

**Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
Item 1: Cover Page  
March 2015**



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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of The Caring Advisors, LLC dba Walsh and Associates, Ltd. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at (941) 952-1188 or email [michael.walsh@lpl.com](mailto:michael.walsh@lpl.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority.

Additional information about Walsh and Associates, Ltd. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of Walsh and Associates, Ltd. and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise you for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

## **Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure**

Walsh and Associates, Ltd. is required to advise you of any material changes to our Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update, identify those changes on the cover page of our Brochure or on the page immediately following the cover page, or in a separate communication accompanying our Brochure.

At this time, there are no material changes to report about our Brochure since our last annual amendment filed on March 6, 2014.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

We are dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed in the State of Florida. Our firm has been in business as an investment adviser since 2011 and is solely owned by Joseph P. Walsh, Jr., who has been in the financial service industry for over 20 years. Our assets under management are \$248,200,000 as of December 2014.

### Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer

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#### **Asset Management:**

We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be initially designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least annually and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

#### **Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

Our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service encompasses asset management as well as providing financial planning/financial consulting to clients. It is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of financial investments. We conduct at least one, but sometimes more than one meeting (in person if possible, otherwise via telephone conference) with clients in order to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what we learn, we propose an investment approach to the client. We may propose an investment portfolio, consisting of exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), mutual funds, individual stocks or bonds, or other securities. Upon the client's agreement to the proposed investment plan, we work with the client to establish or transfer investment accounts so that we can manage the client's portfolio. Once the relevant accounts are under our management, we review such accounts on a regular basis and at least annually. We may periodically rebalance or adjust client accounts under our management. If the client experiences any significant changes to his/her financial or personal circumstances, the client must notify us so that we can consider such information in managing the client's investments.

#### **Red Flag Audit:**

We provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Cost Segregation Study, Corporate Structure, Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Our written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we refer clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialist, as necessary for non-advisory related services. For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we usually do not provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations as the process is less formal than our planning service. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client.

### **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:**

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

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

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

### *Portfolio Management Services through LPL Financial*

When appropriate we have the ability to provide advisory services through certain programs sponsored by LPL Financial. Below is a brief description of each LPL advisory program available to us. For more information regarding the LPL programs, including more information on the advisory services and fees that apply, the types of investments available in the programs and the potential conflicts of interest presented by the programs please see the LPL Financial Form ADV Part 2 or the applicable LPL program's Wrap Fee Program Brochure and the applicable LPL Financial client agreement.

### *Optimum Market Portfolios Programs (OMP)*

OMP offers clients the ability to participate in a professionally managed asset allocation program using Optimum Funds Class I shares. Under OMP, the client will authorize LPL Financial on a discretionary basis to purchase and sell Optimum Funds pursuant to investment objectives chosen by the client. We will assist the client in determining the suitability of OMP for the client and assist the client in setting an appropriate investment objective. Advisor will have discretion to select a mutual fund asset allocation portfolio designed by LPL consistent with the client's investment objective. LPL Financial will have discretion to purchase and sell Optimum Funds pursuant to the portfolio selected for the client. LPL Financial will also have authority to rebalance the account. A minimum account value of \$15,000 is required for OMP. The OMP advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.50%.

### *Personal Wealth Portfolios Program (PWP)*

PWP offers clients an asset management account using asset allocation model portfolios designed by LPL Financial. We will have discretion for selecting the asset allocation model portfolio based on client's investment objective. We will also have discretion for selecting third party money managers (PWP advisors) or mutual funds within each asset class of the model portfolio. LPL Financial will act as the overlay portfolio manager on all PWP accounts and will be authorized to purchase and sell on a discretionary basis mutual funds and equity and fixed income securities. A minimum account value of \$250,000 is required for PWP. The PWP advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.50%.

### *Model Wealth Portfolios Program (MWP)*

MWP offers clients a professionally managed mutual fund asset allocation program. We will obtain the necessary financial data from the client, assist the client in determining the suitability of the MWP program and assist the client in setting an appropriate investment objective. We initiate the steps necessary to open an MWP account and have discretion to select a model portfolio designed by LPL Financial's Research Department consistent with the client's stated investment objective. LPL Financial's Research Department is responsible for selecting the mutual funds within a model portfolio and for making changes to the mutual funds selected. The client will authorize LPL Financial to act on a discretionary basis to purchase and sell mutual funds, including in certain circumstances exchange traded funds and to liquidate previously purchased securities. The client will also authorize LPL Financial to effect rebalancing for MWP accounts.

In the future, the MWP program may make available model portfolios designed by strategists other than LPL's Research Department. If such models are made available, we will have discretion to choose among the available models designed by LPL and outside strategists. The minimum account value will depend on the model and range from \$25,000 to \$80,000. The MWP advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.50%.

### *Manager Access Select Program (MAS)*

Manager Access Select provides clients access to the investment advisory services of professional portfolio management firms for the individual management of client accounts. We will assist client in identifying a third party portfolio manager (Portfolio Manager) from a list of Portfolio Managers made available by LPL Financial. The Portfolio Manager manages client's assets on a discretionary basis. We will provide initial and ongoing assistance regarding the Portfolio Manager selection

process. A minimum account value of \$100,000 is required for Manager Access Select, however, in certain instances, the minimum account size may be lower or higher. The MAS advisory fees are negotiable and range from 1.00% to 2.90%.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

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We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Asset Management service. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing our Red Flag Audit and Referrals to Third Party Money Management services.

Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account. Restrictions would be limited to our Asset Management service. We do not manage assets through our other services.

### **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

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We offer wrap fee programs as further described in Part 2A, Appendix 1 (the “Wrap Fee Program Brochure”) of our Brochure. Our wrap fee and non-wrap fee accounts are managed on an individualized basis according to the client’s investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance, etc. We do not manage wrap fee accounts in a different fashion than non-wrap fee accounts. As further described in our Wrap Fee Program Brochure, we receive a portion of the wrap fee for our services.

### **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

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As of December 2014, we manage \$214,500,000 on a discretionary basis and \$33,700,000 on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5: Fees & Compensation**

### **How We Are Compensated for Our Advisory Services**

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#### **Asset Management:**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Percentage of Assets Charge</b>
Under \$5,000,000	Up to 1.75%
Over \$5,000,000	Up to 0.75%

Our firm’s annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from your managed account. LPL will make quarterly adjustments for deposits and withdrawals in client accounts. As part of this process, the client is made aware of the following:

- LPL Financial (“LPL”) as your custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing all disbursements for your account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- You provide authorization permitting LPL to deduct these fees;
- LPL calculates the advisory fees for all flat fee schedules and deducts them from your account.

## **Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Percentage of Assets Charge</b>
Under \$5,000,000	Up to 1.75%
Over \$5,000,000	Up to 0.75%

Our firm's annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from your managed account. LPL will make quarterly adjustments for deposits and withdrawals in client accounts. As part of this process, the client is made aware of the following:

- a) LPL Financial ("LPL") as your custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing all disbursements for your account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting LPL to deduct these fees;
- c) LPL calculates the advisory fees for all flat fee schedules and deducts them from your account.

## **Red Flag Audit:**

We charge on a flat fee basis for our Red Flag Audit service. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee that we charge you, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. Flat fees generally range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. We do not require a retainer of the total financial consulting fee.

## **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:**

We are paid by third party money managers when we refer you to them and you decide to open a managed account. Third party money managers pay us a portion of the investment advisory fee that they charge you for managing your account. Fees paid to us by third party money manager are generally ongoing. All fees we receive from third party money managers and the written separate disclosures made to you regarding these fees comply with applicable state statutes and rules. The separate written disclosures you need to be provided include: a copy of the third party money manager's Form ADV Part 2, all relevant Brochures, a Solicitation Disclosure Statement detailing the exact fees we are paid and a copy of the third party money manager's privacy policy. The third party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them.

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

## **Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

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



Wrap fee clients will receive our Form ADV, Part 2A, Appendix 1 (the “Wrap Fee Program Brochure”). Wrap fee clients will not incur transaction costs for trades. More information about this is disclosed in our separate Wrap Fee Program Brochure.

### **Termination & Refunds**

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

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

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In order to sell securities for a commission, our supervised persons are registered representatives of LPL Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. Our supervised persons may accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including distribution or service (“trail”) fees from the sale of mutual funds. You should be aware that the practice of accepting commissions for the sale of securities:

1. Presents a conflict of interest and gives our firm and/or our supervised persons an incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received, rather than on your needs. We generally address commissionable sales conflicts that arise when explaining to clients that commissionable securities sales creates an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation we and/or our supervised persons may earn and/or when recommending commissionable mutual funds, explaining that “no-load” funds are also available.
2. In no way prohibits you from purchasing investment products recommended by us through other brokers or agents which are not affiliated with us.
3. Does not exceed more than 50% of our revenue.

## **Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management**

We do not accept performance-based fees.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements**

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans.

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

- We require a minimum account balance of \$250,000 for our Asset Management service. This minimum account balance requirement is negotiable.
- We do not charge a minimum fee for our Asset Management service.

## Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss

### Methods of Analysis

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

**Fundamental Analysis.** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Asset Allocation.** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance. A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

**Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis.** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.

**Third-Party Money Manager Analysis.** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

**Quantitative Analysis.** We use quantitative analysis that may include mathematical analysis in an attempt to identify the impact of interest rate changes on individual securities and portfolios of securities. The results of our quantitative analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis.** We use qualitative analysis to evaluate individual securities, focusing on non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management and others not readily subject to measurement, and incorporate that analysis into our security selection process. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

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

### **Investment Strategies We Use**

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We use the following strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations. Typically we employ this strategy when we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

**Long-Term Purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we may purchase securities with the idea of holding them for a relatively long time (typically held for at least a year). A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell. Typically we employ this sub-strategy when we believe the securities to be well valued; and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

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

**Margin Transactions.** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.

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

1. A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the

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

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

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

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

**Fixed Income Portfolio Management Investment Strategies.** We believe that a conservative, risk-averse approach to fixed income management will provide both steady incremental outperformance, and low relative volatility.

The disciplined process we employ in an effort to realize this philosophy is generally grounded in four key decisions:

1. Constraint of portfolio duration within a narrow range relative to the benchmark in order to limit exposure to market and interest rate risk.
2. Strategic allocations to key sectors to add value relative to the benchmark.
3. Proactive management of term structure to add value in different yield curve environments.
4. Security selection based on rigorous credit and relative value analysis and broad diversification of nongovernment issuers.

Within our Fixed Income strategy, we use the following sub-strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such sub-strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

**Duration Constraints.** We adhere to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis. The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.

**Sector Allocation.** We allocate client assets to various sectors of the fixed income market, including US Treasury obligations, federal agency securities, corporate notes, mortgage-backed securities and others, based on our quantitative and qualitative analysis in order to manage client exposure to a given sector and to provide exposure to sectors we believe have good value. The risk of sector allocation is that clients may not participate fully in an increase in value in any specific sector.

**Security Selection.** We use externally generated credit research to evaluate securities we are considering for purchase. The ultimate decision to purchase or sell a security is based on the firm's evaluation of the current price for the security. The risk of security selection is that the methods of

analysis employed will not provide accurate measurement of the risk association with each individual security.

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

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

### Item 9: Disciplinary Information

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

### Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

We participate in LPL Financial's hybrid RIA program. As such, our investment adviser representatives are also registered representatives with LPL, in which all brokerage transactions will be implemented through LPL. Investment adviser representatives are required to implement brokerage trades in this manner as a result of them being registered representatives with LPL. This relationship will be disclosed to all clients prior to any transactions being implemented. As a result of this relationship, we do not recommend directed brokerage trades, negotiating fees or commissions or receiving additional incentives from other broker/dealers for trades executed through them. However, clients will be made aware that as registered representatives, the investment adviser representatives receive services including but not limited to: administrative functions including portfolio pricing, account statement generation, fee calculations, back-office support, trade execution and research. Clients are not obligated to implement transactions through the investment adviser representatives in their separate capacities as registered representatives. Clients' trades will always be implemented based on the goals and objectives of the client and not on the incentives to the representatives for implementing the trades. Our firm's management persons will only receive commissions for securities recommendations they make to brokerage clients in non-advisory accounts. Compensation for brokerage commissions of registered representatives of LPL are paid directly to the registered representative by LPL in their individual capacity and separate from Walsh and Associates, Ltd.

Our advisory representatives may also be licensed to sell insurance products. As such, they may have an incentive to sell and recommend insurance products to advisory clients. When such recommendations or sales are made, a conflict of interest exists as our representative may earn insurance commissions for the sale of those products. Clients are under no obligation to purchase insurance products recommended to them by our advisory representatives.

The compensation paid to us by third party managers may vary, and thus, there may be a conflict of interest in recommending a manager who shares a larger portion of its advisory fees over another

manager. Our firm's fees are not higher than they would have been had our client obtained services directly from the third party money manager. Prior to referring clients to third party advisors, we will ensure that third party advisors are licensed or notice filed with the respective authorities. A potential conflict of interest in utilizing third party advisors may be an incentive to us in selecting a particular advisor over another in the form of fees or services. In order to minimize this conflict our firm will make our selections in the best interest of our clients.

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

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

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm's Chief Compliance Officer has access to all firm employee personal accounts through LPL's BranchNet system.

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

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest.

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

Likewise, related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

### **Selecting a Brokerage Firm**

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We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others, these:

- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors
- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Expertise as it relates to specific securities
- Financial condition
- Business reputation
- Quality of services

Our firm has a non-soft-dollar arrangement with LPL Financial under which we receive non-soft-dollar services such as research and administrative functions including portfolio pricing, account statement generation and fee calculations, which are intended to support our firm in conducting business and in serving the best interests of our clients. These services do not incentivize us to recommend LPL Financial. Our recommendation of LPL Financial to our clients is based on our clients' interests in receiving best execution and the level of competitive, professional services LPL Financial provides. Our firm does not receive client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns) to obtain research or other products or services. We do not receive soft dollars, products or services acquired with client brokerage commissions. Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals. We do not allow client-directed brokerage, as trades in our clients' accounts are executed through LPL Financial, a qualified custodian and broker-dealer; neither do we direct client transactions to LPL Financial in return for soft-dollar benefits.

### **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

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We do not aggregate the purchase or sale of securities for various client accounts but rather review accounts independently and place transactions accordingly. Whether or not securities are purchased or sold at approximately the same time, all client transactions will incur individual transaction fees. Whether or not we aggregate our orders, LPL Financial does bunch orders. The advantage of bunching is that orders are handled in a way that may mitigate market impact, when applicable and possible. If orders are bunched, each client gets the same average execution price.



### **Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

We review accounts on at least an annual basis for our clients subscribing to our Asset Management and Third Party Money Management services. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we contact clients who subscribe to our Asset Management and Third Party Money Management services. Only our Financial Advisors will conduct reviews.

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

Red Flag Audit clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. We do not provide ongoing services to Red Flag Audit clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Red Flag Audit clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately contract with us for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

### **Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation**

#### **LPL Financial LLC**

#### **Investment or Brokerage Discretion**

We provide discretionary portfolio management services where the investment advice provided is custom tailored to meet the needs and investment objectives of each client. Accordingly, we are authorized to perform various functions, at the client's expense, without further approval from the client. Such functions include the determination of securities to be purchased/sold and the amount of securities to be purchased/sold. We do not have discretionary authority over the broker or dealer to be used.

#### **Suggestion of Brokers to Clients**

We shall recommend LPL Financial. LPL is the broker-dealer with which our representatives are also associated. As a result of the individual association of our representatives with LPL, we are generally required to utilize the brokerage/custodial services of LPL for investment advisory accounts. Our general policies relative to the execution of client securities brokerage transactions are as follows:

#### **Execution of Brokerage Transactions (when applicable)**

In seeking "best execution", the determinative factor is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution. LPL also takes into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services including execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although LPL will seek competitive commission rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for all account transactions.



Over-the-Counter (OTC) securities transactions are generally effected based on two (2) separate broker-dealers: (1) a “dealer” or “principal” acting as market-maker; and (2) the executing broker-dealer that acts in an agency capacity. Dealers executing principal transactions typically include a mark-up/down, which is included in the offer or bid price of the securities purchased or sold. In addition to the dealer mark-up/down, the client may also incur the transaction fee imposed by the executing broker-dealer. We do not receive any portion of the dealer mark-up/down or the executing broker-dealer transaction fee.

Transactions for each client account will be effected independently. We individually review each client’s account and place trades accordingly. Despite being purchased or sold at approximately the same time all clients’ transactions will incur individual transaction fees.

### **Additional Compensation**

We may receive from LPL or a mutual fund company, without cost and/or at a discount support services and/or products, to assist us to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services we may receive investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by us to assist us in our investment advisory business operations. Our clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at LPL as result of this arrangement. There is no commitment made by us to LPL or any other institution as a result of the above arrangement.

### **Referral Fees**

We do not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

## **Item 15: Custody**

We do not have custody of client funds or securities. All of our clients receive at least quarterly account statements directly from their custodians. Upon opening an account with a qualified custodian on a client's behalf, we promptly notify the client in writing of the qualified custodian's contact information. If we decide to also send account statements to clients, such notice and account statements include a legend that recommends that the client compare the account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm.

We encourage our clients to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets. The custodians we do business with will send you independent account statements listing your account balance(s), transaction history and any fee debits or other fees taken out of your account.

### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed investment advisory client agreement. By granting investment discretion, we are authorized to execute securities transactions, which securities are bought and sold, the total amount to be bought and sold, and the costs at which the transactions will be effected. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgement.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

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

Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes proxies, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

### **Item 18: Financial Information**

We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- We do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance.
- We do not take custody of client funds or securities.
- We do not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

We have never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.