

# **Cornerstone Advisory, LLP**

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## **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Cornerstone Advisory, LLP. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 410-468-1694. 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 Cornerstone Advisory, LLP is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The searchable IARD/CRD number for Cornerstone Advisory, LLP is 142359.

Cornerstone Advisory, LLP is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since our last annual updating amendment dated March 5, 2012 the following material changes have occurred:

We have increased our minimum account size for portfolio management services to \$500,000. The minimum annual fee for portfolio management services has been increased to \$5,000. At our sole discretion the minimum account size and fee may be negotiable depending upon individual circumstances.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Services and Fees

Cornerstone Advisory, LLP is a registered investment adviser based in Baltimore, Maryland. We are organized as a partnership under the laws of the State of Maryland. We have been providing investment advisory services since 2006. Donald S. Huber, Jr. and Thomas N. Biddison, III are our principal owners. Currently, we offer the following investment advisory services, which are personalized to each individual client:

- **Portfolio Management Services**
- **Financial Planning and Consulting Services**
- **Pension Consulting Services**

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

### Portfolio Management Services

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for portfolio management services, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather to develop a strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and/or to make investments on your behalf. As part of our portfolio management services, we may customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis.

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

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

<b>Assets Under Management*</b>	<b>Annual Fee</b>
First \$250,000	1.25%
Next \$750,000	1.00%
Over \$1,000,000	0.75%

\*Our minimum account size is \$500,000 and/or our minimum annual fee is \$5,000.

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

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

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in your paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above.

We will send you an invoice for the payment of our advisory fee or will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

You may terminate the portfolio management agreement upon 30-days' written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the portfolio management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

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

### **Financial Planning Services**

We offer broad-based and consultative financial planning services. Financial planning will typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. If you retain our firm for financial planning services, we will meet with you to gather information about your financial circumstances and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we will develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Once we review and analyze the information, we will deliver a written plan designed to help you achieve your stated financial goals and objectives.

Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to our firm. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

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

we may, at our sole discretion, offset the cost of the financial planning and/or consulting services rendered for the advisory fees earned. The scope and complexity of the services that were provided will determine the waiver or offset of the fee.

Our financial planning fees will be based on the negotiable schedules set forth below and as agreed upon between you and our firm.

- **Fixed Fees:** The negotiable fee for a financial plan will range between \$500 and \$5,000. The fees are determined in advance and disclosed to you prior to the time the Financial Planning Agreement is executed. We require that the fee be paid upon completion of the services rendered.
- **Hourly Fees:** If you request specific consulting related services, we charge a negotiable hourly fee ranging between \$100 and \$300. These fees are calculated and payable at the completion of each session. Specific consulting services may be in the form of general advice given on retirement needs or education planning, among others. In these cases you would not be charged for a written financial plan but instead will only be billed for hourly consultation with a professional. The hours required for consultation will vary from among clients.

The Financial Planning/Consulting fees may be negotiable based upon the complexity and scope of the plan as well as your financial situation and objectives. An estimate of the total time/cost will be determined at the start of the advisory relationship. In limited circumstances, the time/cost could potentially exceed the initial estimate. In such cases, we will notify you and will request that you approve applicable additional fees. Typically, financial planning fees will be due upon presentation of the written plan. However, other fee payment arrangements may be negotiated. For example, particularly complex plans may require prepayment of a portion of the estimated fee for services. For lengthy engagements, interim payments may be requested. In no circumstance will we require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$1,200.

You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

### **Pension Consulting Services**

We will provide pension consulting services to employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries based upon an analysis of the needs of the plan. In general, these services may include an existing plan review, asset allocation advice, communication and education services where we will assist the plan sponsor in providing meaningful information regarding the retirement plan to its participants, investment performance monitoring, non-discretionary asset allocation services, and/or ongoing consulting.

The annual fee for pension consulting services is billed quarterly in advance based on the market value of the plan assets on the last day of the preceding month. Fees will be assessed pro rata in the event the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of month. On an annualized basis, our fees for pension consulting services, subject to negotiation, are 0.10% to 0.75% of plan assets. The fees and terms will be clearly set forth in the executed agreement for services. The fees charged to you will be based on the scope and complexity of the qualified plan and the requested services.

All employee benefit plans are regulated under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act ("ERISA"). We will provide consulting services to the plan fiduciaries as described above. Typically, the named plan fiduciary must make the ultimate decision as to retaining the services of such investment advisers as we recommend. The plan fiduciary is free to seek independent advice about the appropriateness of any recommended services for the plan.

Either party may terminate the pension consulting agreement within five days of the date of execution without. After the five-day period, either party may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other party. Any unearned fees will be refunded to you.

### **General - Advisory Services to Retirement Plans and Plan Participants**

As disclosed above, we offer various levels of advisory and consulting services to employee benefit plans ("Plan") and to the participants of such plans ("Participants"). The services are designed to assist plan sponsors in meeting their management and fiduciary obligations to Participants under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act ("ERISA"). Pursuant to adopted regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor, we are required to provide the Plan's responsible plan fiduciary (the person who has the authority to engage us as an investment adviser to the Plan) with a written statement of the services we provide to the Plan, the compensation we receive for providing those services, and our status (which is described below).

The services we provide to your Plan, and the corresponding compensation are described above, and in the service agreement that you have previously signed with our firm. We may, with consent of the Plan, and in accordance with Plan documents, bill out-of pocket expenses (such as overnight mailings, messenger, translation fees, etc.) at cost. We do not reasonably expect to receive any other compensation, direct or indirect, for the services we provide to the Plan or Participants.

### **Status**

In providing services to the Plan and Participants, our status is that of an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and we are not subject to any disqualifications under Section 411 of ERISA. In performing fiduciary services, we are acting either as a non-discretionary fiduciary of the Plan as defined in Section 3(21) under ERISA, or as a discretionary fiduciary of the plan as defined in Section 3(38) under ERISA.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on equity securities, exchanged traded funds (ETFs), corporate, municipal and US government debt securities, structured products, certificates of deposit, mutual funds and options contracts on securities.

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

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

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2012, we manage \$263,895,829 in client assets on a discretionary basis, and \$74,035,043 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## Item 5 Fees and Compensation

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

### Additional Fees and Expenses

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

### Compensation for the Sale of Other Investment Products

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

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

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees.

Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Advisory Business* section above. Fees are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of the funds in your advisory account.

## Item 7 Types of Clients

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

In general, we require a minimum of \$500,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. We may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum. Alternatively we may require a minimum fee of \$5,000 per year.



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

### Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

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

- Fundamental Analysis - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.
- Cyclical Analysis - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends.
- Long Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.
- Short Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.
- Short Sales - a securities transaction in which an investor sells securities he or she borrowed in anticipation of a price decline. The investor is then required to return an equal number of shares at some point in the future. A short seller will profit if the stock goes down in price.
- Margin Transactions - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.
- Option Writing - a securities transaction that involves selling an option. An option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. When an investor sells an option, he or she must deliver to the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. The seller pays the buyer a premium (the market price of the option at a particular time) in exchange for writing the option.

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

### Risks of methods of analysis:

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

**Cyclical Analysis** - Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long term expansions and contractions. The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

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

We may use investment strategies that involve buying and selling securities frequently in an effort to capture significant market gains and avoid significant losses during a volatile market. However, frequent trading can negatively affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

### **Risk of Loss**

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

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

As disclosed under the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure, we recommend all types of securities and we do not necessarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. *We do, however, recommend the use of structured products, which possess credit risk, as is the case with individual bond purchases. (See further disclosure below regarding structured products).* Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with it.

A structured product, also known as a market-linked product, is generally a pre-packaged investment strategy based on derivatives, such as a single security, a basket of securities, options, indices, commodities, debt issuances and/or foreign currencies, and to a lesser extent, swaps. Structured products are usually issued by investment banks or affiliates thereof. They have a fixed maturity, and have two components: a note and a derivative. The derivative component is often an option. The note provides for periodic interest payments to the investor at a predetermined rate, and the derivative component provides for the payment at maturity. Some products use the derivative component as a put option written by the investor that gives the buyer of the put option the right to sell to the investor the security or securities at a predetermined price. Other products use the derivative component to provide for a call option written by the investor that gives the buyer of the call option the right to buy the security or securities from the investor at a predetermined price. A feature of some structured products is a "principal guarantee" function, which offers protection of principal if held to maturity. However, these products are not always Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured; they may only be insured by the issuer, and thus have the potential for loss of principal in the case of a liquidity crisis, or other solvency problems with the issuing company.

## **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

Cornerstone Advisory, LLP has been registered and providing investment advisory services since 2006. Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any reportable disciplinary information.

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

### **Insurance**

Certain persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate from our advisory fees. Please see the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm.

**Arrangements with Affiliated Entities**

Erik D. Johnson, a Principal of our firm, is also the Principal and Chief Compliance Officer of Private Fund Advisors, Inc. ("PFA"), an SEC registered investment adviser domiciled in the State of Maryland.

We are affiliated with Cornerstone Direct, LLC, through common control and ownership. Donald S. Huber, Jr., Thomas N. Biddison, III, and Erik D. Johnson are Principals, Owners and Members of Cornerstone Direct, LLC.

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

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

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

**Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

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

**Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. We may also combine our orders to purchase securities with your orders to purchase securities ("block trading"). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section in this brochure for information on our block trading practices.

A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To eliminate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our Associated Persons nor we shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## Item 12 Brokerage Practices

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

### Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits

We recommend that a client in need of brokerage and custodial services utilize TD Ameritrade Institutional, division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), member FINRA/SIPC/NFA or Schwab Advisor Services, division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade and Schwab are independent and unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealers. TD Ameritrade and Schwab offer services to independent investment advisers which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. It may be the case that the recommended broker charges a higher fee than another broker charges for a particular type of service, such as commission rates. You may utilize the broker-dealer of your choice. You have no obligation to purchase or sell securities through a broker we recommend.

The client along with the advisor can select TD Ameritrade or Schwab as custodians for their account. These custodians will determine the amount of commissions and other charges to be paid for each transaction. These custodians have agreements with Cornerstone Advisory, LLP.

The products and services we receive from broker-dealers will generally be used in servicing all of our clients' accounts. Our use of these products and services will not be limited to the accounts that paid commissions to the broker-dealer for such products and services. As part of our fiduciary duties to you, we endeavor at all times to put your interests first. You should be aware that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm is considered to create a conflict of interest.

Our participation in the following institutional platforms does not constitute a formal soft dollar agreement. However, we do receive economic benefits as a result of our participation as itemized below.

As disclosed above, we participate in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and we may require clients to maintain accounts with TD Ameritrade. There is no direct link between our participation in the program and the investment advice we give to you, although we receive economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving our participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to your accounts); the ability to have our fees deducted directly from your account; access to an electronic communications network for order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional

services received by our related persons and may also pay or reimburse expenses (including travel, lodging, meals, and entertainment expenses) for our personnel to attend conferences or meetings relating to the program or to TD Ameritrade's adviser custody and brokerage services generally. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit us but may not benefit all of our client accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering your accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help us manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by us or our personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of our fiduciary duty to you, we put your interest first at all times. You should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by us or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services

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

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

Cornerstone may receive client referrals from TD Ameritrade through its participation in TD Ameritrade AdvisorDirect (the "referral program"). In addition to meeting the minimum eligibility criteria for participation in AdvisorDirect, Cornerstone may have been selected to participate in AdvisorDirect based on the amount and profitability to TD Ameritrade of the assets in, and trades placed for, client accounts maintained with TD Ameritrade. TD Ameritrade is a discount broker-dealer independent of and unaffiliated with Cornerstone and there is no employee or agency relationship between them. TD Ameritrade has established the referral program as a means of referring its brokerage customers and other investors seeking fee-based personal investment management services or financial planning services to independent investment advisers. TD Ameritrade does not supervise Cornerstone and has no responsibility for Cornerstone's management of client portfolios or Cornerstone's other advice or services. Cornerstone pays TD Ameritrade an on-going fee for each successful client referral. This fee is usually a percentage (not to exceed 25%) of the advisory fee that the client pays to Cornerstone ("Solicitation Fee"). Cornerstone will also pay TD Ameritrade the Solicitation Fee on any advisory fees received by Cornerstone from any of a referred client's family members, including a spouse, child or any other immediate family member who resides with the referred client and hired Cornerstone on the recommendation of such referred client. Cornerstone will not charge clients referred through AdvisorDirect any fees or costs higher than its standard fee schedule offered to its clients or otherwise pass Solicitation Fees paid to TD Ameritrade to its clients. For information regarding additional or other fees paid directly or indirectly to TD Ameritrade, please refer to the TD Ameritrade AdvisorDirect Disclosure and Acknowledgement Form.

Cornerstone's participation in AdvisorDirect raises potential conflicts of interest. TD Ameritrade will most likely refer clients through AdvisorDirect to investment advisers that encourage their clients to custody their assets at TD Ameritrade and whose client accounts are profitable to TD Ameritrade.



Consequently, in order to obtain client referrals from TD Ameritrade, Cornerstone may have an incentive to recommend to clients that the assets under management by Cornerstone be held in custody with TD Ameritrade and to place transactions for client accounts with TD Ameritrade. In addition, Cornerstone has agreed not to solicit clients referred to it through AdvisorDirect to transfer their accounts from TD Ameritrade or to establish brokerage or custody accounts at other custodians, except when its fiduciary duties require doing so. Cornerstone's participation in AdvisorDirect does not diminish its duty to seek best execution of trades for client accounts.

### **Directed Brokerage**

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

### **Block Trades**

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

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Donald S. Huber, Jr., Managing Partner and Thomas N. Biddison, III, Partner, Erik D. Johnson, Principal and D. Michael Satyshur, Portfolio Manager review performance at each meeting with you and will offer to meet with you no less than annually. Trigger factors of additional reviews include, but are not limited to, changes in your circumstances, changes in world economic events, and a request from you for additional reviews.

We provide annual reports to you detailing the investment performance of your account. The custodian holding your funds and securities will send you trade confirmations and brokerage statements at least quarterly.

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

As disclosed under the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the "Fees and Compensation" section.

Please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our relationship with TD Ameritrade.

We directly compensate non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Solicitors) for client referrals. In order to receive a cash referral fee from our firm, Solicitors must comply with the requirements of the jurisdictions in which they operate. If you were referred to our firm by a Solicitor, you should have received a copy of this brochure along with the Solicitor's disclosure statement at the time of the referral. If you become a client, the Solicitor that referred you to our firm will receive a

percentage of the advisory fee you pay our firm for as long as you are a client with our firm, or until such time as our agreement with the Solicitor expires. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral arrangement. Referral fees paid to a Solicitor are contingent upon your entering into an advisory agreement with our firm. Therefore, a Solicitor has a financial incentive to recommend our firm to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest; however, you are not obligated to retain our firm for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees may be available through other firms.

Solicitors that refer business to more than one investment adviser may have a financial incentive to recommend advisers with more favorable compensation arrangements. We request that our Solicitors disclose to you whether multiple referral relationships exist and that comparable services may be available from other advisers for lower fees and/or where the Solicitor's compensation is less favorable.

## **Item 15 Custody**

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

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

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

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

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

### **Proxy Voting**

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

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

## Item 18 Financial Information

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

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

## Additional Information

### Your Privacy

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

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

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

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

### Trade Errors

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

### Class Action Lawsuits

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