

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT
FORM X-17A-5
PART III

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number:
Expires: October 31, 2023
Estimated average burden hours per response . . . 12.00

SEC FILE NUMBER
8 - 68718

FACING PAGE
Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/2020 AND ENDING 12/31/2020
MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

UNITED FIRST PARTNERS LLC

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

3 COLUMBUS CIRCLE SUITE 1730

(No. and Street)

New York

NY

10019

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

ELIZABETH DICKERSON

212-266-5666

(Area Code -- Telephone No.)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

Berkower LLC

(Name -- if individual, state last, first, middle name)

517 Route 1, Suite 1403

Iselin

NJ

8830

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

- ☒ Certified Public Accountant
☐ Public Accountant
☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possession:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

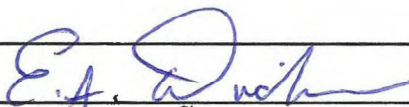
*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

SEC 1410 (06-02)

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not required to respond
unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, ELIZABETH DICKERSON, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of UNITED FIRST PARTNERS LLC, as of December 31, 2020, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:



Signature

CCO

Title



Notary Public

CLAUDIA TAYLOR
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 017A5068172
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires 10/28/2022

This report** contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☐ (c) Statement of Income (Loss)
- ☐ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☐ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietors' Capital
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors
- ☐ (g) Computation of Net Capital.
- ☐ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3
- ☐ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3
- ☐ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanation, of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between the audited and unaudited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit
- ☐ (o) Exemption report

**For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors
United First Partners LLC

Opinion on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of **United First Partners LLC** (the "Company") as of December 31, 2020 and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "Financial Statement"). In our opinion, the Financial Statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2020 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

This Financial Statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's Financial Statement based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statement is free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the Financial Statement, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statement. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Statement. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2012.



Berkower LLC

Iselin, New Jersey
March 31, 2021

UNITED FIRST PARTNERS LLC

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
PURSUANT TO RULE 17a-5 OF THE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

DECEMBER 31, 2020

PUBLIC

Facing Page – Oath or Affirmation

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Condition	3
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Notes to Financial Statement	4 - 9
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UNITED FIRST PARTNERS LLC**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION****As of December 31, 2020**

Assets	
Assets:	
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 979,954
Restricted Cash	144,763
Property and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of \$424,968)	53,247
Due from broker	1,983,924
Commissions receivable	456,288
Operating lease right of use asset	564,639
Other assets	251,269
Total Assets	<u>\$ 4,434,084</u>
Liabilities and Member's equity	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,515,752
Due to affiliates	307,483
Operating lease liability	589,580
Subordinated borrowings - related party	1,100,000
Total Liabilities	<u>3,512,815</u>
Member's equity	<u>921,269</u>
Total Liabilities and Member's equity	<u>\$ 4,434,084</u>

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

United First Partners LLC (the “Company”) was formed in New York on August 31, 2010. The Company is wholly owned by United First Partners Holdings LLC (the “Parent”). Effective August 5, 2011, the Company became a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”). The Company operates under the exemptive provisions of SEC Rule 15c3-3(k)(2)(ii), clearing all US institutional transactions on an RVP/DVP basis. The Company does not hold any customer funds or safe keep customer securities. The Company’s broker dealer activity consists primarily of selling foreign and domestic corporate equity securities. The Company also engages in other activities contemplated by Footnote 74 of the SEC Release No. 34-70073 such as providing access to technology or platform services when it provides U.S. options execution services, or provides access to research reports. The Company commenced its broker dealer operations on August 28, 2012.

In February 2016, The Company received FINRA approval amending the provision of research reports to allow it to issue first party research (research it publishes and distributes) and also approval to engage in the following additional business lines: trading securities for its own account, acting as a selling group agent, private placements, and M&A advisory services.

In August 2018 the Company was approved as an Introducing broker by the National Futures Association (“NFA”). The Company has not engaged in this activity since obtaining approval. During 2019 the Company added corporate debt and municipal bond trading to its active business lines.

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) as detailed in the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s Accounting Standards Codification. The Company has evaluated subsequent events through the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives (3-5 years) of the related assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the remaining life of the lease.

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)*Income Taxes and Deferred Income Taxes*

The Company is a single member limited liability company. The Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") provides that any income or loss is passed through to the member for federal and state income tax purposes. Accordingly, the Company has not provided for federal, state, or local income taxes.

As of December 31, 2020, management has determined that the Company had no uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition. This determination will always be subject to ongoing reevaluation as facts and circumstances may require. The Company remains subject to U.S. federal and state income tax audits for all periods subsequent to 2017.

In accordance with ASC 740, Income Taxes, the Company evaluates its tax positions to determine whether it is more likely than not that such positions would be sustained upon examination by tax authorities. Management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Company, and has concluded that there were no uncertain tax positions that would have a material effect on the financial statements as of December 31, 2020. The Company is subject to income tax examination by the Internal Revenue Service, and other jurisdictions, however there are currently no audits in progress.

On January 1, 2020, the Company adopted ASU 2019-12 (Topic 740) which incorporated ASC 740-10-30-27A to clarify that legal entities that are not subject to tax such as certain partnerships and disregarded Single Member LLCs are not required to include, in their separate financial statements, allocated amounts of consolidated current and deferred taxes. The adoption of the ASU did not have a material impact on its financial statements and related disclosures.

Translation of Foreign Currency

The Company's reporting currency is the United States Dollar. Cash denominated in foreign currencies are translated into United States Dollars at the period end exchange rate. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency transactions, which are translated at the transaction date, are included in net income (loss).

Cash and Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit with banks and brokers with maturities of three months or less. The Company keeps a cash balance with a major bank. The cash account balances may exceed the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000. Restricted cash on the statement of financial condition represents the amount pledged as collateral for an active letter of credit agreement obtained from a banking institution.

Commissions Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses

On January 1, 2020, the Company adopted ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326), which creates a new framework to evaluate financial instruments, such as trade receivables, for expected credit losses. This new framework replaced the original incurred loss approach and is expected to result in more timely recognition of credit losses. The adoption of the ASU did not have an impact on its financial statements and related disclosures. Commissions receivable are reported at the amount management expects to collect on balances outstanding at year-end. At December 31, 2020, included in the \$456,288 Commissions Receivable in the Statement of Financial Condition was the \$565,461 gross options commissions receivable net of \$220,000 allowance for credit losses.

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*

The Company recognizes revenue in accordance with ASC Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers("ASC Topic 606"), which requires that an entity recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Company follows a five-step model to (a) identify the contract(s) with a customer, (b) identify the performance obligations in the contract, (c) determine the transaction price, (d) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract, and (e) recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. In determining the transaction price, the Company includes variable consideration only to the extent that it is probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognized would not occur when the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is resolved. Significant judgments are required in the application of the five-step model including; when determining whether performance obligations are satisfied at a point in time or over time; how to allocate transaction prices where multiple performance obligations are identified; when to recognize revenue based on the appropriate measure of the Company's progress under the contract; and whether constraints on variable consideration should be applied due to uncertain future events.

Receivables, Contract Assets and Contract Liabilities

Receivables arise when the Company has an unconditional right to receive payment under a contract with a customer and are derecognized when the cash is received. Receivables of \$456,288, as of December 31, 2020 are reported in the Statement of Financial Condition net of \$220,000 allowance for credit losses.

Contract assets arise when the revenue associated with the contract is recognized prior to the Company's unconditional right to receive payment under a contract with a customer (i.e., unbilled receivable) and are derecognized when either it becomes a receivable or the cash is received. No contract assets are reported in the Statement of Financial Condition at December 31, 2020.

Contract liabilities arise when customers remit contractual cash payments in advance of the Company satisfying its performance obligations under the contract and are derecognized when the revenue associated with the contract is recognized when the performance obligation is satisfied. As of December 31, 2020, there were no contract liabilities reported on the Statement of Financial Condition.

Leases

The Company recognizes and measures its leases in accordance with FASB ASC 842, Leases. The Company is a lessee in a noncancellable operating leases, for office space. The lease liability is initially and subsequently recognized based on the present value of its future lease payments. The discount rate is the implicit rate if it is readily determinable or otherwise the Company uses its incremental borrowing rate. The implicit rates of our leases are not readily determinable and accordingly, the Company used its incremental borrowing rate based on the information available at the commencement date for all leases.

1. Nature of Operations and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)*Leases (Continued)*

The Company's incremental borrowing rate for a lease is the rate of interest it would have to pay on a collateralized basis to borrow an amount equal to the lease payments under similar terms and in a similar economic environment. The ROU asset is subsequently measured throughout the lease term at the amount of the remeasured lease liability (i.e., present value of the remaining lease payments), plus unamortized initial direct costs, plus (minus) any prepaid (accrued) lease payments, less the unamortized balance of lease incentives received, and any impairment recognized. Lease cost for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Company has elected, for all underlying classes of assets, to not recognize ROU assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less at lease commencement, and do not include an option to purchase the underlying asset that the Company is reasonably certain to exercise. The Company recognizes the lease cost associated with its short-term leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2. Concentrations of Business Risk and Credit Risk and Uncertainties

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash balances which at times may be in excess of insured amounts. It is the Company's policy to review, as necessary, the credit standing of its counterparties.

The Company's security transactions are cleared by one registered broker-dealer pursuant to a clearing broker agreement. The Company is subject to credit risk to the extent its clearing broker-dealer with whom it conducts business is unable to fulfill contractual obligations on its behalf. The Company bears the risk of financial failure by its clearing broker-dealer. If the clearing broker-dealer should cease doing business, the Company's receivables from such clearing broker-dealer could be subject to forfeitures.

3. Property and Equipment

The components of Property and Equipment are:

Furniture and fixtures	\$ 171,616
Office equipment	306,599
	<u>478,215</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(424,968)
	<u>\$ 53,247</u>

4. Net Capital Requirement

The Company is subject to the SEC's Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1(a)(1)(ii)). It computes its net capital under the alternative method, which requires the Company to maintain a minimum net capital of the greater of 2% of aggregate debit items or \$250,000 minimum net capital. At December 31, 2020, the Company had net capital of \$1,164,950 which was \$914,950 in excess of its required net capital of \$250,000.

5. Operating Leases

During 2020, the Company had received a termination notice from SJP TS, LLC and by mutual agreement with the landlord terminated the existing lease agreement effective December 31, 2020. Effective December 1, 2020 the Company had entered into a new lease agreement with Centiva Capital, LP which expires in November 2022. The Company has classified this lease as an operating lease. On the December 31, 2020 Statement of Financial Condition, the Company is reporting an operating lease right of use asset in the amount of \$564,369 and an operating lease liability of \$589,580. A discount rate of 1.65% was used when measuring the Operating lease right of use asset and the Operating lease liability in December, 2020.

Maturities of lease liability payments are as follows:

2021	282,381
2022	316,199
Total undiscounted lease payments	598,580
Less imputed interest	(9,000)
Total operating lease liability	<u>\$ 589,580</u>

In accordance with the current lease agreement the Company had funded the \$84,545 security deposit which is included in other assets of \$251,269 reported in the Statement of Financial Condition

5. Related Party Transactions

As of December 31, 2020, related party amounts payable are as follows:

Due to United First Partner Holdings LLC	9,250
Due to United First Partners Research SA	298,233
	<u>\$ 307,483</u>

The Company is 100% owned by United First Partners Holdings LLC ("UFP Holdings LLC"). United First Management LTD is the ultimate owner of UFP Holdings LLC and of United First Partners LLP ("UFP LLP").

6. Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of General Creditors-Related Party

Borrowings under a subordination agreement aggregated \$1,100,000 at December 31, 2020. The subordinated borrowings-related party are due to UFP Holdings, LLC and are available in computing net capital under the SEC's uniform net capital rule. To the extent that such borrowings are required for the Company's continued compliance with minimum net capital requirements, they may not be repaid. The subordinated borrowing was approved by FINRA in June 2017, expired in June 2020 and was renewed for another year until June 2021 under the same terms. Interest on the loan is computed at 9% per annum. Interest expense on the subordinated borrowing amounted to \$99,000 for the year ended December 31, 2020.

7. Unit Grant Agreement

Under the terms of a Unit Grant Agreement, an employee was granted 100,000 Class B units (Units). 50,000 units were vested. The employee vested in the units over a 5 year period beginning in 2012. The value of the units is based upon the profitability of the Company and other criterion. At December 31, 2020, the units have no value.

8. Due from Clearing Brokers

In the normal course of business, the Company acts as an introducing broker and, accordingly, substantially all of the Company's securities transactions, money balances, and security positions are transacted and held with the Company's clearing broker. The Company is subject to credit risk to the extent any broker with whom it conducts business is unable to fulfill contractual obligations on its behalf. The Company's management monitors the financial condition of such brokers and does not anticipate any losses from these counterparties. At December 31, 2020, \$1,983,924 was due from its clearing broker.

9. Retirement Plan

The Company adopted a 401K plan in August 2014 for all eligible employees to which it makes Safe Harbor Contributions by way of a percentage contribution to non-highly compensated employees. Contributions to that plan totaled \$18,477 in 2020, and no contributions were outstanding as of December 31, 2020.

10. Subsequent Events

Events have been evaluated for recognition and disclosure through the date these financial statements were issued.