



CORRIGAN FINANCIAL, INC.

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Investment Advisory and Wealth Management Services Disclosure Document

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Corrigan Financial, Inc. If you have any questions about the content of this brochure, please contact us at www.corriganfinancialinc.com or at (401) 849-9313. 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. Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Corrigan Financial, Inc. is available also on the SEC's website at www.advisorinfo.sec.gov.

January 1, 2014

Statement of Material Changes

There have been no material changes to this document since the prior issue date of January 1, 2013.

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I. Advisory Business

A. Background Information

Corrigan Financial, Inc. (CFI) was incorporated in the State of Rhode Island in November 1989. The company previously operated under the name of Corrigan Financial Associates, Ltd. From September 1, 1997 through September 30, 2005, the company was owned by BankNewport, a community bank serving Rhode Island's Newport and Bristol counties. Effective October 1, 2005, the Company was acquired by a group of its employees. Daniel G. Corrigan, who founded the Company in 1989, heads up this group.

B. Advisory Services

CFI provides comprehensive wealth management services. These services are customized to each client's unique goals and objectives and include the following major functional areas:

- Personal Financial Planning
- Investment Management
- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Estate Planning

In formulating and executing strategies, we will often act as the financial "quarterback" by coordinating the services of other specialists.

We are compensated for these services on a fee-only basis. CFI does not earn commissions (or participate in any other compensation arrangements) from the sale of investment or insurance related products.

C. Client Specific Situations

CFI tailors its advisory services to the individual needs of its clients. We believe the creation of a financial planning framework and the adherence to investment policy are the foundations for successful wealth management:

Creating a Financial Planning Framework:

1. We believe everyone needs a financial plan.
2. We believe all financial decisions should be made within the context of a long-term planning framework.
3. We believe the financial planning framework should be updated on at least an annual basis.

Adhering to Investment Policy:

1. We believe diversification reduces risk and enhances return.
2. We believe market-timing strategies do not work.
3. We believe accountability is a function of strict benchmarking.

Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

D. Wrap Fee Programs

CFI does not participate in wrap fee programs.

E. Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2013, CFI had approximately \$579 million in client assets under management. Substantially all accounts are managed on a discretionary basis.

II. Fees and Compensation

A. Compensation and Fee Schedule

CFI is compensated by fees only. (We do not receive any compensation from commissions or other transaction charges.) For the management of investment portfolios, our fees are based on the assets under management.

Investment management fees are not negotiable.

These fees are invoiced quarterly in arrears according to the following schedule:

<u>Annual %</u>	<u>Account Balances</u>
1.50	\$0 - \$150,000
1.25	\$150,001 - \$300,000
1.00	\$300,001 - \$500,000
0.75	\$500,001 - \$900,000
0.50	\$900,001 - \$2,000,000
0.40	\$2,000,001 - \$4,000,000
0.30	\$4,000,001 - \$25,000,000
0.25	\$25,000,001 - \$75,000,000
0.20	\$75,000,001+

For certain institutional clients, fees may be charged at a flat annual rate of 0.50%.

Generally, we will quote a maximum total fee for personal financial planning engagements. Other one-time consulting services may be billed at an hourly rate of \$150 to \$250.

B. Method of Payment

Fees are generally deducted directly from clients' accounts on a quarterly basis. Clients may also elect to be invoiced for fees incurred.

C. Other Types of Fees

Mutual funds charge their own separate and distinct fees. Clients will also incur brokerage and other transaction costs that are charged by the custodian. Please refer to section IX Brokerage Practices.

D. Advance Billings

CFI clients do not pay fees in advance.

E. Compensation for the Sale of Securities

CFI does not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products.

III. Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

Performance-based fees are fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client. CFI does not charge or accept performance-based fees or use any method of fee calculation other than as described in section II.

IV. Types of Clients

CFI works with over 800 clients, including individuals, trusts, corporations, and pension plans. While our individual clients come from all walks of life, they share many of the same challenges and concerns.

People come to us when they need to resolve significant financial issues. Such concerns may relate to retirement, college funding, income taxes or estate planning. Often, their circumstances are driven by concerns about their current investment portfolios. Generally, our clients' concerns are multi-variable and include both personal and financial goals. These goals need to be sorted out and prioritized.

CFI does not require a minimum asset balance to open or maintain an advisory account.

V. Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

Many investment professionals focus their attention on the evaluation and selection of specific issues (stocks and bonds) rather than on the portfolio as a whole. It is a common misconception that skilled professionals, with their financial resources and information gathering abilities, should be able to consistently “beat the market”. It is assumed that this can be done with sophisticated securities analysis and selection and by “timing” moves into and out of the markets. This assumption is based on the premise that markets are inherently inefficient, thereby allowing investors with superior skills to outperform benchmarks of market performance.

Most academic and industry research, however, supports the concept that markets are efficient. (The nature of efficient markets is such that all participants have the same overall information on the markets in general ... and specific issues in particular.) Ironically, the sophistication of money managers (and their virtually instantaneous access to information) creates greater efficiency in the marketplace, thereby making above-average returns extremely difficult to achieve.

Studies have shown that over 90% of the variability in the returns of a portfolio can be explained by the asset allocation policy - with market timing and security selection playing minor roles. Asset allocation is the process of selecting a mix of asset classes - and the efficient allocation of capital to those assets - by matching expected rates of returns to a specified tolerance for risk. (Risk tolerance is essentially the percentage of an investment portfolio that an investor is willing to risk in order to achieve a specific rate of return.) It is no longer a one-dimensional process of selecting the right stock, bond, or property to place in a portfolio.

Portfolio diversification is not so much a function of the number of stocks and bonds involved, as it is of the relationships of each asset to each other asset and their relative proportion within the portfolio. Therefore, investors should search for those assets that tend to move independently of one another - or possibly go up in value as the values of other assets decline. By using asset allocation methodologies, investors should achieve higher returns with less risk.

At CFI, we are focused on portfolio design ... or the overall composition of the investment portfolio. Specific investment strategies are based on our clients’ unique financial circumstances and explicit risk/reward objectives.

B. Investment Strategies and Related Risks

The stock and bond markets are composed of numerous styles and sectors. To access the return potential of the financial markets and reduce risk, a portfolio must be

diversified within each asset class. Therefore, there should be carefully designed strategies for the domestic equity market, the international equity market, and the fixed income market.

Historically, growth and value equity styles move in and out of favor in different markets and in a random fashion. At times, growth stocks outperform value. In other periods, value stocks outperform growth. Similarly, small cap and large cap company securities are also popular at varied times. Just as with other financial projections, no one has developed a way to accurately predict how a particular style will perform in any given time.

A properly structured portfolio will provide exposure to all types of equities, through “style diversification”. Combining each of these investment styles will enable the portfolio to benefit from the unique characteristics of the different types of equities, while minimizing the risk of the overall portfolio.

Generally, investors look to balance the risks associated with inflation and volatility. An investor’s time horizon will usually determine which risk (inflation or volatility) is of greater importance.

Inflation risk is of greater concern to investors with longer time horizons. As such, they will tend to have a higher allocation to stock investments in order to maintain and grow their purchasing power.

Volatility risk is of greater concern to investors with shorter term horizons. As such, they will tend to have a higher allocation to bond investments and cash reserves in order to gain more portfolio stability.

C. Security Types and Related Risks

Mutual funds are an excellent vehicle for efficiently investing within our predetermined asset allocations. CFI has access to the universe of mutual funds and exchange traded funds through our various custodial/brokerage relationships.

More and more, institutional investors are utilizing index funds to implement their asset allocation strategies. Since studies have shown that “active” money managers have historically added minimal value to a portfolio’s return, index funds are a lower cost method of getting “passive” access to a certain asset class. Whenever appropriate, based on a client’s specific circumstances, CFI will make use of passive strategies (such as index mutual funds and exchange traded funds) within our portfolios.

When using actively managed funds, individual fund selection is made using analytical screens that weigh many factors, including (but not limited to) historical

performance, adherence to stated investment objective, management status and tenure, portfolio size and internal fund expenses.

For some clients, we will consider using separately managed accounts. Separately managed accounts utilize individual securities (i.e. stocks and bonds) and are managed by specialist money managers. Managed accounts are generally appropriate for high net worth clients, where the emphasis is on tax efficiency. The managers of these accounts are subject to the same due diligence standards applied to our mutual fund selections.

Mutual funds and separately managed accounts carry internal expenses that are in addition to any fees paid to CFI. These costs are clearly explained to the client before any investments are made.

All money managers, active as well as passive, should be held accountable to a predetermined benchmark for performance.

Stock and bond markets are inherently volatile. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

VI. Disciplinary Information

CFI and its employees have not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events related to past or present activities.

VII. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

CFI does not participate in any other financial industry activities or affiliations.

VIII. Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

A. Code of Ethics

As an advisor and a fiduciary to our clients, we recognize that our clients' interests must always be placed first and foremost.

- Our code of ethics applies to all members of CFI.
- Compliance with federal securities laws is required of all members of CFI.
- Confidentiality is to be maintained in all client services. Further, all client non-public information is to be safeguarded and is subject to CFI's privacy policies and procedures.
- Each employee of CFI must identify any personal investment accounts, request prior approval for certain transactions and report all reportable transactions and investment activity.
- Employees will not accept favors or gifts of a personal nature or of value above a de minimus amount from clients, potential clients, vendors or service providers.

Certain employees of CFI are members of and have received certifications from professional organizations including the Certified Financial Planner Board (CFP) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). We, therefore, further establish that members of CFI will uphold and adhere to the technical and ethical standards and principles defined in the following documents:

- CFP Board's Standards of Professional Conduct©
- AICPA Guide to Professional Standards for PFP Engagements©

Upon request, we will provide a copy of our code of ethics to any client or prospective client.

B. Material Interest in Certain Securities

CFI does not recommend to clients, or buy or sell for client accounts, securities in which we have a material financial interest.

C. Trading Conflicts of Interest

Each employee of CFI must identify any personal investment accounts, request prior approval for certain transactions and report all reportable transactions and investment activity. Because CFI utilizes mutual funds and exchange traded funds to execute its investment strategies, conflicts of interest associated with personal trading activities do not inherently exist.

IX. Brokerage Practices

A. Factors in Selecting a Custodian (Broker-Dealer)

CFI is an independent advisory firm with no exclusive custodial or brokerage agreements. We currently use Charles Schwab and Co., Inc. as our primary custodian. CFI also has custodial relationships with Fidelity Investments, The Vanguard Group, TIAA-CREF, TD Ameritrade, and American Funds.

Custodians are selected based on industry standing, access to product, and execution capabilities. Brokerage fees are generally comparable among these custodians and competitive to the overall industry. Often, a client's personal circumstances or preferences will dictate or influence the selection of custodians.

1. Research and Other Soft Dollars

Other than trade execution, CFI does not receive any special products or services from its custodians.

2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

CFI does not currently receive client referrals from a broker-dealer or third party.

3. Directed Brokerage

All client transactions are executed by their account custodians.

B. Aggregation of Trades

CFI does not aggregate the purchase or sale of securities for various client accounts. While overall investment strategies are based on models, execution of these strategies is tailored to the specific circumstances of each client. Therefore, all trading occurs at the individual account level.

X. Review of Accounts

Clients are encouraged to meet with a CFI financial planner and/or investment advisor at six month intervals. Client investment portfolios are reviewed by CFI's investment team on a quarterly basis, as well as each time there is a significant cash transaction, and the securities within the investment portfolios are regularly monitored.

An integrated web-based platform provides comprehensive daily portfolio information including performance analysis, account rebalancing, and report presentation. Our reporting system can generate various analytics and rate of return calculations for any period desired and for comparison to industry indices. In addition, our clients have easy on-line access to a secure customized portal where they can view daily portfolio reports. CFI will supply to all clients quarterly performance reports that include activity for the period and compare periodic performance to benchmarks. Reports can be mailed or delivered electronically through the secure client portal.

XI. Client Referrals and Other Compensation

CFI does not compensate any person (or entity) for client referrals.

XII. Custody

While CFI has authority to debit investment management fees from client accounts, CFI does not take constructive custody of client funds or securities. All assets are held at qualified custodians who provide account statements directly to clients at the address of record at least quarterly. Clients are urged to carefully review and compare the statements they receive from us and those they receive from their qualified custodians.

XIII. Investment Discretion

CFI has discretionary authority to manage securities accounts on behalf of clients. Discretionary trading authority facilitates placing trades in clients' accounts on their behalf within their approved investment policy. Investment portfolios are strictly managed to adhere to their documented allocation policies.

Clients may occasionally request to hold certain securities in their accounts that were not recommended by CFI. For these securities, our due diligence is limited to performance review relative to asset class peers.

While client assets are held by independent custodians, CFI has the limited authority to place trades and receive all transactional information on client accounts. Clients must sign a limited power of attorney before CFI is given discretionary authority. The limited power of attorney is included in the qualified custodian's account application.

XIV. Voting Client Securities

CFI does not vote proxies for any client securities.

XV. Financial Information

CFI does not have any financial impairment that will preclude the firm from meeting its contractual commitments to clients. A balance sheet is not required to be provided because CFI does not serve as a custodian for client funds or securities and does not require or solicit prepayment of fees.

XVI. Summary

Everyone needs a financial plan. If you have one, make sure it is updated on an annual basis.

People are working longer, reversing a century long early retirement trend. Rising health care costs and the decline of traditional defined benefit pension plans have shifted retirement risk squarely on individual workers. Longer life expectancies, inflation, taxes and spending habits are the major factors in considering a sound long-term plan. The overall goal is to make sure you don't outlive your resources, and the emphasis is on managing risk. The need for comprehensive financial planning services has never been greater.

What sets us apart from others is our commitment to personal financial planning. We believe risk evaluation is not just about the investment portfolio ... it is about the individual. Having a comprehensive financial planning framework is the first, and most important, step to mitigating the negative impact of declining stock prices or weak housing markets.

All investors should establish and document an investment policy.

No one would ever construct a building without a blueprint. It's hard to imagine, but many investors continue to make decisions on an incremental basis and without regard to an overall game plan. By adhering to a well constructed investment policy, investors can gain control of their overall portfolios by bringing discipline and consistency to their investment decisions.

The investment marketplace has humbled a lot of *really smart people* over the years. Studies consistently rate expert predictions no higher than statistical chance. For example, an economist's forecasting skill has been shown to be about as good as guessing. Media personalities were also found to do worse than their colleagues not in the limelight. Fragmented investment decisions simply do not work.

According to Dalbar Inc., stock mutual fund investors earned a measly 3.9% during the twenty year period which ended in 2005. During that same period, the market, as measured by the S&P 500 stock index, returned 11.9%. The study calculates that investors had a "lost opportunity" of 77% of market performance! By trying to "beat" the markets, most investors woefully underperform.

In effect, improving investors' returns depends more on correcting behaviors than on fund performance. Without a policy, many investors find themselves consistently buying high and selling low ... something they do with each passing market cycle. Adherence to investment policy enables investors to unemotionally buy low and sell high, allowing them to efficiently capture market performance.

Financial success is all about staying focused on process and maintaining discipline.

At CFI we are committed to a simple, yet comprehensive, three-step process:

1. Develop a financial plan.
2. Establish an investment policy.
3. Execute and manage the specific financial and investment strategies.

In simple terms, we are focused on helping our clients get from where they are to where they want to be.

Successful wealth management is all about process and discipline. And if discipline is all about adherence to process ... it makes sense that investors initially need to establish a proper process.

Discipline is the bridge between intention and achievement. It's the product of our own evolving character. One disciplines oneself precisely because one isn't possessed of effortless genius: most of us have to work long and hard at whatever we wish to excel in. Discipline is, in that sense, the gift we give ourselves.

Nick Murray, Financial Advisor – March 2006

XVII. Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)

The Corrigan Financial Team

Planning and Investment Group

Daniel G. Corrigan, CFP®, CPA/PFS

Dan founded CFI in 1989. He is President of the firm and the firm's Chief Compliance Officer. He holds a Master of Business Administration (1982) and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (1979) from the University of Rhode Island. Dan received his CPA license in 1985, the CFP® designation in 1988 and the PFS credential in 1996. Prior to founding CFI, Dan practiced as a CPA with the accounting firms of Ernst & Whinney (currently Ernst & Young) and Rooney, Plotkin & Willey, CPA's. Dan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants (RISCPA), and the Financial Planning Association (FPA). Dan does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is May 9, 1957.

Andre Khalfayan, CPA/PFS, MST

Andre joined CFI in February 1997. Andre holds a Master of Science in Taxation from Bentley College (1997) and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Salve Regina University (1987). Andre received his CPA license in 1991 and the PFS credential in 2001. He was previously employed as an Audit and Accounting Manager with Casten, Victor and Company, CPA's. Andre is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. His current firm position is Director of Financial Planning and Tax Services. Andre does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is October 16, 1960.

Christine M. Winslow, CPA/PFS

Christine joined CFI in January 1998. She has a Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Rhode Island (1987) and a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College (1971). Christine received her CPA license in 1988 and the PFS credential in 2010. She was previously employed as Finance Director by New Visions for Newport County, Inc. and Supervisor with Rooney, Plotkin & Willey, CPA's. She is a member of

the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Christine, a Senior Financial Planner, is also CFI's Director of Operations. Christine does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. Her date of birth is December 20, 1949.

Arlene M. Rosbottom, CPA/PFS

Arlene joined CFI in October 2000. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting) from the University of Rhode Island (1982). Arlene received her CPA license in 1984 and the PFS credential in 2010. Arlene was previously employed as a Customer Service Manager with Eastern Utilities, a Senior Accountant with Newport Electric and a Senior Staff Accountant with Deloitte, Haskins and Sells (currently Deloitte and Touche). She is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Arlene, a Senior Financial Planner, is also CFI's Director of Human Resources. Arlene does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. Her date of birth is May 14, 1960.

Cheryl D. Sanfilippo, CPA

Cheryl, a Senior Financial Planner, joined CFI in October 2000. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Providence College (1990) and a Bachelor of Science in Management Advisory Services (1985) from Southern New Hampshire University formerly New Hampshire College. She received her CPA license in 1999. Cheryl was previously employed as a Senior Accountant with Rooney, Plotkin and Willey, CPA's, as Finance Director of the James L. Maher Center, and as a Senior Financial Analyst for Raytheon Company. She is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Cheryl does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. Her date of birth is February 11, 1963.

David J. Matarese, CFP®, CPA/PFS

Dave, a Senior Financial Planner, joined CFI in January 2004. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island (2002) and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Fairfield University (1995). Dave received his CPA license in 1999 and CFP® and PFS credentials in 2005. Dave was previously employed as a Finance Manager at Citizens Investment Services Corp. and as an accountant for KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP. He is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Dave does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is October 8, 1973.

Ann-Marie S. Quinn, CPA

Ann-Marie joined CFI in December 2005. She holds a Master of Science (Accounting) from Salve Regina University (1994) and a Bachelor of Arts from Providence College (1975). She received her CPA license in 2002. Ann-Marie was previously employed as a Senior Accountant with Sansiveri, Kimball and McNamee, LLP. She is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Ann-Marie does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. Her date of birth is February 13, 1954.

Ralph T. Salvatore, CFP®, CPA/PFS

Ralph joined CFI in November 2007. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Providence College (1999) and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Bryant University (1995). Ralph received his CPA license in 2004, the PFS designation in 2010, and the CFP® credential in 2013. Ralph was previously self-employed as a financial consultant and tax practitioner and employed as the Senior Budget Officer for the Providence School Department. He is a member of the AICPA, the RISCPA, and the FPA. Ralph does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is April 15, 1973.

Steven C. Antunes

Steve joined CFI in January 2008. Steven holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (2006). He was previously employed as an Audit and Tax Accountant with Landa & Altsher, P.C. (currently Larson Allen LLP). Steve does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is April 24, 1983.

Andrew J. Parsons

Andy joined CFI in April 2011. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Babson College (2003) and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the Boston College School of Management (1990). Andy is CFI's Director of Investment Services. He has passed the FINRA Series 6, 24, 63 and 65 examinations. Andy was previously employed as Vice President, Executive Relationship Manager with New York Life Investments. Andy does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is August 24, 1968.

William R. Rouse

Rhodes joined CFI in May 2012. His position is Investment Advisor. Rhodes has passed the FINRA Series 6, 7, 26, 63, and 65 examinations. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Presbyterian College (2006). He was previously employed as Regional Representative at John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.) in Charlotte, NC. Rhodes does not participate in any other business activities, receives no other compensation, and has not been subject to any disciplinary actions. His date of birth is October 28, 1984.

Client Services Group

Andrea M. Borges

Andrea joined CFI in February 1990. Andrea is an Investment Administrative Assistant. Andrea is a graduate of Katharine Gibbs School and was previously employed by the accounting firm Rooney, Plotkin and Willey, CPA's.

Lois A. Marvelle

Lois joined CFI in June 1997. Lois received her Registered Financial Planning Paraplanner (College of Financial Planning) credential in 2004. She was previously employed as a legal secretary for the law firm of Joseph R. Palumbo, Jr.

Giovanna Izzo

Jo-Ann joined CFI in March 2003. Jo-Ann is the Wealth Management Relationship Coordinator. Jo-Ann has passed the FINRA Series 53, 24, 7, 63 and 65 exams. She was previously employed as an operations manager at Citizens Financial Services.

Sarah Vanderveer Lui

Sarah joined CFI in March 2004. Her current position is Manager of Investment Operations. She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Elementary Education and History from the University of Rhode Island (2002). She has passed the Series 65 exam.

Sarah was previously employed by the Middletown School District and Tuition Management Systems.

Lisa M. Medeiros

Lisa joined CFI in July 2007. Lisa is one of CFI's receptionists. She was previously employed with the Newport School Department.

Caroline W. McCarthy

Carol joined CFI in December 2007 as Data and Systems Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Wheaton College (1990). Caroline was previously employed by SAIC, Inc. as a computer systems analyst.

Jessica W. Gemming

Jess joined CFI in January 2011 as a receptionist. She holds an Associate of Arts in Elementary Education from Escola Santa Catarina, Novo Hamburgo, Brazil (2003).

Additional Information on Professional Designations

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

CPAs are licensed and regulated by their state boards of accountancy. While state laws and regulations vary, the education, experience and testing requirements for licensure as a CPA generally include minimum college education (typically 150 credit hours with at least a baccalaureate degree and a concentration in accounting), minimum experience levels (most states require at least one year of experience providing services that involve the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, all of which must be achieved under the supervision of or verification by a CPA), and successful passage of the Uniform CPA Examination. In order to maintain a CPA license, states generally require the completion of 40 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) each year (or 80 hours over a two year period or 120 hours over a three year period). Additionally, all American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) members are required to follow a rigorous *Code of Professional Conduct* which requires that they act with integrity, objectivity, due care, competence, fully disclose any conflicts of interest (and obtain client consent if a conflict exists), maintain client confidentiality, disclose to the client any commission or referral fees, and

serve the public interest when providing financial services. The majority of state boards of accountancy have adopted the AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct* within their state accountancy laws or have created their own.

Personal Financial Specialist (PFS)

The PFS credential demonstrates that an individual has met the minimum education, experience and testing required of a CPA in addition to a minimum level of expertise in personal financial planning. To attain the PFS credential, a candidate must hold an unrevoked CPA license, fulfill 3,000 hours of personal financial planning business experience, complete 80 hours of personal financial planning CPE credits, and be an active member of the AICPA. A PFS credential holder is required to adhere to AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct*, and is encouraged to follow AICPA's *Statement on Responsibilities in Financial Planning Practice*. To maintain their PFS credential, the recipient must complete 60 hours of financial planning CPE credits every three years. The PFS credential is administered through the AICPA.

Certified Financial Planner (CFP®)

CFP® professionals must develop their theoretical and practical financial planning knowledge by completing a comprehensive course of study at a college or university offering a financial planning curriculum approved by the CFP Board. Other options for satisfying the education component include submitting a transcript review or previous financial planning-related course work to CFP Board for review and credit, or showing the attainment of certain professional designations or academic degrees. CFP® practitioners must pass a comprehensive two-day, 10-hour CFP® Certification Examination that tests their ability to apply financial planning knowledge in an integrated format. CFP® professionals must have three years minimum experience in the financial planning process prior to earning the right to use the CFP® certification marks. As a final step to certification, CFP® practitioners agree to abide by a strict code of professional conduct, known as CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility* that sets forth their ethical responsibilities to the public, clients and employers. Once certified, CFP® practitioners are required to maintain technical competence and fulfill ethical obligations. Every two years, they must complete a minimum 30 hours of continuing education to stay current with developments in the financial planning profession and better serve clients. Two of these hours are spent studying or discussing CFP Board's *Code of Ethics or Practice Standards*.
