

**ITEM 1: COVER PAGE FOR PART 2A OF
FORM ADV: FIRM BROCHURE
JANUARY 2013**

FOR RETAIL CLIENTS



**STERLING WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.
1808 ASTON AVENUE #245
CARLSBAD, CA 92008**

**FIRM CONTACT:
GREG CARROLL, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

**FIRM WEBSITE ADDRESS:
WWW.STERLINGWMG.COM**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Sterling Wealth Management Group, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact by telephone at (760) 603-8881 or email at greg@sterlingwmg.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 Sterling Wealth Management Group, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

Please note use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of Sterling Wealth Management Group, Inc. and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firms' associates who advise you for more information on the qualifications of our firm and its employees.

ITEM 2: MATERIAL CHANGES TO OUR PART 2A OF FORM ADV: FIRM BROCHURE

Sterling Wealth Management Group, Inc. is required to advise you of any material changes to our Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update, identify those changes on the cover page of our Brochure or on the page immediately following the cover page, or in a separate communication accompanying our Brochure. We must state clearly that we are discussing only material changes since the last annual update of our Brochure, and we must provide the date of the last annual update of our Brochure.

Please note we do not have to provide this information to a client or prospective client who has not received a previous version of your brochure.

Our last annual amendment filing was 03/30/2012.

We have made the following material changes to report about our firm's practice:

- 1) The fee schedule for our pension consulting service has increased. Please refer to Item 5 of this Brochure for more information.
- 2) Comprehensive Financial Management services, combining asset management and financial planning, have been added to our advisory services offered to clients. Please see Item 4 for more information.
- 3) John Paladino has been added as an investment adviser representative at our firm.

ITEM 3: TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section:</u>	<u>Page(s):</u>
Item 1: Cover Page for Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure.....	1
Item 2: Material Changes to our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure.....	2
Item 3: Table of Contents	3
Item 4: Advisory Business.....	4
Item 5: Fees & Compensation.....	7
Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management.....	10
Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements	10
Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss	11
Item 9: Disciplinary Information.....	11
Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations.....	12
Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading.....	12
Item 12: Brokerage Practices	14
Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans.....	18
Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation.....	19
Item 15: Custody.....	21
Item 16: Investment Discretion.....	22
Item 17: Voting Client Securities.....	22
Item 18: Financial Information.....	23

ITEM 4: ADVISORY BUSINESS

We specialize in the following types of services: asset management, financial planning and consultations, comprehensive financial management, pension consulting and referrals to third party money managers.

A. Description of our advisory firm, including how long we have been in business and our principal owner(s).

We are dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a corporation formed in the State of California. Our advisory representatives have a combined financial industry experience of over 85 years. Sterling Wealth Management Group, Inc. has been registered with the SEC as an investment adviser since 2010 and is owned as follows:

Greg Carroll, Managing Member and Chief Compliance Officer, 50% owner;
Michael Haig, Managing Member, 50% owner.

B. Description of the types of advisory services we offer.

Asset Management:

We try to help our clients achieve their financial objectives by serving as a valued advisor involved in every step of the wealth management process. Total wealth management requires a “holistic” approach – working together as a family and team – to help accumulate, preserve and transfer wealth to future generations. We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds (“ETFs”), options, mutual funds, fee-based annuities and other insurance products as well as other public and private securities or investments. The client’s individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be initially designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client’s circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least quarterly and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client’s individual needs, stated goals and objectives. However, each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio.

Financial Planning and Consultations:

We provide a variety of financial planning and consultation services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of client’s current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client’s financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: investment planning, retirement planning, estate planning, charitable planning, education planning, and business planning.

Our written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we refer clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialist, as necessary for non-advisory related services. For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we usually do not provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations as the process is less formal than our planning service. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly.

Comprehensive Financial Management:

Our Comprehensive Financial Management service encompasses asset management as well as providing a financial plan that is monitored and updated as often as necessary or requested. We provide ongoing financial consulting to clients with on-call access to the advisor and customized rebalancing and dollar cost averaging, while implementing option strategies when clients may gain income and/or protection. We conduct at least one, but sometimes more than one meeting annually (in person if possible, otherwise via telephone conference) with clients in order to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what we learn, we propose an investment approach to the client. We may propose an investment portfolio, consisting of exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), mutual funds, individual stocks or bonds, or other securities. We review accounts on a regular basis and at least quarterly. If the client experiences any significant changes to his/her financial or personal circumstances, the client must notify us so that we can consider such information in managing the client's investments.

Pension Consulting:

We provide pension consulting services to employer plan sponsors. Generally, such pension consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education.

All pension consulting services shall be in compliance with the applicable State law(s) regulating the services provided by this Agreement. This section applies to an Account that is a pension or other employee benefit plan (a "Plan") governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). If the Account is part of a Plan and we accept appointments to provide Adviser's services to such Account, Adviser acknowledges that it is a fiduciary within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA (but only with respect to the provision of services described in section 1 of the Pension Consulting Agreement). Client represents that (i) Adviser's appointment and services are consistent with the Plan documents, (ii) Client has furnished Adviser true and complete copies of all documents establishing and governing the Plan and evidencing your authority to retain Adviser. Client further represents that he/she/it will promptly furnish Adviser with any amendments to the Plan, and Client agrees that, if any amendment affects our rights or obligations, such amendment will be binding

on Adviser only with our prior written consent. If the Account contains only a part of the assets of the Plan, Client understands that Adviser will have no responsibilities for the diversification of all the Plan's investments, and Adviser will have no duty, responsibility or liability for the assets that are not in the account. If ERISA or other applicable law requires bonding with respect to the assets in the account, Client will obtain and maintain at his/her/its expense bonding that satisfies this requirement and covers Adviser and any of our affiliates.

Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:

We provide clients with a list of investment advisory services of third party professional portfolio management firms for the individual management of client accounts. As part of this process, we assist clients in identifying an appropriate third party money manager. We provide initial due diligence on third party money managers and ongoing reviews of their management of your account.

In order to assist clients in the selection of a third party money manager, we typically gather information from the client about their financial situation, investment objectives, and reasonable restrictions they can impose on the management of the account, which are often very limited. It is important to note that we do not offer advice on any specific securities or other investments in connection with this service. Investment advice and trading of securities is only offered by or through the third party money managers to clients.

We periodically review third party money managers' reports provided to the client, but no less often than on an annual basis. Our associates contact the clients from time to time, as agreed to with the client, in order to review their financial situation and objectives; communicate information to third party money managers as warranted; and, assist the client in understanding and evaluating the services provided by the third party money manager. The client will be expected to notify us of any changes in his/her financial situation, investment objectives, or account restrictions that could affect their account. The client may also directly contact the third party money manager managing the account or sponsoring the program.

- C. Explanation of whether (and, if so, how) we tailor our advisory services to the individual needs of clients, whether clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

Individual Tailoring of Advice to Clients:

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing the following services offered by our firm: Asset Management and Comprehensive Financial Management. On the other hand, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing the following services offered by our firm: Financial Planning and Consultations, Pension Consulting and Referrals to Third Party Money Managers.

Ability of Clients to Impose Restrictions on Investing in Certain Securities or Types of Securities:

We usually do not allow clients to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing their account. In the rare instance that we would allow restrictions, it would be limited to our Asset Management and Comprehensive Financial Management services. We do not manage assets through our other services.

D. Participation in wrap fee programs.

We do not offer wrap fee programs.

E. Disclosure of the amount of client assets we manage on a discretionary basis and the amount of client assets we manage on a non-discretionary basis.

We manage \$115,000,000 on a discretionary basis and \$15,000,000 on a non-discretionary basis as of December 31, 2012.

ITEM 5: FEES & COMPENSATION

We are required to describe our brokerage, custody, fees and fund expenses so you will know how much you are charged and by whom for your advisory services. Our fees are negotiable in certain circumstances generally based on the scope of the engagement. Client's first payment will include the pro-rated amount for the remaining days of the first quarter as well as the fees for the second quarter.

A. Description of how we are compensated for our advisory services provided to you.

Asset Management:

<u>Assets under management</u>	<u>Annual Percentage of assets charged*:</u>
\$0 to \$499,999.99	2.00%
\$500,000 to \$999,999.99	1.75%
\$1,000,000 to \$2,999,999.99	1.40%
\$3,000,000 to \$9,999,999.99	1.00%
Over \$10,000,000	negotiable

*Our firm's fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter.

Financial Planning and Consultations:

We charge on an hourly or flat fee basis for financial planning and consultation services. The ultimate fee that we charge you is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. Our hourly fees range from \$250 for financial advisors. Flat fees generally range from \$500 to \$5,000.

Comprehensive Financial Management:

<u>Assets under management</u>	<u>Annual Percentage of assets charged*:</u>
\$0 to \$249,999.99	2.50%
\$250,000 to \$499,999.99	2.30%
\$499,999.99 to \$999,999.99	2.00%

\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999.99	1.50%
\$2,000,000 to \$4,999,999.99	1.30%
Over \$5,000,000	1.00%

*Our firm's fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. Fees will be calculated on a blended tier basis. The Client's percentage rate will decrease as the aggregate balance under management reaches a new tier. Each portion of the balance has its own rate according to the schedule above.

Pension Consulting:

<u>Assets under management</u>	<u>Annual Percentage of assets charged*:</u>
\$0 to \$499,999.99	2.00%
\$500,000 to \$999,999.99	1.75%
\$1,000,000 to \$2,999,999.99	1.40%
\$3,000,000 to \$9,999,999.99	1.00%
Over \$10,000,000	negotiable

*Our firm's fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the time-weighted daily average of the previous quarter. The first advisory fee is based on the value of the account on the first day of management by Adviser and is payable within one month after execution of the agreement. The first advisory fee will be assessed on pro-rata basis taking into account the time for which the account was not managed by Adviser and the time left in the quarter.

Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:

We are paid by third party money managers when we refer you to them and you decide to open a managed account. Third party money managers pay us a portion of the investment advisory fee that they charge you for managing your account. Fees paid to us by third party money manager are generally ongoing. The third party money managers recommended through your qualified custodian program will separately deduct its advisory fees from your account. All fees we receive from third party money managers and the written separate disclosures made to you regarding these fees comply with Rule 206(4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The separate written disclosures you need to be provided include a copy of the third party money manager's Form ADV Part 2, all relevant Brochures, a Solicitation Disclosure Statement detailing the exact fees we are paid and a copy of the third party money manager's privacy policy. The third party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them.

- B. Description of whether we deduct fees from clients' assets or bill clients for fees incurred.

Asset Management and Comprehensive Financial Management:

Our firms' fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. Fees will generally be automatically deducted from your managed account*. As part of this process, you understand and acknowledge the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing all disbursements for your account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms;
- c) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, we send a copy of our invoice to the independent custodian at the same time we send the invoice to you;
- d) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, our invoice includes a legend as required by paragraph (a)(2) of rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.**

*In rare cases, we will agree to direct bill clients. We do not offer direct billing as an option to our asset management clients.

**The legend urges the client to compare information provided in their statements with those from the qualified custodian in account opening notices and subsequent statements sent to the client for whom the adviser opens custodial accounts with the qualified custodian.

Financial Planning and Consultations:

We require a retainer of fifty-percent of the ultimate financial planning or consultation fee with the remainder of the fee direct billed to you and due to us within thirty (30) days of your financial plan being delivered or consultation rendered to you. In all cases, we will not require a retainer exceeding \$1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.

Pension Consulting:

Our firms' fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the time-weighted daily average of the previous quarter. Fees will generally be automatically deducted from your managed account*. As part of this process, you understand and acknowledge the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing all disbursements for your account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms;
- c) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, we send a copy of our invoice to the independent custodian at the same time we send the invoice to you;
- d) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, our invoice includes a legend as required by paragraph (a)(2) of rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.**

*In rare cases, we will agree to direct bill clients.

**The legend urges the client to compare information provided in their statements with those from the qualified custodian in account opening notices and subsequent statements sent to the client for whom the adviser opens custodial accounts with the qualified custodian.

Referrals to third party money managers:

Third party money managers establish and maintain their own separate billing processes which we have no control over. In general, they will direct bill you and describe how this works in their separate written disclosure documents.

- C. Description of any other types of fees or expenses clients may pay in connection with our advisory services, such as custodian fees or mutual fund expenses.

Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executing in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees and will be disclosed by the firm trades are executed through. Bond accounts incur an annual fee and may also have a flat rate per transaction. Also, clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, of which we do not receive any part: charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses).

- D. Client's advisory fees are due quarterly in advance.

We charge our advisory fees quarterly in advance. In the event that you wish to terminate our services, we will refund the unearned portion of our advisory fee to you. You need to contact us in writing and state that you wish to terminate our services. Upon receipt of your letter of termination, we will proceed to close out your account and process a pro-rata refund of unearned advisory fees.

- E. Commissionable securities sales.

Our supervised persons are registered representatives of Comprehensive Asset Management and Servicing, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC which clears and executed trades through Pershing, LLC, a member FINRA, NYSE and SIPC. As registered representatives our supervised persons may suggest that advisory clients purchase products and/or place transactions through Comprehensive Asset Management and Servicing, Inc. Under such circumstances, these supervised persons may receive normal commissions, thus a conflict of interest exists between our interests and that of our clients since there is incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received, rather than on client's needs. Such conflicts are disclosed to clients prior to investing. Advisory fees are generally not reduced in situations where commissions are charges. Clients are under no obligation to purchase products recommended through us, Comprehensive Asset Management and Servicing, Inc., or insurance companies. Clients have the option to purchase investment products that we recommend through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with Sterling Wealth Management Group.

ITEM 6: PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES & SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT

We do not charge performance fees to our clients.

ITEM 7: TYPES OF CLIENTS & ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High-Net Worth Individuals
- Trusts, Estates, Endowments, Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans;
- Corporations, limited liability companies and/or other business types

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- We require a minimum account balance of \$250,000 for our portfolio management services. Generally, this minimum account balance requirement is not negotiable and would be required throughout the course of the client's relationship with our firm.
- We generally charge a minimum fee of \$500 for written financial plans.

ITEM 8: METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES & RISK OF LOSS

A. Description of the methods of analysis and investment strategies we use in formulating investment advice or managing assets.

Methods of Analysis:

- Charting;
- Fundamental;
- Technical;
- Cyclical.

Investment Strategies we use:

- Long term purchases (securities held at least a year);
- Short term purchases (securities sold within a year);
- Short sales;
- Margin transactions;
- Option writing, including covered options, uncovered options or spreading strategies.

Please note:

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock/bond market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock/bond market may decrease and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important you understand the risks associated with investing in the stock/bond market, are appropriately diversified in your investments and ask us any questions you may have.

B. Our practices regarding cash balances in client accounts, including whether we invest cash balances for temporary purposes and, if so, how.

We generally invest client's cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, we try to achieve the highest return on our client's cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to comprehensive financial management and asset management, as applicable.

ITEM 9: DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

There are no 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.

ITEM 10: OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

- A. Our firm or our management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer. The details are as follows:

Our managed persons are registered representatives of Comprehensive Asset Management and Servicing, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC which clears and executed trades through Pershing, LLC, a member FINRA, NYSE and SIPC.

- B. Our firm or our management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities. The details are as follows:

We have determined we have nothing to disclose in this regard.

- C. Description of any relationship or arrangement that is material to our advisory business or to our clients, that we or any of our management persons have with any related person listed below. We are required to identify the related person and if the relationship or arrangement creates a material conflict of interest with clients, describe the nature of the conflict and how we address it.

Mr. Carroll, Mr. Haig, Mr. Bondy, Ms. Thorp and Mr. Paladino are a registered representative of CAMAS, an SEC registered broker-dealer and FINRA member. In their separate capacity as registered representatives, they may earn commissions from securities sales. These sales would be executed through CAMAS.

- D. If we recommend or select other investment advisers for our clients and we receive compensation directly or indirectly from those advisers, or we have other business relationships with those advisers, we are required to describe these practices and discuss the conflicts of interest these practices create and how we address them.

Please see Item 4B of this Brochure. The compensation paid to us by third party managers may vary, and thus, there may be a conflict of interest in recommending a manager who shares a larger portion of its advisory fees over another manager. Our firm's fees are not higher than they would have been had our client obtained services directly from the third party money manager. Prior to referring clients to third party advisors, we will ensure that third party advisors are licensed or notice filed with the respective authorities. A potential conflict of interest in utilizing third party advisors may be an incentive to us in selecting a particular advisor over another in the form of fees or services. In order to minimize this conflict our firm will make our selections in the best interest of our clients

ITEM 11: CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS & PERSONAL TRADING

- A. Brief description of our Code of Ethics adopted pursuant to SEC rule 204A-1 and offer to provide a copy of our Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

We recognize that the personal investment transactions of members and employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and for members and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates.

Furthermore, our firm has established a Code of Ethics which applies to all of our associated persons. An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. We have a fiduciary duty to all clients. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. We require all of our supervised persons to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our firm and supervised persons must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. However, if a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

- B. If our firm or a related person recommends to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest (excluding an interest as a shareholder of an SEC-registered, open-end investment company), we must describe our practice and discuss the conflicts of interest it presents.

We have determined we have nothing to disclose in this regard.

- C. If our firm or a related person invests in the same securities (or related securities, e.g., warrants, options or futures) that our firm or a related person recommends to clients, we are required to describe our practice and discuss the conflicts of interest this presents and generally how we address the conflicts that arise in connection with personal trading.

See Item 11A of this Brochure. Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

- D. If our firm or a related person recommends securities to clients, or buys or sells securities for client accounts, at or about the same time that you or a related person buys or sells the same securities for our firm's (or the related person's own) account, we are required to describe our practice and discuss the conflicts of interest it presents. We are also required to describe generally how we address conflicts that arise.

See Item 11A of this brochure. Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities within 48 hours prior to buying or selling for our clients. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

ITEM 12: BROKERAGE PRACTICES

A. Description of the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for client transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do not maintain custody of your assets on which we advise (although we may be deemed to have custody of your assets if you give us authority to withdraw assets from your account (Please see Item 15 of this Brochure). Your assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to.

While we recommend that you use Schwab as custodian/broker, you will decide whether to do so and open your account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for you. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account, as described in the next paragraph.

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. It is noted that clients may pay higher or lower commissions than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect similar transactions where we determine in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although we will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions

We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others, these:

- combination of transaction execution services along with asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- capability to execute, clear and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account)
- capabilities to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)

- breadth of investment products made available (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), etc.)
- availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- quality of services
- competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate them
- reputation, financial strength and stability of the provider
- their prior service to us and our other clients
- availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below in Item 12A1(b)

1. Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits. If we receive non-soft dollar research or other products or services other than execution from a broker-dealer or a third party in connection with client securities transactions ("soft dollar benefits"), we are required to disclose our practices and discuss the conflicts of interest they create. Please note that we must disclose all soft-dollar benefits we receive, including, in the case of research, both proprietary research (created or developed by the broker-dealer) and research created or developed by a third party.

Schwab offers to independent investment Advisers non-soft dollar services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. We receive some non-soft dollar benefits from Schwab through our participation in the program. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 of this Brochure.)

- a. Explanation of when we use client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns) to obtain research or other products or services, and how we receive a benefit because our firm does not have to produce or pay for the research, products or services.

As part of the arrangement described in Item 12A.1, Schwab also makes certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. These services include certain research and brokerage services, including research services obtained by Schwab directly from independent research companies, as selected by our firm (within specific parameters). Research products and services provided by Schwab to our firm may include research reports on recommendations or other information about, particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by Schwab to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which we have investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

- b. Incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on our interest in receiving the research or other products or services, rather than on our clients' interest in receiving best execution.

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide us and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services described below are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us as long as we keep a total of at least \$10 million of the assets of our firm's advisory clients in accounts at Schwab. The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients. Here is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

Services that Benefit You. Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

Services that May Not Directly Benefit You. Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or some substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- provide pricing and other market data;
- facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts; and
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Services that Generally Benefit Only Us. Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events;
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for

some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

The availability of the services described above from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. We don't have to pay for Schwab's services so long as we keep a total of at least \$10 million of client assets in accounts at Schwab. The \$10 million minimum may give us an incentive to require that you maintain your account with Schwab based on our interest in receiving Schwab's and the third parties' services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of Schwab's services and not Schwab's or third parties' services that benefit only us or may only indirectly benefit you.

- c. Causing clients to pay commissions (or markups or markdowns) higher than those charged by other broker-dealers in return for benefits (known as paying-up).

We do not acquire client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns) in return for soft dollars.

- d. Disclosure of whether we use soft dollar benefits to service all of our clients' accounts or only those that paid for the benefits, as well as whether we seek to allocate soft dollar benefits to client accounts proportionately to the soft dollar credits the accounts generate.

Investment research products and services that may be obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account.

- e. Description of the types of products and services our firm or any of our related persons acquired with client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns within our last fiscal year.

We do not acquire client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns).

- f. Explanation of the procedures we used during our last fiscal year to direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits we received.

We do not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

2. Brokerage for Client Referrals. If we use client brokerage to compensate or otherwise reward brokers for client referrals, we must disclose this practice, the conflicts of interest it creates, and any procedures we used to direct client brokerage to referring brokers during the last fiscal year (i.e., the system of controls used by us when allocating brokerage).

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

3. Directed Brokerage.

- a. If we routinely recommend, request or require that a client directs us to execute transactions through a specified broker-dealer, we are required to describe our practice or policy. Further, we must explain that not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage. If our firm and the broker-dealer are affiliates or have another economic relationship that creates a material conflict of interest, we are further required to describe the relationship and discuss the conflicts of interest it presents by explaining that through the direction of brokerage we may be unable to achieve best execution of client transactions, and that this practice may cost our clients more money.

Neither we nor any of our firm's related persons have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected.

- b. Permissibility of client-directed brokerage.

We allow clients to direct brokerage. However, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions. Client directed brokerage may cost clients more money. For example, in a directed brokerage account, you may pay higher brokerage commissions because we may not be able to aggregate orders to reduce transaction costs, or you may receive less favorable prices.

- B. Discussion of whether, and under what conditions, we aggregate the purchase or sale of securities for various client accounts in quantities sufficient to obtain reduced transaction costs (known as bunching). If we do not bunch orders when we have the opportunity to do so, we are required to explain our practice and describe the costs to clients of not bunching.

We perform investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when we believe that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, we attempt to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

ITEM 13: REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS OR FINANCIAL PLANS

- A. Review of client accounts or financial plans, along with a description of the frequency and nature of our review, and the titles of our employees who conduct the review.

We review accounts on at least a quarterly basis for our clients subscribing to our Asset Management, Comprehensive Financial Management and Third Party Money Management

services. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Only our Financial Advisors or Portfolio Managers will conduct reviews.

Pension consulting clients receive reviews of their pension plans for the duration of the pension consulting service. We also provide ongoing services to Pension Consulting clients where we meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc.

Financial planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. We do not provide ongoing services to financial planning clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc.

B. Review of client accounts on other than a periodic basis, along with a description of the factors that trigger a review.

We may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

C. Description of the content and indication of the frequency of written or verbal regular reports we provide to clients regarding their accounts.

We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we contact clients who subscribe to the following services: Asset Management, Comprehensive Financial Management and Third Party Money Management.

As mentioned in Item 13A of this Brochure, Pension Consulting clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their pension plans unless they choose to contract with us for ongoing Pension Consulting services.

As also mentioned in Item 13A of this Brochure, financial planning clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately contract with us for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

ITEM 14: CLIENT REFERRALS & OTHER COMPENSATION

A. If someone who is not a client provides an economic benefit to our firm for providing investment advice or other advisory services to our clients, we must generally describe the arrangement. For purposes of this Item, economic benefits include any sales awards or other prizes.

Our firm may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with Schwab to maintain custody of Clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. Our firm is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Our firm may also recommend that Clients

establish accounts with firms other than Schwab. Our firm places trades for its Clients' accounts subject to its duty to seek best execution and its other fiduciary duties.

Our firm may use broker-dealers other than Schwab to execute trades for client accounts maintained at Schwab, but this practice may result in additional costs to clients so that we are more likely to place trades through Schwab rather than other broker-dealers. Schwab's execution quality may be different than other broker-dealers.

For our client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions or other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Some of the products, services and other benefits provided by Schwab benefit us and may not benefit our firm's client accounts. Our recommendation/requirement that a client place assets in Schwab's custody may be based in part on benefits Schwab provides to us, and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and execution services provided by Schwab.

Schwab also makes available to our firm other products and services that benefit us but may not benefit clients' accounts. These benefits may include national, regional or specific to our firm, educational events organized and/or sponsored by Schwab Institutional. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of our firm by Schwab Institutional personnel, including meals, invitations to sporting events, including golf tournaments, and other forms of entertainment, some of which may accompany educational opportunities. Other of these products and services assist us in managing and administering clients' accounts. These include software and other technology (and related technological training) that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of our fees from its clients' accounts, and assist with back-office training and support functions, recordkeeping and client reporting. Many of these services generally may be used to service all or some substantial number of our firm's accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab Institutional. Schwab Institutional also makes available to us other services intended to help our firm manage and further develop its business enterprise. These services may include professional compliance, legal and business consulting, publications and conferences on practice management, information technology, business succession, regulatory compliance, employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, insurance and marketing. In addition, Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay vendors for these types of services rendered to our firm by independent third parties. Schwab Institutional may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to us. While, as a fiduciary, Our firm endeavors to act in its clients' best interests, our recommendation/requirement that clients maintain their assets in accounts at Schwab may be based in part on the benefit to our firm of the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and other arrangements and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Schwab, which may create a potential conflict of interest.

But for soft dollar arrangements, we would have to obtain the aforementioned services and products for cash. As a result of receiving such products and services for no cost, we may have an incentive to continue to place Client trades through broker-dealers that offer soft dollar

arrangements. This interest conflicts with the Clients' interest of obtaining the lowest commission rate available. Therefore, our firm must determine in good faith, based on the "best execution" policy stated above that such commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the services provided by such executing broker-dealers.

From time-to-time our firm may make an error in submitting a trade order on a client's behalf. When this occurs, we may place a correcting trade with the broker-dealer which has custody of the client's account. If an investment gain results from the correcting trade, the gain will remain in the client's account unless the same error involved other client account(s) that should have received the gain, it is not permissible for the client to retain the gain, or our firm confers with the client and the client decides to forego the gain (e.g., due to tax reasons). If the gain does not remain in the client's account and Schwab is the custodian, Schwab will donate the amount of any gain \$100 and over to charity. If a loss occurs greater than \$100, we will pay for the loss. Schwab will maintain the loss or gain (if such gain is not retained in the client's account) if it is under \$100 to minimize and offset its administrative time and expense. Generally, if related trade errors result in both gains and losses in the client's account, they may be netted.

We receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (*see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices*). The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

- B. If our firm or a related person directly or indirectly compensates any person who is not our employee for client referrals, we are required to describe the arrangement and the compensation.

We may pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Such referral fee represents a share of our investment advisory fee charged to our clients. This arrangement will not result in higher costs to you. In this regard, we maintain Solicitors Agreements in compliance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and applicable state and federal laws. All clients referred by Solicitors to our firm will be given full written disclosure describing the terms and fee arrangements between our firm and Solicitor(s). In cases where state law requires licensure of solicitors, we ensure that no solicitation fees are paid unless the solicitor is registered as an investment adviser representative of our firm. If we are paying solicitation fees to another registered investment adviser, the licensure of individuals is the other firm's responsibility.

ITEM 15: CUSTODY

- A. If we have custody of client funds or securities and a qualified custodian as defined in SEC rule 206(4)-2 or similar state rules (for example, a broker-dealer or bank) does not send account statements with respect to those funds or securities directly to our clients, we must disclose that we have custody and explain the risks that you will face because of this.

All of our clients receive at least quarterly account statements directly from their custodians. Upon opening an account with a qualified custodian on a client's behalf, we promptly notify the client in writing of the qualified custodian's contact information. If we decide to also send account statements to clients, such notice and account statements include a legend that recommends that the client compare account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm.

- B. If we have custody of client funds or securities and a qualified custodian sends quarterly, or more frequent, account statements directly to our clients, we are required to explain that you will receive account statements from the broker-dealer, bank or other qualified custodian and that you should carefully review those statements.

Under government regulations, we are deemed to have custody of your assets if you authorize us to instruct Schwab to deduct our advisory fees directly from your account. Schwab maintains actual custody of your assets. You will receive account statements directly from Schwab at least quarterly. They will be sent to the email or postal mailing address you provided to Schwab. You should carefully review those statements promptly when you receive them.

ITEM 16: INVESTMENT DISCRETION

If we accept discretionary authority to manage securities accounts on behalf of clients, we are required to disclose this fact and describe any limitations our clients may place on our authority. The following procedures are followed before we assume this authority:

Our clients need to sign a discretionary investment advisory agreement with our firm for the management of their account. This type of agreement only applies to our Asset Management and Comprehensive Financial Management clients. We do not take or exercise discretion with respect to our other clients.

ITEM 17: VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

If we have, or will accept, proxy authority to vote client securities, we must briefly describe our voting policies and procedures, including those adopted pursuant to SEC rule 206(4)-6.

We do not and will not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy vote or other solicitation.

However, third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes proxies, we 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. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party

money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

ITEM 18: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- A. If we require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, we must include a balance sheet for our most recent fiscal year.

We do not require nor do we solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, therefore we have not included a balance sheet for our most recent fiscal year.

- B. If we are an SEC-registered adviser and have discretionary authority or custody of client funds or securities, or we require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, we must disclose any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.

- C. If we have been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years, we must disclose this fact, the date the petition was first brought, and the current status.

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.