

# PORTFOLIO ADVISORS, INC.

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## Brochure

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Portfolio Advisors, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 559-432-8400. 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 Portfolio Advisors, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

References herein to Portfolio Advisors, Inc. as a "registered investment adviser" or any reference to being "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## **Item 2           Material Changes**

There have been no material changes to Portfolio Advisors, Inc.'s Brochure since its last annual amendment filing on February 27, 2017. Although not material, this Brochure has been amended at Item 4 to disclose Portfolio Advisors, Inc.'s status as a fiduciary in certain instances under the Department of Labor's Fiduciary Rule.

**ANY QUESTIONS: Portfolio Advisors' Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that an existing or prospective client may have regarding this Brochure.**

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#### **Item 4            Advisory Business**

- A. Portfolio Advisors, Inc., (the “Registrant”) was originally formed as a general partnership in 1990; and became a registered Investment Adviser Firm on November 30, 1990. On December 17, 2007, Registrant became a corporation formed in the State of California. The Registrant is principally owned by Michael J. Leffler, CFP, Tina Mistry, CFP, and Kenneth Hatfield. Mr. Leffler is the Registrant’s Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Compliance Officer. Mrs. Mistry is the Registrant’s Chief Operating Officer and Mr. Hatfield is the firm’s Director of Client Relations.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, high net worth individuals, and pension and profit sharing plans) investment advisory services and, to the extent specifically requested by the client, financial planning and consulting services.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management.

Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the extent specifically requested by the client, financial planning and consulting services. In the event that the client requires extraordinary planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of the Registrant), the Registrant may determine to charge for such additional services, the dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written notice to the client.

#### **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES**

To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant may also provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis.

Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are required to enter into a *Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services. If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. Please Note: If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. Please Also Note: It remains the client’s responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant’s previous recommendations and/or services.

## PENSION CONSULTING SERVICES

The Registrant also provides non-discretionary pension consulting services, pursuant to which it assists sponsors of self-directed retirement plans with the selection and/or monitoring of investment alternatives (generally open-end mutual funds) from which plan participants shall choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. In addition, to the extent requested by the plan sponsor, the Registrant may also provide participant education designed to assist participants in identifying the appropriate investment strategy for their retirement plan accounts. The terms and conditions of the engagement shall generally be set forth in a *Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement* between the Registrant and the plan sponsor.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Limitations of Financial Planning and Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.** To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may provide financial planning and related consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. The Registrant does not serve as a law firm, accounting firm, or insurance agency, and no portion of Registrant's services should be construed as legal, accounting, or insurance implementation services. Accordingly, Registrant does not prepare estate planning documents, tax returns or sell insurance products. To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.). Clients are reminded that they are under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation made by Registrant or its representatives. **Please Note:** If the client engages any unaffiliated recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

**Non-Discretionary Service Limitations.** Clients that determine to engage Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event that Registrant would like to make a transaction for a client's account (including in the event of an individual holding or general market correction), and the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect the account transaction(s) (as it would for its discretionary clients) **without first obtaining the client's consent.**

**Retirement Rollovers-Potential for Conflict of Interest:** A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If the Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by the Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Registrant will earn an advisory fee on the rolled over assets. **No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant. The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client**

**or prospective client may have regarding the potential for conflict of interest presented by such rollover recommendation.**

**ERISA / IRC Fiduciary Acknowledgment.** If the client is: (i) a retirement plan (“Plan”) organized under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”); (ii) a participant or beneficiary of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or described in section 4975(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, with authority to direct the investment of assets in his or her Plan account or to take a distribution; (iii) the beneficial owner of an IRA acting on behalf of the IRA; or (iv) a Retail Fiduciary with respect to a plan subject to Title I of ERISA or described in section 4975(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code: then Registrant represents that it and its representatives are fiduciaries under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code, or both, with respect to any investment advice provided by Registrant or its representatives or with respect to any investment recommendations regarding an ERISA Plan or participant or beneficiary account.

**Independent Managers.** Registrant may allocate a portion of a client’s investment assets among unaffiliated independent investment managers (“Independent Manager(s)”) in accordance with the client’s designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the Independent Manager(s) will have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. Registrant will continue to render investment supervisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. The factors Registrant considers in recommending Independent Manager(s) include the client’s designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research. **The investment management fee charged by the Independent Manager(s) is separate form, and in addition to, Registrant’s advisory fee as set forth in Item 5.**

**Use of Mutual Funds:** While the Registrant may recommend allocating investment assets to mutual funds that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also recommend that clients allocate investment assets to publicly-available mutual funds that the client could obtain without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to allocate investment assets to publicly-available mutual funds without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser, the client or prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant’s initial and ongoing investment advisory services. Other mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors (“DFA”), are generally only available through registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant’s services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability and/or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply. **Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above.**

**Client Obligations.** In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client’s other designated professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant’s previous recommendations and/or services.

**Disclosure Statement.** A copy of Registrant's written disclosure statement as set forth on Part 2 of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at anytime, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2016, the Registrant had \$143,061,000 in assets under management on a non discretionary basis.

## **Item 5            Fees and Compensation**

A.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can engage the Registrant on a negotiable *fee-only* basis to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services and, to the extent specifically requested by the client, financial planning and consulting services. In general, Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management between 0.25% and 1% as follows:

Assets Under Management	Annual Fee %
First \$1,000,000	1.00%
Next \$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999	0.50%
Above \$3,000,000	0.25%

Before engaging the Registrant to provide investment advisory services, clients are required to enter into a Non Discretionary *Investment Advisory Agreement*, setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), which describes the fees and services to be provided.

The Registrant's annual investment advisory fee is dependent on various objective and subjective factors, including the scope and complexity of the service being offered, the amount of assets under management, anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with the client and the qualifications of the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual investment advisory fee of \$1,000. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)**

To the extent specifically requested by a client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but are generally based upon an hourly rate of \$200, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

## **PENSION CONSULTING**

Registrant's pension consulting fee is negotiable, but does not exceed 1.00% per year and is based upon certain criteria including but not limited to: anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, scope of the service(s) required, and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in arrears, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.
- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("*Schwab*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and fixed income securities transactions). In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).

**Asset-Based Fees versus Transaction-Based Fees:** Custodians such as *Schwab* are compensated for their services which include, but are not limited to execution, custody and reporting. *Schwab* can charge a fixed percentage fee for their services based upon the dollar amount of the assets placed in their custody and/or on their platform (for example: if *Schwab* was to charge an annual 0.10% of the market value of the client assets in its custody, the fee would include the execution of all account transactions). This is referred to as an "Asset-Based Fee." In the alternative, rather than a fixed percentage fee based upon the market value of the assets in its custody, *Schwab* could charge a separate fee for the execution of each transaction. This is referred to as a "Transaction-Based Fee." Under a Transaction Based fee, the amount of total fees charged to the client account for trade execution will vary depending upon the number of transactions that are placed for the account. Because Registrant cannot predict the markets and the amount of trading that will occur in a client account, Registrant may recommend that a client engage a custodian on an Asset-Based pricing basis. However, Registrant, on an annual basis, will conduct a

sampling to confirm its belief (given the inability to predict the markets and the corresponding amount of trading that will occur) that Asset-Based pricing continues to be beneficial for its clients. Prior to engaging *Schwab* regardless of pricing (Asset-Based versus Transaction-Based), the client will be required to execute a separate agreement with *Schwab* agreeing to such pricing/fees. The fees charged by *Schwab* are separate and in addition to the advisory fee payable by the client to Registrant. **Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding Asset-Based versus Transaction- Based pricing.**

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in arrears, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual investment advisory fee of \$1,000 but may, in its sole discretion, charge a lesser minimum fee based upon certain criteria including but not limited to: anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc. The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant will debit the account for the pro-rated portion of the unpaid advanced advisory fee based upon the number of days that services were provided during the billing quarter.
- E. Neither the Registrant nor any of its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

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

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

## **Item 7            Types of Clients**

The Registrant's clients generally include: individuals, high net worth individuals, and pension and profit sharing plans. The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual investment advisory fee of \$1,000. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.). **Please Note:** Similar advisory services may be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees. **ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client may have regarding its advisory fee schedule.**

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

- A. Registrant's Methods of Securities Analysis: Registrant analyzes historical asset class performance and applies modern portfolio asset allocation techniques to customized



client portfolios. Its security analysis is based upon a number of factors including those derived from commercially available software technology, securities rating services, general economic and market and financial information, due diligence reviews, and specific investment analyses that clients may request. Registrant also draws upon investment information, certain proprietary analyses and expansive academic research to provide innovative investment advisory services. Registrant's selection of asset classes is driven by research into global asset classes by such academics as Professor Eugene Fama, Sr. of the University of Chicago Booth Graduate School of Business and the Center for Research in Security Prices, Professor Kenneth French of Dartmouth College, and many other academics and researchers.

**Registrant's Investment Strategies:** Registrant's investment approach is based on the belief that markets are "efficient," meaning, that the market of buyers and sellers tends to price an asset quickly and fairly, based on the currently "known" information. Investor portfolios should be determined principally by asset allocation decisions and not by market timing or stock picking. Registrant does not forecast business cycles or interest rates. There are no strategies for automatically shifting allocations among stocks, bonds, and cash. Registrant's strategy for each position is designed to capture the return behavior of an entire asset class. Generally, Registrant's investment selections involve non-actively managed, asset class mutual funds. Registrant believes that these funds are most likely to deliver asset class returns and have the added benefit of low internal costs. Occasionally, Registrant will include mutual funds managed on a non-passive basis.

Registrant primarily allocates from asset classes such as Large U.S. Stocks, Small U.S. Value Stocks, Short-Term Bonds, and International Stocks. Each asset class has its own risk and return characteristics. By allocating investments among the several asset classes, Registrant seeks to reduce the overall volatility of a portfolio and enhance returns. The asset classes selected and the percentage weighting given each class profoundly affect the overall volatility and expected return of a portfolio. Registrant seeks to determine efficient weightings for each client's portfolio in order to maximize the probability of achieving the client's long-term objectives while minimizing short-term risk.

**Please Note: Investment Risk.** Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s). Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

- B. The Registrant's method of analysis and investment strategies are fundamental, and generally do not present any significant or unusual risks. However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop

but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various individual equity (stocks), debt (bonds), alternative investments and fixed income securities, mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) on a discretionary and/or non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client’s designated investment objective(s).

Registrant may also invest in commodities index, passive mutual funds and real estate investment trusts (“REITs”) in accordance with the client’s designated investment objective(s). Please Note: REITs generally involve various risk factors, including, but not limited to, potential for complete loss of principal, liquidity constraints and lack of transparency, a complete discussion of which is set forth in each trust’s offering documents, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration.

## **Item 9           Disciplinary Information**

The Registrant has not been the subject of a disciplinary action.

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

- A. Neither Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. Registrant has no other relationship or arrangement with a related person that is material to its advisory business.
- D. Registrant does not recommend or select other investment advisors for its clients for which it receives a fee.

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

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant’s overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant’s Representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. Practices such as “scalping” (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, “front-running” (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant’s clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant’s “Access Persons.” The Registrant’s securities transaction policy requires that Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Furthermore, Access Persons must provide the Chief Compliance Officer with a quarterly transaction report, detail all trades in the Access Person’s account during the previous quarter; and on an annual basis, each Access Persons must provide the Chief Compliance Officer with a written report of the Access Person’s current securities holdings. However, at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant’s Access Persons.

## **Item 12            Brokerage Practices**

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at *Schwab*. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client’s assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending *Schwab* (or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients) include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial

strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of broker-dealer services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may receive from *Schwab* (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, mutual fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be 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 Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

As indicated above, certain of the support services and/or products that *may* be received may assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest such arrangement may create.**

Additional Benefits

Registrant has received from Dimensional Fund Advisors, an unaffiliated SEC registered investment adviser (“DFA”), certain additional economic benefits (“Additional Benefits”) that may or may not be offered to the Registrant again in the future. Specifically, the Additional Benefits include partial payment for certain marketing events. Over the past two years, DFA has made two, one-off, payments to third party vendors for marketing related expenses. These payments were between \$1,000 and \$2,500. Each payment is non-recurring and individually negotiated. The Registrant has no expectation that these Additional Benefits will be offered again; however, the Registrant reserves the right to negotiate for these Additional Benefits in the future. DFA provides the Additional Benefits to Registrant in its sole discretion and at its own expense, and neither the Registrant nor its clients pay any fees to DFA for the Additional Benefits. Registrant and DFA have not entered into any written agreement to govern the Additional Benefits.

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to “batch” the client’s transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

**Please Note:** In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client’s accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. **Please Also Note:** Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

**The Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or “bunch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

### Item 13      Review of Accounts

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principal. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant *may* conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

### Item 14      Client Referrals and Other Compensation

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant may receive an indirect economic benefit from *Schwab*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Schwab*.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest any such arrangement may create.**

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of the Registrant directly or indirectly compensates any person for client referrals.

### Item 15      Custody

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

**Please Note:** To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by

the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian. **Please Also Note:** The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

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

The Registrant does not provide investment supervisory, investment management, investment reporting or investment implementation services.

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

Unless the client directs otherwise in writing, the Registrant is responsible for voting client proxies (However, the client shall maintain exclusive responsibility for all legal proceedings or other type events pertaining to the account assets, including, but not limited to, class action lawsuits.). The Registrant shall vote proxies in accordance with its Proxy Voting Policy, a copy of which is available upon request. The Registrant shall monitor corporate actions of individual issuers and investment companies consistent with the Registrant's fiduciary duty to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients. Although the factors which Registrant will consider when determining how it will vote differ on a case by case basis, they may, but are not limited to, include a review of recommendations from issuer management, shareholder proposals, cost effects of such proposals, effect on employees and executive and director compensation. With respect to individual issuers, the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including corporate governance, adoption or amendments to compensation plans (including stock options), and matters involving social issues and corporate responsibility. With respect to investment companies (e.g., mutual funds), the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including the approval of advisory contracts, distribution plans, and mergers. The Registrant shall maintain records pertaining to proxy voting as required pursuant to Rule 204-2 (c)(2) under the Advisers Act. Copies of Rules 206(4)-6 and 204-2(c)(2) are available upon written request. In addition, information pertaining to how the Registrant voted on any specific proxy issue is also available upon written request. Requests should be made by contacting the Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler.

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

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

**ANY QUESTIONS: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michael J. Leffler, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.**