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**Item 1: Form ADV Part 2A Cover Page**

This is the Firm Brochure (Form ADV Part 2A) which provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Great Lakes Wealth, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact Carmela Eastin, Operations Manager and Chief Compliance Officer, at (248) 378-1200 or carmelaeastin@greatlakeswealth.us. 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 Great Lakes Wealth, LLC also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). by searching CRD #282362.

Please note that the use of the term “registered investment adviser” and description of Great Lakes 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: Material Changes**

Great Lakes Wealth, LLC is required to advise you of any material changes to the Firm Brochure (“Brochure”) from our last annual update. Since our last annual amendment filing, we have made the following material changes to our firm brochure:

* We have obtained financial assistance by participating in Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (“SBA”). Please see Item 18 below for further details.
* We have surpassed $100 million in Assets Under Management and have applied for registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.
* We have lowered our fees for both Asset Management and Wealth Management services as described in Item 5 below.

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**Item 4: Advisory Business**

We specialize in the following types of services: Asset Management, Comprehensive Portfolio Management, Financial Planning & Consulting.

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 companyformed in the State of Michigan. Our firm has been in business as an investment adviser since 2016 and is owned by American Wealth, LLC.

**Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer**

**Asset Management:**

Our asset management service is offered to “Basic Clients” with investable assets under $1,000,000. We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks, exchange traded funds (“ETFs”), options, mutual funds and other public 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 quarterly and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client’s individual needs, stated goals, and objectives. Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio.

Typical services provided include:

• Basic outcome-based investment planning and monitoring

• Quarterly performance summary reports

• Capital gains tax planning

• Beneficiary review for GLW retirement plans

• Quarterly check-in phone calls

• Annual reviews in-person

• IRA distribution planning

• Newsletters and market insight

• Online and mobile app access to account

• Digital document organizer/online vault

**Wealth Management:**

Our wealth management service is offered to “Preferred Clients” with investable assets between $1,000,000 and $2,500,000. Our wealth management service encompasses asset management as well as providing financial planning/financial consulting to clients. It is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of financial investments. We conduct at least one, but sometimes more than one meeting (in person if possible, otherwise via telephone conference) with clients in order to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what we learn, we propose an investment approach to the client. We may propose an investment portfolio, consisting of exchange traded funds, mutual funds, individual stocks, or other securities. Upon the client’s agreement to the proposed investment plan, we work with the client to establish or transfer investment accounts so that we can manage the client’s portfolio. Once the relevant accounts are under our management, we review such accounts on a regular basis and at least quarterly. We may periodically rebalance or adjust client accounts under our management. If the client experiences any significant changes to his/her financial or personal circumstances, the client must notify us so that we can consider such information in managing the client’s investments.

Typical services provided include:

• Investment policy statement review

• Comprehensive goal-based planning and monitoring

• Quarterly performance summary reports

• Capital gains tax planning

• Beneficiary review for GLW retirement plans

• Monthly scheduled check-in phone calls

• Semi, or annual reviews in-person

• IRA distribution planning

• Newsletters and market insight

• Advice on outside 401(k) accounts

• All‐inclusive account aggregation of external holdings

• Work with CPA to provide year‐end tax documents

• Assistance in reviewing insurance strategies

• Education and gifting strategies

• Long term care planning

• Online and mobile app access to account

• Digital document organizer/online vault

• Other services upon request

**Comprehensive Wealth Management:**

Our comprehensive wealth management service is offered to “Private Clients” with investable assets over $2,500,000. As part of our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service clients will be provided asset management and financial planning or consulting services. This service is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of a financial plan or consultation. Our firm conducts client meetings to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what is learned, an investment approach is presented to the client, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, ETFs, options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client’s individual needs, stated goals and objectives. Upon client request, our firm provides a summary of observations and recommendations for the planning or consulting aspects of this service.

Typical services provided include:

• Investment policy statement review

• Comprehensive goal-based planning & monitoring

• Monthly performance summary reports

• Capital gains tax planning

• Beneficiary review for GLW retirement plans

• Monthly scheduled check-in phone calls

• Semi, or annual reviews in-person

• IRA distribution planning

• Newsletters and market insight

• Advice on outside 401(k) accounts

• All‐inclusive account aggregation of external holdings

• Work with CPA to provide year‐end tax documents

• Assistance in reviewing insurance strategies

• Education & gifting strategies

• Long term care planning

• Charitable planning strategies

• Coordinate and attend meetings with family and other advisors

• Online and mobile app access to account

• Digital document organizer/online vault

• Other services upon request

**Customized Financial Planning:**

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 service. 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.

**Tailoring of Advisory Services**

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our managed asset programs. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing our Stand Alone Financial Planning 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 Asset Management and Comprehensive Portfolio Management services. We do not manage assets through our other services.

**Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

Our firm no longer offers a wrap fee program.

**Regulatory Assets Under Management**

As of April 2021, our firm has $108,386,243 in discretionary assets under management.

**Item 5: Fees & Compensation**

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

**Asset Management:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Asset Break Points** | **Annual Percentage of Assets Charged** |
|  | *Fixed Income* | *Balanced* | *Aggressive* |
| $0 to $249,999.99 | 0.95% | 1.75% | 1.90% |
| $250,000 to $499,999.99 | 0.85% | 1.25% | 1.75% |
| $500,000 to $999,999.99 | 0.75% | 1.00% | 1.25% |
|  $1,000,000 to $2,499,999.99 | 0.65% | 0.90% | 0.95% |
| $2,500,000 to $4,999,999.99 | 0.55% | 0.80% | 0.85% |
| $5,000,000 to $9,999,999.99 | 0.45% | 0.65% | 0.70% |
| $10,000,000 to $14,999,999.99 | 0.30% | 0.40% | 0.55% |
| Over $15,000,000 | Negotiated |

**Wealth Management & Comprehensive Wealth Management:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assets Break Points** | **Annual Percentage of Assets Charge** |
|  | *Fixed Income* | *Balanced* | *Aggressive* |
| $0 to $2,499,999.99 | 0.95% | 1.25% | 1.75% |
| $2,500,000 to $4,999,999.99 | 0.85% | 1.15% | 1.50% |
| $5,000,000 to $9,999,999.99 | 0.75% | 1.00% | 1.25% |
| $10,000,000 to $14,999,999.99 | 0.50% | 0.60% | 0.70% |
| Over $15,000,000 | Negotiated  |

Our firm’s annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals of $25,000 or more made during the quarter. Fees for the Blackstone Secured Lending Fund are billed quarterly in arrears at maximum rate of 1.00% based upon the value at the end of the billing period, with the exact fee indicated in the executed client agreement. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from your managed account. In rare cases, we will agree to direct bill clients. As part of this process, the client is made aware of the following:

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

**Customized Financial Planning:**

We charge on a flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. 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 $2,500 to $25,000. We require a retainer of 50% of the ultimate financial planning or consulting fee with the remainder of the fee directly billed to you and due to us within 30 days of your financial plan being delivered or consultation rendered to you. In all cases, we will not require a retainer exceeding $1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 (six) months.

**Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

Clients will incur transaction fees for trades executed by their chosen custodian via individual transaction charges. These transaction fees are separate from our firm’s advisory fees and will be disclosed by the chosen custodian. Raymond James does not charge transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

Clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (i.e., fund management fees, initial or deferred sales charges, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, and other fund expenses), mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

**Termination & Refunds**

We charge our advisory fees quarterly in advance. In the event that you wish to terminate our services, we will refund the unearned portion of our advisory fee 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. If it is not possible to issue the refund by reversing fees to the client’s account, a check with be mailed to the client.

**Commissionable Securities Sales**

In order to sell securities for a commission, our supervised persons are registered representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, Inc (“PKS”), 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. You should be aware that the practice of accepting commissions for the sale of securities: (a) Presents a conflict of interest and gives our firm and/or our 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 and/or our supervised persons may earn and/or when recommending commissionable mutual funds, explaining that “no-load” funds are also available.; and (2) In no way prohibits you from purchasing investment products recommended by us through other brokers or agents which are not affiliated with us.

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

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

# Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements

We have the following types of clients:

* Individuals;
* High Net Worth Individuals and Families;
* Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
* Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types.

Our firm targets clients with at least $100,000 in investable assets but does not formally require a minimum account balance to open an account for our Asset Management or Comprehensive Portfolio Management services.

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

**Methods of Analysis**

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

**Charting:** In this type of technical analysis, we review charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict when how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.

**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 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.

**Technical Analysis:** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement. Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Cyclical Analysis:** In this type of technical analysis, we measure the movements of a particular stock against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.

**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:

**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.

**Trading:** We purchase securities with the idea of selling them very quickly (typically within 30 days or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of our predictions of brief price swings.

**Options**: An option is a financial derivative that represents a contract sold by one party (the option writer) to another party (the option holder, or option buyer). The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price (the strike price) during a certain period of time or on a specific date (exercise date). Options are extremely versatile securities. Traders use options to speculate, which is a relatively risky practice, while hedgers use options to reduce the risk of holding an asset. In terms of speculation, option buyers and writers have conflicting views regarding the outlook on the performance of a:

* *Call Option*: Call options give the option to buy at certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go up. Conversely, the option writer needs to provide the underlying shares in the event that the stock's market price exceeds the strike due to the contractual obligation. An option writer who sells a call option believes that the underlying stock's price will drop relative to the option's strike price during the life of the option, as that is how he will reap maximum profit. This is exactly the opposite outlook of the option buyer. The buyer believes that the underlying stock will rise; if this happens, the buyer will be able to acquire the stock for a lower price and then sell it for a profit. However, if the underlying stock does not close above the strike price on the expiration date, the option buyer would lose the premium paid for the call option.
* *Put Option*: Put options give the option to sell at a certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go down. The opposite is true for put option writers. For example, a put option buyer is bearish on the underlying stock and believes its market price will fall below the specified strike price on or before a specified date. On the other hand, an option writer who sells a put option believes the underlying stock's price will increase about a specified price on or before the expiration date. If the underlying stock's price closes above the specified strike price on the expiration date, the put option writer's maximum profit is achieved. Conversely, a put option holder would only benefit from a fall in the underlying stock's price below the strike price. If the underlying stock's price falls below the strike price, the put option writer is obligated to purchase shares of the underlying stock at the strike price.

The potential risks associated with these transactions are that (1) all options expire. The closer the option gets to expiration, the quicker the premium in the option deteriorates; and (2) Prices can move very quickly. Depending on factors such as time until expiration and the relationship of the stock price to the option’s strike price, small movements in a stock can translate into big movements in the underlying options.

**Covered Calls:** The risks associated with this type of strategy involve having the underlying stock called away. Each contract has a strike price at which the writer of the contract agrees to allow the purchaser call the stock away from the writer. This can create a taxable event whereby the writer of the option is required to recognize a capital gain on the underlying security. Furthermore, the market price could appreciate beyond the strike price, forcing the writer to sell their holdings below current market value.

**Uncovered Options:** Uncovered option writing is suitable only for the knowledgeable investor who understands the risks, has the financial capacity and willingness to incur potentially substantial losses, and has sufficient liquid assets to meet applicable margin requirements. If the value of the underlying instrument moves against an uncovered writer’s options position, our firm may request significant additional margin payments. If an investor does not make such margin payments, we may be forced to close stock or options positions in the investor’s account.

The potential loss of uncovered call writing is unlimited. The writer of an uncovered call is in an extremely risky position and may incur large losses if the value of the underlying instrument increases above the exercise price.

As with writing uncovered calls, the risk of writing uncovered put options is substantial. The writer of an uncovered put option bears a risk of loss if the value of the underlying instrument declines below the exercise price. Such loss could be substantial if there is a significant decline in the value of the underlying instrument.

**Risk of Loss**

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.

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

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 cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to managed asset programs.

**Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

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

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

Representatives of our firm are registered representatives of PKS, member FINRA/SIPC. They may offer products and receive normal and customary commissions as a result of these transactions. A conflict of interest may arise as these commissionable securities sales may create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation they may earn.

Our firm is registered as an insurance agency. As such we will offer insurance products and earn customary commission. In order to mitigate this conflict of interest, we will disclose our registration and the conflict of earning commission from our recommendations. Clients are never obliged to purchase insurance products from us. We will always put the client’s best interest before our own.

Neither our firm nor its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer, investment company, other investment adviser or financial planner, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, banking or thrift institution, accountant or accounting firm, lawyer or law firm, pension consultant, real estate broker or dealer or a sponsor or syndicator of limited partnership, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

**Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in**

**Client Transactions & Personal Trading**

An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary and our firm has a fiduciary duty to all clients. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser’s responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided upon request.

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.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts[[1]](#footnote-1). In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics.

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. 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 accounts will be traded in the same manner every time.

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.

**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

With the aforementioned in consideration, we utilize the services of Raymond James Financial Services (“RJFS”) to keep custody of our clients’ assets. Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (“RJA”), an affiliate of RJFS (together known as “Raymond James”), acts as the clearing agent when we execute securities transactions placed through RJFS. RJFS may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. These services may be directly from independent research companies, as selected by our firm. Research products and services provided by RJFS may include research reports on recommendations or other information about particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by RJFS to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. As a result of receiving these services, we may have an incentive to continue to use or expand the use of RJFS services. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when we chose to enter into the relationship with RJFS and we have determined that the relationship is in the best interest of our firm’s clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

RJFS charges transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e., transaction fees are charged for certain mutual funds, debt securities transactions, etc.). RJFS enables us to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other funds at nominal transaction charges.

Our clients may pay a transaction fee to RJFS that is higher than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect the same transaction. We have determined in good faith that the fee is reasonable in relation to the value of the services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer’s services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, transaction rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although we will seek competitive rates to the benefit of all clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible rates for specific client account transactions.

**Client Brokerage Commissions**

We do not use client brokerage commissions to obtain research or other products or services. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which we have investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

**Procedures to Direct Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars**

We do not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

**Brokerage for Client Referrals**

Our firm does not receive brokerage fees for client referrals.

**Directed Brokerage**

Our firm does not allow client directed brokerage.

**Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

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

**Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

We perform investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when we believe that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, we attempt to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

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

We review accounts on at least a quarterly basis for our clients subscribing to our managed asset programs. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients’ accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we contact clients who subscribe to our managed asset programs.

Only our Financial Advisors or Portfolio Managers 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 client, etc.

Stand Alone 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. Stand Alone 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 & Other Compensation**

**Raymond James Financial Services**

We receive an economic benefit from RJFS in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at RJFS. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above *(see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices)*. RJFS also has provided the firm with transition assistance contingent upon holding our assets under management with RJFS for a period of five (5) years. This transition assistance is intended to assist us with start-up costs, including rent, overhead expenses, computers, monies owed to third parties and similar costs. This presents a conflict of interest in that our advisors have a financial incentive to maintain a relationship with RJFS in order to benefit by having the transition assistance. However, to the extent that our advisors recommend that clients use RJFS, it is because the advisors believe it is in the clients’ best interests to do so based on the quality and pricing of the execution, and other services provided by RJFS. We may also co-sponsor educational and social events with funds

companies.

**Product Sponsor Funded Events**

In an effort to keep our clients informed as to the services we offer and the various financial products we utilize, our firm occasionally sponsors events in conjunction with our product providers. These events are educational in nature, and are not dependent upon the use of any specific products. While a conflict of interest may exist given that these events are at least partially funded by product sponsors, all funds received from the sponsors are used for the education of our clients, and we will always adhere to our fiduciary duties in selecting appropriate investments for our clients.

**Product Sponsor Due Diligence**

Occasionally product sponsors will offer us educational opportunities to learn more about the various products they sponsor. These events allow us to assess the unique risk/ return characteristics of new products, and determine the appropriateness for potential inclusion in client portfolios. Travel is often required in order to attend, and our firm may be partially or entirely reimbursed for the cost of such. Such payments are in no way contingent upon the use of such products, and we will only recommend their use when we deem it to be in our client’s best interest.

**Referral Fees**

We do not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

**Item 15: Custody**

**Third Party Money Movement:**

On February 21, 2017, the SEC issued a no‐action letter (“Letter”) with respect to Rule 206(4)‐2 (“Custody Rule”) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of authorization (“SLOA”) is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with our custodian:

* The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client’s signature, the third party’s name, and either the third party’s address or the third party’s account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
* The client authorizes the investment adviser, in writing, either on the qualified custodian’s form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
* The client’s qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client’s authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
* The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client’s qualified custodian.
* The investment adviser has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client’s instruction.
* The investment adviser maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of the investment adviser or located at the same address as the investment adviser.
* The client’s qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

**Item 16: Investment Discretion**

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

**Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

We do 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.

**Item 18: Financial Information**

We have never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding. We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

* We do not require the prepayment of more than $500 in fees and six or more months in advance.
* We do not take custody of client funds or securities.
* We have never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

Our firm has obtained financial assistance by participating in Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) established by the U.S. Small Business Administration (“SBA”). PPP is intended to assist our firm with maintaining our business in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing low-interest loans for business essentials such as operating expenses. These loans are eligible for forgiveness, but it is not guaranteed as it will be based on factors such as staff retention and being used for payroll or firm overhead.

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