



A SUBSIDIARY OF SWANK CAPITAL

**Cushing MLP Asset Management, LP**

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**Form ADV, Part 2A – Disclosure Brochure**

**March 28, 2011**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Cushing MLP Asset Management, LP. If you have any questions about the content of this brochure, please contact us at 214-692-6334 or [info@swankcapital.com](mailto:info@swankcapital.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Cushing MLP Asset Management, LP is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## **Material Changes**

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This brochure is a new document prepared in response to recent amendments to SEC Form ADV. It is materially different in structure and requires us to disclose certain new information about our business.

In the future, this item will include a summary of material changes made to the brochure since the last annual update.

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## **Advisory Business**

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### **The Firm**

Cushing MLP Asset Management, LP, formerly known as Swank Energy Income Advisors, LP, (“Cushing”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Swank Capital, LLC. The principal of Swank Capital, LLC is Jerry V. Swank. Paul Ferguson, Dan Spears and Libby Toudouze are each entitled to share in the profits of Cushing. The firm began offering its services to outside clients in 2003 and has been registered as an investment adviser with the SEC since 2005.

### **Investment Services**

Cushing provides investment management services on a discretionary basis to individuals and institutional investors. Cushing offers its services through:

- privately offered pooled investment vehicles (the “*Private Funds*”),
- separately managed accounts (the “*Managed Accounts*”),
- a publicly traded open-end registered investment company (the “*Mutual Fund*”), and
- a publicly traded closed-end registered investment company (the “*Closed-End Fund*”) (collectively, the Private Funds, the Managed Accounts, the Mutual Fund and the Closed-End Fund are referred to as the “*Client*”, “*Clients*”, or “*Client Account*”).

Investment supervisory services include: (1) establishing each Client’s investment objectives; (2) buying or selling portfolio securities on behalf of each Client, and, from time to time, reallocating securities among Client portfolios to balance securities among such portfolios; and (3) periodically reporting to each Client current investment valuations, capital gains or losses, investment income and performance. As further discussed below, Cushing primarily invests Client Accounts in energy infrastructure master limited partnership (MLP) investments.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2010 Cushing managed approximately \$1.1 billion in assets under management. All of these assets were managed on a discretionary basis.

## **Fees and Compensation**

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### **Private Funds**

Cushing generally charges each Private Fund a quarterly asset-based management fee (the “*Management Fee*”), in advance, at an annual rate ranging from 1.0% to 1.5% of the value of the Private Fund’s assets. For certain Private Funds, Cushing charges its Management Fee on a monthly basis. Cushing, or an affiliate, may also charge an annual performance fee (the “*Performance Allocation*”) in an amount up to 20% of a Private Fund’s net annual return for its fiscal year (taking into account the payment of the Management Fee). The Performance Allocation is subject to a “high water mark” limitation. In addition to the Management Fee and Performance allocation, investors in Private Funds incur others costs associated with the operation of the fund including, investment-related expenses

such as brokerage commissions, custody fees, taxes and other investment-related expenses, as well as administrative expenses, such as accounting, audit and legal fees. The Management Fee, Performance Allocation and other expenses are described further in the investment management agreements and offering documents for each Private Fund.

#### Managed Accounts

Cushing generally charges a quarterly management fee, in advance, of 1.0% of the value of Managed Account assets. Fees are deducted directly from Client Accounts. If a Client terminates a Managed Account during a quarter, any prepaid and unearned fees will be refunded on a pro-rated basis. Management fees for Managed Accounts are negotiable, and some Clients may pay more or less than other depending upon a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the size of the account, the range of services provided to the Client and the total amount of assets managed for the Client. In addition to management fees, Managed Account clients are charged other costs associated with managing the account, including brokerage commissions and custody fees.

#### Mutual Funds

For investment advisory services provided to the Mutual Fund and the Closed-End Fund, Cushing charges an annual management fee equal to 1.25% of each fund's Managed Assets (as such term is defined and further explained in each Fund's prospectus) payable monthly in advance. The management fee for each of the Mutual Fund and Closed-End Fund is calculated as of the first business day of each calendar month. More information regarding the management fee and administration fees that Cushing charges as a service provider to the Mutual Fund and the Closed-End Fund is included in the registration statements and financial filings of these funds.

#### Other Fees and Expenses

Clients may pay other expenses in addition to the fees paid to Cushing. For example, Clients may pay portfolio transaction costs, including brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, transfer taxes, wire transfer fees and other related fees and taxes. Mutual funds and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus and financial filings.

#### Additional Compensation

Neither Cushing nor any of its employees accept any compensation, including sales charges or service fees, from any person for the sale of securities or other investment products.

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

Cushing receives performance-based fees from the Private Funds. The receipt of performance based-fees from the Private Funds creates potential conflicts of interest. Cushing can potentially receive higher fees from Private Funds with performance-based fees than from Client Accounts that pay an asset-based fee. As a result, Cushing may have an incentive to direct the best investment ideas to an account that pays a performance-based fee or to allocate or sequence trades in favor of the performance fee account. Cushing attempts to manage these potential conflicts as follows:

- When Cushing determines that it would be appropriate for a Private Fund and one or more other Client Accounts to participate in an investment opportunity, Cushing will seek to execute orders for all of the participating Client Accounts on an equitable basis.
  - If Cushing is investing at the same time for more than one Client Account, Cushing generally seeks to place combined orders for all such Client Accounts simultaneously.
  - If an order on behalf of more than one Client Account cannot be fully executed under prevailing market conditions, Cushing will seek to allocate the trade among the different participating Client Accounts on a basis that it considers equitable.
- Compensation of Cushing traders is not directly tied to the performance of any one portfolio that they manage. This is intended to incentivize traders to act in the best interests of all Clients when executing portfolio trades, regardless of fee type.

Cushing manages both long-only and long-short Client Accounts on a side by side basis which creates additional potential conflicts of interest. For example, Cushing could sell short securities in a long-short Client Account while causing a long-only account to hold the same security long. In this case, there is the potential that Cushing may harm the performance of the long-only Client Account for the benefit of Client Accounts that execute short-sales, which may include performance-fee accounts. For example, continually selling a position short may depress the stock price which could harm a long-only Client Account if it holds the same security. To manage this conflict, Cushing has an internal policy that prohibits a short position from being held as a long position in any other Client Account.

## **Types of Clients**

Cushing provides investment management services through Private Funds, the Mutual Fund, the Closed-End Fund and Managed Accounts. Investors in pooled investment vehicles and Managed Accounts include:

- Financial institutions and other institutional clients
- Family offices
- High net worth individuals
- Foundations, endowments and other charitable organizations, and
- Governmental plans and municipalities

Each of Cushing's pooled investment vehicles has a stated minimum investment requirement in the applicable fund's offering documents. The minimum account size for Managed Accounts is \$250,000; however, Cushing may establish a lower or higher minimum in its sole discretion.

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

### **Investment Strategies**

Cushing primarily invests Client Account assets in public and privately offered energy infrastructure master limited partnership ("MLP") investments and their general partners ("GPs"). Cushing focuses primarily on "midstream" MLPs.<sup>1</sup> Cushing may also invest in MLPs involved in other segments of the natural resources sector, including propane and coal MLPs.<sup>2</sup> Finally, Cushing may invest in GP MLPs, which are partnerships and corporations that own: i) the GP interests, ii) the incentive distribution rights ("IDRs"), and iii) limited partner interests in related MLPs.

Cushing generally makes equity investments in a mix of publicly traded securities and non-readily marketable securities that may be issued by public or private companies. Cushing may seek to hedge certain risks such as overall market, interest rate and commodity price risk through the use of derivative contracts.<sup>3</sup> Cushing may also invest in securities of closed-end or open-end registered investment companies (including ETFs), as well as exchange traded notes (ETNs) which seek to track the total return of an underlying index or benchmark. In addition, certain portfolios managed by Cushing may seek to increase current income and capital appreciation by utilizing leverage through the issuance of commercial paper or notes and other forms of borrowing.

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<sup>1</sup> Midstream MLPs collect, gather, transport and store natural resources and their byproducts (primarily crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products), generally without taking ownership of the physical commodity.

<sup>2</sup> Propane MLP services include the distribution of propane to homeowners for space and water heating and to commercial, industrial and agricultural customers. Coal MLP services include the owning, leasing, managing, production and sale of coal and coal reserves.

<sup>3</sup> In the course of pursuing these investment strategies, Cushing may purchase or sell exchange-listed and over-the counter put and call options on securities, equity and fixed-income indices and other instruments, purchase and sell futures contracts and options thereon, and enter into various transactions such as swaps, caps, floors or collars.

Cushing offers three active management investment strategies for Managed Accounts:

- **MLP Core Strategy** – Invests in a portfolio of 22-28 investment grade and larger cap MLPs.
- **MLP High Income Strategy** – Invests in a portfolio of 22-28 MLPs with a focus on yield.
- **MLP Alpha Total Return Strategy** – Invests in a portfolio of 22-28 MLPs with a focus on high after-tax total return.

#### Investment Process

Cushing evaluates energy infrastructure MLPs utilizing a proprietary fundamental research system and seeks to build a core portfolio for each Client Account that provides attractive total returns. Client Accounts are actively managed, and Cushing uses its financial and industry experience and expertise to identify the absolute and relative value opportunities within different MLP subsectors that, in Cushing's view, present the best investment opportunities. The results of Cushing's analysis and comprehensive investment process will influence the weightings of positions held by each Client Account within each MLP subsector. In addition, Cushing has a dedicated risk manager who actively oversees all Client portfolios.

*Fundamental analysis.* Cushing utilizes four dedicated industry analysts to cover every publicly traded MLP in the energy infrastructure sector. All companies are modeled in detail down to the asset/segment level with full financial projections that incorporate current and future capital projects. This bottom-up modeling process is designed to help accurately predict earnings and distribution growth potential.

*Qualitative analysis.* The bottom up fundamental analysis is then coupled with a top down theme overlay, which feeds into Cushing's proprietary valuation and ranking system. Cushing's valuation and ranking system involves discussions and debate by the investment team of research analysts and portfolio managers regarding the qualitative characteristics of current and potential fund holdings. These qualitative characteristics include, but are not limited to, asset-related strengths and weaknesses, market sentiment, strength of management and general partner/sponsor support.

*Portfolio construction and management.* Once an investment thesis is formed at the company specific level, the investment team and risk manager determine the appropriate level of exposure (both gross and net) based on current views of the MLP industry and overall macroeconomic environment. In constructing and maintaining portfolios, Cushing monitors such factors as MLP valuations relative to alternative yield opportunities, general economic conditions and trends, interest rate expectations and regulatory policy regarding energy and taxation.

A core portfolio is constructed that Cushing believes will have the highest level of total return performance over the next 6 to 24 months. From the core portfolio, each portfolio manager selects individual investments and position sizing according to various Client mandates. Additionally, there is flexibility to capture short term trading opportunities in non-core positions.

Cushing's buy discipline incorporates liquidity and pricing tolerances for each MLP investment. The firm's sell discipline develops from a combination of price appreciation based on initial price targets

from the core portfolio, relative valuation metrics and macro issues which may impact the original thesis.

*Risk Management.* An overlay to the investment process is Cushing's risk management function, which is designed to provide independent oversight to the portfolio management process. Cushing maintains a dedicated Risk Manager who has achieved the FRM and CFA designations. The Risk Manager monitors Client portfolios for macroeconomic risks, such as geopolitical concerns, credit spreads, currency and commodity price exposure, as well as MLP specific risks, such as VAR, liquidity concerns, sub-sector concentration and position exposure.

### Investment Strategy Risks

The principal risks associated with Cushing's investment strategies are:

*Investment Risk.* Investing in MLP securities involves investment risk, including the possible loss of a Client's entire investment. Client Accounts may, at any point in time may be worth less than at the time of original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of dividends.

*Natural Resources Risks.* Under normal circumstances, Cushing concentrates its investments in the natural resources sector, with an emphasis on securities issued by MLPs. MLPs and other natural resources sector companies are subject to certain risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Commodity price volatility
- Changes in production and demand for natural resources
- Supply constraints
- Regulatory changes
- Weather interruptions
- Environmental costs and liabilities
- Catastrophe risk

*Interest Rate Risk.* The prices of the equity and debt securities of MLPs and other natural resources companies are susceptible in the short term to a decline when interest rates rise. Rising interest rates could limit the capital appreciation of securities of certain MLPs as a result of the increased availability of alternative investments with yields comparable to those of MLPs. Rising interest rates could adversely impact the financial performance of MLPs and other natural resources companies by increasing their cost of capital. This may reduce their ability to execute acquisitions or expansion projects in a cost effective manner.

*MLP Structure Risk.* Holders of MLP units are subject to certain risks inherent in the structure of MLPs, including (i) tax risks (described further below), (ii) the limited ability to elect or remove management or the general partner or managing member (iii) limited voting rights, except with respect to extraordinary transactions, and (iv) conflicts of interest between the general partner or managing member and its affiliates, on the depressed commodity prices or otherwise, would reduce the revenue, operating one

hand, and the limited partners or members, on the other hand, including those arising from incentive distribution payments or corporate opportunities.

*MLP Tax Risk.* Changes in tax laws, regulations or interpretations of those laws or regulations in the future could adversely affect MLPs or other natural resource sector companies in which Cushing will invest. The anticipated benefit from investing in MLPs is largely dependent on the MLPs being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a partnership, an MLP has no U.S. federal income tax liability at the entity level. If, as a result of a change in current law or a change in an MLP's business, an MLP were to be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its income at the graduated tax rates applicable to corporations. In addition, if an MLP were to be classified as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the amount of cash available for distribution by it would be reduced and distributions received from it would be taxed under U.S. federal income tax laws applicable to corporate distributions (as dividend income, return of capital, or capital gain). Therefore, treatment of MLPs as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes would result in a reduction in the after-tax return to Client Accounts.

*Investment Product Risks.* Additional disclosures regarding specific risks related to an investment in the Private Funds, the Mutual Fund and the Closed-End Fund can be found in the offering documents and registration statements, respectively, for such products.

## **Disciplinary Information**

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Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of Cushing or the integrity of Cushing's management.

On February 10, 2009, Terri Bachow filed a class action against Cushing, Jerry V. Swank, Mark W. Fordyce (formally an advisory affiliate of Cushing), Swank Capital, LLC and the independent trustees of the Fund. The plaintiff's claims related to the treatment and valuation of a deferred tax asset carried by the Fund under FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 740 (formerly, FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109). On September 13, 2010, the court entered an order approving an agreed upon settlement to the lawsuit which provided for the dismissal of the suit with prejudice, the granting of broad releases of the named defendants and all affiliated entities and a payment to the plaintiff by the Fund's insurance carrier of \$3.6 million, including payment of attorney's fees for plaintiff's counsel.

Cushing has no further legal or disciplinary events to report.

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

### **Private Funds**

Cushing serves as the investment adviser to and/or general partner of:

- The Bel Air MLP Energy Infrastructure Fund, LP
- The Cushing Fund, LP
- The Cushing GP Strategies Fund, LP
- The Cushing Infrastructure MLP Fund
- The Cushing MLP Opportunity Fund I, LP
- The Dalrymple Global Resources Fund, LP
- The Dalrymple Global Resources Master Fund, LP
- The Dalrymple Global Resources Offshore Fund, Ltd.
- Lloydminster Canadian Opportunities Fund, LP
- Swank MLP Convergence Fund, LP
- Swank Best Ideas Fund, LP

### **Mutual Funds**

Cushing serves as the investment adviser to The Cushing MLP Premier Fund, an open-end registered investment company, and The Cushing MLP Total Return Fund, a closed-end registered investment company. Cushing does not believe this relationship creates material conflicts of interest between Cushing and its other clients.

### **Relationship with Delos Funds**

Pursuant to an investment management agreement with Delos Investment Management, LLC, Cushing serves as an investment adviser to Delos Investment Partners, Ltd, Delos Investment Partners, LP and Delos Master Fund, LP (collectively, the “Delos Funds”). Quellon Capital LLC (“Quellon”), an affiliate of Delos, is the general partner of the Onshore Fund and the Master Fund. Quellon is owned by Delos and Swank Capital LLC, the parent company of Cushing. As compensation for services provided to the Delos Funds, Cushing is entitled to receive a quarterly Management Fee and an annual Performance Allocation, as further described in the Delos Funds offering documents. Cushing does not believe this relationship creates a material conflict of interest between Cushing and its other Clients. The focus of the Delos Funds is primarily on the shipping sector and commodities, rather than energy infrastructure MLPs. Cushing and its Clients benefit from access to Delos research related to global macroeconomic factors affecting the energy sector.

### **Relationship with Riverstone**

An entity under common control with Riverstone Investment Services, LLC (“Riverstone”) owns a significant passive, non-controlling position in several general partners of Private Funds that Cushing advises. As a result of its ownership of those interests, Riverstone receives a portion of Cushing’s performance-related compensation but does not direct or influence Cushing’s management or policies. Although this relationship creates a potential conflict of interest, Cushing and Riverstone have implemented procedures to ensure that no Client Accounts are adversely harmed as a result of this relationship. Neither Riverstone nor any of its affiliates have any role in the investment decisions made by Cushing on behalf of its Client Accounts.

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

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### *Code of Ethics and Personal Trading*

Cushing has adopted a Code of Ethics and Personal Trading Policy (the “Code”) that sets forth policies and procedures applicable to all employees regarding personal trading, outside activities and conflicts of interest. The Code prohibits personal trading in certain securities or instruments; requires pre-clearance on all personal trades in specified asset classes, including purchases of an IPO or a private placement; requires periodic reporting of employees’ personal securities transactions and holdings; and requires prompt internal reporting of Code violations. The Code also includes guidelines related to service as a director, reporting of gifts and other potential conflicts of interest related to Client Accounts.

Cushing and its professionals may come into contact with material, non-public information in connection with their advisory and portfolio management activities. In addition, certain Cushing investment professionals serve as directors of the publicly and privately held companies whose securities are purchased for Cushing’s clients. Such persons may learn material non-public information concerning a company’s operations or securities offerings. The Code contains procedures designed to prevent the abuse of material, non-public information including, among other things, the use and maintenance of a restricted trading list.

Cushing will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics at no charge to Clients and others upon request.

### *Participation in Client Transactions*

In general, Cushing and its principals avoid engaging in securities transactions with Client Accounts. Cushing and its affiliates may invest in securities in which Cushing may have invested Client assets on a side by side basis, either directly or through special purpose vehicles. Cushing and its affiliates may purchase or sell such securities only contemporaneously with or after all Clients’ purchase or sale of such securities, as the case may be.

On occasion, there may be circumstances where Cushing determines it is beneficial to its Clients to engage in securities transactions with such Clients. Cushing will engage in a principal transaction with a Client Account only if the proposed transaction is consistent with applicable Client investment guidelines and regulatory restrictions.

Cushing has the ability to cause a security to be traded between two Clients where it believes such a trade to be in the interest of each client. Cushing may effect such “cross transactions” only in compliance with Client investment restrictions and applicable laws and regulations. Neither Cushing nor any related person involved in the trade will receive compensation for such trades.

## **Brokerage Practices**

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### **Broker Selection and Best Execution**

Cushing has complete investment and brokerage discretion over transactions in Client Accounts. In selecting a broker for transactions in Client Accounts, Cushing uses its best judgment to choose the broker most capable of providing “best execution”. As a general definition, “best execution” is the execution of Client Account trades at the best net results under the circumstances. Best execution requires the placement of trades in a manner that is intended to maximize the value of the Client Account’s investment objectives. In seeking the best price and execution quality, traders consider not only the commission rate, spread or other compensation paid, but, among other things, the price at which the transaction is executed, speed of execution, ability to handle large trades or thinly traded issuers in a timely manner and customer responsiveness, bearing in mind that it may be in the Client Account’s best interest to pay a higher commission, spread or other compensation in order to receive better execution.

Brokers are selected on the basis of an evaluation by Cushing of the overall value and quality of the brokerage services provided by such firms to Client Accounts. Cushing selects brokers for direct securities transactions based on a number of factors, including the following:

- the ability to effect prompt and reliable executions at favorable prices (including the applicable dealer spread or commission, if any);
- the operational efficiency with which transactions are effected, taking into account the size of order and difficulty of execution;
- the financial strength, integrity and stability of the broker;
- the broker’s risk in positioning a block of securities;
- the quality, comprehensiveness and frequency of available research services and other services considered by Cushing to be of value; and
- the competitiveness of commission rates in comparison with other brokers satisfying the Cushing’s other selection criteria.

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

Research and other products and services received from brokers may include both services generated internally by a broker’s own research staff and services obtained by the broker from a third party research firm. Research services furnished by brokers may include written information and analyses concerning specific securities, companies or sectors; market, financial and economic studies and forecasts; statistics and pricing or appraisal services; discussions with research personnel; and invitations to attend conferences or meetings with management or industry consultants. Research services are used for all Client Accounts, even though certain Clients may not have paid direct commissions to the brokers who provided the research.

Cushing is party to “soft dollar” arrangements with various brokerage firms. Pursuant to these arrangements, the cost of certain research and other services and products used by Cushing or its

affiliates is paid for with commissions generated by direct securities transactions for Client Accounts. Cushing receives a benefit because it does not have to produce or pay for the research services itself. Consequently, Cushing may have an incentive to select a broker based on its desire to receive research services rather than a desire to obtain the most favorable execution in the Clients' best interest. It is Cushing's policy to retain the ability to pay higher prices for the purchase of securities from or accept lower prices for the sale of securities to brokerage firms that provide it with such investment and research information or to pay higher commissions to such firms if Cushing has determined that the broker is providing best execution based on the factors described in "Brokerage Practices" above. In the event that Cushing utilizes allocations of commission dollars, it will do so solely to pay for products or services that qualify as "research and brokerage services" within the meaning of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Cushing does not have any commitments or understandings to trade with specific brokers or to generate a specified level of brokerage commission with a particular broker in order to receive brokerage or research services.

#### *Directed Brokerage and Aggregated Trades*

None of Cushing's Clients currently require that trades be directed to a particular broker. Clients who may choose to direct Cushing to use a particular broker should be aware that such an arrangement could result in failure to achieve best execution in some transactions.

Cushing has a trade allocation policy that provides for aggregation of Client Account trades in a manner that treats each Client Account fairly. If Cushing has determined to invest in the same direction in the same security at the same time for more than one of its Client Accounts, it will generally place orders for all such accounts simultaneously. If all such orders are not filled at the same price, Cushing will, to the greatest extent possible, allocate the trades such that the order for each Client Account is filled at the same average price. Similarly, if an order on behalf of more than one Client Account cannot be fully executed under prevailing market conditions, Cushing will generally allocate the trades among the different accounts on a basis that it considers equitable.

## **Review of Accounts**

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Portfolio managers perform periodic reviews of each Client Account to ensure consistency with Client objectives and restrictions. In addition, Cushing's compliance department monitors trading activity in Client Accounts to compare with regulatory and Client mandates.

Cushing issues periodic written reports to Clients. These reports generally include a discussion of investment performance along with data related to the Client Account. Investors in Private Funds receive quarterly statements containing statistical data regarding their account along with commentary highlighting the developments for the period.

## **Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

From time to time, Cushing may enter into agreements with unaffiliated broker-dealers or investment advisers regarding the solicitation and referral of Clients to Cushing for compensation. Cushing pays a percentage of the management fee and/or performance fee collected from the Client Account to a referring broker-dealer or investment adviser. The referral fees paid may range from 30 basis points to 100 basis points of a Client Account's assets under management, depending upon the specific arrangement. Such arrangements will be disclosed to prospective Clients or their authorized designees in accordance with applicable regulations.

## **Custody**

Cushing does not provide custodial services to its Clients. All Client assets are held with "qualified custodians". Managed Account Clients receive statements directly from the qualified custodians on at least a quarterly basis. Such Clients are urged to carefully review custodian statements and compare the information with reports provided by Cushing. Information in reports provided by Cushing to Managed Account Clients may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

Investors in Private Funds receive quarterly statements from Cushing and audited financial statements within 120 days following the end of the fund's fiscal year. Audited financial statements are prepared by an independent accounting firm which is registered and subject to inspection by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

## **Investment Discretion**

Cushing accepts discretionary authority to manage the assets in each Client Account. Cushing observes all investment limitations and restrictions that are outlined in each Client Account's investment management agreement and organizational documents.

## **Voting Client Securities**

Cushing typically accepts authority to vote proxies on behalf of its Clients' Accounts. The major proxy-related issues generally fall within five categories:

- corporate governance,
- takeover defenses,
- compensation plans,
- capital structure, and
- social responsibility

Cushing will cast votes for proxies related to these matters on a case-by-case basis. Cushing will generally vote in favor of matters which follow an agreeable corporate strategic direction, support an ownership structure that enhances shareholder value without diluting management's accountability to

shareholders and/or present compensation plans that are commensurate with enhanced manager performance and market practices.

If a proxy vote creates a material conflict between the interests of Cushing and a Client, Cushing will resolve the conflict before voting the proxy. Cushing will either disclose the conflict to the Client and obtain consent or take other steps designed to ensure that a decision to vote the proxy was based on Cushing's determination of the Client's best interest and not the product of the conflict. Cushing does not use third party proxy voting services.

A copy of Cushing's proxy voting policy is available to Clients upon request. Further, Clients may request a record of how proxies have been voted on their behalf.

## **Financial Information**

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Cushing has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients and has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.