

## FORM ADV PART 2A

# RAND ADVISORS, LLC

December 9, 2015

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Rand Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at [compliance@randadvvisors.com](mailto:compliance@randadvvisors.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 Rand Advisors, LLC is also available at the Securities and Exchange Commission's website [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Our registration as an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

## ITEM 2. MATERIAL CHANGES

As of our last filing:

1. Thomas Surgent has been removed as Chief Compliance Officer and replaced by J. Steven Horn;
2. Rand Advisors, LLC has brought on two new clients, Atlas IDF, LP and Rand PE Fund I, L.P. A description of the two clients and their investment objectives can be found within this document.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent brochures within 120 days of the close of our fiscal year, which is December 31st. We will provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as they occur. We will also provide you with information on how to obtain the complete brochure. Currently, our brochure may be requested at any time, without charge, by contacting J. Steven Horn at (512) 696-1503.

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## **ITEM 4. ADVISORY BUSINESS**

We are the adviser to Rand Advisors Series I Insurance Fund (the “Rand Fund”), Rand PE Fund I, L.P. (the “Rand PE Fund”) and Atlas IDF, LP (the “Atlas Fund”) (all such entities shall collectively be referred to as the “Funds” or “Clients”), all of which are unregistered investment funds. The Rand Fund held its initial offering in October 2013. The Rand PE Fund and the Atlas Fund have yet to begin funding.

### **OWNERSHIP**

Rand Advisors, LLC (“Rand,” “Adviser,” “we” or “us”) is owned 100% by John Honis.

### **TYPES OF ADVISORY SERVICES**

The Funds are our sole advisory clients at this time. The Funds seek to achieve their respective investment objectives primarily through the strategies described in “ITEM 8. METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES, AND RISK OF LOSS” and in the Private Placement Memoranda (each, a “PPM”) for each Fund.

### **REGULATORY ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT**

As of December 2014, the amount of our total regulatory assets under management was \$56.5 million.

All assets are managed on a discretionary basis.

## ITEM 5. FEES AND COMPENSATION

For providing investment advisory services, Rand typically charges the Client a management fee and other fees as necessary and agreed to (including, but not limited to, expenses related to servicing accounts, such as administration and legal services). Fees may be deducted directly from the Funds.

We have entered into a shared services agreement with Highland Capital Management, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“HCM” or “Highland”). Please refer to the PPM for each Fund for a list of services to be provided by HCM.

The Funds incur brokerage and other transaction costs associated with Rand’s management of Client Accounts. Please see the section titled ITEM 12 Brokerage Practices of this ADV Part 2 for a discussion of Rand’s brokerage practices.

### FEE SCHEDULE

Please refer to the PPM or other applicable offering documents for each of the Funds for a detailed description of fees, expenses and use of proceeds.

### UNREGISTERED INVESTMENT FUNDS

As compensation for our advisory services, each of the Funds typically pays Rand management fees based on each Fund’s agreements. Management fees are based upon outstanding capital accounts or amounts of committed capital. In some cases, certain investors in one Fund may pay a different fee than others based on the terms of their agreement with Rand.

In addition to management fees, brokerage and transaction costs, investors in the Funds will indirectly bear the fees and expenses paid by the Funds, including custody fees, administration, legal, audit and tax preparation fees, overhead allocation, and certain other fees and expenses. Each of the Fund’s PPM’s or offering documents include more detailed information about the fees and expenses paid by such the Funds.

### OTHER COMPENSATION

Fund Accounts may hold significant positions, individually or collectively, in the securities issued by a company. Accordingly, Rand may have the right to appoint a board member or officer for such company. Rand may appoint an employee or a third party to such position as it sees fit in the best interest of Rand and the Funds. Employees are permitted to retain all compensation received for such positions except to the extent contrary to the governing documents for one or more Fund Accounts, in which case the proportion of such compensation related to such Fund Account(s) will be paid to those Account(s) (generally in proportion to relative assets of the Fund Account as of the date paid).

In addition, to the extent permitted by the offering and/or governing documents of the applicable advised accounts, Rand and/or its affiliates receive other fees for services provided to portfolio companies, provided such fees are on arms-length terms. See also ITEM 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

We have established procedures designed to address possible conflicts of interest that such board or officer positions might present, including requiring authorization from the Chief Compliance Officer prior to an officer or employee serving as a board member. As a result of such activities, Rand may acquire confidential information, which may restrict Fund Accounts from transacting in certain securities. As a result, we may not initiate a transaction on behalf of Clients which we otherwise might have.

## **ITEM 6. PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES**

At this time we do not charge any performance-based or incentive-based fees or allocations. These are fees or allocations based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

## **ITEM 7. TYPES OF CLIENTS**

Our sole advisory clients are the Rand Fund, the Rand PE Fund and the Atlas Fund, all being Delaware limited partnerships.



## ITEM 8. METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES, AND RISK OF LOSS

### INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The items below are general descriptions of the types of investment strategies we currently utilize, although we may add or subtract from this list based on various factors including macro-economic conditions.

### INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

#### *The Rand Fund*

##### *Bank Loan Strategy*

Rand's bank loan strategy seeks to generate attractive absolute returns by opportunistically making investments across the capital structure, with a core focus in senior secured bank loans. The bank loan strategy is long-biased and U.S. focused.

##### *Structured Finance Investments*

Rand invests in various structured finance instruments, including collateralized loan obligations and collateralized debt obligations. The rate of return on the structured finance instrument may be determined by applying a multiplier to the rate of total return on the reference loan or loans. Application of a multiplier is comparable to the use of financial leverage, a speculative technique. Leverage magnifies the potential for gain and the risk of loss, because of a relatively small decline in the value of a reference loan could result in a relatively large loss for the value of a structured finance instrument.

Please see the PPM for the Rand Fund for a complete description of the investment objectives and strategies of the Rand Fund.

#### *The Rand PE Fund*

The Rand PE Fund's strategy is to invest in small- to medium-sized companies that are involved in (or are the target of) acquisition attempts or tender offers, and/or in companies involved in work-outs, liquidations, spin-offs, reorganizations, bankruptcies or similar transactions.

Please see the PPM for the Rand PE Fund for a complete description of the investment objectives and strategies of the Rand PE Fund.

## ***The Atlas Fund***

The Atlas Fund's strategy may include investing in long and short equity positions, arbitrage, bank loans, cash, fixed income securities, high yield bonds, derivative transactions, foreign investments, companies, money market instruments, collateralized loan obligations and currency hedging. Please see the PPM for the Atlas Fund for a complete description of the investment objectives and strategies of the Atlas Fund.

## **METHOD OF ANALYSIS**

The investment process used by Rand to evaluate potential investments employs a combination of rigorous qualitative (issuer, portfolio and legal considerations) and quantitative (structural, cash flow, collateral valuation and pricing/relative value) analysis. Rand uses a proprietary quantitative analytical tool and 3rd party software in connection with gathering information on investments. The sell discipline is largely enforced by ongoing monitoring of individual names.

Other sources of information include obtaining and reviewing due diligence packages prepared by debt issuers and underwriters of institutional private placements and meetings with management of issuers.

## **MATERIAL RISKS OF SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIES**

Some, but not necessarily all, of the risks involved in the strategies used by Rand in order to meet the stated investment objectives in the Funds include:

- Credit
- Illiquid Securities
- Inflation
- Investment in Distressed Assets
- Investments in Structured Finance Instruments
- Investments in Senior Secured Loans
- Maturity
- Market or Interest Rates
- Valuation of Portfolio Holdings
- Competition
- Volatility
- Market Liquidity
- Over-the-Counter-Trading
- Leverage

## MATERIAL RISKS OF METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Qualitative Analysis – The major risk involved with qualitative analysis is that it is subjective in nature; assigning probability and impacts to risks is a subjective exercise.

Quantitative Analysis – The major risk involved with the use of quantitative risk analysis is the limited availability of data. Therefore any lack of data concerning the structure, cash flow, collateral valuation and pricing/relative value of the underlying investment can restrict the Adviser's ability to perform thorough research into the suitability of the investment for the Funds.

Please refer to the PPM or other offering documents for each Fund for a complete description of the risks involved with the investment strategies of the Funds.

## **ITEM 9. DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

We do not have any information to disclose concerning the Adviser or John Honis. We adhere to high ethical standards.

## **ITEM 10. OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

J. Steven Horn, our Chief Compliance Officer, is also the Chief Compliance Officer of PetroCap, LLC and Falcon E&P Opportunities GP, LLC.

Mr. Honis currently serves on the Board of Trustees for each of Highland's affiliated registered investment companies and on the Board of Directors for American HomePatient, Inc. and Turtle Bay Resort, LLC, which are portfolio companies of investment funds operated by Highland.

Additional information regarding potential conflicts of interest is provided in Item 11 Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading and the Conflicts of Interest description in the PPM or offering documents for each of the Funds.

## **ITEM 11. CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING**

We maintain a policy of strict compliance with the highest standards of ethical business conduct and the provisions of applicable federal securities laws, including rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, and have adopted policies and procedures described in our Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics applies to each of our “access persons” as defined in the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940. It is designed to ensure compliance with legal requirements of our standard of business conduct.

A complete copy of our Code of Ethics is available to any client or prospective client upon request.

### **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

We and our access persons are expected to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Access persons are expected to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and maintain confidentiality of all information obtained with respect to client matters and bring any risk issues, violations, or potential violations to the attention of our Chief Compliance Officer. Access persons are expected to deal with clients fairly and disclose any activity that may create an actual or potential conflict of interest between them and us or any client.

### **ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Falsification or alteration of records or reports, also known as a prohibited financial practice, or knowingly approving such conduct is prohibited. Payments to government officials or employees are prohibited except for political contributions approved by our Chief Compliance Officer. We seek to outperform our competition fairly and honestly and seek competitive advantages through superior performance not illegal or unethical dealings. Access persons are strictly prohibited from (i) participating in online blogging and communication with the media, and (ii) spreading of false rumors pertaining to any publicly traded company.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Access persons must maintain the confidentiality of our proprietary and confidential information and that of our clients, and must not disclose that information unless the necessary approval is obtained. We have a particular duty and responsibility, as investment adviser, to safeguard client information. Information concerning the identity and transactions of investors is confidential, and such information will only be disclosed to those access persons and outside parties who need to know it in order to fulfill their responsibilities.

## GIFT AND ENTERTAINMENT POLICY

Access persons are permitted, on occasion, to accept gifts and invitations to attend entertainment events. When doing so, however, employees should always act in our best interests and that of our clients and should avoid any activity that might create an actual or perceived conflict of interest or impropriety in the course of our business relationships. Under no circumstances may (i) gifts of cash or cash equivalents be accepted or (ii) any gifts be received in consideration or recognition of any services provided to, or transactions entered into by, Client Accounts.

## PERSONAL TRADING

### *Personal Trading Policy*

Access persons are allowed to trade reportable securities. Access persons are not permitted to trade any security of which we or a Client own any portion of the capital structure or that is on our restricted list without permission. Access persons who violate the personal trading policy are reprimanded in accordance with the sanctions provisions outlined in the Code of Ethics. Personal securities transactions are reviewed by the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee for compliance with the personal trading policy and applicable SEC rules and regulations.

### *Prohibition against Insider Trading*

We forbid any access person from trading, either personally or on behalf of others, including the Funds, on material non-public information or communicating material non-public information to others in violation of the law or duty owed to another party. This conduct is frequently referred to as “insider trading”. The concepts of material non-public information, penalties for insider trading, and processes for identifying insider trading are addressed in detail in the Compliance Manual and Code of Ethics.

### *Reporting Requirements*

In compliance with SEC rules, access persons are required to disclose all of their reportable securities holdings within 10 days of becoming an access person, within 10 days of opening a new account, and annually thereafter. Additionally, at the end of each month after quarter-end, all access persons must report all transactions in reportable securities over which the access person had any direct or indirect beneficial ownership. Access persons are also required annually to affirm all reportable transactions from the prior year.

## POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Rand and its affiliates may engage in a broad range of activities, including activities for their own account and for the accounts of the Clients. This section describes various potential conflicts that may arise in respect of its business, as well as how Rand addresses such conflicts of interest. The discussion below does not describe all conflicts that may arise.

Any of the potential conflicts of interest will be discussed and resolved on a case by case basis. Rand's determination as to which factors are relevant, and the resolution of such conflicts, will be made using Rand's best judgment, but in its sole discretion. In resolving conflicts, Rand will take into consideration the interests of the relevant clients, the circumstances giving rise to the conflict and applicable laws.

Certain procedures for resolving specific conflicts of interest are set forth below. The following list is not all inclusive and for a complete description of the conflicts of interest for a particular Fund, please read the applicable PPM or offering documents.

### *Allocation of Investment Opportunities*

Rand may act as investment adviser to clients that have similar investment objectives and pursue similar strategies. Certain investments identified by Rand may be appropriate for multiple clients. Investment decisions for such clients are made by Rand in its best judgment, but in its discretion, taking into account such factors as Rand believes relevant. Such factors may include investment objectives, regulatory restrictions, current holdings, availability of cash for investment, the size of investments generally, and limitations and restrictions on a Client's Account that are imposed by such client.

### *Conflicts Related to Investment Activities*

Rand has an incentive to allocate assets into vehicles that produce the greatest fees for Rand. Each of these situations give rise to a potential conflict of interest in the allocation of investment opportunities. As previously described, Rand has adopted trade allocation policies and procedures that seek to ensure fair and equitable access to investment opportunities for all accounts.

### *Trade Aggregation*

In some circumstances, Rand may seek to buy or sell the same securities contemporaneously for multiple client accounts. Rand may, in appropriate circumstances aggregate securities trades for a client with similar trades for other clients, but is not required to do so. In particular, Rand may determine not to aggregate transactions that relate to portfolio management decisions that are made independently for different accounts or if Rand and/or its affiliates determine that aggregation is not practicable, not required or inconsistent with client direction.



### *Errors*

Rand's responsibility for its trade errors is set forth in the governing documents for the relevant Fund. No soft-dollars may be used to satisfy any trade errors. In addition, Rand may not use the securities in one client's account to settle the trade error in another client's account.

### *Conflicts Related to Valuation*

Rand may have a role in determining asset values with respect to client accounts and may be required to price an asset when a market price is unavailable or unreliable. This may give rise to a conflict of interest because Rand may be paid an asset-based fee on certain client accounts. In order to mitigate these conflicts, Rand and its affiliates determine asset values in accordance with valuation procedures, which generally are set forth in Rand's Compliance Manual.

### *Other Potential Conflicts*

Rand or its affiliates may invest (or recommend that one of the Funds invest) in securities issued by one of the Funds and may hedge derivative positions by buying or selling securities issued by one of the Funds. A potential conflict may arise in such circumstances because Rand may be incentivized to favor one Fund that issues securities over the Fund on whose behalf Rand is making the investment. In addition to the Funds, some of Rand's service providers are issuers of securities. Rand may determine that it is in the best interests of one of the Funds to purchase securities issued by one of these entities. Rand has adopted policies and procedures designed to address conflicts of interest arising from the foregoing activities. Furthermore, it is Rand's general policy not to take into account the fact that an issuer is a client, service provider or vendor when making investment decisions.

Certain qualified employees and affiliates may invest in the Funds either through general partner entities or as limited partners, shareholders or otherwise. Rand generally reduces or waives all or a portion of the management fee related to the investments by such persons.

### *Conflicts Related to Information Possessed by or Provided by Rand*

Certain persons within Rand or its affiliates may receive or create information (e.g., proprietary technical models) that is not generally available to the public. Rand has no obligation to provide such information to any of the Funds or effect transactions for any of the Funds on the basis of such information and in many cases Rand or its affiliates will be prohibited from trading for the Funds based on the information. Similarly, one Fund may have access to information regarding Rand's transactions or views that is not available to one of the other Funds, and may act on that information through accounts managed by persons other than Rand or its affiliates. Such

transactions may negatively impact other clients (*e.g.*, through market movements or decreasing availability or liquidity of securities).

## ITEM 12. BROKERAGE PRACTICES

### BROKER-DEALER SELECTION

Rand has an obligation to obtain “best execution” for Client transactions considering the execution price and overall commission costs paid and certain other factors. Our trading desk route orders to various broker-dealers for execution at their discretion. Where possible, we deal directly with the dealers who make a market in the securities involved, except in those circumstances where it believes better prices and execution are available elsewhere.

Factors involved in selecting brokerage firms include such factors as:

#### *Broker Specific*

- ❖ Size of broker
- ❖ Reputation
- ❖ Quality of service
- ❖ Experience
- ❖ Financial stability and creditworthiness
- ❖ Financial statements
- ❖ Regulatory filings
- ❖ Standing in financial community
- ❖ Ability to handle block trades
- ❖ Acceptable record of delivery and payment on past transactions
- ❖ Quality of research and investment information provided

#### *Transaction Specific*

- ❖ Best available execution
- ❖ Market knowledge regarding specific industries and securities
- ❖ Access to sources of supply or markets
- ❖ Nature of the market for the security

### THE APPROVAL PROCESS

Rand’s trading desk is only allowed to trade with approved broker-dealers.

If a Fund Account is under the custody of one brokerage firm and another brokerage firm is a selling group member for an underwriting syndicate, such a Client Account may not be able to participate in the purchase of securities in the underwriting because the custodial

brokerage firm was not a selling group member. In addition, to the extent that a Client directs brokerage trades to be placed with a particular broker, the allocation of securities transactions may be impacted.

#### DIRECTED BROKERAGE

Due to the nature of the Adviser's business, Rand does not currently allow directed brokerage.

#### TRADE AGGREGATION

Rand does not have any separately managed accounts. Please see Item 11 Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions, and Personal Trading and the PPM and offering documents for each Fund for additional information regarding Rand's trade aggregation procedures.

## **ITEM 13. REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

We provide reporting as agreed with each of our Clients. Please refer to the PPM or offering documents for each Fund for a description of the reporting practices for each Fund.

## **ITEM 14. CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION**

Rand may pay compensation to a third-party/broker-dealer who refer prospective investors to us. Prior to paying such referral fees, we will verify that the third party is appropriately registered to receive such compensation. Please refer to the PPM or offering documents for each of the Funds for information regarding client referrals.

## **ITEM 15. CUSTODY**

Because the Adviser is under common control with the general partner of the Atlas Fund and the Rand PE Fund, we may be deemed to have custody of those Funds' assets. Assets for which we have custody are held only at qualified custodians and in accordance with applicable regulations. These regulations require us to maintain Fund assets with a qualified custodian in a separate account for each Fund under each Fund's name. The Funds' securities and other assets are held in the custody of US Bank.

## ITEM 16. INVESTMENT DISCRETION

We intend to manage the Funds on a discretionary basis. For a description of limitations imposed on our discretionary authority to manage securities, please see Item 4 Advisory Business and the PPM or offering documents for each Fund.

All investors of the Funds must complete the subscription documentation we required in order to accept an investment, which may include a joinder to the applicable governing documents of the vehicle. This documentation includes an authorization granting us investment discretion for the Funds.



## ITEM 17. VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

### SECURITIES HELD IN CLIENT ACCOUNTS

Rand's proxy voting policy ensures proxies are voted on behalf of each Fund Account's securities and in the best economic interests of such Fund Account, without regard to the interests of Rand or any other Fund under Rand's management. Rand evaluates the subject matter of each proxy and votes on behalf of the Fund Account in accordance to the guidelines set forth in our proxy voting policy.

If Rand determines that there is a potential material conflict of interest in voting a proxy, it will contact its Compliance Department prior to the voting deadline. Rand also may determine not to vote proxies with respect to securities of any issuer if it determines it would be in its Client's overall best interests not to vote.

### OBTAINING A COPY OF THE POLICY

Clients and prospective clients can obtain a copy of the proxy voting policy or information on how we voted proxies by contacting our Chief Compliance Officer at [compliance@randadvisors.com](mailto:compliance@randadvisors.com).

## ITEM 18. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We are required to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that would impair our ability to meet any contractual and fiduciary commitments to you, our client. We have not been the subject of any bankruptcy proceedings.

In no event shall we charge advisory fees that are both in excess of twelve hundred dollars and more than six months in advance of advisory services rendered.