# Butterworth Financial, LLC Firm Brochure - Form ADV Part 2A

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Butterworth Financial, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (617) 792-8492 or by email at: mark@butterworthfinancial.net. 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 Butterworth Financial, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. Butterworth Financial, LLC's CRD number is: 325026.

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Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Version Date: 01/22/2024

## **Item 2: Material Changes**

Butterworth Financial, LLC has the following material changes to report. Material changes relate to Butterworth Financial, LLC's policies, practices or conflicts of interest.

- Butterworth Financial, LLC has updated its phone number. (Cover Page)
- Butterworth Financial, LLC has updated its Assets Under Management. (Item 4.E)
- Mark Butterworth is no longer affiliated with LPL Financial. (Item 10)
- Butterworth Financial, LLC has added John Hancock Investment Management LLC as the custodian of clients' 529 accounts. (Item 12)

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## **Item 4: Advisory Business**

### A. Description of the Advisory Firm

Butterworth Financial, LLC (hereinafter "BFL") is a Limited Liability Company organized in the State of Massachusetts. The firm was formed in January 2023, and the principal owner is Mark Spencer Butterworth.

### **B.** Types of Advisory Services

### Portfolio Management Services

BFL offers ongoing portfolio management services based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. BFL maintains account profiles for each client, based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. Portfolio management services include, but are not limited to, the following:

Investment strategy

Personal investment policy

Asset allocation

Asset selection

Risk tolerance

• Regular portfolio monitoring

BFL evaluates the current investments of each client with respect to their risk tolerance levels and time horizon. BFL will request discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction. Risk tolerance levels are documented in each account profile.

BFL seeks to provide that investment decisions are made in accordance with the fiduciary duties owed to its accounts and without consideration of BFL's economic, investment or other financial interests. To meet its fiduciary obligations, BFL attempts to avoid, among other things, investment or trading practices that systematically advantage or disadvantage certain client portfolios, and accordingly, BFL's policy is to seek fair and equitable allocation of investment opportunities/transactions among its clients to avoid favoring one client over another over time. It is BFL's policy to allocate investment opportunities and transactions it identifies as being appropriate and prudent among its clients on a fair and equitable basis over time.

Strategic Wealth Management Platform (SWM) & Strategic Wealth Management Platform II (SWM II)

SWM and SWM II offer clients an asset management account that allows the IAR to direct and manage specified client assets. The difference between SWM and SWM II is the type of fee charged. On the SWM platform clients pay an asset-based management fee and separate transaction costs. On the SWM II platform, clients pay a single wrap fee for advisory services and execution of transactions. BFL employs a Portfolio Analyst who is

responsible for the review, analysis and due diligence of various investment vehicles. The Portfolio Analyst reviews monthly, or more frequently as needed the models and determine what, if any, changes may be needed based on market conditions, performance, etc. The IARs can choose to use these models within the SWM and SWM II platform; however, they still have the flexibility to deviate from the model to suit the individual client's needs.

### Financial Planning

Financial plans and financial planning may include, but are not limited to: investment planning; life insurance; tax concerns; retirement planning; college planning; and debt/credit planning.

Investment planning involves working with clients to make sure their investments match their respective risk tolerance and goals. Tax concerns are addressed by working with the client to determine and compare effective tax rates for income, capital gains and other earnings or investments, then attempting to allocate the client's resources accordingly. Life insurance planning entails reviewing the life insurance and/or disability insurance needs of the client, together with any applicable dependents, spouse or other relatives, and assessing appropriate coverage for these individuals. College planning entails helping clients save for higher education, whether for the client or his/her children or other dependents, in the ideal manner to suit the client's overall financial goals and means. Financial planning to address retirement entails making sure clients are financially equipped for retirement in light of the client's anticipated income and expenses, investments, and other assets. Debt/credit planning consists of breaking down client budgets and aiding clients in decision-making as to current debt, anticipated significant expenses and potential debt, and avoiding excessive debt.

In offering financial planning, a conflict exists between the interests of the investment adviser and the interests of the client. The client is under no obligation to act upon the investment adviser's recommendation, and, if the client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through the investment adviser. This statement is required by California Code of Regulations, 10 CCR Section 260.235.2.

### Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments

BFL generally limits its investment advice to mutual funds, fixed income securities, insurance products including annuities, equities, ETFs (including ETFs in the gold and precious metal sectors), and treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds.

### Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. We also have a fiduciary duty under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and/or applicable state laws and regulations with respect to all client accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

### C. Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions

BFL offers the same suite of services to all of its clients. However, specific client investment strategies and their implementation are dependent upon the client's account profile which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Clients may impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs.

## D. Wrap Fee Programs

BFL acts as portfolio manager in a wrap fee program, which is an investment program where the client pays one stated fee that includes management fees, transaction costs, and certain other administrative fees. The wrap fee program is sponsored by BFL and clients utilizing the wrap fee program should also review the sponsor's separate Wrap Fee Program Brochure. BFL manages the investments in the wrap fee program but does not manage those wrap fee accounts any differently than it would manage non-wrap fee accounts. BFL receives the advisory fee set forth in the wrap fee brochure as a management fee under the wrap fee program.

Although clients do not pay a transaction charge for transactions in a SWM II account, clients should be aware that BFL pays LPL Financial transaction charges for those transactions. The transaction charges paid by BFL vary based on the type of transaction (e.g., mutual fund, equity or ETF) and for mutual funds based on whether or not the mutual fund pays 12b-1 fees and/or recordkeeping fees to LPL Financial. Transaction

charges paid by the BFL for equities and ETFs are \$9. For mutual funds, the transaction charges range from \$0 to \$26.50. Because BFL pays the transaction charges in SWM II accounts, there is a conflict of interest in cases where the mutual fund is offered at both \$0 and \$26.50. Clients should understand that the cost to BFL of transaction charges may be a factor that BFL considers when deciding which securities to select and how frequently to place transactions in a SWM II account.

In many instances, LPL Financial makes available mutual funds in a SWM II account that offer various classes of shares, including shares designated as Class A Shares and shares designed for advisory programs, which can be titled, for example, as "Class I," "institutional," "investor," "retail," "service," "administrative" or "platform" share classes ("Platform Shares"). The Platform Share class offered for a particular mutual fund in SWM II in many cases will not be the least expensive share class that the mutual fund makes available, and was selected by LPL Financial in certain cases because the share class pays LPL Financial compensation for the administrative and recordkeeping services LPL Financial provides to the mutual fund. Clients should understand that another financial services firm may offer the same mutual fund at a lower overall cost to the investor than is available through SWM II. In other instances, a mutual fund may offer only Class A Shares, but another similar mutual fund may be available that offers Platform Shares. Class A Shares typically pay LPL Financial a 12b-1 fee for providing shareholder services, distribution, and marketing expenses ("brokerage-related services") to the mutual funds. Platform Shares generally are not subject to 12b-1 fees. As a result of the different expenses of the mutual fund share classes, it is generally more expensive for a client to own Class A Shares than Platform Shares. An investor in Platform Shares will pay lower fees over time and keep more of his or her investment returns than an investor who holds Class A Shares of the same fund.

### E. Assets Under Management

BFL has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$ 63,000,000	\$ 1,900,000	December 2023

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

#### A. Fee Schedule

Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

### Portfolio Management Fees

<b>Total Assets Under Management</b>	Annual Fees
\$50,000 - \$250,000	1.50%
\$250,001 - \$1,000,000	1.25%
\$1,000,001 – AND UP	1.00%

The advisory fee is calculated using the value of the assets in the Account on the last business day of the prior billing period. The fee schedule is a straight-line tier. For example, if a client has combined assets of \$300,000, they would be charged 1.25%, if they had combined assets of \$200,000, they would be charged 1.5% and if they had \$1,200,000 of combined assets, they would be charged 1%.

These fees are generally negotiable and the final fee schedule will be memorialized in the client's advisory agreement. Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty for a full refund of BFL's fees within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Investment Advisory Contract immediately upon written notice.

### Financial Planning Fees

#### **Fixed Fees**

The negotiated fixed rate for creating client financial plans is between \$250 and \$5,000. Fees are negotiable based upon the type of client, the complexity of the client's situation, and the complexity of the plan.

### **Hourly Fees**

The negotiated hourly rate is \$150 per hour.

Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty, for full refund of BFL's fees, within five business days of signing the Financial Planning Agreement. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Financial Planning Agreement generally upon written notice.

### **B.** Payment of Fees

### Payment of Portfolio Management Fees

Asset-based portfolio management fees are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client's written authorization on a quarterly basis. Fees are paid in advance.

For fees deducted directly from client accounts, in states that require it, BFL will:

- (A) Possess written authorization from the client to deduct advisory fees from an account held by a custodian.
- (B) Send the custodian written notice of the amount of the fee to be deducted from the client's account and verify that the custodian sends invoices to the client.
- (C) Send the client a written invoice itemizing the fee upon or prior to fee deduction, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the time period covered by the fee and the amount of assets under management on which the fee was based.

### Payment of Financial Planning Fees

Financial planning fees are paid via check.

Fixed financial planning fees are paid 50% in advance, but never more than six months in advance, with the remainder due upon presentation of the plan.

Hourly fees will be collected in arrears.

## C. Client Responsibility For Third Party Fees

Clients are responsible for the payment of all third-party fees (i.e. custodian fees(\$40 annually for retirement accounts and \$0 for OMP accounts), brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.). Those fees are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by BFL. Please see Item 12 of this brochure regarding broker-dealer/custodian.

### D. Prepayment of Fees

BFL collects fees in advance. Refunds for fees paid in advance but not yet earned will be refunded on a prorated basis and returned within fourteen days to the client via check, or return deposit back into the client's account.

For all asset-based fees paid in advance, the fee refunded will be equal to the balance of the fees collected in advance minus the daily rate\* times the number of days elapsed in the billing period up to and including the day of termination. (\*The daily rate is calculated by dividing the annual asset-based fee rate by 365.)

Fixed fees that are collected in advance will be refunded based on the prorated amount of work completed at the point of termination.

### E. Outside Compensation For the Sale of Securities to Clients

Mark Spencer Butterworth in his outside business activities (see Item 10 below) is licensed to accept compensation for the sale of investment products to BFL clients. This presents a conflict of interest and gives the supervised person an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation received rather than on the client's needs. When recommending the sale of securities or investment products for which the supervised persons receives compensation, BFL will document the conflict of interest in the client file and inform the client of the conflict of interest. Clients always have the right to decide whether to purchase BFL-recommended products and, if purchasing, have the right to purchase those products through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with BFL.

## Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

BFL does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients**

BFL generally provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- High-Net-Worth Individuals

There is an account minimum of \$50,000, which may be waived by BFL in its discretion.

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

### A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

Methods of Analysis

**Charting analysis** involves the use of patterns in performance charts. BFL 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.

### **Investment Strategies**

BFL uses long term trading.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

### **B.** Material Risks Involved

### Methods of Analysis

Charting analysis strategy involves using and comparing various charts to predict long and short-term performance or market trends. The risk involved in using this method is that only past performance data is considered without using other methods to crosscheck data. Using charting analysis without other methods of analysis would be making the assumption that past performance will be indicative of future performance. This may not be the case.

**Fundamental analysis** concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

**Technical analysis** attempts to predict a future stock price or direction based on market trends. The assumption is that the market follows discernible patterns and if these patterns can be identified then a prediction can be made. The risk is that markets do not always follow patterns and relying solely on this method may not work long term.

### **Investment Strategies**

**Long term trading** is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

### C. Risks of Specific Securities Utilized

Clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any investment strategy. The investment types listed below (leaving aside Treasury Inflation Protected/Inflation Linked Bonds) are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency.

**Mutual Funds:** Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature.

**Equity** investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and/or capital gains if the value of the stock increases. The value of equity securities may fluctuate in response to specific situations for each company, industry conditions and the general economic environments.

Fixed income investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best-known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs): An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to stocks. Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Areas of concern include the lack of transparency in products and increasing complexity, conflicts of interest and the possibility of inadequate regulatory compliance. Risks in investing in ETFs include trading risks, liquidity and shutdown risks, risks associated with a change in authorized participants and non-participation of authorized participants, risks that trading price differs from indicative net asset value (iNAV), or price fluctuation and disassociation from the index being tracked. With regard to trading risks, regular trading adds cost to your portfolio thus counteracting the low fees that one of the typical benefits of ETFs. Additionally, regular trading to beneficially "time the market" is difficult to achieve. Even paid fund managers struggle to do this every year, with the majority failing to beat the relevant indexes. With regard to liquidity and shutdown risks, not all ETFs have the same level of liquidity. Since ETFs are at least as liquid as their underlying assets, trading

conditions are more accurately reflected in implied liquidity rather than the average daily volume of the ETF itself. Implied liquidity is a measure of what can potentially be traded in ETFs based on its underlying assets. ETFs are subject to market volatility and the risks of their underlying securities, which may include the risks associated with investing in smaller companies, foreign securities, commodities, and fixed income investments (as applicable). Foreign securities in particular are subject to interest rate, currency exchange rate, economic, and political risks, all of which are magnified in emerging markets. ETFs that target a small universe of securities, such as a specific region or market sector, are generally subject to greater market volatility, as well as to the specific risks associated with that sector, region, or other focus. ETFs that use derivatives, leverage, or complex investment strategies are subject to additional risks.

Precious Metal ETFs (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Palladium Bullion backed "electronic shares" not physical metal) specifically may be negatively impacted by several unique factors, among them (1) large sales by the official sector which own a significant portion of aggregate world holdings in gold and other precious metals, (2) a significant increase in hedging activities by producers of gold or other precious metals, (3) a significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors. The return of an index ETF is usually different from that of the index it tracks because of fees, expenses, and tracking error. An ETF may trade at a premium or discount to its net asset value (NAV) (or indicative value in the case of exchange-traded notes). The degree of liquidity can vary significantly from one ETF to another and losses may be magnified if no liquid market exists for the ETF's shares when attempting to sell them. Each ETF has a unique risk profile, detailed in its prospectus, offering circular, or similar material, which should be considered carefully when making investment decisions.

Annuities are a retirement product for those who may have the ability to pay a premium now and want to guarantee they receive certain monthly payments or a return on investment later in the future. Annuities are contracts issued by a life insurance company designed to meet requirement or other long-term goals. An annuity is not a life insurance policy. Variable annuities are designed to be long-term investments, to meet retirement and other long-range goals. Variable annuities are not suitable for meeting short-term goals because substantial taxes and insurance company charges may apply if you withdraw your money early. Variable annuities also involve investment risks, just as mutual funds do.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

Clients can obtain the disciplinary history, if any, of BFL and its representatives from the Massachusetts Securities Division (617-727-3548) upon request. Please also see below for a discussion of applicable disciplinary history.

### A. Criminal or Civil Actions

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

### **B.** Administrative Proceedings

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

### C. Self-regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

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

### A. Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative

Neither BFL nor its representatives are registered as, or have pending applications to become, a broker/dealer or a representative of a broker/dealer.

# B. Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor

Neither BFL nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become either a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Advisor or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

## C. Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests

Mark Spencer Butterworth is an independent licensed insurance agent. This activity creates a conflict of interest since there is an incentive to recommend insurance products based on commissions or other benefits received from the insurance company, rather than on the client's needs. Additionally, the offer and sale of insurance products by supervised persons of BFL are not made in their capacity as a fiduciary, and products are limited to only those offered by certain insurance providers. BFL addresses this conflict of interest by requiring its supervised persons to act in the best interest of the client at all times, including when acting as an insurance agent. BFL periodically reviews recommendations by its supervised persons to assess whether they are based on an objective evaluation of each client's risk profile and investment objectives rather than on the receipt of any commissions or other benefits. BFL will disclose in advance how it or its supervised persons are compensated and will disclose conflicts of interest involving any advice or service provided. At no time will there be tying between business practices and/or

services (a condition where a client or prospective client would be required to accept one product or service conditioned upon the selection of a second, distinctive tied product or service). No client is ever under any obligation to purchase any insurance product. Insurance products recommended by BFL's supervised persons may also be available from other providers on more favorable terms, and clients can purchase insurance products recommended through other unaffiliated insurance agencies.

All material conflicts of interest under California Code of Regulations Section 260.238(k) are disclosed regarding the investment adviser, its representatives or any of its employees, which could be reasonable expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

# D. Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is Compensated for Those Selections

BFL does not utilize nor select third-party investment advisers.

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

#### A. Code of Ethics

BFL has a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. BFL's Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

### B. Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests

BFL does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which a related person to BFL or BFL has a material financial interest.

## C. Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients

From time to time, representatives of BFL may buy or sell securities for themselves that they also recommend to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of BFL to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. BFL will always document any

transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage when similar securities are being bought or sold.

## D. Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities

From time to time, representatives of BFL may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of BFL to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. BFL will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will never engage in trading that front runs or operates to the client's disadvantage when similar securities are being bought or sold.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

#### A. Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker/Dealers

Custodians/broker-dealers will be recommended based on BFL's duty to seek "best execution," which is the obligation to seek execution of securities transactions for a client on the most favorable terms for the client under the circumstances. Clients will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent, and BFL may also consider the market expertise and research access provided by the broker-dealer/custodian, including but not limited to access to written research, oral communication with analysts, admittance to research conferences and other resources provided by the brokers that may aid in BFL's research efforts. BFL will never charge a premium or commission on transactions, beyond the actual cost imposed by the broker-dealer/custodian.

BFL will require clients to use LPL Financial LLC, CRD#6413. John Hancock Investment Management LLC, CRD# 105790, is the custodian for clients' 529 accounts.

BFL receives support services and/or products from LPL Financial; however, some of the services and products benefit BFL and not client accounts. These support services and/or products may be received without cost, at a discount, and/or at a negotiated rate, and may include the following:

- 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
- consulting services
- attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events

- marketing support
- computer hardware and/or software
- other products and services used by BFL in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations

LPL Financial may provide these services and products directly, or may arrange for third party vendors to provide the services or products to Advisor. In the case of third party vendors, LPL Financial may pay for some or all of the third party's fees.

These support services are provided to BFL based on the overall relationship between BFL and LPL Financial. It is not the result of soft dollar arrangements or any other express arrangements with LPL Financial that involves the execution of client transactions as a condition to the receipt of services. BFL will continue to receive the services regardless of the volume of client transactions executed with LPL Financial. Clients do not pay more for services as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the BFL to LPL or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific securities as a result of the arrangement. However, because Advisor receives these benefits from LPL Financial, there is a potential conflict of interest. The receipt of these products and services presents a financial incentive for Advisor to recommend that its clients use LPL Financial's custodial platform rather than another custodian's platform.

### 1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

While BFL has no formal soft dollars program in which soft dollars are used to pay for third party services, BFL may receive research, products, or other services from its broker/dealer in connection with client securities transactions ("soft dollar benefits") consistent with (and not outside of) the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and may consider these benefits in recommending brokers. There can be no assurance that any particular client will benefit from any particular soft dollar research or other benefits. BFL benefits by not having to produce or pay for the research, products or services, and BFL will have an incentive to recommend a broker dealer based on receiving research or services. Clients should be aware that BFL's acceptance of soft dollar benefits may result in higher commissions charged to the client.

## 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

BFL receives no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

## 3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

BFL will require that clients use LPL Financial LLC, CRD#6413 to execute transactions. By directing brokerage, BFL may at times be unable to achieve most favorable execution of client transactions which could cost clients money in trade execution. Not

all advisers require or allow their clients to direct brokerage. Please above and Item 14 below for any affiliation or economic benefit BFL may receive from LPL Financial LLC.

### B. Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

BFL does not aggregate or bunch the securities to be purchased or sold for multiple clients. This may result in less favorable prices, particularly for illiquid securities or during volatile market conditions.

## **Item 13: Review of Accounts**

### A. Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews and Who Makes Those Reviews

All client accounts for BFL's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis are reviewed at least Annually by Mark Spencer Butterworth, Owner, with regard to clients' respective investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at BFL are assigned to this reviewer.

All financial planning accounts are reviewed upon financial plan creation and plan delivery by Mark Spencer Butterworth, Owner. Financial planning clients are provided a one-time financial plan concerning their financial situation. After the presentation of the plan, there are no further reports. Clients may request additional plans or reports for a fee.

## B. Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

With respect to financial plans, BFL's services will generally conclude upon delivery of the financial plan.

### C. Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients

Each client of BFL's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis will receive a quarterly statement detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees which will come from the custodian.

Each financial planning client will receive the financial plan upon completion.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

## A. Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients (Includes Sales Awards or Other Prizes)

BFL LPL Financial makes available to BFL various products and services designed to assist BFL in managing and administering client accounts. Many of these products and services may be used to service all or a substantial number of BFL's accounts, including accounts not held with LPL Financial. These include software and other technology that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmation and account statements); facilitate trade execution (and aggregation and allocation of trade orders for multiple client accounts); provide research, pricing information and other market data; facilitate payment of BFL's fees from its clients' accounts; and assist with back-office functions; recordkeeping and client reporting.

LPL Financial also makes available to BFL other services intended to help BFL manage and further develop its business. Many of these services benefit only BFL, for example, services that assist BFL in growing its business. These support services and/or products may be provided without cost, at a discount, and/or at a negotiated rate, and include practice management-related publications; consulting services; attendance at conferences and seminars, meetings, and other educational and/or social events; marketing support; and other products and services used by BFL in furtherance of the operation and development of its investment advisory business.

Where such services are provided by a third party vendor, LPL Financial will either make a payment to BFL to cover the cost of such services, reimburse BFL for the cost associated with the services, or pay the third party vendor directly on behalf of BFL.

The products and services described above are provided to BFL as part of its overall relationship with LPL Financial. While as a fiduciary BFL endeavors to act in its clients' best interests, the receipt of these benefits creates a conflict of interest because BFL's requirement that clients custody their assets at LPL Financial is based in part on the benefit to BFL of the availability of the foregoing products and services and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody or brokerage services provided by LPL Financial. BFL's receipt of some of these benefits may be based on the amount of advisory assets custodied on the LPL Financial platform.

## B. Compensation to Non - Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals

BFL does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for client referrals.

## **Item 15: Custody**

When advisory fees are deducted directly from client accounts at client's custodian, BFL will be deemed to have custody of client's assets and must have written authorization from the client to do so. Clients will receive all account statements and billing invoices that are required in each jurisdiction, and they should carefully review those statements for accuracy.

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

BFL provides discretionary investment advisory services to clients. The advisory contract established with each client sets forth the discretionary authority for trading. Where investment discretion has been granted, BFL generally manages the client's account and makes investment decisions without consultation with the client as to when the securities are to be bought or sold for the account, the total amount of the securities to be bought/sold, what securities to buy or sell, or the price per share. Clients with discretionary accounts will execute a limited power of attorney to evidence discretionary authority.

## **Item 17: Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)**

BFL will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Clients will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Clients should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

## **Item 18: Financial Information**

#### A. Balance Sheet

BFL neither requires nor solicits prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, and therefore is not required to include a balance sheet with this brochure.

## B. Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients

Neither BFL nor its management has any financial condition that is likely to reasonably impair BFL's ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

### C. Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years

BFL has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition in the last ten years.

## **Item 19: Requirements For State Registered Advisers**

# A. Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons; Their Formal Education and Business Background

BFL currently has only one management person: Mark Spencer Butterworth. Education and business background can be found on the individual's Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement.

# B. Other Businesses in Which This Advisory Firm or its Personnel are Engaged and Time Spent on Those (If Any)

Other business activities for each relevant individual can be found on the Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement for each such individual.

## C. Calculation of Performance-Based Fees and Degree of Risk to Clients

BFL does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

## D. Material Disciplinary Disclosures for Management Persons of this Firm

There are no civil, self-regulatory organization, or arbitration proceedings to report under this section.

# E. Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities (If Any)

Neither BFL, nor its management persons, has any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.