over another manager. Our firm's fees are not higher than they would have been had our client obtained services directly from the third party money manager. Prior to referring clients to third party advisors, we will ensure that third party advisors are licensed or notice filed with the respective authorities. A potential conflict of interest in utilizing third party advisors may be an incentive to us in selecting a particular advisor over another in the form of fees or services. In order to minimize this conflict our firm will make our selections in the best interest of our clients.

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

We recognize that the personal investment transactions of members and employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and for members and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

As such, our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell the same securities that we recommend to you or securities in which you are already invested. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

Additionally, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts.

Furthermore, our firm has established a Code of Ethics which applies to all of our associated persons. An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide full and fair disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. We have a fiduciary duty to all clients. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. We require all of our supervised persons 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 or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgment that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our firm and supervised persons 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.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest.

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 may 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. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

## Item 12 Brokerage Practices

### Selecting a Brokerage Firm

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others, 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

### Suggestions of Brokers to Clients

We shall recommend LPL Financial. LPL is the broker-dealer with which our representatives are also associated. As a result of the individual association of our representatives with LPL, we are generally required to utilize the brokerage/custodial services of LPL for investment advisory accounts. Our general policies relative to the execution of client securities brokerage transactions are as follows:

#### *Execution of Brokerage Transactions (when applicable)*

In seeking "best execution", the determinative factor is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution. LPL also takes into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services including execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although LPL will seek competitive commission rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for all account transactions. Over-the-counter (OTC) securities transactions are generally effected based on two (2) separate broker-dealers: (1) a "dealer" or "principal" acting as market-maker; and (2) executing broker-dealer that acts in an agency capacity. Dealers executing principal transactions typically include a mark-up/down, which is included in the offer or bid price of the securities purchased or sold. In addition to the mark-up/down, the client may also incur the transaction fee imposed by the executing broker-dealer. We do not receive any portion of the dealer mark-up/down or the executing broker-dealer transaction fee. Transactions for each client account will be effected independently. We individually review each client's account and place trades accordingly. Despite being purchased or sold at approximately the same time as all clients; transactions will incur individual transaction fees.

Our firm has a non-soft-dollar arrangement with LPL Financial under which we receive non-soft-dollar services such as research and administrative functions including portfolio pricing, account statement generation and fee calculations, which are intended to support our firm in conducting business and in serving the best interests of our clients. Additionally, LPL Financial provides us with some financial assistance, or reimbursements, when we transition clients from one broker-dealer/custodian to LPL Financial. These payments are meant to defray costs and are not intended to be referral fees. These services do not incentivize us to recommend LPL Financial. Our recommendation of LPL Financial to our clients is based on our clients' interests in receiving best execution and the level of competitive, professional services LPL Financial provides. Our firm does not receive client brokerage commissions

(or markups or markdowns) to obtain research or other products or services. We do not receive soft dollars, products or services acquired with client brokerage commissions. Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals. We do not allow client-directed brokerage, as trades in our clients' accounts are executed through LPL Financial, a qualified custodian and broker-dealer; neither do we direct client transactions to LPL Financial in return for soft-dollar benefits.

In addition to LPL Financial, some of our clients may custody their assets with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab") and/or TD Ameritrade, Inc. Because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives of LPL Financial, we will recommend LPL Financial to you for brokerage services. Those persons who are registered representatives of LPL Financial are subject to applicable rules that restrict them from conducting securities transactions away from LPL Financial unless LPL Financial provides the representative with written authorization to do so. Therefore, we are generally limited to conducting securities transactions through LPL Financial.

### **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

We do not aggregate the purchase or sale of securities for various client accounts but rather review accounts independently and place transactions accordingly. Whether or not securities are purchased or sold at approximately the same time, all client transactions will incur individual transaction fees. Whether or not we aggregate our orders, LPL Financial does bunch orders. The advantage of bunching is that orders are handled in a way that may mitigate market impact, when applicable and possible. If orders are bunched, each client gets the same average price.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We do not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

### **Directed Brokerage**

We routinely require that you direct our firm to execute transactions through TD Ameritrade and LPL Financial. As such, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions and you may pay higher brokerage commissions than you might otherwise pay through another broker-dealer that offers the same types of services. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage.

### **Block Trades**

We combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for discretionary advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. Generally, non-wrap accounts will pay a fixed transaction cost regardless of the number of shares transacted. In certain cases, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs on any given day. If you participate in our wrap fee program described above, you will not pay any portion of the transaction costs in addition to the program fee. In the event an order is only partially filled, the shares will be allocated to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner, typically in proportion to the size of each client's order. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

We do not block trade for non-discretionary accounts. Accordingly, non-discretionary accounts may pay different costs than discretionary accounts pay. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we may not be able to buy and sell the same quantities of securities for you and you may pay higher commissions, fees, and/or transaction costs than clients who enter into discretionary arrangements with our firm.

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

We review accounts on at least an annual basis for our clients subscribing to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management services and Third Party Money Management services. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, investment policies, if applicable. We provide a written report annually generated through LPL's Portfolio Manager Report system. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we contact clients who subscribe to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management and Third Party Money Management services. Only our Financial Advisors will conduct reviews.

We 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 clients, etc.

Financial Planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. We do 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 contract with us for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

## **Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

### **Additional Compensation**

We may receive from LPL or a mutual fund company, without cost and/or at a discount support services and/or products, to assist us to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services we may receive investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by us to assist us in our investment advisory business operations. Our clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at LPL as a result of this arrangement. There is no commitment made by us to LPL or any other institution as a result of the above arrangement.

### **Referral Fees**

We directly compensate non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Solicitors) for client referrals. In order to receive a cash referral fee from our firm, Solicitors must comply with the requirements of the jurisdictions in which they operate. If you were referred to our firm by a Solicitor, you should have received a copy of this brochure along with the Solicitor's disclosure statement at the time of the referral. If you become a client, the Solicitor that referred you to our firm will receive a percentage of the advisory fee you pay our firm for as long as you are a client with our firm, or until such time as our agreement with the Solicitor expires. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral arrangement. Referral fees paid to a Solicitor are contingent upon your entering into an advisory agreement with our firm. Therefore, a Solicitor has a financial incentive to recommend our firm to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest; however, you are not obligated to retain our firm for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees may be available through other firms.

Solicitors that refer business to more than one investment adviser may have a financial incentive to recommend advisers with more favorable compensation arrangements. We request that our Solicitors disclose to you whether multiple referral relationships exist and that comparable services may be available from other advisers for lower fees and/or where the Solicitor's compensation is less favorable.

As disclosed under the *Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations* section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed insurance agents, and are registered representatives and investment adviser representatives with LPL Financial, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the *Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations* section.

### **Forgivable Loan**

We have entered into an agreement with LPL Financial whereby LPL Financial has provided funding to our firm, in the form of a forgivable loan, for the purpose of establishing and growing our investment advisory business. As part of this agreement, our firm has agreed to use LPL Financial's brokerage and custody services for at least a certain period of time. This arrangement creates a conflict of interest in that we have a financial incentive to recommend LPL Financial's brokerage and custody services to our clients. Notwithstanding our agreement with LPL Financial, we believe that LPL Financial provides quality execution services based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the ability to provide professional services, reputation, experience and financial stability.

## **Item 15 Custody**

As paying agent for our firm, your independent custodian will directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

We will also provide statements to you reflecting the amount of the advisory fee deducted from your account. You should compare our statements with the statements from your account custodian(s) to reconcile the information reflected on each statement. If you have a question regarding your account statement, or if you did not receive a statement from your custodian, contact us immediately at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

## **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, we are authorized to execute securities transactions, which securities are bought and sold, 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 acknowledgment.

## Item 17 Voting Client Securities

We do not and will not accept 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, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes proxies, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

## Item 18 Financial Information

We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- We do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance.
- We do not take custody of client funds or securities.
- We do not have a fiduciary condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients

We have never been subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

## Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

We are a federally registered investment adviser; therefore, we are not required to respond to this item.

## Item 20 Additional Information

### Your Privacy

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any non-affiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to

ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Contact our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure if you have any questions regarding this policy.

### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account.

### **Class Action Lawsuits**

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by you.