

**Pinnacle Financial Group LLC**

**915 W. 55nd Street, Suite 202  
Western Springs, IL 60558**

**Tel: (708) 246-6262**

**Fax: (708) 246-6288**

**lumarkt@sbcglobal.net**

**March 16, 2011**

**FORM ADV PART 2A  
BROCHURE**

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Pinnacle Financial Group LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (708) 246-6262 or lumarkt@sbcglobal.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 Pinnacle Financial Group LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The searchable IARD/CRD number for Pinnacle Financial Group LLC is 116600.**

**Pinnacle Financial Group LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

## Summary of Material Changes

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 2

This Brochure is a new document prepared according to the SEC's new requirements and rules. As such, this Document is materially different in structure and requires certain new information that our previous brochure did not require.

In the future, this Item will discuss only specific material changes that are made to the Brochure and provide clients with a summary of such changes. We will also reference the date of our last annual update of our brochure.

In the past, we have offered or delivered information about our qualifications and business practices to clients on at least an annual basis. Pursuant to new SEC Rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any materials changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

We will further provide you with a new Brochure as necessary based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge.

## Table of Contents

<b><i>Advisory Business.....</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>
<b><i>Fees and Compensation .....</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>
<b><i>Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management.....</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>Types of Clients.....</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss.....</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>Disciplinary Information.....</i></b>	<b><i>7</i></b>
<b><i>Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations .....</i></b>	<b><i>7</i></b>
<b><i>Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading.....</i></b>	<b><i>7</i></b>
<b><i>Brokerage Practices .....</i></b>	<b><i>8</i></b>
<b><i>Review of Accounts.....</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>
<b><i>Client Referrals and Other Compensation.....</i></b>	<b><i>11</i></b>
<b><i>Custody .....</i></b>	<b><i>11</i></b>
<b><i>Investment Discretion.....</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>
<b><i>Voting Client Securities.....</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>
<b><i>Financial Information.....</i></b>	<b><i>12</i></b>
<b><i>Requirements for State-Registered Advisers .....</i></b>	<b><i>13</i></b>
<b><i>Additional Information.....</i></b>	<b><i>13</i></b>

## **Advisory Business**

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 4

### **Description of Services and Fees**

Pinnacle Financial Group, LLC is a registered investment adviser based in Western Springs, IL. We are organized as a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Illinois. We have been providing investment advisory services since 1989. James Stork, Larry Uitermarkt, and Lisa Tang are our principal owners. Currently, we offer the following investment advisory services, which are personalized to each individual client:

- **Financial Planning Services**
- **Portfolio Management Services**
- **Selection of Other Advisers**

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words “we”, “our” and “us” refer to Pinnacle Financial Group and the words “you”, “your” and “client” refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm. Also, you may see the term Associated Person throughout this brochure. As used in this brochure, our Associated Persons are our firm’s officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm.

### **Financial Planning Services**

We offer broad-based, modular, and consultative financial planning services. Financial planning will typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. Financial planning services will typically involve providing a variety of services, principally advisory in nature, to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. An Associated Person of our firm will conduct a complimentary initial consultation. After the initial consultation, if you decide to engage us for financial planning services, an Associated Person will conduct follow up meetings as necessary, during which pertinent information about your financial circumstances and objectives is collected. Once such information has been reviewed and analyzed, a written financial plan – designed to achieve your stated financial goals and objectives – will be produced and presented to you. The primary objective of this process is to allow us to assist you in developing a strategy for the successful management of income, assets, and liabilities in meeting your financial goals and objectives.

We may also use financial planning software to determine your current financial position and to define and quantify your long-term goals and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we will develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to our firm. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the financial plan through any of our other investment advisory services. Moreover, you may act on our recommendations by placing securities transactions with any brokerage firm.

We charge an hourly fee of \$100 - \$250 for financial planning services, which is negotiable depending on the scope and complexity of the plan, your situation, and your financial objectives. An estimate of the total time/cost will be determined at the start of the advisory relationship. In limited circumstances, the cost/time could potentially exceed the initial estimate. In such cases, we will notify you and request that you approve the additional fee.

In our sole discretion, we may waive or offset a portion of the financial planning fee should you choose to retain us for portfolio management services as described below. We may also waive or offset financial planning fees by commissions earned by our Associated Persons for the sale of brokerage or insurance products if you

choose to implement the recommendations through our Associated Persons in their separate capacities as registered representatives or insurance agents. We reserve the right to determine whether the financial planning fees will be waived or offset by commissions earned in the implementation process. Financial planning fees are due upon completion of the services rendered.

We will not require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$1,200.

You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement.

### ***Portfolio Management Services***

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for portfolio management services, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather to develop a strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and/or to make investments on your behalf. As part of our portfolio management services, we may customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives. We may also invest your assets using a predefined strategy, or we may invest your assets according to one or more model portfolios developed by our firm. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, or select a model portfolio, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis, and will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances.

If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow our firm to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm, a limited power of attorney, or trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account.

Our fee for portfolio management services is based on a percentage of your assets we manage and is set forth in the following fee schedule:

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Fee</b>
\$500,000 and over	1.00%

We generally impose a minimum of \$500,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. However, we may waive this account minimum at our sole discretion. Our fees are negotiable and agreements with clients may vary from the fees detailed above.

Our annual portfolio management fee is billed and payable quarterly in arrears based on the value of your account on the last day of the preceding quarter.

If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. Our advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to meet the minimum account size. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts.

We will send you an invoice for the payment of our advisory fee, or we will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only

when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy. We will also receive a duplicate copy of your account statements.

We encourage you to reconcile our invoices with the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian. If you find any inconsistent information between our invoice and the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian please call our main office number located on the cover page of this brochure.

#### *Selection of Other Advisers*

As part of our investment advisory services, we may recommend that you use the services of a third party investment adviser ("TPA") to manage your entire, or a portion of your, investment portfolio. After gathering information about your financial situation and objectives, we will recommend that you engage a specific TPA or investment program. Factors that we take into consideration when making our recommendation(s) include, but are not limited to, the following: the TPA's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will periodically monitor the TPA(s)' performance to ensure its management and investment style remains aligned with your investment goals and objectives.

The TPA(s) will actively manage your portfolio and will assume discretionary investment authority over your account. We will assume discretionary authority to hire and fire TPA(s) and/or reallocate your assets to other TPA(s) where we deem such action appropriate.

We do not charge you a separate fee for the selection of other advisers. We will share in the advisory fee you pay directly to the TPA. The advisory fee you pay to the TPA is established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each TPA to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. Our compensation may differ depending upon the individual agreement we have with each TPA. As such, a conflict of interest may arise where our firm or our Associated Persons may have an incentive to recommend one TPA over another TPA with whom we have more favorable compensation arrangements or other advisory programs offered by TPAs with whom we have less or no compensation arrangements.

You will be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended TPA(s). You may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPA according to the terms of your agreement with the TPA. You should review each TPA's brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPA and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the TPA directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the TPA.

#### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on equity securities, corporate debt securities, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, investment company securities, US Government securities, and options contracts on securities.

Additionally, we may advise you on any type of investment that we deem appropriate based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship.

You may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or certain types of securities. You must provide these restrictions to our firm in writing.

#### **Assets Under Management**

As of 12/31/2010, we manage \$110,000,000 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## ***Fees and Compensation***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 5

Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this brochure for information on our advisory fees, fee deduction arrangements, and refund policy according to each service we offer.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You will also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through whom your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section of this brochure.

### **Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives with Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments ("PKS"), a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. In their capacity as registered representatives, these persons will receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by these persons in their capacities as registered representatives is separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase securities products through any person affiliated with our firm.

We may recommend that you purchase variable annuities to be included in your investment portfolio(s). Associated Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may earn commissions on the sale of the variable annuities in his or her capacity as a registered representative. If these persons earn commissions on the sale of variable annuities recommended to you, we will not include the annuity accounts in the total value used for our advisory billing/fee computation. If you purchase a no-load or non-commissionable annuity from an Associated Person of Pinnacle Financial Group the value of the annuity sub accounts will be added to the value of your total assets for billing purposes. Annuities will be purchased for your account only after you receive a prospectus disclosing the terms of the annuity. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase variable annuities through any person affiliated with our firm.

Some persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as independent insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

At our discretion, we may offset our advisory fees to the extent our Associated Persons earn commissions in their separate capacities as registered representatives and/or insurance agents.

## ***Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 6

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Advisory Business* section above, and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.

## ***Types of Clients***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 7

We offer investment advisory services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and other business entities.

In general, we require a minimum of \$500,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. We may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.

## ***Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 8

### **Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

We may use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

- Fundamental Analysis – involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.
- Long Term Purchases – securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.
- Short Term Purchases – securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.
- Option Transactions – an option is a financial instrument that establishes a contract between two parties concerning the buying or selling of an asset at a reference price during a specified time frame. During this time frame, the buyer of the option gains the right, but not the obligation, to engage in a specific transaction on the asset. The seller of an option incurs the obligation to fulfill the transaction if so requested by the buyer. The price of an option derives from the value of an underlying asset (commonly a stock, a bond, a currency or a futures contract) plus a premium based on the time remaining until the expiration of the option. Other types of options exist, and options can, in principle,



be created for any type of asset.

In return for granting the option, called *writing* the option, the originator of the option collects a payment, the *premium*, from the buyer. The writer of an option must make good on delivering (or receiving) the underlying asset or its cash equivalent, if the option is exercised.

At no time do we purchase, sell or write an uncovered (also known as "naked") option.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio.

Some of the risks inherent in using our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies are as follows:

**Fundamental Analysis** - The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

We may use short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Short-term trading is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use this strategy occasionally when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk.

#### *Tax Considerations*

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you continuously consult with a tax professional prior to and throughout the investing of your assets.

Moreover, as a result of revised IRS regulations, custodians and broker-dealers will begin reporting the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the high cost accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, please provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Please note that decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

#### **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

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

As disclosed under the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure, we recommend all types of securities and we do not necessarily recommend one particular type of security over another. However, we may recommend other types of investments as appropriate for you since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with it.

### ***Disciplinary Information***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 9

Pinnacle Financial Group LLC has been registered and providing investment advisory services since 1989. Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any reportable disciplinary information.

### ***Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 10

#### **Registrations with Broker-Dealer**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives with Purshe, Kaplan, Sterling Investments, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

#### **Registrations as an Insurance Agent**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may also be licensed as insurance agents. Such individuals may effect transactions in insurance products for clients and earn commissions for these activities. Clients are instructed that the fees paid to the Firm for advisory services are separate and distinct from the commissions earned by associated persons for placing the client in insurance products. Clients to whom the Firm offers advisory services are informed that they are under no obligation to use Pinnacle Financial Group or its associated persons for insurance services and may use the insurance brokerage firm and agent of their choosing.

#### **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We may recommend that you use a third party adviser ("TPA") based on your needs and suitability. We will receive compensation from the TPA for recommending that you use their services. These compensation arrangements present a conflict of interest because we have a financial incentive to recommend the services of the third party adviser. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any TPA we recommend.

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

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 11

#### **Description of Our Code of Ethics**

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All of our Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Our Code of Ethics also requires that certain persons associated with our firm submit reports of their personal account holdings and transactions to a qualified representative of our firm who will review these reports on a periodic basis. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated

with our firm.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

#### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

#### **Personal Trading Practices**

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

### ***Brokerage Practices***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 12

We maintain relationships with more than one broker-dealer. While you are free to choose any broker-dealer or other service provider, we recommend that you establish an account with a brokerage firm with which we have an existing relationship. Such relationships may include benefits provided to our firm, including but not limited to, research, market information, and administrative services that help our firm manage your account(s). We believe that recommended broker-dealers provide quality execution services for our clients at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by recommended broker-dealers, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of research services and additional brokerage products and services recommended broker-dealers provide, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

We may recommend the brokerage and custodial services of TD Ameritrade Institutional, a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), or Schwab Institutional, a division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"). Both are securities broker-dealers and members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. We believe that TD Ameritrade and Schwab provide quality execution services for you at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by TD Ameritrade and Schwab, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of research services and additional brokerage products and services TD Ameritrade and Schwab provide, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

As previously disclosed, certain Associated Persons of our firm are registered as representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments ("PKS"), an independent, unaffiliated registered securities broker/dealer, and FINRA member. PKS is required to supervise the securities trading activities of its representatives. While registered representatives of PKS are subject to various internal and industry rules that restrict individuals from conducting securities transactions away from PKS, PKS has provided the representatives with written authorization to do so.

#### **Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits**

Schwab Institutional provides Pinnacle Financial Group with access to its institutional trading and operations

services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services generally are available to independent investment advisers at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the adviser's clients account assets are maintained at Schwab Institutional. Schwab Institutional services may include research, brokerage, custody, access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise available only to institutional investors or would require significantly higher minimum initial investments. Schwab Institutional also makes available to Pinnacle Financial Group other products and services that benefit Pinnacle Financial Group but may not benefit its clients' accounts. These include software and other technology that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution, provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of Pinnacle Financial Group's fees from its clients' accounts, and assist with back-office support, recordkeeping and client reporting. The availability to Pinnacle Financial Group of the foregoing products and services is not contingent upon Pinnacle Financial Group committing to Schwab Institutional any specific amount of business (assets in custody or trading).

As disclosed above, Pinnacle Financial Group also participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and it may recommend TD Ameritrade to clients for custodial and brokerage services. There is no direct link between the Firm's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its clients, although the Firm receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving adviser participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to Pinnacle Financial Group by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by the Firm's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit Pinnacle Financial Group but may not benefit its client accounts. These products or services may assist the Firm in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help Pinnacle Financial Group manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by the Firm or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, the Firm endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Pinnacle Financial Group or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Firm's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

The research products and services that Pinnacle Financial Group may receive from brokerage firms (e.g. Schwab, TD Ameritrade, among others) may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to the firm in the performance of its investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers who utilize such firms, and are not considered to be paid for with soft dollars. However, the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction, or set of transactions, may be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.

While Pinnacle Financial Group and its associated persons, endeavor at all times to put the interest of the clients first as part of their fiduciary duty, clients should be aware that receipt of additional compensation in itself creates a potential conflict of interest.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

### **Directed Brokerage**

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

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, ("PKS"), will recommend PKS to you for brokerage services. These individuals are subject to applicable rules that restrict them from conducting securities transactions away from PKS unless PKS provides the representative with written authorization to do so. Therefore, these individuals are generally limited to conducting securities transactions through PKS. It may be the case that PKS charges higher transactions costs and/or custodial fees than another broker charges for the same types of services. If transactions are executed through PKS, these individuals (in their separate capacities as registered representatives of PKS) may earn commission-based compensation as result of placing the recommended securities transactions through PKS. This practice presents a conflict of interest because these registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. You may utilize the broker-dealer of your choice and have no obligation to purchase or sell securities through such broker as, we recommend. However, if you do not use PKS, we may not be able to accept your account. Please see the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by registered representatives who are affiliated with our firm.

In limited circumstances, and at our discretion, some clients may instruct our firm to use one or more particular brokers for the transactions in their accounts. If you choose to direct our firm to use a particular broker, you should understand that this might prevent our firm from aggregating trades with other client accounts or if adviser negotiates commissions from effectively negotiating brokerage commissions on your behalf. This practice may also prevent our firm from obtaining favorable net price and execution. Thus, when directing brokerage business, you should consider whether the commission expenses, execution, clearance, and settlement capabilities that you will obtain through your broker are adequately favorable in comparison to those that we would otherwise obtain for you.

### **Block Trades**

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. We may, but are not obligated to, combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion regarding factual and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs on any given day. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

## ***Review of Accounts***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 13

Larry Uitermarkt, Managing Member/CCO, James Stork, Managing Member and Lisa Bayer Tang, Managing Member of Pinnacle Financial Group will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least quarterly to ensure the advisory services provided to you and that the portfolio mix is consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- contributions and withdrawals,
- year-end tax planning,
- market moving events,
- security specific events, and/or,
- changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will provide you with additional or regular written reports in conjunction with account reviews. Reports we provide to you will contain account performance. You will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

### ***Client Referrals and Other Compensation***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 14

We do not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with providing investment advice to you nor do we compensate any individual or firm for client referrals.

Please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our custodial relationships.

As disclosed under the “Fees and Compensation” section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents, and are registered representatives with Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the “Fees and Compensation” section.

### ***Custody***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 15

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

You should compare our statements with the statements from your account custodian(s) to reconcile the information reflected on each statement. If you have a question regarding your account statement, or if you did not receive a statement from your custodian, please contact us directly at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.



## ***Investment Discretion***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 16

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement, a power of attorney, and/or trading authorization forms.

You may grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security. Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advise provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

## ***Voting Client Securities***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 17

### **Proxy Voting**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## ***Financial Information***

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 18

We are not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not:

- require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, or
- take custody of client funds or securities, or
- have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you.

## **Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

Form ADV Part 2A, Item 19

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons are compensated for advisory services with performance-based fees. Please refer to the "Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management" section above for additional information on this topic.

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons have any reportable arbitration claims, civil, self-regulatory organization proceeding or administrative proceeding.

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons have a material relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities.

Refer to the Part(s) 2B for background information about management personnel and those giving advice on behalf of our firm.

## **Additional Information**

### **Your Privacy**

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

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

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

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

### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account. If a trade error results in a profit, the trade error will be corrected in the trade error account of the executing broker-dealer and you will not keep the profit.

### **Class Action Lawsuits**

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