

**Part 2A of Form ADV: *Firm Brochure***

**Bill Few Associates, Inc.**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Bill Few Associates, Inc.. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 412-630-6000 or [jjones@billfew.com](mailto:jjones@billfew.com). 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 Bill Few Associates, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 133561.

## **Item 2    Material Changes**

The SEC adopted "Amendments to Form ADV" in July, 2010. This Firm Brochure, dated 03/24/2011, is our new disclosure document prepared according to the SEC's new requirements and rules. As you will see, this document is a narrative that is substantially different in form and content, and includes some new information that we were not previously required to disclose.

After our initial filing of this Brochure, this Item will be used to provide our clients with a summary of new and/or updated information. We will inform you of the revision(s) based on the nature of the updated information.

Consistent with the new rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. Furthermore, we will provide you with other interim disclosures about material changes as necessary.

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## **Item 4     Advisory Business**

Bill Few Associates, Inc. is a SEC-registered investment adviser with its principal place of business located in Pennsylvania. Bill Few Associates, Inc. began conducting business in 1989.

Listed below are the firm's principal shareholders (i.e., those individuals and/or entities controlling 25% or more of this company).

- Bill Few Financial Group, Inc., sole shareholder

Bill Few Associates, Inc. offers the following advisory services to our clients:

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Our firm provides continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit

- Municipal securities
- Variable life insurance
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in non-correlating asset categories such as hedge funds and commodities.
- Other investments such as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), commodities, hedge funds and structured products.

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Our firm provides portfolio management services to clients through our Managed Mutual Fund Account program. We manage these accounts on a discretionary basis. Each model portfolio is designed to meet a particular investment goal.

Through personal discussions with the client in which the client's goals and objectives are established, a client's base allocation is determined (i.e. stock/bond/cash). Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives as well as tax considerations, where appropriate.

In the program, our base asset allocation is determined through ongoing fundamental and technical research. The allocation is also discussed weekly at our firm's Investment Policy Committee meetings. Through this research and discussions, it is determined how much we allocate to each investment category (ex. Large-cap, small-cap, international, short-term bond, high-yield bond, etc.). At this point, we match our firm's base allocation with the client's investment needs to form a model created specifically to meet a particular client's investment goals. The accounts are managed to that individual model, although our firm may change the

allocation as market conditions change. The accounts are rebalanced when performance moves them away from the appropriate percentages.

Mutual funds are the primary investment vehicle, although our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Variable life insurance
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in non-correlating asset categories such as hedge funds and commodities.
- Other investments such as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), commodities, hedge funds and structured products.

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only

be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

To ensure that our initial determination of an appropriate portfolio remains suitable and that the account continues to be managed in a manner consistent with the client's financial circumstances, we will:

1. send quarterly written reminders to each Model Portfolio Management Services client requesting any updated information regarding changes in the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
2. at least annually, contact each participating client to determine whether there have been any changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives, and whether the client wishes to impose investment restrictions or modify existing restrictions;
3. be reasonably available to consult with the client; and
4. maintain client suitability information in each client's file.

### **SELECTION AND MONITORING OF THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS**

We also offer advisory management services to our clients through our Selection and Monitoring of Third-Party Money Managers programs (hereinafter, "Programs").

Our firm provides the client with an asset allocation strategy developed through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on the client's particular circumstances are established. This asset allocation strategy is drafted into the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement ("PIPS").

Based on the client's individual circumstances and needs (as exhibited in the client's PIPS) we will then perform management searches of various unaffiliated registered investment advisers to identify which registered investment adviser's portfolio management style is appropriate for that client. Factors considered in making this determination include account size, risk tolerance, the opinion of each client and the investment philosophy of the selected registered investment adviser. Clients should refer to the selected registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of the services offered. We are available to meet with clients on a regular basis, or as determined by the client, to review the account.

Once we determine the most suitable investment adviser(s) for the client, we provide the selected adviser(s) with the client's PIPS. The adviser(s) then creates and manages the client's portfolio based on the client's individual needs as exhibited in the PIPS.

We monitor the performance of the selected registered investment adviser(s). If we determine that a particular selected registered investment adviser(s) is not providing sufficient management services to the client, or is not managing the client's portfolio in a manner consistent with the client's PIPS, we may suggest that the client contract with a different registered investment adviser and/or program sponsor. Under this scenario, our firm assists the client in selecting a new registered investment adviser and/or program. However, any

move to a new registered investment adviser and/or program is solely at the discretion of the client.

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING**

We provide financial planning services. Financial planning is a comprehensive evaluation of a client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values and withdrawal plans. Through the financial planning process, all questions, information and analysis are considered as they impact and are impacted by the entire financial and life situation of the client. Clients purchasing this service receive a written report which provides the client with a detailed financial plan designed to assist the client achieve his or her financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan can address any or all of the following areas:

- **PERSONAL:** We review family records, budgeting, personal liability, estate information and financial goals.
- **TAX & CASH FLOW:** We analyze the client's income tax and spending and planning for past, current and future years; then illustrate the impact of various investments on the client's current income tax and future tax liability.
- **INVESTMENTS:** We analyze investment alternatives and their effect on the client's portfolio.
- **INSURANCE:** We review existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home and automobile.
- **RETIREMENT:** We analyze current strategies and investment plans to help the client achieve his or her retirement goals.
- **DEATH & DISABILITY:** We review the client's cash needs at death, income needs of surviving dependents, estate planning and disability income.
- **ESTATE:** We assist the client in assessing and developing long-term strategies, including as appropriate, living trusts, wills, review estate tax, powers of attorney, asset protection plans, nursing homes, Medicaid and elder law.

We gather required information through in-depth personal interviews. Information gathered includes the client's current financial status, tax status, future goals, returns objectives and attitudes towards risk. We carefully review documents supplied by the client, including a questionnaire completed by the client, and prepare a written report. Should the client choose to implement the recommendations contained in the plan, we suggest the client work closely



with his/her attorney, accountant, insurance agent, and/or stockbroker. Implementation of financial plan recommendations is entirely at the client's discretion.

We also provide general non-securities advice on topics that may include tax and budgetary planning, estate planning and business planning.

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Variable life insurance
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in non-correlating asset categories such as hedge funds and commodities.
- Other investments such as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), commodities, hedge funds and structured products.

Typically the financial plan is presented to the client within six months of the contract date, provided that all information needed to prepare the financial plan has been promptly provided.

## **ADVISORY REFERRAL SERVICES**

Bill Few Associates, Inc. acts as a solicitor on behalf of various independent registered investment advisers. Based on a client's individual circumstances and needs, we will assist the client in determining which independent adviser's portfolio management services are appropriate for that client. Factors considered in making this determination, including account size, risk tolerance, and a client's investment experience, are discussed during our consultation with the client.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. will meet with the client on a regular basis, or as determined by the client, to review the account. We will, when needed, suggest changes in the client's portfolio ("rebalancing"), to more effectively address each client's goals. The client may then instruct the independent adviser to make any or all of the changes we recommended. These recommendations are our own, and are neither recommended nor approved by any independent advisers.

Any rebalancing of the portfolio is done with the client's approval, and will be reviewed and implemented by the independent investment adviser. At the time of conducting the advisory solicitation, Bill Few Associates, Inc. will ensure that all federal and/or state specific requirements governing solicitation activities are met.

### **CONSULTING SERVICES**

Clients can also receive investment advice on a more focused basis. This may include advice on only an isolated area(s) of concern such as estate planning, retirement planning, or any other specific topic. We also provide specific consultation and administrative services regarding investment and financial concerns of the client.

***LIMITATIONS:*** As individuals of Bill Few Associates, Inc. are registered as representatives of a broker-dealer and/or as insurance agents/brokers of various insurance companies, consulting recommendations are limited to only those products offered through these companies.

### **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of 12/31/2010, we were actively managing \$358,000,000 of clients' assets on a discretionary basis plus \$220,000,000 of clients' assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

Our annual fees for Investment Supervisory Services are based upon a percentage of assets under management and generally range from .50% to 1.25%.

The annualized fee for Investment Supervisory Services are charged as a percentage of

assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
first \$500,000	1.25%
next \$500,000	1.00%
next \$500,000	.75%
excess	.50%

A minimum of \$250,000 of assets under management is required for this service. The minimum account size for portfolios predominantly comprised of mutual funds is \$50,000. The account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Bill Few Associates, Inc. may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

**Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees:** Although Bill Few Associates, Inc. has established the aforementioned fee schedule(s), we retain the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs are considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client, assets to be placed under management, anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style, account composition, reports, among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule is identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

We may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size requirements and determining the annualized fee.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of our firm.

#### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

Our annual fees for Model Portfolio Management Services are based upon a percentage of assets under management and generally range from .50% to 1.25%.

The annualized fee for Model Portfolio Management Services will be charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
first \$500,000	1.25%
next \$500,000	1.00%
next \$500,000	.75%
excess	.50%

A minimum of \$250,000 of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Bill Few Associates, Inc. may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size

and determining the annualized fee.

**Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees:** Although Bill Few Associates, Inc. has established the aforementioned fee schedule(s), we retain the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs are considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client, assets to be placed under management, anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style, account composition, reports, among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule is identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

We may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size requirements and determining the annualized fee.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of our firm.

### **SELECTION and MONITORING of THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS FEES**

We are paid by the independent adviser selected by the client for portfolio management services. Our fee is based on a percentage of the client's managed assets (typically ranging up to 50% of the fee charged by the independent investment adviser, depending on the size of the account), which is included in the independent investment adviser's annual management fee. The portion of the advisory fee paid to us does not increase the client's ultimate advisory fee paid to the selected independent investment adviser.

Clients are provided with a separate disclosure document describing the fee paid to us by such independent registered investment advisers. The total asset management fee, including the referral fee paid to our firm, is disclosed in the independent investment adviser's disclosure document.

Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s fee for this service does not include the independent investment adviser's fee for that entity's advisory/management services. The independent investment adviser's management fee is disclosed in the independent investment adviser's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document.

### **ADVISORY REFERRAL SERVICES FEES**

We do not enter into an advisory agreement with any client nor do we charge a fee to any client for referrals to another Adviser(s). Our fees for such referrals are paid by the referred Adviser(s) who shares with our firm a percentage of the fees received from the client. Client advisory fees are not increased in any way as a result of our referral of any clients to another Adviser(s). We typically receive 20-50% of the advisory management fee paid by the client to that Adviser.

Clients will receive a separate disclosure document describing the fee paid to us by such

Adviser(s). Clients should refer to that Adviser's' disclosure document for information regarding its fees, billing practices, minimum required investments and termination of advisory agreements.

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING FEES**

Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s Financial Planning fee is determined based on the nature of the services being provided and the complexity of each client's circumstances. All fees are agreed upon prior to entering into a contract with any client.

Our Financial Planning fees are calculated and charged on a fixed fee basis, typically ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, depending on the specific arrangement reached with the client.

We may request a retainer upon completion of our initial fact-finding session with the client; however, advance payment will never exceed \$500 for work that will not be completed within six months. The balance is due upon completion of the plan.

### **CONSULTING SERVICES FEES**

Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s Consulting Services fee is determined based on the nature of the services being provided and the complexity of each client's circumstances. All fees are agreed upon prior to entering into a contract with any client.

Our Consulting Services fees are calculated and charged on an hourly basis, ranging from \$100 to \$300 per hour. An estimate for the total hours is determined at the start of the advisory relationship.

Our Consulting Services fees are calculated and charged on a fixed fee basis, typically ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, subject to the specific arrangement reached with the client.

Our Consulting Services fees are charged as a percentage of assets under advisement by our firm, typically ranging from .50% to 1.25% of assets under review, depending on the nature and complexity of each client's circumstances, and upon mutual agreement with the client.

The client is billed quarterly in advance based on our estimated Consulting Services fees.

Management personnel and other related persons of our firm are licensed as registered representatives of a broker-dealer and/or licensed as insurance agents or brokers. In their separate capacity(ies), these individuals are able to implement investment recommendations for advisory clients for separate and typical compensation (i.e., commissions, 12b-1 fees or other sales-related forms of compensation). This presents a conflict of interest to the extent that these individuals recommend that a client invest in a security which results in a commission being paid to the individuals. Clients are not under any obligation to engage these individuals when considering implementation of advisory recommendations. The implementation of any or all recommendations is solely at the discretion of the client.

### **Other Revenue**

Management personnel and other related persons of our firm are licensed as registered

representatives of a broker-dealer and, acting in that capacity, they can implement transactions for our advisory clients. In so doing, these individuals may earn separate compensation in the form of commissions and/or 12b-1 fees (trail fees earned from the sale of mutual funds and/or ETFs).

While these individuals endeavor at all times to put the interest of the clients first as part of Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s fiduciary duty, clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation itself creates a conflict of interest, and may affect the judgment of these individuals when making recommendations. Clients, however, are not under any obligation to engage these individuals when considering implementation of advisory recommendations.

Notwithstanding the above, commissions are not accepted by our affiliated broker/dealer on securities transactions executed in pension, profit-sharing, 401k or other client accounts where to do otherwise would constitute a prohibited transaction under the provisions of ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

***Termination of the Advisory Relationship:*** A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt of 30 days written notice. As disclosed above, certain fees are paid in advance of services provided. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded. In calculating a client's reimbursement of fees, we will pro rate the reimbursement according to the number of days remaining in the billing period.

***Mutual Fund Fees:*** All fees paid to Bill Few Associates, Inc. for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds and/or ETFs to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. If the fund also imposes sales charges, a client may pay an initial or deferred sales charge. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

***Wrap Fee Programs and Separately Managed Account Fees:*** Clients participating in separately managed account programs may be charged various program fees in addition to the advisory fee charged by our firm. Such fees may include the investment advisory fees of the independent advisers, which may be charged as part of a wrap fee arrangement. In a wrap fee arrangement, clients pay a single fee for advisory, brokerage and custodial services. Client's portfolio transactions may be executed without commission charge in a wrap fee arrangement. In evaluating such an arrangement, the client should also consider that, depending upon the level of the wrap fee charged by the broker-dealer, the amount of portfolio activity in the client's account, and other factors, the wrap fee may or may not exceed the aggregate cost of such services if they were to be provided separately. We will

review with clients any separate program fees that may be charged to clients.

***Additional Fees and Expenses:*** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

***ERISA Accounts:*** Bill Few Associates, Inc. is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act ("ERISA"), and regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), respectively. As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation. To avoid engaging in prohibited transactions, Bill Few Associates, Inc. may only charge fees for investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons do not receive any commissions or 12b-1 fees, or conversely, investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons receive commissions or 12b-1 fees, however, only when such fees are used to offset Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s advisory fees.

***Advisory Fees in General:*** Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

***Limited Prepayment of Fees:*** Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 more than six months in advance of services rendered.

## **Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

Bill Few Associates, Inc. does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

Bill Few Associates, Inc. provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)
- High net worth individuals
- Pension and profit sharing plans(other than plan participants)
- Charitable organizations
- Corporations or other businesses not listed above

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain initial minimum account requirements, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain minimum account requirements to maintain an account, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain minimum account requirements to maintain an account, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

## **Item 8    Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

### **METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

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

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

***Fundamental Analysis.*** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell).

Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

***Technical Analysis.*** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement.

Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

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



security.

**Quantitative Analysis.** We use mathematical models in an attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a company's quantifiable data, such as the value of a share price or earnings per share, and predict changes to that data.

A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis.** We subjectively evaluate non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management, labor relations, and strength of research and development factors not readily subject to measurement, and predict changes to share price based on that data.

A risk is using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

**Asset Allocation.** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance.

A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

**Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis.** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy.

A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.

**Third-Party Money Manager Analysis.** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks.

A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that

he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

**Risks for all forms of analysis.** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

We use the following strategy(ies) in managing client accounts, provided that such strategy(ies) are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

**Long-term purchases.** We purchase securities with the idea of holding them in the client's account for a year or longer. Typically we employ this strategy when:

- we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or
- we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantage of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell.

**Short-term purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities we purchase.

A short-term purchase strategy poses risks should the anticipated price swing not materialize; we are then left with the option of having a long-term investment in a security that was designed to be a short-term purchase, or potentially taking a loss.

In addition, this strategy involves more frequent trading than does a longer-term strategy, and will result in increased brokerage and other transaction-related costs, as well as less favorable tax treatment of short-term capital gains.

**Margin transactions.** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to

with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.

**Option writing.** We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset.

The two types of options are calls and puts:

- A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
- A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

We will use options to speculate on the possibility of a sharp price swing. We will also use options to "hedge" a purchase of the underlying security; in other words, we will use an option purchase to limit the potential upside and downside of a security we have purchased for your portfolio.

We use "covered calls", in which we sell an option on security you own. In this strategy, you receive a fee for making the option available, and the person purchasing the option has the right to buy the security from you at an agreed-upon price.

We use a "spreading strategy", in which we purchase two or more option contracts (for example, a call option that you buy and a call option that you sell) for the same underlying security. This effectively puts you on both sides of the market, but with the ability to vary price, time and other factors.

**Risk of Loss.** Securities investments are not guaranteed and you may lose money on your investments. Clients should understand that investing in any securities, including mutual funds, involves a risk of loss of both income and principal. We ask that you work with us to help us understand your tolerance for risk.

## **Item 9    Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

## **Item 10    Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Management personnel of Bill Few Associates, Inc. are separately licensed as registered representatives of Bill Few Securities, Inc., an affiliated broker-dealer. These individuals, in their separate capacity, can effect securities transactions for which they will receive separate,

yet customary compensation.

While Bill Few Associates, Inc. and these individuals endeavor at all times to put the interest of the clients first as part of our fiduciary duty, clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation itself creates a conflict of interest, and may affect the judgment of these individuals when making recommendations.

Clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation by Bill Few Associates, Inc. and its management persons or employees creates a conflict of interest that may impair the objectivity of our firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Bill Few Associates, Inc. endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for our firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to our firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they are not obligated to purchase recommended investment products from our employees or affiliated companies;
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;
- our firm's management conducts regular reviews of each client account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are suitable to the client's needs and circumstances;
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by our firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

## **Item 11 Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

Our firm has adopted a Code of Ethics which sets forth high ethical standards of business conduct that we require of our employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

Our Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by the firm's access persons. Among other things, our Code of Ethics also requires the prior approval of any acquisition of securities in a limited offering (e.g., private placement) or an initial public offering. Our code also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, all employees are reminded that such information may not be used in a personal or professional capacity.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [jjones@billfew.com](mailto:jjones@billfew.com), or by calling us at 412-630-6000.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in principal transactions.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. may, at times, effect an agency cross transaction for an advisory client, provided that the transaction is consistent with our firm's fiduciary duty to the client and that all requirements outlined in Sec. 206(3)-2 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 are met.

An agency cross transaction is a transaction where our firm acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which Bill Few Securities, Inc. acts as broker for both the advisory client and for another person on the other side of the transaction.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of our employees will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts.

Our firm and/or individuals associated with our firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) may have an interest or position in a certain security(ies) which may also be recommended to a client.

It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing such employee(s) from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

As disclosed in the preceding section of this Brochure (Item 10), related persons of our firm are separately registered as securities representatives of a broker-dealer (Bill Few Securities,

Inc.) and licensed as an insurance agent/broker of various insurance companies. Please refer to Item 10 for a detailed explanation of these relationships and important conflict of interest disclosures.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

Bill Few Associates, Inc. does not have any soft-dollar arrangements and does not receive any soft-dollar benefits.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. will place block trades where possible and when advantageous to clients. This blocking of trades permits the trading of aggregate blocks of securities composed of assets from multiple client accounts, so long as transaction costs are shared equally and on a pro-rated basis between all accounts included in any such block.

Block trading may allow us to execute equity trades in a timelier, more equitable manner, at an average share price. Bill Few Associates, Inc. will typically aggregate trades among clients whose accounts can be traded at a given broker, and generally will rotate or vary the order of brokers through which it places trades for clients on any particular day. Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s block trading policy and procedures are as follows:

- 1) Transactions for any client account may not be aggregated for execution if the practice is prohibited by or inconsistent with the client's advisory agreement with Bill Few Associates, Inc., or our firm's order allocation policy.
- 2) The trading desk in concert with the portfolio manager must determine that the purchase or sale of the particular security involved is appropriate for the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives and with any investment guidelines or restrictions applicable to the client's account.
- 3) The portfolio manager must reasonably believe that the order aggregation will benefit, and will enable Bill Few Associates, Inc. to seek best execution for each client participating in the aggregated order. This requires a good faith judgment at the time the order is placed for the execution. It does not mean that the determination made in advance of the transaction must always prove to have been correct in the light of a "20-20 hindsight" perspective. Best execution includes the duty to seek the best quality of execution, as well as the best net price.
- 4) Prior to entry of an aggregated order, a written order ticket must be completed which identifies each client account participating in the order and the proposed allocation of the order, upon completion, to those clients.
- 5) If the order cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated pro rata among the participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. However, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. Furthermore, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to

avoid having odd amounts of shares held in any client account, or to avoid excessive ticket charges in smaller accounts.

6) Generally, each client that participates in the aggregated order must do so at the average price for all separate transactions made to fill the order, and must share in the commissions on a pro rata basis in proportion to the client's participation. Under the client's agreement with the custodian/broker, transaction costs may be based on the number of shares traded for each client.

7) If the order will be allocated in a manner other than that stated in the initial statement of allocation, a written explanation of the change must be provided to and approved by the Chief Compliance Officer no later than the morning following the execution of the aggregate trade.

8) Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s client account records separately reflect, for each account in which the aggregated transaction occurred, the securities which are held by, and bought and sold for, that account.

9) Funds and securities for aggregated orders are clearly identified on Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s records and to the broker-dealers or other intermediaries handling the transactions, by the appropriate account numbers for each participating client.

10) No client or account will be favored over another.

## **Item 13    Review of Accounts**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

**REVIEWS:** While the underlying securities within Individual Portfolio Management Services accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least annually. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Bill Few Associates financial consultants and financial analysts.

**REPORTS:** In addition to the statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings during regular review meetings with clients.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

REVIEWS: While the underlying securities within Model Portfolio Management Services

accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least annually. Accounts are reviewed in the context of the investment objectives and guidelines of each model portfolio as well as any investment restrictions provided by the client. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by Bill Few Associates financial analysts along with the financial consultant for each account.

**REPORTS:** In addition to the statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings during regular review meetings with clients. These reports will also remind the client to notify us if there have been changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives and whether the client wishes to impose investment restrictions or modify existing restrictions.

### **SELECTION and MONITORING of THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS**

**REVIEWS:** These client accounts should refer to the independent registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure (or other disclosure document used in lieu of the brochure) for information regarding the nature and frequency of reviews provided by that independent registered investment adviser.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. will provide reviews annually.

These accounts are reviewed by the firm's supervising principal, John E. Jones.

**REPORTS:** These clients should refer to the independent registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure (or other disclosure document used in lieu of the brochure) for information regarding the nature and frequency of reports provided by that independent registered investment adviser.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. does not typically provide reports in addition to those provided by the independent registered investment adviser selected to manage the client's assets.

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** While reviews may occur at different stages depending on the nature and terms of the specific engagement, typically no formal reviews will be conducted for Financial Planning clients unless otherwise contracted for.

**REPORTS:** Financial Planning clients will receive a completed financial plan. Additional reports will not typically be provided unless otherwise contracted for.

### **CONSULTING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** While reviews may occur at different stages depending on the nature and terms



of the specific engagement, typically no formal reviews will be conducted for Consulting Services clients unless otherwise contracted for. Such reviews will be conducted by the client's account representative.

**REPORTS:** These client accounts will receive reports as contracted for at the inception of the advisory engagement.

## **Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

It is Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s policy not to engage solicitors or to pay related or non-related persons for referring potential clients to our firm.

It is Bill Few Associates, Inc.'s policy not to accept or allow our related persons to accept any form of compensation, including cash, sales awards or other prizes, from a non-client in conjunction with the advisory services we provide to our clients.

## **Item 15 Custody**

We previously disclosed in the "Fees and Compensation" section (Item 5) of this Brochure that our firm directly debits advisory fees from client accounts.

As part of this billing process, the client's custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis, the custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

Our firm does not have actual or constructive custody of client accounts.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may hire us to provide discretionary asset management services, in which case we place trades in a client's account without contacting the client prior to each trade to obtain the client's permission.

Our discretionary authority includes the ability to do the following without contacting the client:

- determine the security to buy or sell; and/or

- determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

Clients give us discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may also change/amend such limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy, we do not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Therefore, although our firm may provide investment advisory services relative to client investment assets, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Clients are responsible for instructing each custodian of the assets, to forward to the client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

We may provide clients with consulting assistance regarding proxy issues if they contact us with questions at our principal place of business.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

As an advisory firm that maintains discretionary authority for client accounts, we are required to disclose any financial condition that is reasonable likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations. Bill Few Associates, Inc. has no additional financial circumstances to report.

Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 per client more than six months in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

Bill Few Associates, Inc. has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.