

Uniform Application for Investment Adviser Registration

Part II - Page 1

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|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Name of Investment Adviser: Arete Investment Consulting, LLC | | | | |
| Address: (Number and Street) 477 Goodspeed Road | (City) Virginia Beach | (State) VA | (Zip Code) 23451 | Area Code: Telephone number: (757) 422-2210 |

This part of Form ADV gives information about the investment adviser and its business for the use of clients.
The information has not been approved or verified by any governmental authority.

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(Schedules A, B, C, D, and E are included with Part I of this Form, for the use of regulatory bodies, and are not distributed to clients.)

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1. **A. Advisory Services and Fees.** (check the applicable boxes)

For each type of service provided, state the approximate
% of total advisory billings from that service.
(See instructions below.)

Applicant:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|-----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (1) | Provides investment supervisory services | <u>100</u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (2) | Manages investment advisory accounts not involving investment supervisory services | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (3) | Furnishes investment advice through consultations not included in either service described above | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (4) | Issues periodicals about securities by subscription | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (5) | Issues special reports about securities not included in any service described above | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (6) | Issues, not as part of any service described above, any charts, graphs, formulas, or other devices which clients may use to evaluate securities | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (7) | On more than an occasional basis, furnishes advice to clients on matters not involving securities | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (8) | Provides a timing service | <u> </u> % |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (9) | Furnishes advice about securities in any manner not described above | <u> </u> % |

(Percentages should be based on applicant's last fiscal year. If applicant has not completed its first fiscal year, provide estimates of advisory billings for that year and state that the percentages are estimates.)

B. Does applicant call any of the services it checked above financial planning or some similar term? Yes ☐ No ☒

C. Applicant offers investment advisory services for: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1) A percentage of assets under management | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Subscription fees |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) Hourly charges | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Commissions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Fixed Fees (not including subscription fees) | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Other |

D. For each checked box in A above, describe on Schedule F:

- the services provided, including the name of any publication or report issued by the adviser on a subscription basis or for a fee
- applicant's basic fee schedule, how fees are charged and whether its fees are negotiable
- when compensation is payable, and if compensation is payable before service is provided, how a client may get a refund or may terminate an investment advisory contract before its expiration date

2. **Types of clients** - Applicant generally provides investment advice to: (check those that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Trusts, estates, or charitable organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Banks or thrift institutions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. Corporations or business entities other than those listed above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Investment companies | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Other (describe on Schedule F) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Pension and profit sharing plans | |

Answer all items. Complete amended pages in full, circle amended items and file with execution page (page 1).

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3. Types of Investments. Applicant offers advice on the following: (check those that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Equity securities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. United States government securities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1) exchange-listed securities | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Options contracts on: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) securities traded over-the-counter | <input type="checkbox"/> (1) securities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) foreign issuers | <input type="checkbox"/> (2) commodities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Warrants | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Futures contracts on: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper) | <input type="checkbox"/> (1) tangibles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Commercial paper | <input type="checkbox"/> (2) intangibles |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Certificates of deposit | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Interests in partnerships investing in: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. Municipal securities | <input type="checkbox"/> (1) real estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Investment company securities: | <input type="checkbox"/> (2) oil and gas interests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) variable life insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) other (explain on Schedule F) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) variable annuities | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Other (explain on Schedule F) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) mutual fund shares | |

4. Methods of Analysis, Sources of Information, and Investment Strategies.

A. Applicant's security analysis methods include: (check those that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charting | (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Cyclical |
| (2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fundamental | (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain on Schedule F) |
| (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical | |

B. The main sources of information applicant uses include: (check those that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial newspapers and magazines | (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Timing services |
| (2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inspections of corporate activities | (6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual reports, prospectuses, filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission |
| (3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research materials prepared by others | (7) <input type="checkbox"/> Company press releases |
| (4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate rating services | (8) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain on Schedule F) |

C. The investment strategies used to implement any investment advice given to clients include: (check those that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long term purchases (securities held at least a year) | (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Margin transactions |
| (2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short term purchases (securities sold within a year) | (6) <input type="checkbox"/> Option writing, including covered options, uncovered options or spreading strategies |
| (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Trading (securities sold within 30 days) | (7) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain on Schedule F) |
| (4) <input type="checkbox"/> Short sales | |

Answer all items. Complete amended pages in full, circle amended items and file with execution page (page 1).

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5. Education and Business Standards.

Are there any general standards of education or business experience that applicant requires of those involved in determining or giving investment advice to clients?

Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, describe these standards on Schedule F.)

6. Education and Business Background

For:

- each member of the investment committee or group that determines general investment advice to be given to clients, or
- if the applicant has no investment committee or group, each individual who determines general investment advice given to clients (if more than five, respond only for their supervisors)
- each principal executive officer of applicant or each person with similar status or performing similar functions.

On Schedule F, give the:

- name
- formal education after high school
- year of birth
- business background for the preceding five years

7. Other Business Activities. (check those that apply)

- ☐ A. Applicant is actively engaged in a business other than giving investment advice.
- ☐ B. Applicant sells products or services other than investment advice to clients.
- ☐ C. The principal business of applicant or its principal executive officers involves something other than providing investment advice.

(For each checked box describe the other activities, including the time spent on them, on Schedule F.)

8. Other Financial Industry Activities or Affiliations. (check those that apply)

- ☐ A. Applicant is registered (or has an application pending) as a securities broker-dealer.
- ☐ B. Applicant is registered (or has an application pending) as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or commodity trading adviser.
- C. Applicant has arrangements that are material to its advisory business or its clients with a related person who is a:
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) broker-dealer | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) accounting firm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) investment company | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) law firm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) other investment adviser | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) insurance company or agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) financial planning firm | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) pension consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (5) commodity pool operator, commodity trading adviser or futures commission merchant | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) real estate broker or dealer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (6) banking or thrift institution | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) entity that creates or packages limited partnerships |

(For each checked in box in C, on Schedule F identify the related person and describe the relationship and the arrangements.)

- D. Is applicant or a related person a general partner in any partnership in which clients are solicited to invest?

Yes ☐ No ☒

(If yes, describe on Schedule F the partnerships and what they invest in.)

Answer all items. Complete amended pages in full, circle amended items and file with execution page (page 1).

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
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9. Participation or Interest in Client Transactions.

Applicant or a related person: (check those that apply)

- ☐ A. As principal, buys securities for itself from or sells securities it owns to any client.
- ☐ B. As broker or agent effects securities transactions for compensation for any client.
- ☐ C. As broker or agent for any person other than a client effects transactions in which client securities are sold to or bought from a brokerage customer.
- ☐ D. Recommends to clients that they buy or sell securities or investment products in which the applicant or a related person has some financial interest.
- ☒ E. Buys or sells for itself securities that it also recommends to clients.

(For each box checked, describe on Schedule F when the applicant or a related person engages in these transactions and what restrictions, internal procedures, or disclosures are used for conflicts of interest in those transactions.)

Describe, on Schedule F, your code of ethics, and state that you will provide a copy of your code to any client or prospective client upon request.

- 10. Conditions for Managing Accounts.** Does the applicant provide investment supervisory services, manage investment advisory accounts or hold itself out as providing financial planning or some similarly termed services *and* impose a minimum dollar value of assets or other conditions for starting or maintaining an account? Yes ☐ No ☒
- (If yes, describe on Schedule F)

- 11. Review of Accounts.** If applicant provides investment supervisory services, manages investment advisory accounts, or holds itself out as providing financial planning or some similarly termed services:
- A. Describe below the reviews and reviewers of the accounts. **For reviews**, include their frequency, different levels, and triggering factors. **For reviewers**, include the number of reviewers, their titles and functions, instructions they receive from applicant on performing reviews, and number of accounts assigned each.

For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principal. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.

- B. Describe below the nature and frequency of regular reports to clients on their accounts.

Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment advisory services may also receive a periodic report from the Registrant summarizing account activity and performance.

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12. Investment or Brokerage Discretion.

A. Does applicant or any related person have authority to determine, without obtaining specific client consent, the:

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) securities to be bought or sold? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) amount of the securities to be bought or sold? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) broker or dealer to be used? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) commission rates paid? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

B. Does applicant or a related person suggest brokers to clients?

Yes No
☒ ☐

For each yes answer to A describe on Schedule F any limitations on the authority. For each yes to A(3), A(4) or B, describe on Schedule F the factors considered in selecting brokers and determining the reasonableness of their commissions. If the value of products, research and services given to the applicant or a related person is a factor, describe:

- the products, research and services
- whether clients may pay commissions higher than those obtainable from other brokers in return for those products and services
- whether research is used to service all of applicant's accounts or just those accounts paying for it; and
- any procedures the applicant used during the last fiscal year to direct client transactions to a particular broker in return for product and research services received.

13. Additional Compensation.

Does the applicant or a related person have any arrangements, oral or in writing, where it:

- | | Yes | No |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. is paid cash by or receives some economic benefit (including commissions, equipment or non-research services) from a non-client in connection with giving advice to clients? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B. directly or indirectly compensates any person for client referrals? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(For each yes, describe the arrangements on Schedule F.)

14. Balance Sheet. Applicant must provide a balance sheet for the most recent fiscal year on Schedule G if applicant:

- has custody of client funds or securities (unless applicant is registered or registering only with the Securities and Exchange Commission); or
- requires prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client and 6 or more months in advance

| | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Has applicant provided a Schedule G balance sheet? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Answer all items. Complete amended pages in full, circle amended items and file with execution page (page 1).