



## **FIDUCIARY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

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### **INVESTMENT ADVISER REGISTRATION FORM ADV PART 2A: FIRM BROCHURE**

*This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Fiduciary Investment Management International, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact Global Business Service Support ("GCSS") via email at [GlobalClientServiceSupportAmericas@franklintempleton.com](mailto:GlobalClientServiceSupportAmericas@franklintempleton.com). This 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 Fiduciary Investment Management International, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).*

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**ANY REFERENCE TO FIDUCIARY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC. AS BEING A REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER DOES NOT IMPLY A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SKILL OR TRAINING.**

**September 30, 2014**

## **Item 2      Material Changes**

Material changes made on or after the date of the last annual update of the Adviser's brochure on September 30, 2013 are summarized below:

Item 4: Advisory Business – Update regarding indirect parent company Franklin Resources, Inc.'s deregistration as a bank holding company with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Assets under management ("AUM") updated as of September 30, 2014. Disclosure added that AUM reported in Item 4 may differ from Regulatory Assets Under Management ("RAUM") disclosed in Item 5.F of Adviser's Form ADV Part 1A due to specific calculation instructions for RAUM.

Item 7: Types of Clients – Added disclosure with respect to Separate Account clients regarding use and provision of client information and confidentiality clauses in investment management agreements.

Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss – Removed investment risk disclosure relating to Bank Holding Company Act status.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations – Detail added regarding related broker-dealer's introducing broker registration with CFTC. Removed disclosure regarding bank holding company regulation of Franklin Resources, Inc.

Clients may request a copy of the current version of our brochure at no cost by contacting GCSS via email at [GlobalClientServiceSupportAmericas@franklintempleton.com](mailto:GlobalClientServiceSupportAmericas@franklintempleton.com).

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## **Item 4      Advisory Business**

### **INTRODUCTION TO FIDUCIARY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

Fiduciary Investment Management International, Inc. (the “Adviser” or “we”), is a Delaware corporation formed on March 2, 1998 and based in Washington, D.C. The Adviser is an indirectly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”), a holding company that, together with its various subsidiaries is referred to as Franklin Templeton Investments,<sup>®</sup> a global investment management organization offering investment services under the Franklin,<sup>®</sup> Templeton,<sup>®</sup> Mutual Series,<sup>®</sup> Bissett,<sup>®</sup> Fiduciary Trust,<sup>™</sup> Darby,<sup>®</sup> Balanced Equity Management<sup>™</sup> and K2<sup>®</sup> brand names. Franklin Templeton Investments, through current and predecessor subsidiaries, has been engaged in the investment management and related services business since 1947.

In September 2014, Franklin Resources deregistered as a bank holding company with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System after limiting the operations of two of its subsidiaries to trust and fiduciary activities. The common stock of Franklin Resources is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the ticker symbol “BEN,” and is included in the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index.

### **ADVISORY SERVICES**

The Adviser provides investment advisory and portfolio management services under management agreements with one or more institutional and high net-worth separate accounts (collectively, our “client accounts”).

The services provided by the Adviser will generally include investment research and portfolio management services, including the selection of securities to be purchased, held or sold and the selection of brokers through whom the portfolio transactions are executed.

The services offered by the Adviser are described more fully below. The Adviser’s investment advisory services are often tailored to the individual needs of particular clients, as set forth in the relevant investment management agreement, investment guidelines and objectives, or other written instructions.

The Adviser provides our investment management services pursuant to agreements in effect with each of the client accounts that it manages. Investment management services include services to managed accounts with full investment discretion, and to advisory accounts with no investment discretion. Advisory accounts for which the Adviser does not have investment discretion may or may not include the authority to trade for the account. The management fee on an account varies with the types of services that the Adviser provides for the account, among other things.

With respect to client accounts for which the Adviser has been appointed to provide discretionary investment management services, the Adviser will either perform or obtain investment research and determine which securities the client accounts will purchase, hold or sell. In addition, the Adviser may take various steps to implement such decisions, including arranging for the selection of brokers and dealers and the execution and settlement of trades in accordance with detailed criteria set forth in the management agreement for each account, internal policies, and applicable law and practice. With respect to client accounts for which the Adviser has been appointed to provide non-discretionary investment management services, the Adviser will perform or obtain investment research for its clients and make recommendations on securities for the clients to purchase, hold or sell. In such cases, the Adviser may or may not perform trading activities for the accounts.

The Adviser provides investment advice to separate account clients in accordance with investment objectives, guidelines and restrictions which form part of the mandate selected by the client or are otherwise developed in consultation with the client prior to delivery of advice. Typically, accounts are managed on a fully discretionary basis.

The Adviser considers each prospective separate account client on an individual basis. Please see Item 16 (“Investment Discretion”) for details of the circumstances in which clients may place limitations on the Adviser’s discretionary authority.

Potential or actual conflicts of interest may arise in the allocation of investment opportunities among the Adviser's accounts. Some of these are discussed in more detail in Item 11 ("Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading").

## SERVICES OF AFFILIATES

Franklin Templeton Investments operates its investment management business through the Adviser, as well as through multiple affiliates of the Adviser, some of which are registered with non-U.S. regulatory authorities and some of which are registered with multiple regulatory authorities. The Adviser may use the services of appropriate personnel of one or more of its affiliates for investment advice, portfolio execution and trading, and client servicing in their local or regional markets or their areas of special expertise, except to the extent restricted by the client in or pursuant to its investment management agreement, or inconsistent with applicable law. Arrangements among affiliates take a variety of forms, including delegation arrangements or formal sub-advisory or servicing agreements. In these circumstances, the client with whom the Adviser has executed the investment management agreement will typically require that the Adviser remains fully responsible for the account from a legal and contractual perspective. No additional fees are charged for the affiliates' services except as set forth in the investment management agreement. Please see Item 10 ("Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations") for more details.

## ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

The Adviser may provide management services or continuous and regular supervisory services for the accounts that it manages. As part of these overall services, the Adviser may provide one or more of the following: (i) management services as an adviser to an account, (ii) management services as a sub-adviser to an affiliated adviser managing or supervising an account, (iii) management services under delegated authority by an affiliated adviser, (iv) continuous and regular supervisory services for an account for which it has delegated management services to an affiliated adviser (v) management services as a co-manager to an account for which an affiliated adviser also provides management services or (vi) non-discretionary management services. Assets under management described in this item may include all of these types of accounts, and may include accounts and assets that an affiliated adviser is also reporting on its Form ADV.

As of September 30, 2014, the Adviser managed the following amounts on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis:

	U.S. Dollar Amount
<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>\$ 555,557,928.29</b>
<b>Non-Discretionary</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$ 555,557,928.29</b>

\*May differ from Regulatory Assets Under Management ("RAUM") disclosed in Item 5.F. of Adviser's Form ADV Part 1A due to specific calculation instructions for RAUM.

## Item 5 Fees and Compensation

### ADVISORY FEES

Investment management fees are generally calculated under contractual arrangements with the Adviser's client accounts as a percentage of the market value of assets under management. Annual rates vary by investment objective and type of services provided. Fee arrangements for separate accounts vary by client, and are based on a number of different factors, including investment mandate, services performed, and account/relationship size. To the extent permitted under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act"), the Adviser may negotiate and charge performance fees or special allocations, as well as asset-based fees in connection with client accounts. In addition, fees and allocations may be fixed, fixed plus performance or performance only.

Please refer to Item 6 (“Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management”) for additional discussion of performance based fees and allocations.

The Adviser is not generally required to provide notice to, or obtain the consent of, one client when waiving, reducing or varying fees or modifying other contractual terms with any other client. However, some separate account clients may from time to time seek to negotiate most favored nation (“MFN”) clauses in their investment management agreements with the Adviser. These clauses may require the Adviser to notify the MFN client if the Adviser subsequently enters into an investment management agreement with another separate account client that offers more favorable pricing or other contractual terms than those currently offered to the MFN client. An MFN clause will typically require that the Adviser notify the MFN client of the more favorable terms so that the MFN client can elect to either adopt or reject them or, usually when the MFN relates only to fees, may require that any more favorable fee terms be extended automatically to the MFN client. The applicability of an MFN clause will typically depend on the degree of similarity between separate account clients, such as the type of client, the scope of investment discretion, reporting and other servicing requirements, the amount of assets under management, the fee structure and the particular investment strategy (and therefore the relevant investment adviser) selected by each client. The Adviser has sole discretion over whether or not to grant any MFN clause in all circumstances.

## **FEE SCHEDULES**

The Adviser’s fee schedule is based on an annual percentage of the account’s assets under management. Unless otherwise stated, fees are calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on the value of assets in the account at the end of each calendar quarter. Generally, the Adviser’s fee schedules for separate accounts fall within the ranges stated below (normally calculated as a percentage of the value of assets under management, and typically calculated quarterly, or as agreed with each client). In some cases, fees may be negotiated.

1.25% on the first \$5,000,000

0.75% on the next \$5,000,000

0.60% on the balance

The minimum annual fee is \$50,000

## **TIMING AND PAYMENT OF ADVISORY FEES**

The timing of fee payments will be negotiated with each client. Asset-based fees generally are paid monthly or quarterly and are calculated on a percentage of the value of the account’s net assets under management. Any performance fees or other performance based compensation charged by the Adviser will be generally based on exceeding specified yield or total return benchmarks or “hurdles” or an appropriate index and generally are payable: (i) on a quarterly or annual basis, (ii) in the case of certain separate accounts managed by the Adviser, at the time of withdrawal or redemption with respect to the amount withdrawn, and/or (iii) as redeemed or as investments are realized and/or capital is distributed. The timing and amount of performance fees are described in the Adviser’s investment management agreements with clients.

The Adviser’s investment management agreements with clients generally do not have termination dates. Rather, investment management agreements typically may be terminated by the Adviser or the client with advance notice, as set forth in the relevant investment management agreement and may include automatic renewal provisions.

In a limited number of situations, clients may arrange to pay fees in advance. In the event of the termination of a relationship, unearned fees, if any, paid in advance will be refunded to the client. To the extent fees have been earned but not yet billed, such fees will be pro-rated and paid by the client upon termination.

Fees generally are calculated and paid on a quarterly basis and in arrears, *i.e.*, following the rendering of services (except as separately negotiated or as otherwise disclosed). Although most separate account clients elect to pay fees by authorizing their custodian to pay the Adviser out of

their account assets pursuant to a pre-agreed fee schedule, some clients request the Adviser to bill them directly for fees incurred. Separate accounts generally are subject to a minimum fee, determined by applying the client's fee schedule to the applicable minimum portfolio size. If the Adviser manages multiple accounts for a client (or group of related clients), the assets of these accounts may be aggregated for purposes of taking advantage of available breakpoints.

If permitted under the terms of its advisory agreements, the Adviser may, on behalf of certain clients, invest in pooled or collective investment vehicles, including mutual funds. Subject to applicable law and regulation and the terms of applicable agreements, such clients may bear the costs and expenses charged by such investment vehicles to their shareholders, such as management and administrative fees, in addition to the Adviser's management fees.

## **OTHER FEES AND EXPENSES**

In addition to the fees described above, clients of the Adviser may bear other costs associated with investments or accounts including but not limited to: (i) custodial charges, brokerage fees, commissions and related costs, (ii) interest expenses, (iii) taxes, duties and other governmental charges, (iv) transfer and registration fees or similar expenses, (v) costs associated with foreign exchange transactions, (vi) other portfolio expenses, and (vii) costs, expenses and fees (including investment advisory and other fees charged by the investment advisers of funds in which the client's account invest) associated with products or services that may be necessary or incidental to such investments or accounts. With respect to such services (which may include, but are not limited to, custodial, securities lending, brokerage, futures, banking, consulting or third-party advisory services) each client will be required to establish business relationships with relevant service providers or other counterparties based on the client's own credit standing. The Adviser will not have any obligation to allow its credit to be used in connection with the establishment of such relationships, nor is it expected that such service providers or counterparties will consider or rely on the Adviser's credit in evaluating the client's creditworthiness.

Clients will generally incur brokerage and other transaction costs. See Item 12 ("Brokerage Practices") for discussion on brokerage.

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

The Adviser may provide advice to one or more separate account clients that are charged performance-based fees. Some portfolio managers manage both accounts that are charged a performance fee and accounts that are charged another type of fee, such as an asset based fee.

Side-by-side management by the Adviser or its supervised persons who provide investment supervisory services to one or more client accounts may raise potential conflicts of interest, including those associated with any differences in fee structures, as well as other pecuniary and investment interests the Adviser or its supervised persons may have in an account managed by the Adviser.

The management of multiple funds and accounts may also give rise to potential conflicts of interest if the funds and accounts have different objectives, benchmarks, time horizons, and fees as the portfolio manager must allocate his or her time and investment ideas across multiple funds and accounts. The Adviser seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. For example separate accounts managed by a portfolio manager are typically managed using the same investment strategies that are used in connection with the funds he or she manages. Accordingly, portfolio holdings, position sizes, and industry and sector exposures tend to be similar across similar portfolios, which may minimize the potential for conflicts of interest. Separate management of the trade execution and valuation functions from the portfolio management process also helps to reduce potential conflicts of interest.

However, securities selected for one fund or account may outperform the securities selected for another fund or account. Moreover, if a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for several funds or accounts, a single fund or account may not

be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of that opportunity across all eligible funds and other accounts. The Adviser seeks to manage such potential conflicts by using procedures intended to provide a fair allocation of buy and sell opportunities among funds and other accounts. Please refer to Item 12 ("Brokerage Practices") for more details.

The structure of a portfolio manager's compensation may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. A portfolio manager's base salary and bonus tend to increase with additional and more complex responsibilities that include increased assets under management. As such, there may be an indirect relationship between a portfolio manager's marketing or sales efforts and his or her compensation. Based on product structure, and in limited cases, portfolio managers may also be eligible to receive performance fees.

Cross trades are another area that may present potential conflicts of interest in that they may be viewed as favoring one client over another. For example, if the Adviser receives performance-based compensation, it could be perceived as effecting cross trades that it anticipates may increase in value from one account to another merely to increase the compensation it receives from the performance-based account. The reverse is true with respect to securities expected to decrease in value. In that case, the Adviser may be perceived to cross-trade such securities from one account to another to minimize the effect of those securities on the performance-based compensation. The Adviser has implemented inter-account transaction procedures to address these potential conflicts of interest by, among other things, requiring pre-clearance of all cross-trades.

The Adviser may aggregate orders of its clients to effect a larger transaction and thereby reduce transaction costs. The Adviser must then allocate the securities among the participating accounts. Although such bunching of transactions is permissible, potential conflicts of interest may exist with respect to the aggregation and allocation of client transactions. For example, with respect to the allocations of aggregated trades, an adviser could be viewed as allocating securities that it anticipates will increase in value to certain favored clients, especially those that pay a performance-based fee to that adviser.

The Adviser has implemented trade aggregation and allocation procedures (the "Allocation Procedures") designed to address these potential conflicts of interest. The Allocation Procedures provide that aggregation of trades should be utilized whenever possible (subject to certain enumerated exceptions), and require that an average price be used for multiple executions of a particular security through the same broker on the same terms on the same day. The Allocation Procedures describe the allocation methodologies to be applied, and permissible exceptions from standard allocation methods that must be pre-approved by a designated trading desk compliance officer. Please see Item 12 ("Brokerage Practices") for further discussion on allocation of investment opportunities.

The Allocation Procedures provide that all associated costs of an aggregated transaction will be shared on a proportionate basis by participating accounts. Previous allocations are reviewed periodically to consider whether any account was systematically disadvantaged due to bunched transactions and whether the order was appropriate for each of the participating accounts. Examination of the aggregation of orders and the allocation of securities is undertaken periodically to determine whether the Adviser considered the best interests of each client during the process.

Advisers to investment accounts may have a different valuation process for those accounts than certain funds they or their affiliates may advise. Consequently, a fund and an investment account that hold the same security may value that security differently. Different valuations of the same security could lead to questions about whether an adviser acted appropriately. For example, an adviser could be perceived as placing a higher valuation on a security held in an investment account merely to increase its performance-based compensation from that account.

To address this conflict, the Adviser must document an explanation for any differences in the valuation of securities held by both a fund and an investment account managed by the Adviser and/or its affiliates. The explanation provided must be reviewed and approved by the Valuation and Liquidity Oversight Committee ("VLOC"), which was formed to provide oversight and administration of the policies and procedures governing the fair valuation and liquidity determination of securities held in Franklin Templeton Investments portfolios. Key participants of



the VLOC include individuals across Franklin Templeton Investments from legal, compliance, trading, investment operations, fund accounting, global risk management and global portfolio services.

## **Item 7      Types of Clients**

The Adviser currently provides investment advice to one or more institutional and high net-worth separate accounts (collectively, our “client accounts”).

Client accounts may include portfolios managed for corporations, endowments, charitable foundations and pension funds, as well as high net-worth individuals and other institutions. The Adviser uses various investment techniques to focus on specific client objectives for these specialized portfolios.

The Adviser generally will not accept management of a new client account of less than \$2 million unless special circumstances are present. Special circumstances include the existence of a related account already managed by the Adviser or an affiliate.

### **INSTITUTIONAL SEPARATE ACCOUNTS**

The Adviser generally provides investment management services to institutional separate account clients in accordance with the investment guidelines and restrictions that are provided by the client, developed in consultation with the client, or in accordance with the mandate selected by the client at the beginning of the adviser-client relationship, which may be amended from time to time when mutually agreed to in writing.

The Adviser provides a broad array of investment management services to institutional clients, which may include, from time to time, foundations, endowment funds and government and corporate defined contribution and pension plans. Each client's guidelines are tailored to reflect their particular investment requirements and criteria including but not limited to interest rate exposure, sector allocation, and credit quality.

#### **Use and Provision of Client Information and Confidentiality Clauses in Investment Management Agreements**

The Adviser may include a Separate Account client's name in a representative or sample client list prepared by the Adviser with the client's consent.

The Adviser is not generally required to provide notice to, or obtain the consent of, any client for use or disclosure of client account information to third parties, provided such use does not disclose the client's name. This may include information relating to Adviser's investment experience with respect to an account or an account's performance, composite and representative account performance presentations, marketing materials, attribution and research analyses, statistical and data compilations, or similar materials.

In certain circumstances, the Adviser may disclose information to third parties that includes a client's name, account number or other account information (including non-public information) if this is required (i) in connection with the performance of its services under the respective investment management agreement (including, but not limited to, providing trading and other account information to brokers and third party administrators, and the preparation and printing of client account statements and reports by third parties), or (ii) by law or regulatory authority, including but not limited to any subpoena, administrative, regulatory or judicial demand or court order, or (iii) by the bylaws or equivalent governing documents of any issuer in which the account is invested. While the Adviser is not generally required to provide notice or obtain consent in these situations, certain clients may request advance notice of a regulatory request, to the extent permitted by applicable law or regulation.

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

The Adviser's investment management group offers its clients customized portfolios represented by individual securities, mutual funds, exchange traded funds and alternative investments. The Adviser's investment management services incorporate fundamental investment research and

valuation analyses, including original economic, political, industry and company research, and analyses of suppliers, customers and competitors. Company research includes the utilization of such sources as company public records and other publicly available information, management interviews, company prepared information, and company visits and inspections. In addition, research services provided by dedicated research or brokerage firms are used to support the Adviser's findings. In managing discretionary client accounts and providing recommendations to non-discretionary clients, the Adviser uses various investment strategies, methods of analysis, and risk strategies. These strategies are implemented by the Adviser's portfolio managers.

The Adviser offers both U.S. and non-U.S. fixed income and equity investment strategies to individuals and institutional clients using a variety of investment styles, including growth, core and enhanced cash management, and including market capitalization ranges, such as small-, mid-, small/mid-, large- and all-cap, as well as geographic and industry sectors which can be tailored to meet the specific needs of clients. The Adviser also offers alternative asset (including multi-asset) separate account strategies to individuals and institutional clients.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

Significant strategies used by the Adviser include:

### **EQUITY MANAGEMENT**

The Adviser's equity investment team is represented by its portfolio managers and investment associates. The Adviser employs a fundamentally-oriented process focused on identifying companies that it believes have the potential for long-term sustainable growth. A dedicated team will also, as appropriate, help to identify third-party managers for specific investment strategies or asset classes.

#### **Buy and Sell Discipline**

##### *Buy Discipline*

- Stocks are selected based on growth potential and valuation, with a primary focus on fundamentals:
  - Sustainability of the company's competitive advantage
  - Confidence in management
  - Expected impact of future growth drivers
  - Profitability and return profile of the business model
  - Valuation relative to other companies globally

##### *Sell Discipline*

- Stocks can be sold based on investment rationale or client specific considerations. Stocks will be sold if:
  - The Adviser believes they are fully valued
  - There are signs of potential deterioration in fundamentals
  - An expected stock decline is greater than tax incurred by sale

The Adviser's portfolio managers leverage the expertise of research analysts who provide individual security analysis and also function as industry specialists. The Adviser's investment team searches the market capitalization spectrum globally for companies that meet specific growth, quality, and valuation criteria.

While portfolio managers have ultimate decision-making authority, every investment decision reflects the input and feedback of the entire investment team. Throughout the research process, portfolio managers communicate their investment ideas formally and informally to their colleagues

Regularly-scheduled meetings are designed to ensure that critical investment information is shared by the Adviser's investment teams:

Scheduled daily meetings are an important part of the dynamic interaction among the members of the investment team. These discussions encourage information sharing, robust analysis and discussion, and a mutual understanding of the rationales for strategic and security-specific decisions. Portfolio managers discuss the impact of important events and announcements on an individual sector or a stock.

Monthly presentations, add another level of interaction between portfolio managers. Typically, on a rotating schedule, dedicated teams of portfolio managers who follow different industry sectors present an overview of their sectors' fundamental developments and key trends, culminating in an explanation of their stock recommendations. The sector team leader may provide information on sector trends and major investment themes, and how well-positioned a specific sector is for growth.

Roundtable meetings, serve as a forum for portfolio managers and investment associates to present investment ideas. They prepare in-depth reports with detailed financial and qualitative analysis. At the regular roundtable meetings, portfolio managers, investment associates, and sector team leaders share opinions and have the opportunity to challenge each stock idea. Discussions between equity and fixed income portfolio managers support the team's ability to look at a stock from every perspective.

Informal daily interactions and discussions among portfolio managers and analysts across the broad organization are equally important to regularly-scheduled meetings. This dialogue encourages our investment team to openly share opinions, provide explanations, and more fully examine assumptions.

## **FIXED INCOME MANAGEMENT**

The Adviser's fixed income portfolios benefit from the collective resources of three strategic committees:

The Fixed Income Policy Committee is represented by the Adviser's Chief Investment Officer and senior members of the fixed income team. It is responsible for establishing the overarching fixed income investment strategies used by our portfolio managers to construct and manage fixed income portfolios. The Fixed Income Policy Committee analyzes macroeconomic trends and attempts to forecast their impact on the world bond markets. It also seeks to establish duration and maturity targets, provide sector/issue recommendations, and recommend exit and entry points.

To develop its macroeconomic forecasting, the Adviser does not rely on a single economist. Instead, the committee utilizes and maintains an extensive economic database using information from a range of external data sources. In addition, this committee leverages independent in-house analysis produced by Franklin Templeton Investments' Equity and Fixed Income Research Groups.

The Adviser's macroeconomic forecasting forms the basis for its portfolios' structural characteristics.

In seeking to formulate maturity, duration, and entry/exit point strategies, the Fixed Income Policy Committee analyzes current U.S. fiscal and monetary policy, and detailed yield curve data. The Fixed Income Policy Committee also analyzes historical yield spreads and ratios for a range of sectors with the aim of determining which sectors or issues are over or under-valued.

The Strategy Committees consist of senior portfolio managers who specialize in assigned fixed income strategies. This team seeks to develop optimal and model portfolios represented by country, currency, duration, yield curve, and sector allocations.

The Sector Committees consist of all fixed income portfolio managers, investment associates and traders. Each sector committee specializes in assigned fixed income market sectors. The teams provide bottom-up analysis to the Adviser's Fixed Income Policy Committee.

## **ALTERNATIVE ASSET CLASSES**

The Adviser's Strategic Advisory Services group ("SAS") supplements the Adviser's investment management services with asset allocation services and the ability to research and select third-party managers across the spectrum of asset classes, including alternative assets. Traditionally,

the Adviser manages all or part of a client's assets, coordinating as required with the client's other advisors. For clients seeking greater diversification, SAS can assist with the selection and monitoring of third-party managers for specific segments of the portfolio. The Adviser's consultative approach focuses on providing tailored solutions, as opposed to proprietary products or a packaged "model portfolio." SAS draws on the expertise of a team of asset class specialists to identify investment managers in the particular asset classes needed in a client's portfolio. Searches are conducted on a case-by-case basis, using parameters driven by the client's specific needs. The asset class specialists are not tied to any predetermined list of Franklin Templeton Investments or external investment managers. To address potential conflict, the Adviser accepts no placement fees or revenue sharing between third-party SAS advisers. Once selected, the Adviser may on behalf of a client, or the client itself may, appoint the Adviser's affiliated investment adviser to serve as the investment manager of the client account. The Adviser does not commingle SAS clients' investments across managers.

## **INVESTMENT RISKS**

Particular investment strategies or investments in different types of securities or other investments involve specific risks that clients should be prepared to bear. The risks involved for different client accounts will vary based on each client's investment strategy and the type of securities or other investments held in the client's account. The following are descriptions of a number of the material risks related to the significant investment strategies used by the Adviser. Not all possible risks are described below.

**Market** – The market value of securities managed by the Adviser will go up and down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. A security's market value may be reduced by market activity or other results of supply and demand unrelated to the issuer. This is a basic risk associated with all securities. When there are more sellers than buyers, prices tend to fall. Likewise, when there are more buyers than sellers, prices tend to rise. The market value of securities may also go up or down due to factors that affect an individual issuer or particular sector. When markets perform well, there can be no assurance that individual stocks will benefit from the advance.

Stock prices tend to go up and down more dramatically than those of other types of debt securities. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of the various stocks held by a portfolio managed by the Adviser.

**Equity Securities** – Equity securities represent a proportionate share of the ownership of a company; their value is based on the success of the company's business and the value of its assets, as well as general market conditions. The purchaser of an equity security typically receives an ownership interest in the company as well as certain voting rights. The owner of an equity security may participate in a company's success through the receipt of dividends, which are distributions of earnings by the company to its owners. Equity security owners may also participate in a company's success or lack of success through increases or decreases in the value of the company's shares.

**Debt Securities** - In general, a debt security represents a loan of money to the issuer by the purchaser of the security. A debt security typically has a fixed payment schedule that obligates the issuer to pay interest to the lender and to return the lender's money over a certain time period. Debt securities are all generally subject to interest rate, credit, income and prepayment risks and, like all investments, are subject to liquidity and market risks to varying degrees depending upon the specific terms and type of security. The Adviser attempts to reduce credit and market risk through diversification and ongoing credit analysis of each issuer, as well as by monitoring economic developments, but there can be no assurance that it will be successful at doing so.

**Credit** – An issuer of debt securities may fail to make interest payments and repay principal when due, in whole or in part. Changes in an issuer's financial strength, the market's perception of the issuer's financial strength or in a security's or a government's credit rating may affect a security's value. While some securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government or other issuing government, guarantees of principal and interest do not apply to market values or yields. Substantial losses may be incurred on debt securities that are inaccurately perceived to present a different amount of credit risk by the market, the Adviser or the rating agencies than such securities actually do.

Prepayment – An issuer of debt securities may make unscheduled payments of principal, which means the holder of those debt securities loses anticipated interest. Prepayments generally increase when interest rates fall.

Interest Rate – When interest rates rise, debt security prices generally fall. The opposite is also generally true: debt security prices rise when interest rates fall. Interest rate changes on the whole are influenced by a number of factors including government policy, monetary policy, inflation expectations, perceptions of risk, and supply and demand of bonds. In general, securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these interest rate changes.

Non-U.S. Securities – Investing in non-U.S. securities typically involves more risks than investing in U.S. securities, and includes risks associated with: (i) political and economic developments – the political, economic and social structures of some countries may be less stable and more volatile than those in the United States, (ii) trading practices – government supervision and regulation of non-U.S. security and currency markets, trading systems and brokers may be less than in the United States; (iii) availability of information – non-U.S. issuers may not be subject to the same disclosure, accounting and financial reporting standards and practices as U.S. issuers, (iv) limited markets – the securities of certain foreign issuers may be less liquid (harder to sell) and more volatile, and (v) currency exchange rate fluctuations and policies. Although not typically subject to currency exchange rate risk, depositary receipts may be subject to the same risks as non-U.S. securities generally. The risks of investments outside the United States may be greater in developing countries or emerging market countries.

Developing Market Countries – The Adviser may make investments in developing market countries. These investments are subject to all of the risks of foreign investing generally, and have additional heightened risks due to a lack of established legal, political, business and social frameworks to support securities markets, including: delays in settling portfolio securities transactions; currency and capital controls; greater sensitivity to interest rate changes; pervasiveness of corruption and crime; currency exchange rate volatility; and inflation, deflation or currency devaluation.

Asset Allocation – The Adviser's ability to achieve its investment goal depends upon its skill in determining a portfolio's asset allocation mix and selecting subadvisers. There is the possibility that the Adviser's evaluations and assumptions regarding asset classes and the selected subadvisers will not be successful in view of actual market trends.

Smaller and Midsize Companies – Securities issued by smaller and midsize companies may be more volatile in price than those of larger companies, involve substantial risks and should be considered speculative. Such risks may include greater sensitivity to economic conditions, less certain growth prospects, lack of depth of management and funds for growth and development and limited or less developed product lines and markets. In addition, smaller and midsize companies may be particularly affected by interest rate increases, as they may find it more difficult to borrow money to continue or expand operations, or may have difficulty in repaying any loans.

Non-Diversification – Non-diversification of investments means a portfolio may invest a large percentage of its assets in securities issued by or representing a small number of issuers. As a result, the portfolio's performance may depend on the performance of a smaller number of issuers.

Short Sell – Short selling entails special risks. If a portfolio makes short sales in securities that increase in value, the portfolio will lose value. Any loss on short positions may or may not be offset by investing short sale proceeds in other investments.

Concentration – Concentrating investments in a particular country, region, market, industry or asset class means that performance will be more susceptible to loss due to adverse occurrences affecting that country, region, market, industry or asset class. A portfolio concentrating in a single state or jurisdiction is subject to greater risk of adverse economic, political or social conditions and regulatory changes than a fund with broader geographical diversification.

Liquidity – Liquidity risk exists when the markets for particular securities or types of securities are or become relatively illiquid so that it is or becomes more difficult to sell the security at the price at which the security was valued. Illiquidity may result from political, economic or issuer-specific

events; changes in a specific market's size or structure, including the number of participants; or overall market disruptions. Securities with reduced liquidity or that become illiquid involve greater risk than securities with more liquid markets. Market quotations for illiquid securities may be volatile and/or subject to large spreads between bid and ask prices. Reduced liquidity may have an adverse impact on market price and the ability to sell particular securities when necessary to meet liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event. To the extent that a significant portion of an issuer's outstanding securities is held, greater liquidity risk will exist than if the issuer's securities were more widely held.

Growth Style Investing – Growth stock prices reflect projections of future earnings or revenues, and can, therefore, fall dramatically if the company fails to meet those projections. Prices of these companies' securities may be more volatile than other securities, particularly over the short term.

Management – The investment strategies, techniques and risk analyses employed, while designed to enhance returns, may not produce the desired results. The assessment of a particular security or assessment of market, interest rate or other trends could be incorrect, which can result in losses.

## **Item 9      Disciplinary Information**

*None.*

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

The Adviser is an indirectly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, a holding company that, together with its various subsidiaries is referred to as Franklin Templeton Investments ("FTI").

The Adviser may have business arrangements with related persons/companies that are material to the Adviser's advisory business or to its clients. In some cases, these business arrangements may create a potential conflict of interest, or appearance of a conflict of interest between the Adviser and a client. Please see Item 4 ("Advisory Business") for additional information on services of affiliates.

Recognized conflicts of interest are discussed in Item 11 ("Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading") below.

The Adviser has arrangements with one or more of the following types of related persons that may be considered material to its advisory business or to its clients.

### **RELATED BROKER-DEALERS**

One or more of the Adviser's management persons are registered with Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") as a registered representative of an affiliated broker-dealer of the Adviser.

The Adviser is under common control with Franklin/Templeton Distributors, Inc. ("FTDI"), Franklin Templeton Financial Services Corp. ("FTFSC") and Templeton/Franklin Investment Services, Inc. ("TFIS"), all of which are registered broker-dealers.

FTDI is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as a broker-dealer and is a member of FINRA. FTDI's primary business is underwriter and distributor for FTI investment companies registered with the SEC pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("U.S. Registered Funds"). Most of its distribution activities occur through independent third-party broker-dealers, who have the primary day-to-day direct contact with shareholders. FTDI is also the underwriter of the Franklin Templeton 529 College Savings Plan and the NJBEST 529 College Savings Plan ("529 Plans"). In addition, FTDI acts as program manager and distributor for the two 529 Plans, which are municipal fund securities. As a result, FTDI is registered as a municipal securities dealer, subject to regulation by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. In certain instances, shareholders bypass a third-party broker-dealer and establish unsolicited accounts directly with FTDI, who becomes the broker-dealer of record by default. FTDI does not make recommendations to purchase or sell fund shares to retail investors.

Underwriting and distribution fees are earned primarily by distributing our funds pursuant to distribution agreements between FTDI and the funds. Under each distribution agreement, the fund's shares are offered and sold on a continuous basis and certain costs associated with underwriting and distributing the fund's shares may be incurred, including the costs of developing and producing sales literature, shareholder reports and prospectuses.

FTFSC is registered with the SEC as a broker-dealer and is a member of FINRA. In addition, FTFSC is registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") as an introducing broker and is a member of the National Futures Association ("NFA"). FTFSC, in conjunction with other Franklin Templeton Investments ("FTI") investment advisory affiliates, provides the broker-dealer platform to offer pooled investment vehicles that are exempt from registration under the 1940 Act ("Private Funds"). As such, FTFSC personnel are also associated with FTI investment advisers so that they may utilize the FTFSC broker-dealer platform when offering private placement and mutual fund securities products to their clients.

TFIS is registered with the SEC as a broker-dealer and is a member of FINRA. TFIS offers private placement and mutual fund products. Many of TFIS' registered associated persons are also dually registered with FTDI to support joint program initiatives, such as marketing U.S. mutual fund products. TFIS also has some dually registered associated persons with FTFSC.

## **RELATED INVESTMENT ADVISERS**

The Adviser may enter into a sub advisory arrangement with, or may refer a client to, an investment adviser affiliate capable of meeting the client's specific investment needs. The Adviser is affiliated with other registered investment advisers which are under common control with the Adviser, and the Adviser may share certain portfolio management personnel and investment research with such affiliated investment advisers.

The Adviser may use the services of appropriate personnel of one or more of its affiliates for investment advice, portfolio execution and trading, and client servicing in their local or regional markets or their areas of special expertise, except to the extent restricted by the client or pursuant to its investment management agreement, or inconsistent with applicable law. Arrangements among affiliates take a variety of forms, including delegation arrangements or formal sub-advisory or servicing agreements. In these circumstances, the client with whom the Adviser has executed the investment management agreement will typically require that the Adviser remains fully responsible for the account from a legal and contractual perspective. No additional fees are charged for the affiliates' services except as set forth in the investment management agreement.

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

### **CODE OF ETHICS SUMMARY**

The Adviser has adopted (a) a code of ethics pursuant to Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act and Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act (the "Code of Ethics") and (b) a policy statement on insider trading (the "Insider Trading Policy"). A brief description of the main provisions of the Code of Ethics and the Insider Trading Policy follows.

#### A. The Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics states that the interests of the Adviser's clients are paramount and come before any of its Covered Employees (as defined below). All Covered Employees are required to conduct themselves in a lawful, honest and ethical manner, in their business practices and to maintain an environment that fosters fairness, respect and integrity.

Covered Employees are the Adviser's partners, officers, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), and employees, as well as any other person who provides advice on behalf of the Adviser and are subject to the supervision and control of the Adviser. The personal investing activities of Covered Employees must be conducted in a manner that avoids actual or potential conflicts of interest with the clients of the Adviser. Covered Employees are required to use their positions with the Adviser and any investment opportunities they learn of because of their positions with the Adviser in a manner consistent with their fiduciary

duties to use such opportunities and information for the benefit of the Adviser's clients and applicable laws, rules and regulations. In addition, the Code of Ethics states that information concerning the security holdings and financial circumstances of the Adviser's clients is confidential and Covered Employees are required to safeguard this information.

Access Persons, a subset of Covered Employees, are required to provide certain periodic reports on their personal securities transactions and holdings. Access Persons are those persons who have access to non-public information regarding the securities transactions of the Adviser's funds or clients; are involved in making securities recommendations to clients; have access to recommendations that are non-public; or have access to non-public information regarding the portfolio holdings of funds for which a Franklin Templeton Investments investment adviser ("FTI Adviser") serves as an investment adviser or a sub-adviser or any fund whose investment adviser or principal underwriter controls an FTI Adviser, is controlled by an FTI Adviser or is under common control with an FTI Adviser. The Adviser's Access Persons must obtain pre-clearance from the Code of Ethics Department before buying or selling any security (other than those not requiring pre-clearance under the Code of Ethics). The Code of Ethics also requires pre-clearance before investing in a private investment or purchasing securities in a limited offering. The Code of Ethics prohibits Access Persons from investing in initial public offerings except for investments in Franklin Templeton closed-end funds, which require pre-approval from the Code of Ethics Administration Department.

To avoid actual or potential conflicts of interest with the Adviser's clients, certain transactions and practices are prohibited by the Code of Ethics and the Insider Trading Policy. These include: front-running, scalping, trading parallel to a client, trading against a client, using proprietary information for personal transactions, market timing, and short selling Franklin Resources stock and the securities of Franklin Templeton closed-end funds.

The Code of Ethics requires prompt internal reporting of suspected and actual violations of the Code of Ethics and the Insider Trading Policy. In addition, violations of the Code of Ethics and the Insider Trading Policy are referred to the Director of Global Compliance and/or the Chief Compliance Officer as well as the relevant management personnel.

#### B. The Insider Trading Policy

No Covered Employee or Access Person may trade while in possession of material, non-public information or communicate material non-public information to others.

Information is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would consider the information to be important in making his or her investment decision, or if it is reasonably certain to have a substantial effect on the price of the company's securities. Information is non-public until it has been effectively communicated to the marketplace. If the information has been obtained from someone who is betraying an obligation not to share the information (e.g., a company insider), that information is very likely to be non-public.

The Adviser has implemented a substantial set of trading procedures designed to avoid violation of the Policy.

Copies of the Code of Ethics and the Insider Trading Policy are available to any client or prospective client upon request.

## **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS RELATING TO ADVISORY ACTIVITIES**

### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

The Adviser or its affiliates may from time to time recommend to clients or buy or sell for client accounts, securities in which the Adviser or its affiliates have a material financial interest. Such financial interests may include the contribution by the Adviser or an affiliate of seed capital to a fund it manages, or an actual investment by the Adviser or an affiliate in the fund or in third party vehicles in which it or a related person has a financial interest. The Adviser or its related persons may also purchase or sell for themselves securities or other investments which one or more advisory clients own, previously owned, or may own in the future.

The Adviser is not itself a general partner of any limited partnership, but one or more of its affiliates may serve as a manager, general partner or trustee or in a similar capacity, of a



partnership, trust or other collective investment vehicle in which clients are solicited to invest. These entities generally invest in stocks and/or fixed income securities of domestic and/or foreign companies or in other funds that invest in such securities or in other partnerships, trusts or other investment vehicles that generally are engaged in the business of investing in, purchasing, selling, developing or re-developing commercial and residential real estate properties and interests.

There may arise potential or actual conflicts of interest in (i) the allocation of investment opportunities among the Adviser's clients, (ii) the investment by clients in entities in which the Adviser or its related persons have a financial interest, and (iii) investments by the Adviser or its employees for their personal accounts.

The Adviser and its affiliates manage numerous funds and accounts. The Adviser may give advice and take action with respect to one fund or account it manages, or for its own account, that may differ from action taken by the Adviser on behalf of any of the other funds or accounts it manages. This gives rise to certain potential conflicts of interest, as discussed below.

The Adviser's management of its clients may benefit members of the Adviser and its affiliates. For example, the Adviser's clients may, to the extent permitted by applicable law, invest directly or indirectly in the securities of companies in which a member of the Adviser, or the Adviser's other clients, or the Adviser's affiliate, for itself or its clients, has an equity, debt, or other interest. The advisory contracts entered into by the Adviser with each client do not entitle clients to obtain the benefit of any particular investment opportunities developed by the Adviser or its officers or employees in which the Adviser, acting in good faith, does not cause such client to invest. The Adviser has total discretion to allocate investment opportunities among its clients subject only to each account's respective investment guidelines and the Adviser's duty to act in good faith.

Similarly, with respect to a particular fund or account, the Adviser is not obligated to recommend, buy or sell, or to refrain from recommending, buying or selling any security that the Adviser and "access persons," as defined by applicable federal securities laws, may buy or sell for its or their own account or for the accounts of any other fund. The Adviser is not obligated to refrain from investing in securities held by any funds it manages.

Allocations to any account in which the interests of the Adviser, its officers, directors, employees or affiliates collectively exceed 5% of the account's economic value shall be made in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by Franklin Templeton Investments designed to ensure that buy and sell opportunities are allocated fairly among clients (the "Equity Trade Allocation Policy and Procedures").

These accounts may be deemed affiliated persons of the Adviser by reason of the collective 5% or greater ownership interest of the Adviser's insiders and the Adviser's registered mutual fund clients if any. Transactions for and allocations to these accounts must also be given special scrutiny because of the inherent conflict of interest involved. All exceptions to standard allocation/rotation procedures involving such affiliated accounts are monitored and recorded.

If securities traded for affiliated accounts are also the subject of trading activity (i) by an Adviser's advised mutual fund, or (ii) by other non-mutual fund client accounts, the securities traded for the affiliated accounts should generally be aggregated for trading with the Adviser's advised mutual fund or other non-mutual fund client accounts.

Similarly, the policies and procedures relating to trade allocation for fixed income securities (the "Fixed Income Allocation of Investment Opportunities Policy and Procedures") have been adopted by Franklin Templeton Investments to ensure that buy and sell investment opportunities are allocated fairly and equitably among clients. Because of the different fee structures and investment involvement, the Adviser or its affiliates may be viewed as having a reason to favor the performance of one account over another. In order to prevent any potential or actual conflicts of interests in the course of making allocations of fixed income investment opportunities, the portfolio managers of the Adviser may consider several factors listed in the Fixed Income Allocation of Investment Opportunities Policy and Procedures or allocate investment opportunities pursuant to alternative methodologies, provided such investment opportunities result in an equitable treatment of all clients over time, are consistently applied and the reason for using the allocation method is documented.

Finally, the management of personal accounts by a portfolio manager may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. While the funds and the Adviser have adopted the Code of Ethics which they believe contains provisions reasonably necessary to prevent a wide range of prohibited activities by portfolio managers and others with respect to their personal trading activities, there can be no assurance that the Code of Ethics addresses all individual conduct that could result in conflicts of interest. The Adviser has adopted certain additional compliance procedures that are designed to address these and other types of conflicts. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation where a conflict arises.

## **OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS RELATING TO ADVISORY ACTIVITIES**

The Adviser, where appropriate and in accordance with applicable laws, may purchase on behalf of the Adviser's clients, or recommend to the Adviser's clients that they purchase, shares of U.S. Registered Funds or other pooled investment vehicles for which the Adviser or its affiliate serves as investment adviser or sub-adviser collectively ("Affiliated Funds"), or invest their assets in other portfolios managed by the Adviser or an affiliate ("Affiliated Accounts").

The Adviser faces potential conflicts when allocating the assets of its clients to one or more Affiliated Funds or Affiliated Accounts. For example, in hindsight and despite intent or innocent purpose, circumstances could be construed that such allocation conferred a benefit upon the Affiliated Fund, Affiliated Account or an adviser to the detriment of the Adviser's client or Private Fund, or vice versa.

As a shareholder in a pooled investment vehicle, a client of the Adviser will pay a proportionate share of the vehicle's fees and expenses. Investment by a client in an Affiliated Fund means that the Adviser may, directly or indirectly, receive, subject to applicable laws, advisory (or other) fees from the Affiliated Fund in addition to any other fees it receives from the Adviser's client for managing the client's separate account. Similarly, the Adviser's clients who invest through a separate account managed by another related adviser are subject to advisory fees charged in connection therewith. The Adviser's clients should notify the Adviser if they do not want their separate account assets to be invested in Affiliated Funds, and the Adviser's clients may invest directly in certain Affiliated Funds or other U.S. Registered Funds outside of their separate accounts without paying additional separate account management fees to the Adviser.

The separate account management fees paid by certain retirement accounts (including those subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA")) that invest in U.S. Registered Funds from which the Adviser or its affiliate receives compensation ("Affiliated Registered Funds") will, in order to avoid duplication of fees, exclude account assets invested in such Affiliated Registered Funds to the extent required by law when calculating the Adviser's separate account management fees. Accordingly, the assets of such accounts invested in Affiliated Registered Funds will pay their pro rata share of such applicable Affiliated Registered Fund fees, to the extent not prohibited by law. Alternatively, the Adviser, at its sole discretion, may (but, except as necessary in accordance with applicable law, is not required to) elect to waive all or a portion of its separate account investment management fee or provide a credit representing the respective account's pro rata share of fees paid with respect to any assets of a client invested in shares of any such U.S. Registered Funds or other pooled investment vehicles, or separately managed accounts of another related adviser.

In certain circumstances, the Adviser may conclude that it is appropriate to sell securities held in one client account to another client account. Consistent with its fiduciary duty to each client (including the duty to seek best execution), the Adviser may (but is not required to) effect purchases and sales between clients or clients of affiliates ("cross trades") if the Adviser believes such transactions are appropriate based on each client's investment objectives, subject to applicable law and regulation. The Adviser will not receive compensation (other than its normal advisory fee for managing the account), directly or indirectly, for effecting a cross trade between advisory clients, and accordingly will not be deemed to have acted as a broker with respect to such transactions. The Adviser seeks to assure that the price paid or proceeds received by clients in a cross trade is fair and appropriate, which may be based on independent dealer quotes or information obtained from recognized pricing services. Since, in such cross trades, the Adviser will represent both the selling client and the buying client, the Adviser may have a perceived conflict of interest. Clients, therefore, should consider the possible costs or disadvantages of this

potential conflict versus the potential benefit of obtaining reduced transaction or execution costs that may be obtained from such cross trades. Any cross trades effected with respect to U.S. Registered Fund clients would be accomplished in compliance with Rule 17a-7 of the 1940 Act.

### **Potential restrictions on Investment Adviser Activity**

From time to time, the Adviser may be restricted from purchasing or selling securities on behalf of its clients because of regulatory and legal requirements applicable to the Adviser, its affiliates or its clients (as determined by the Adviser in its sole discretion) and/or its internal policies including those designed to comply with, limit the applicability of, or otherwise relate to such requirements.

There may be periods when the Adviser may not initiate or recommend certain types of transactions, or may otherwise restrict or limit their advice with respect to securities or instruments issued by or related to companies for which the Adviser is performing advisory or other services. For example, if the Adviser is provided with material non-public information with respect to a potential portfolio company as described under the heading "The Insider Trading Policy" above such restrictions or limitations will apply.

In certain circumstances where the Adviser invests in securities issued by companies that operate in certain regulated industries or in certain emerging or international markets, or are subject to corporate or regulatory ownership restrictions, there may be limits on the aggregate amount of investment by the Adviser including those that may not be exceeded without the grant of a license or other regulatory or corporate consent as well as limits on any investment by the Adviser in certain securities due to the Adviser's internal policies. As a result, the Adviser on behalf of its clients may limit purchases, sell existing investments, or otherwise restrict or limit the exercise of rights (including voting rights) when the Adviser, in its sole discretion, deem it appropriate in light of potential regulatory or other restrictions on ownership or other consequences resulting from reaching investment thresholds or investment restrictions.

In those circumstances where ownership thresholds or limitations must be observed, the Adviser seeks to equitably allocate limited investment opportunities among its clients, taking into consideration benchmark weight and investment strategy. When the Adviser's ownership in certain securities nears an applicable threshold, the Adviser may limit purchases in such securities to the issuer's weighting in the applicable benchmark used by the Adviser to manage the Adviser's client account or fund. If the Adviser's clients' holdings of an issuer exceed an applicable threshold and the Adviser is unable to obtain relief to enable the continued holding of such investments, it may be necessary to sell down these positions to meet the applicable limitations, possibly during deteriorating market conditions.

Please see further discussion of allocation of investment opportunities under Item 12 (Brokerage Practices).

In addition to the foregoing, other ownership thresholds may trigger reporting requirements to governmental and regulatory authorities, and such reports may entail the disclosure of the identity of the Adviser's client or its intended strategy with respect to such security or asset.

The Adviser's services are not exclusive to any of its clients, and the Adviser is free to render, and does render, similar or other services to other persons and entities. The Adviser and its related persons may give advice or take action with respect to a client account, or for its or their own account, that may differ from the advice given or action taken by the Adviser for another account.

The Adviser has no obligation to provide the same investment advice or purchase or sell the same securities for each account it manages. In general, the Adviser has discretion to determine whether a particular security is an appropriate investment for each account under management, based on the account's investment objectives, investment restrictions and trading strategies. Accounts with investment restrictions that preclude investing in new, unseasoned or small capitalization issuers will generally not participate in initial public offerings ("IPOs") or private equity transactions, including those that are expected to trade at a premium in the secondary market. Even an account that is permitted to make such investments may not participate if doing so would be inconsistent with its investment practices. In addition, accounts with a specific mandate may receive first priority for securities falling within that mandate. As a result, certain accounts managed by the Adviser or its affiliates may have greater opportunities to invest in

private equity transactions or IPOs. In the event that an IPO or private equity transaction is oversubscribed, securities will be allocated among eligible accounts according to procedures designed to provide equitable treatment to all such accounts. Subject to the above, allocation is done for each account on a pro-rata basis. Please see Item 6 for details of the trade aggregation and allocation policy adopted by the Adviser.

### **Political Contributions**

It is the policy of the Adviser to not make, and to prohibit its employees from making on behalf of the Adviser, any political contributions for the purpose of influencing its existing or potential client, a public official or his or her agency. However, employees may make personal political contributions in accordance with the requirements and restrictions of applicable law and the Adviser's policies. To help ensure compliance with SEC rules, and many state and local pay-to-play rules, the Adviser's employees subject to those rules must pre-clear and obtain prior approval from the legal and compliance departments before they make any contributions (*i.e.*, any monetary contribution or contribution of goods or services) to a political candidate, government official, political party or political action committee.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

### **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR BROKERS AND DEALERS**

In effecting portfolio transactions, the Adviser will attempt to obtain the best combination of low commission rates relative to the quality of brokerage and research services received with the view towards maximizing value for the Adviser's clients.

The single most significant consideration is the quality of the execution of the transaction. In assessing execution quality, the following factors, among others, may be considered:

- Technology
- Transparency of order routing
- Effectiveness of algorithms for order routing
- Market impact cost/willingness of a broker to work an order
- Order size/liquidity considerations
- Willingness to commit capital
- Ability to get best price
- Knowledge of and access to natural contra side
- Commission rate
- Timeliness and quality of looks and reports on markets
- Ability to handle certain trading styles or strategies
- Knowledge of and access to potential market participants
- Trade aggregation and arbitrage capabilities
- Specialized expertise
- Consistency
- Promptness of execution
- Responsiveness
- Back office capabilities/quality of confirmations and account statements
- Sophistication of trading facilities
- Ability and willingness to correct errors
- Confidentiality
- Trustworthiness/reputation
- Experience/past execution history
- Financial condition of broker

The determination and evaluation of the reasonableness of the brokerage commissions paid in connection with portfolio transactions is based to a large degree on the professional opinions and judgments of the persons responsible for the placement and review of such transactions. These opinions are formed on the basis of, among other things, the experience of these individuals in

the securities industry and information available to them concerning the level of commissions being paid by other investors of comparable size and type.

When appropriate under its discretionary authority, consistent with its duty to obtain best execution, and in conformance with the Adviser's client commission policy described below, the Adviser may consider the receipt of research and brokerage products and services from broker-dealers when directing brokerage transactions for client accounts.

For most transactions in equity securities, the amount of commissions paid is negotiated between the Adviser's trading department and the broker executing the transaction. The Adviser may also place orders to buy and sell equity securities where the broker is acting on a principal rather than agency basis if the Adviser's traders believe that trading on a principal basis is likely to provide best execution.

When buying or selling fixed income securities in dealer markets, the Adviser will generally deal directly with market makers in the securities. On these transactions, the Adviser typically will effect trades on a net basis, and will not pay the market maker any commission, commission equivalent or markup/markdown other than the spread. Usually, the market maker profits from the spread, that is, the difference between the price paid (or received) by the Adviser and the price received (or paid) by the market maker in trades with other broker-dealers or other customers. In some instances, a broker-dealer who also serves as custodian for an account may assess a ticket charge for executing the transaction or a trade away charge for settling a transaction executed by a different broker.

The Adviser may also effect transactions that are placed pursuant to a negotiated agreement with a counterparty/futures commission merchant, including but not limited to swaps, futures, forwards, options and repurchase agreements. Due to the fact that certain instruments are traded pursuant to a private agreement with a counterparty (which must be in place prior to effecting a transaction), such as swaps, futures, options, forwards and certain other instruments and the fact that the Adviser will have a limited universe of counterparties from which to choose, the standard for best execution may vary with the type of security or instrument involved in a particular transaction.

## **POLICY ON USE OF CLIENT COMMISSIONS ("CLIENT COMMISSION POLICY")**

When appropriate under its discretionary authority and consistent with its duty to seek best execution, the Adviser or a related person (hereinafter in this section, "the Adviser") may direct brokerage transactions for client accounts to broker-dealers who provide the Adviser with research and/or brokerage products and services. The brokerage commissions from client transactions that are used to pay for research or brokerage services in addition to basic execution services are referred to here as client commissions or sometimes as soft dollars.

Broker-dealers typically provide a bundle of services including research and execution of transactions. The research provided can be either proprietary (created and provided by the executing broker-dealer, including tangible research products as well as access to analysts and traders) or third-party (created by a third-party but provided by the executing broker-dealer). To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Adviser may use client commissions to obtain both proprietary and third party research as well as certain brokerage products and services. The receipt of research in exchange for client commissions benefits the Adviser by allowing the Adviser to supplement its own research and analysis and also gain access to specialists with expertise on certain companies, industries, areas of the economy, and market factors. The Adviser believes that such research benefits clients.

The Adviser becomes eligible for client commission credits by sending trading and paying trade commissions to broker-dealers ("CCA broker-dealers") who both execute the trades and provide the Adviser with research and other brokerage products and services, including in the following forms: (1) research reports generated by the broker-dealer, (2) conferences with representatives of issuers, and/or (3) client commission credits that can be used to obtain research reports or services from others. The portion of any trade commission attributable to the client commission research or other brokerage products and services cannot be identified at an individual account level.

The list of CCA broker-dealers includes the following, and is subject to change periodically:

Bank of America/Merrill Lynch  
Barclays Capital Inc.  
BMO Capital Markets  
CIBC World Markets  
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.  
Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC  
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc.  
Goldman Sachs & Co.  
Instinet LLC  
Investment Technology Group (ITG)  
Jefferies and Company Inc.  
JP Morgan Securities Inc.  
Knight Equity Markets LP  
Liquidnet  
Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.  
RBC  
Scotia Capital  
TD Securities  
UBS Securities LLC  
Weeden & Co. LP

The U.S. federal securities laws provide a safe harbor which allows an investment adviser to pay for research and brokerage services with the client commission dollars generated by client account transactions. The Adviser currently acquires only the types of products or services that qualify for the safe harbor in Section 28(e) of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934. If the Adviser manages an account that is subject to the laws of any country outside the United States, the Adviser may also be subject to additional requirements, restrictions or prohibitions on paying for research and brokerage with the client commission dollars generated by client account transactions. In determining whether a service or product qualifies as research or brokerage, the Adviser evaluates whether the service or product provides lawful and appropriate assistance to the Adviser in carrying out its investment decision-making responsibilities.

Research and brokerage services acquired with client commissions may include:

- reports, statistical data, publications and other information on the economy, industries, sectors, individual companies or issuers, which may include research provided by proxy voting services;
- software and communications services related to the execution, clearing and settlement of securities transactions;
- software that provides analyses of securities portfolios;
- statistical trade analysis;
- reports on legal developments affecting portfolio securities;
- registration fees for conferences and seminars;
- consultation with analysts, including research conference calls and access to financial models;
- investment risk analyses, including political and credit risk;
- investment risk measurement systems and software;
- analyses of corporate responsibility issues; and
- market data services, such as those which provide price quotes, last sale prices and trading volumes.

Examples of specific products and services include those provided by Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, FactSet, Omgeo, MSCI/Barra and Standard and Poor's Indexes.

Services may also include access to information providers who are part of what may be referred to as an "expert network." Firms providing such a service may facilitate consultations between

researchers, including a variety of investment professionals, and people with knowledge or expertise in a particular field or industry, such as doctors, academics and consultants. Such services supplement the Adviser's own analyses and may be particularly helpful in understanding sectors of the market that may be highly complex or very technical in nature.

If a product or service obtained by the Adviser provides both research and non-research benefits, the Adviser will generally treat the product or service as a mixed use item and will pay for the non-research portion with cash from its own resources rather than client commissions. When acquiring a product or service with mixed use, the Adviser will allocate the cost of the product between client commissions and cash according to its anticipated use of the product, *i.e.*, how the product or service will be used and by whom. Although the allocation between client commissions and cash will not always be a precise calculation, the Adviser will make a good faith effort to reasonably allocate such services. To the extent that any such mixed use services/products are obtained, records will be prepared detailing the research, services and products obtained and the allocation between the research and non-research portions, including payments made by client commissions and cash.

The determination and evaluation of the reasonableness of the brokerage commission rate paid in connection with portfolio transactions are based to a large degree on the professional opinions of the persons responsible for the placement and review of such transactions. These opinions are formed on the basis of, among other things, the experience of these individuals in the securities industry and information available to them concerning the level of commission rates being paid by other investors of comparable size and type. The Adviser may select broker-dealers based on its assessment of their ability to provide quality executions and its belief that the research, information and other services provided by such broker-dealer may benefit client accounts. Accordingly, broker-dealers selected by the Adviser may be paid a commission rate for effecting portfolio transactions for client accounts in excess of amounts other broker-dealers would have charged for effecting similar transactions if the Adviser determines in good faith that such amounts are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by those broker-dealers, viewed either in terms of a particular transaction or the Adviser's overall duty to its discretionary accounts.

It is not ordinarily possible to place an exact dollar value on the special execution or on the research services the Adviser receives from dealers effecting transactions in portfolio securities. The allocation of commissions generated by client transactions in order to obtain additional research services permits the Adviser to supplement its own research and analysis activities and to receive the views and information of individuals and research staffs from many securities firms. As long as it is lawful and appropriate to do so, the Adviser and its affiliates may use this research and data in their investment advisory capacities with other clients.

While the Adviser may negotiate commission rates and prices with certain broker-dealers with the expectation that such broker-dealers will be providing brokerage or research services, the Adviser will not enter into any agreement or understanding with any broker-dealer that would obligate the Adviser to direct a specific amount of brokerage transactions or commissions in return for such services. Such research services, however, may be considered as a factor in determining the amount of commissions to be allocated to a specific broker. As a result, the Adviser may have an incentive to select or recommend a broker based on the Adviser's interest in receiving research or other products or services, rather than on a client's interest in receiving most favorable commission rate. Also, certain broker-dealers may state in advance the amount of brokerage commissions they require for certain services. If the Adviser does not meet the amount required to obtain a particular desired product, it may direct accumulated research commissions as part of a client commission arrangement with an executing broker to pay the research provider or the Adviser may pay cash to make up the difference.

In connection with the purchase of securities in certain fixed-price offerings, the Adviser may designate that a portion of the selling concession be paid to a broker-dealer that provides research services to the Adviser.

Research obtained with client commissions may not always be utilized by the Adviser for the specific account that generated the client commissions. The Adviser does not attempt to allocate the relative costs or benefits of research among client accounts because it believes that, in the aggregate, the research it receives assists the Adviser in fulfilling its overall duty to its clients.

Research/services obtained with client commissions generated by the Adviser's clients may be shared with the Adviser's advisory affiliates. Similarly, the Adviser's client accounts may benefit from research/services obtained with client commissions generated by client accounts of other advisers within Franklin Templeton Investments.

To the extent consistent with its duty to seek best execution, the Adviser may direct trades to a broker-dealer with the instruction that the broker-dealer execute the transaction and that another broker-dealer or research provider provide client commission products/services, so long as this broker also performs one or more functions that constitute effecting a trade, in accordance with applicable regulations or SEC guidance. This type of commission sharing arrangement permits the Adviser to use a broker that provides best execution to execute the trade while paying part of the commissions on the trade to another broker from which the Adviser receives research or other services.

## **THE STATEMENT OF BEST EXECUTION PROCEDURES**

The Adviser has adopted policies and procedures incorporating statements of best execution with respect to equity investments (the "Best Execution Statement") to provide guidance in situations where the Adviser may consider the receipt of research and statistical services from broker-dealers, or other client commission arrangements, when directing brokerage transactions for client accounts. The Best Execution Statement is designed to ensure (i) execution services meet the quality standards established by the Adviser's trading team and are consistent with established policies, (ii) provide the broadest flexibility in selecting which broker-dealers may provide best execution, (iii) continual evaluation of the execution capabilities of, and the quality of execution services received from, broker-dealers effecting portfolio transactions for Adviser's clients, and (iv) the identification and resolution of potential conflicts of interest.

Pursuant to the Best Execution Statement, the trading team at each global location will use multiple evaluation criteria to help determine which brokers have provided the highest quality execution services over the recent time period. An evaluation form comprised of various factors considered relevant to the trading process, as may be revised from time to time, is typically used for this purpose. An average of each team's evaluations or rankings will then be used to determine the broker's appropriate overall rank both within each global location and in the broker universe of the global trading department ("Global Trading"). On a quarterly basis, the Equity Global Best Execution Committee ("GBEC"), comprised of senior members of Global Trading, conducts further detailed reviews of the trades executed by members of Global Trading. Minutes of the meetings of the GBEC are presented regularly to the Equity Global Trading Oversight Committee ("GTOC"), which is comprised of senior management personnel, including senior representatives from the portfolio management, trading, legal and global compliance departments.

As part of the oversight of the brokerage allocation process, the GTOC meets semi-annually to review brokerage allocations and the stated reasons for selecting certain broker-dealers. The GTOC reviews historical broker dealer transaction history to attempt to confirm that the principles of the Adviser's stated best execution procedures are being applied based on information obtained internally and externally. Internal information may include trade execution, trade volume and trade count data. External information may include independent data sources that rank brokers on trade execution and quality of service.

There are potentially many factors to be considered in making broker selections. It is the responsibility of the traders to make determination within Global Trading's brokerage universe to provide the best execution for any particular transactions based on their knowledge and experience, which generally override any predetermined notion for choice of brokers. In our view, "best execution" is a process of attempting to secure the best combination of price and intermediary value given the strategies and objectives of the Adviser's client accounts from the inception to the completion of the order with the focus toward maximizing value for our clients. Moreover, there is not a single rule that is strictly applied to guide the traders in selecting a particular broker for each and every trade. For example, the commission rate is only one factor that the traders need to consider in evaluating which broker can provide the best overall execution for a particular trade or trades and a higher commission may be outweighed by other considerations relevant to the quality of the execution received.



Transactions in fixed income securities typically do not generate commissions, and there are other practical limitations on the universe of appropriate dealers in fixed income securities. However, the Fixed Income GTOC meets regularly to ensure that fixed income transactions executed by the Adviser meet the standards of best execution identified in the statement of best execution for fixed income transactions (the "Fixed Income Best Execution Statement"), which is intended to reflect the same fiduciary principles incorporated into the Best Execution Statement while addressing the special considerations applicable to executing transactions in fixed income investments.

To the extent consistent with its duty to seek best execution, the Adviser may effect transactions through broker-dealers that also may refer private account clients to the Adviser or an affiliate. To the extent that these referrals result in an increase in assets under management, the Adviser or its affiliates may benefit. Therefore, a potential conflict may exist that the Adviser could have an incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer for trading based on its interest in receiving client referrals rather than in receiving most favorable execution for clients. In order to manage this potential conflict of interest, the Adviser does not enter into agreements with, or make commitments to, any broker-dealer that would bind the Adviser to compensate that broker-dealer through increase brokerage transactions for client referrals or sales efforts; nor will the Adviser use step-out transactions or similar arrangements to compensate selling brokers for their sales efforts. In addition, the Adviser's U.S. Registered Funds have adopted procedures pursuant to Rule 12b-1(h) under the 1940 Act (as set forth in the policy entitled, "Prohibition on the Use of Brokerage Commissions to Finance Distribution") which provide that neither the funds nor the Adviser may direct brokerage in recognition of the sale of fund shares. Consistent with those procedures, the Adviser does not consider the sale of mutual fund shares in selecting broker-dealers to execute portfolio transactions. However, whether or not a particular broker or dealer sells shares of the Adviser's mutual funds neither qualifies nor disqualifies such broker or dealer to execute transactions for those mutual funds.

## **FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS**

Some clients require transactions in currencies other than the base currency of their account to permit the purchase or sale of foreign securities and to repatriate the proceeds of such trades (as well as related dividends, interest payments or tax reclaims) back to the base currency of the account. Typically, these foreign exchange ("FX") transactions will be conducted either by the client's custodian bank as part of the FX transaction services offered to its custody clients or by the client's investment adviser through a third party broker. In some cases, a client may require that its custodian bank execute all FX transactions for its account or particular markets may be restricted meaning that FX transactions in those currencies can only be executed by the client's custodian bank.

Generally, FX transactions related to portfolio trades in unrestricted markets are performed by the Adviser for its clients. FX transactions related to portfolio trades in restricted markets, and for income repatriation, are generally the responsibility of the respective client's custodian bank.

For certain accounts, the Adviser may be responsible for the repatriation of income (including, for some of these accounts, the decision whether to repatriate the income or leave in local currency based on investment outlook) and for arranging FX transactions in one or more restricted markets. The Adviser will typically perform the income repatriation for these accounts in unrestricted markets and the client's custodian bank will generally carry out FX transactions and repatriation (through a sub-custodian bank domiciled in the foreign country) in restricted markets.

Whether a market is considered to be restricted will depend on a number of factors, including country specific statutory documentation requirements, structural risks, operational constraints, and convertibility issues. The Adviser's list of unrestricted markets may also change over time and may be different depending on the type of transaction. The Adviser may consult with third parties, including broker-dealers and custodians in making a good faith determination on whether a market is considered restricted. The Adviser does not have the ability to control any FX transactions performed by the client's custodian bank and assumes no responsibility for the execution or oversight of FX transactions conducted by the client's custodian bank.

With respect to accounts for which FX transactions are performed by the client's custodian bank, the Adviser does not monitor the execution quality of the FX transactions performed by the client's custodian bank. In exceptional circumstances, the Adviser may agree with a client to monitor certain FX activity performed by the client's custodian bank for that account. In doing so, the Adviser may rely on information provided by a third party industry vendor on the same basis as disclosed above.

## **CLIENT-DIRECTED BROKERAGE TRANSACTIONS**

The Adviser does not routinely recommend, request or require that a client directs brokerage to any specific broker-dealers. In selecting brokers through whom portfolio transactions will be executed, the Adviser's first responsibility will be to comply with any client instructions specifying the use of a particular broker.

Clients may limit the Adviser's discretionary authority and may occasionally direct the Adviser to use a particular broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for its account. Such direction may include expense reimbursement and commission recapture arrangements, where the Adviser is informed by a client that certain broker-dealers will rebate a certain portion of an account's brokerage commissions (or spreads on fixed income or principal trades) directly to the account, or apply the amount to an account's expenses.

When a client directs the use of a particular broker-dealer (including expense reimbursement and commission recapture arrangements), the Adviser may not be in a position to freely negotiate commission rates or spreads, or select broker-dealers on the basis of best price and execution. In addition, transactions for a client that directs brokerage may not be combined or batched for execution purposes with orders for the same securities for other accounts managed by the Adviser and may be placed at the end of batched trading activity for a particular security. Accordingly, directed transactions may be subject to price movements, particularly in volatile markets, that may result in the client receiving a price that is less favorable than the price obtained for the batched order. Under these circumstances, the direction by a client of a particular broker or dealer to execute transactions may result in higher commissions, greater spreads, or less favorable net prices than might be the case if the Adviser were empowered to negotiate commission rates or spreads freely, or to select brokers or dealers based solely on best execution considerations. Therefore, in instances where a client directs the Adviser to use a particular broker to execute trades, the Adviser may not be able to obtain best execution for such client-directed trades.

## **BATCHED TRANSACTION POLICY**

The Adviser may aggregate orders of its clients to effect a larger transaction and thereby reduce transaction costs. The Adviser must then allocate the securities among the participating accounts. Although such bunching of transactions is permissible, potential conflicts of interest exist with respect to the aggregation and allocation of client transactions. For example, with respect to the allocations of aggregated trades, an adviser could be viewed as allocating securities that it anticipates will increase in value to certain favored clients, especially those that pay a performance-based fee to the adviser.

There may be instances where purchase or sale orders, or both, are placed simultaneously on behalf of the Adviser's advised accounts and by accounts advised by adviser affiliates. Orders for such securities may be aggregated or "batched" for execution in accordance with established procedures. Generally, for each account, such batched transactions are averaged as to price and allocated as to amount in accordance with daily purchase or sale orders actually placed for such account. Generally, all accounts that are batched will participate on a pro-rata, relative order size, percentage, or other objective basis. Orders may be batched to facilitate best execution, as well as for the purpose of negotiating more favorable brokerage commissions beneficial to all accounts. Alternatively, trades may be placed according to an alternating sequence or rotation system. Trades placed through directed brokerage arrangements that cannot be batched may be executed after discretionary trades. The Adviser may also batch orders for clients that permit client commission arrangements with clients that do not permit such arrangements. In such cases, the Adviser batches such orders to obtain best execution and does not seek a research

credit for the portion of the trade that is executed for clients that do not permit such arrangements.

Where the client has directed the Adviser to use a specific broker-dealer, the Adviser may not be able to combine or batch client's orders for purposes of execution with orders of the same securities for other accounts managed by the Adviser and, therefore, the Adviser may not be able to obtain best execution for the client. In addition, certain foreign markets may require trades to be executed on an account by account basis. As portfolio transactions in such markets cannot be batched, prices may vary among accounts.

## **ALLOCATION IN IPOs AND SECONDARY OFFERINGS**

From time to time, the Adviser may wish to participate in initial public offerings ("IPOs"), secondary offerings, or acquire other stocks for an account that are experiencing unusual trading activity and may only be available in limited quantities at the desired price. In determining which accounts may participate in such special situations, the Adviser may take into account the investment emphasis or focus of individual accounts on particular industries or geographic areas provided the approach used is consistently applied and results in a generally equitable treatment of all accounts over time. The Adviser has implemented equity trade allocation procedures designed to provide that all clients over time receive a fair opportunity to participate in such special situations. Additional care and caution is exercised if one of the accounts participating in a limited investment opportunity is an affiliated account, including specific compliance approval when affiliated accounts are participating in an IPO or secondary offer.

Generally, requested indications of interest in IPOs are submitted to the underwriter by each adviser group to increase the opportunity of gaining additional shares. Allocation of the awarded shares is then done for each account per adviser on a pro-rata basis. For IPOs and offerings that are priced after the close of business on a given trading day, preliminary allocations are prepared and a final allocation is prepared on the following business day when the price and size of allocation are known. Any adjustments or reallocations made in this circumstance require special approval.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Generally, the portfolios under the Adviser's management are reviewed by one or more portfolio managers who are responsible to their respective Chief Investment Officer, either directly or indirectly. Such review may be made with respect to the Adviser's clients' investment objectives and policies, limitations on the types of instruments in which each of its clients may invest and concentration of investments in particular industries or types of issues. There is no general rule regarding the number of accounts assigned to a portfolio manager.

The frequency, depth, and nature of reviews are often determined by negotiation with individual clients pursuant to the terms of each client's written investment management agreement or by the mandate selected by the client and the particular needs of each client.

Written reports of portfolio breakdown, transactions and performance are provided to clients no less frequently than quarterly. Additional trade reports may be available upon request.

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

The Adviser or a related person may enter into referral fee arrangements to compensate affiliated and non-affiliated persons for referring or otherwise recommending its investment advisory services to potential clients. To the extent required, such arrangements would be entered into in accordance with Rule 206(4)-3 under the Advisers Act and other applicable law. The compensation paid may consist of a cash payment computed as a flat fee, a percentage of the Adviser's advisory fee, or some other method of computation agreed upon between the parties. To the extent allowed under applicable law, the Adviser's Code of Ethics and the policies and procedures (including the Anti-Corruption Policy) of the Adviser, its affiliates, and/or a particular broker/dealer, the Adviser or a related person may (i) pay broker-dealer sponsors for training seminars, conferences and other educational events, (ii) pay travel and lodging expenses relating to financial advisers' attendance at the Adviser's due diligence meetings, (iii) give certain

business-related gifts or gratuities, and/or pay reasonable expenses relating to meals and/or entertainment, for financial advisers, and (iv) make a contribution in connection with a charitable event or to a charitable organization sponsored, organized or supported by a broker-dealer or its representatives, on behalf of such broker-dealer or its representatives, or to which such broker-dealer or its affiliates provides professional services.

## **Item 15 Custody**

The Adviser generally does not have custody of its clients' assets. However, because certain institutional clients may authorize the Adviser to receive its advisory fees out of the assets in such clients' accounts by sending invoices to the respective custodians of those accounts, the Adviser may be deemed by the SEC to have custody of the assets in those accounts. These clients will generally receive account statements directly from their third-party custodians for the accounts and should carefully review these statements. Such clients should contact the Adviser immediately if they do not receive account statements from their custodian on at least a quarterly basis. In addition to account statements delivered by their third-party custodians, the Adviser may provide clients with separate reports or account statements providing information about the account. Clients should compare these carefully to the account statements received from the custodian. If clients discover any discrepancy between the account statement provided by the Adviser and the account statement provided by the custodian, they should contact the Adviser and their custodian immediately.

Funds or securities of a small number of Clients of the Adviser are held by Fiduciary Trust Company International, ("FTCI") a bank affiliate of the Adviser which is a Qualified Custodian for the purposes of the Advisers Act. Because the Adviser provides investment advice to one or more clients whose funds or securities are held by a bank affiliate of the Adviser, the Adviser is deemed by the SEC to have custody of those assets under the Advisers Act. In order to demonstrate that it has taken proper steps to protect its clients' interests in this situation, the Adviser must take a number of additional steps detailed in the Advisers Act. The Adviser must ensure that FTCI continues to meet the eligibility criteria for a Qualified Custodian, it must provide the relevant clients with custodian contact information, it must ensure that the custodian is sending quarterly statements to these clients and the Adviser must undergo an annual surprise examination and verification of those assets by an independent accountant registered and subject to inspection by the Public accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Adviser has engaged PriceWaterhouseCoopers ("PWC") for this purpose.

In addition, because the Adviser maintains custody of a small number of client assets with an affiliate, it is required to have FTCI obtain an internal control report from an independent PCAOB accountant, attesting to FTCI's controls as a qualified custodian related to safekeeping of client assets. PWC has prepared this report for the Adviser.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Generally, the Adviser has discretionary authority to supervise and direct the investment of the assets under its management, without obtaining prior specific client consent for each transaction. However, this investment discretion is granted by written authority of the client in the investment management agreement between the client and the Adviser and is subject to such limitations as a client may impose by notice in writing. Under its discretionary authority, the Adviser may make the following determinations in accordance with the client's investment objectives and restrictions, internal policies and applicable law and practice, without prior consultation or consent before a transaction is effected:

- Which securities to buy or sell;
- The total amount of securities to buy or sell;
- The broker or dealer through whom securities are bought or sold; and/or
- The prices and commission rates at which securities transactions for client accounts are effected.

The Adviser may also provide non-discretionary services to advisory accounts. Advisory accounts for which the Adviser does not have investment discretion may or may not include the

authority to trade for the account and are subject to such limitations as a client may impose in writing. With respect to certain accounts for which the Adviser does not have investment discretion or trading authority, the Adviser may delay a recommendation to buy or sell for those accounts if the Adviser believes that the execution of such recommendation could have a material impact on pending trades for accounts for which the Adviser holds investment discretion.

The Adviser may, in its sole discretion, accept one or more categories of social restrictions requested in writing by clients. Unless otherwise agreed to with a client, the Adviser's compliance with such restrictions will be based on good faith efforts and may be satisfied by utilizing a third party service to screen issuers against such restrictions, or, in its sole discretion, other market data services such as Bloomberg and Factset as well as internal research.

Unless the Adviser is specifically directed otherwise either in its investment management agreement with a client or by separate instruction, uninvested cash held by the Adviser's clients generally will be automatically moved or "swept" temporarily into one or more money market mutual funds or other short-term investment vehicles offered by the client's custodian. Generally, sweep arrangements are made between the client and the client's custodian, with the client being responsible for selecting the sweep vehicle. The Adviser's sole responsibility in this regard is to issue standing instructions to the custodian to sweep excess cash in the client's account into the sweep vehicle. In circumstances where the client has not made arrangements with its custodian, the Adviser may consult with the client regarding an appropriate sweep vehicle from those made available by the custodian, with the ultimate decision being made by the client. In exceptional circumstances, the Adviser will make the selection of the appropriate sweep vehicle from those made available by the custodian. However, the Adviser does not actively manage the residual cash in client accounts and will not be responsible for monitoring the sweep vehicle into which such residual cash is swept.

Whether sweep arrangements are made between the client and its custodian or in consultation with the Adviser, any client whose assets are swept into an unaffiliated money market mutual fund or other short-term investment vehicle will continue to pay the Adviser's regular advisory fee plus a management fee to the manager of such fund or short-term investment vehicle on the portion of the account assets invested in the money market mutual fund or short-term investment vehicle.

From time to time, the Adviser may, in its sole discretion, submit a shareholder proposal to the issuer of, or otherwise engage in shareholder activism with respect to, securities presently held in one or more client accounts (including but not limited to private funds, institutional and high-net worth separate accounts or its own account), when the Adviser believes that such shareholder proposal or activism has the potential to enhance the value of such issuer's securities or generally benefit shareholders. The Adviser may also consider such factors including but not limited to costs when considering whether to engage in such activities.

The Adviser may, in its sole discretion, accept the initial funding of client accounts with one or more securities-in-kind ("SIK"). Subject to the terms of the investment management agreement and applicable law, the Adviser will use good faith efforts to liquidate any SIK that the Adviser does not elect to keep as part of such accounts, and shall not be liable for any investment losses or market risk associated with such liquidation.

The investment guidelines applicable to an account are typically based on the account being fully funded and, during funding or transition phases, the Adviser's inability to comply with restrictions related to holding limitations, sector allocations and investment diversification shall not, unless otherwise agreed with a client, be considered a breach of the investment management agreement between the Adviser and the client.

## **PARTICIPATION IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Unless otherwise specifically agreed with a client, the Adviser shall not be required, or be liable for any failure to, but may, provide a claim service in connection with certain legal proceedings. Where provided, the Adviser, through its delegates (which may include, without limitation, personnel of an affiliate, a law firm, or other claim filing service), uses good faith efforts to file proofs of claim on behalf of the client in class action lawsuit settlements or judgments and regulatory recovery funds pending in the United States and Canada, involving issuers of securities presently or formerly held in the client's account, or related parties of such issuers, of

which the Adviser learns and for which the client is eligible during the term of the governing investment advisory or management agreement with the client (the "Claim Service"). Infrequently, such U.S. and Canadian class action lawsuits may require investors affirmatively to "opt in" to the class and may subject investors to public identification and to participation in discovery ("Opt-In Actions"). Unless otherwise specifically agreed, the Adviser shall not be required, or be liable for any failure to, but may, without undertaking any obligation to do so file any required documentation in any Opt-In Actions.

While the Claim Service is focused on recovery opportunities in the United States and Canada (the jurisdictions in which class action lawsuits and regulatory recovery funds predominate), it is possible that, as class action laws in legal systems in jurisdictions outside of the U.S. and Canada continue to evolve, the Adviser may learn of recovery opportunities in those other jurisdictions that similarly require only the filing of a proof of claim or its equivalent to recover, referred to here as "Foreign Actions." The Adviser does not assume any obligation to identify, research, or file proofs of claim in, any Foreign Actions. In the event that the Adviser does learn of Foreign Actions, the Adviser has complete discretion to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether to file proofs of claim for the client in such Foreign Actions. Foreign Actions do not include any other type of collective action outside of the United States and Canada, such as representative actions. Those other actions require individual analysis as to whether participation is in an investor's best interest and often require participants to agree to funding agreements or to pay the costs of the litigation directly, to enter into agreements with representative organizations, to commit to participation in discovery, and may require participants to be identified publicly as plaintiffs in the action. The Adviser does not assume any obligation to identify or take any action with respect to such offshore collective or representative actions for its clients.

Further, unless otherwise specifically agreed, the Adviser shall not be required, or be liable for any failure to, but may, participate in any bankruptcy proceedings involving issuers of securities presently or formerly held in client accounts or related parties of such issuers. Without limiting the foregoing, unless otherwise specifically agreed, the Adviser shall not be required, or be liable for any failure to, but may, in its discretion (i) file proofs of claim in bankruptcy proceedings, (ii) notify clients of any applicable deadlines or other events relating to bankruptcy proceedings, or (iii) participate in any committees of creditors or other stakeholders on behalf of clients.

In connection with the Claim Service and Adviser's involvement in bankruptcy proceedings on behalf of its clients, where applicable, the Adviser may disclose information about a client or its account, whether by including such information in any proofs of claim or otherwise disclosing such information in any related manner. By filing a proof of claim on behalf of a client, the Adviser may waive the client's right to pursue separate litigation with respect to the subject matter of the class action lawsuit or regulatory recovery fund, or the right to a jury trial in a bankruptcy proceeding, as applicable. Where the Adviser does provide the Claim Service or agrees to participate in bankruptcy proceedings on behalf of its client, the Adviser may (subject to the governing investment advisory or management agreement), at any time, terminate the provision of such services by giving notice of such termination to the client (by any method the Adviser chooses, including electronic mail), and such services will, if not sooner terminated, automatically terminate upon the termination of the governing investment advisory or management agreement.

With respect to the FTI U.S.-registered investment companies and certain other FTI pooled or collective investment vehicles managed by the Adviser's affiliates (collectively, "Funds"), the Adviser's affiliates, on behalf of and in the name of the Funds, use good faith efforts to provide the Claim Service, as described above, during each Fund's existence. In addition, from time to time the Adviser's affiliates may recommend that one or more of the Funds pursue litigation against an issuer or related parties (whether, for example, by opting out of an existing class action lawsuit, participating in a representative action in a foreign jurisdiction, or otherwise). Neither the Adviser nor its affiliates will provide the Adviser's clients with notice of, or the opportunity to participate in, any litigation against an issuer or related parties. The Adviser's affiliates or the Funds may also participate in bankruptcy proceedings involving issuers of securities presently or formerly held in the Funds' portfolios, or related parties of such issuers, and join official or ad hoc committees of creditors or other stakeholders.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

### **PROXY VOTING POLICIES & PROCEDURE**

The Adviser has delegated its administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for client equity securities to the proxy group within Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC (the "Proxy Group"), an affiliate and wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, the parent company of the Adviser.

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Adviser's instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies, the Adviser subscribes to one or more unaffiliated third party corporate governance research services that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas, vote recommendations, recordkeeping and vote disclosure services (each a "Research Service"). Although Research Service analyses are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Adviser does not consider recommendations from a Research Service or any other third party to be determinative of the Adviser's ultimate decision. Rather, the Adviser exercises its independent judgment in making voting decisions. The Adviser votes proxies solely in the best interests of the client, the Adviser-managed fund shareholders or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved ("ERISA accounts"), in the best interests of plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively "Advisory Clients") unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the investment manager or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the investment manager from voting proxies. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and Access Persons (as defined in the Code of Ethics Summary in Item 11) of the Adviser and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients. In situations where a material conflict of interest is identified, the Proxy Group may vote consistently with the voting recommendation of a Research Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Adviser's recommendation regarding the vote for approval.

As a matter of practice, the votes with respect to most issues are cast in accordance with the position of the management of the company in which the equity securities are held. Each issue, however, is considered on its own merits, and the Adviser will not support the position of the company's management in any situation where it deems that the ratification of management's position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company's shares.

The Proxy Group is part of the Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC Corporate Legal Department and is overseen by legal counsel. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst(s) that follows the security and will provide the analyst(s) with the agenda, Research Service analyses, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Adviser's research analyst(s) and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, Research Service analyses, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company and any other information publicly available. In the case of a material conflict of interest, the final voting decision will be made in accordance with the conflict procedures, as described above. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistently with the voting recommendations of an independent third party service provider, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Adviser's research analyst(s), relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or an Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote.

The Adviser has adopted general proxy voting guidelines that are reviewed periodically by various members of the Adviser's organization, including portfolio management, legal counsel and the Adviser's officers, and are subject to change. These guidelines cannot provide an exhaustive list of all the issues that may arise nor can the Adviser anticipate all future situations. The guidelines cover such agenda items as the election of directors, ratification of auditors, management and director compensation, anti-takeover mechanisms, changes to capital structure, mergers and corporate restructuring, environmental, social and governance issues, and global corporate governance.

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records pursuant to SEC rules and regulations, including Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act. In

addition, the Adviser understands its fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Adviser will attempt to process every proxy it receives for all U.S. and non-U.S. securities. However, there may be situations in which the Adviser will not vote a proxy, such as where: (i) proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank, (ii) a meeting notice was received too late, (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and the Adviser has determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting, (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if the Adviser votes a proxy or where the Adviser is prohibited from voting by applicable law or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective powers of attorney, (v) the Adviser held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date, (vi) proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market, (vii) the Adviser believes it is not in the best interests of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein, or (viii) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

In some foreign jurisdictions, even if the Adviser uses reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of its Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Adviser does not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Adviser. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Adviser's votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

The Adviser or its affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the registered investment companies advised by the Adviser or its affiliates, determine to use its best efforts to recall any security on loan where the Adviser or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on a material event that may affect a security on loan, and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The Adviser will not generally make such efforts on behalf of other advisory clients, or notify such clients or their custodians that the Adviser or its affiliates has learned of such a vote.

The Proxy Group is responsible for maintaining the documentation that supports the Adviser's voting decision. Such documentation may include, but is not limited to, any information provided by Research Services and, with respect to any issuer that presents a potential conflict of interest, any board or audit committee memoranda describing the position it has taken. The Proxy Group may use an outside service such as a Research Service to support this recordkeeping function. All records will be retained for at least five years, the first two of which will be on-site at the offices of Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC. Advisory Clients may view the Adviser's complete proxy voting policies and procedures on-line at [www.franklintempleton.com](http://www.franklintempleton.com), request copies of their proxy voting records and the Adviser's complete proxy voting policies and procedures by calling the Proxy Group at 1-954-527-7678 or send a written request to: Franklin Templeton Companies, LLC, 300 S.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, Attention: Proxy Group. For U.S. investment company products, an annual proxy voting record for the period ending June 30 of each year will be posted to [www.franklintempleton.com](http://www.franklintempleton.com) no later than August 31 of each year. In addition, the Proxy Group is responsible for ensuring that the proxy voting policies, procedures and records of the registered investment companies advised by the Adviser are made available as required by law, and is responsible for overseeing the filing of such investment company voting records with the SEC.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

No relevant information to disclose.