



**Part 2A of Form ADV: *Firm Brochure***

**Equistar Wealth Management LLC**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Equistar Wealth Management LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 512-250-2277 or [jenny@eswealth.com](mailto:jenny@eswealth.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.

Registration with the SEC or with any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Equistar Wealth Management LLC also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 148445.

## **Item 2    Material Changes**

This Firm Brochure, dated 02/08/2016, provides you with a summary of Equistar Wealth Management LLC's advisory services and fees, professionals, certain business practices and policies, as well as actual or potential conflicts of interest, among other things. This Item is used to provide our clients with a summary of new and/or updated information; we will inform of the revision(s) based on the nature of the information as follows.

1. Annual Update: We are required to update certain information at least annually, within 90 days of our firm's fiscal year end 2014 of December 31st. We will provide you with either a summary of the revised information with an offer to deliver the full revised Brochure within 120 days of our FYE or we will provide you with our revised Brochure that will include a summary of those changes in this Item.
2. Material Changes: Should a material change in our operations occur, depending on its nature we will promptly communicate this change to clients (and it will be summarized in this Item). "Material changes" requiring prompt notification will include changes of ownership or control; location; disciplinary proceedings; significant changes to our advisory services or advisory affiliates – any information that is critical to a client's full understanding of who we are, how to find us, and how we do business.

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## **Item 4    Advisory Business**

Equistar Wealth Management LLC is a SEC-registered investment adviser with its principal place of business located in Texas. Equistar Wealth Management LLC began conducting business in 2008.

Listed below are the firm's principal shareholders (i.e., those individuals and/or entities controlling 25% or more of this company).

- Jenny Gipson Fleming, Managing Partner
- Sara Leigh Seely, Partner

Equistar Wealth Management LLC offers the following advisory services to our clients:

### **INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Our firm provides continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Variable life insurance
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities

- Options contracts on securities
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

## **SELECTION AND MONITORING OF THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS**

We also offer advisory management services to our clients through our Selection and Monitoring of Third-Party Money Managers programs (hereinafter, "Programs").

Our firm provides the client with an asset allocation strategy developed through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on the client's particular circumstances are established. This asset allocation strategy is drafted into the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement ("PIPS").

Based on the client's individual circumstances and needs (as exhibited in the client's PIPS) we will then perform management searches of various unaffiliated registered investment advisers to identify which registered investment adviser's portfolio management style is appropriate for that client. Factors considered in making this determination include account size, risk tolerance, the opinion of each client and the investment philosophy of the selected registered investment adviser. Clients should refer to the selected registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of the services offered. We are available to meet with clients on a regular basis, or as determined by the client, to review the account.

We monitor the performance of the selected registered investment adviser(s). If we determine that a particular selected registered investment adviser(s) is not providing sufficient management services to the client, or is not managing the client's portfolio in a manner consistent with the client's PIPS, we may suggest that the client contract with a different registered investment adviser and/or program sponsor. Under this scenario, our firm assists the client in selecting a new registered investment adviser and/or program. However, any move to a new registered investment adviser and/or program is solely at the discretion of the client.

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Equistar Wealth Management provides financial planning services. Financial planning is a comprehensive evaluation of a client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values and withdrawal plans. Through the financial planning process, all questions, information and analysis are considered as they impact and are impacted by the entire financial and life situation of the client. Clients purchasing this service receive a written report which provides the client with a detailed financial plan designed to assist the client achieve his or her financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan can address any or all of the following areas:

- **PERSONAL:** We review family records, budgeting, personal liability, estate information and financial goals.
- **TAX & CASH FLOW:** We analyze the client's income tax and spending and planning for past, current and future years; then illustrate the impact of various investments on the client's current income tax and future tax liability.
- **INVESTMENTS:** We analyze investment alternatives and their effect on the client's portfolio.
- **INSURANCE:** We review existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home and automobile.
- **RETIREMENT:** We analyze current strategies and investment plans to help the client achieve his or her retirement goals.
- **DEATH & DISABILITY:** We review the client's cash needs at death, income needs of surviving dependents, estate planning and disability income.
- **ESTATE:** We assist the client in assessing and developing long-term strategies, including as appropriate, living trusts, wills, review estate tax, powers of attorney, asset protection plans, nursing homes, Medicaid and elder law.

We gather required information through in-depth personal interviews. Information gathered includes the client's current financial status, tax status, future goals, returns objectives and attitudes towards risk. We carefully review documents supplied by the client, including a questionnaire completed by the client, and prepare a written report. Should the client choose to implement the recommendations contained in the plan, we suggest the client work closely with his/her attorney, accountant, insurance agent, and/or stockbroker. Implementation of financial plan recommendations is entirely at the client's discretion.

We also provide general non-securities advice on topics that may include tax and budgetary planning, estate planning and business planning.

Typically the financial plan is presented to the client within six months of the contract date, provided that all information needed to prepare the financial plan has been promptly provided.

Financial Planning recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company. All recommendations are of a generic nature.

### **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of 12/31/2016, we were actively managing \$107,415,641 of client's assets on a discretionary basis..

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

## **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES FEES**

Our annual fees for Advisory Services are based upon a percentage of assets under management.

The annualized fee for Advisory Services are charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

First \$1,000,000	1.00%
Next \$2,000,000	0.80%
Next \$2,000,000	0.60%
Next \$5,000,000	0.35%
Over \$10,000,000	0.25%

A minimum of \$1,000,000 of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Equistar Wealth Management LLC may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

Clients with Asset Management Agreements dated before January 1, 2015 will remain on their current agreement until they are changed to the current fee schedule by written agreement. Although Equistar Wealth Management LLC has established the aforementioned fee schedule, we retain the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs are considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client, assets to be placed under management, anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style, account composition, reports, among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule is identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

We may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size requirements and determining the annualized fee.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of our firm.

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING FEES**

Equistar Wealth Management LLC's Financial Planning fee is determined based on the nature of the services being provided and the complexity of each client's circumstances. All fees are agreed upon prior to entering into a contract with any client.

Our Financial Planning fees are calculated and charged on a fixed fee basis, typically \$5,000 and may be higher based on the complexity of the financial circumstances.

We may request a retainer upon completion of our initial fact-finding session with the client; however, advance payment will never exceed \$1200 for work that will not be completed within six months. The balance is due upon completion of the plan.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

***Termination of the Advisory Relationship:*** A client agreement may be terminated at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt written notice and Equistar shall be entitled to its asset management fee through the effective date of termination. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded to the client on a prorated basis

***Mutual Fund Fees:*** All fees paid to Equistar Wealth Management LLC for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds and/or ETFs to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. If the fund also imposes sales charges, a client may pay an initial or deferred sales charge. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

***Wrap Fee Programs and Separately Managed Account Fees:*** Clients participating in separately managed account programs may be charged various program fees in addition to the advisory fee charged by our firm. Such fees may include the investment advisory fees of the independent advisers, which may be charged as part of a wrap fee arrangement. In a wrap fee arrangement, clients pay a single fee for advisory, brokerage and custodial services. Client's portfolio transactions may be executed without commission charge in a wrap fee arrangement. In evaluating such an arrangement, the client should also consider that, depending upon the level of the wrap fee charged by the broker-dealer, the amount of portfolio activity in the client's account, and other factors, the wrap fee may or may not exceed the aggregate cost of such services if they were to be provided separately. We will review with clients any separate program fees that may be charged to clients.

***Additional Fees and Expenses:*** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

***Grandfathering of Minimum Account Requirements:*** Pre-existing advisory clients are subject to Equistar Wealth Management LLC's minimum account requirements and advisory fees in effect at the time the client entered into the advisory relationship. Therefore, our firm's minimum account requirements will differ among clients.

***ERISA Accounts:*** Equistar Wealth Management LLC is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory



clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act ("ERISA"), and regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), respectively. . As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation. To avoid engaging in prohibited transactions, Equistar Wealth Management LLC may only charge fees for investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons do not receive any commissions or 12b-1 fees, or conversely, investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons receive commissions or 12b-1 fees, however, only when such fees are used to offset Equistar Wealth Management LLC's advisory fees.

***Advisory Fees in General:*** Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

***Limited Prepayment of Fees:*** Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 more than six months in advance of services rendered.

***Direct Deduction of Fees:*** Investment management fees are typically deducted from clients' accounts at the Custodian or occasionally billed directly to clients as fees are incurred. Clients may select either method. We bill for wealth management fees quarterly in advance and receive written authority from the Client to directly deduct the fees from the account held with the custodian. As part of the billing process, the custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis. The custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all the transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

In addition to the periodic statements that clients receive directly from their custodians, we also send account statements directly to our clients on a quarterly basis. We urge our clients to carefully compare the information provided on these statements to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

Our firm does not have actual or constructive custody of client accounts.

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

Equistar Wealth Management LLC does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7    Types of Clients**

Equistar Wealth Management LLC provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)
- High net worth individuals

- Charitable organizations
- Pension and profit sharing plans (other than plan participants)
- Corporations or other businesses not listed above

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain initial minimum account requirements, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

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

### METHODS OF ANALYSIS

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

**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.

**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.

**Technical Analysis.** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement.

Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Cyclical Analysis.** In this type of technical analysis, we measure the movements of a particular stock against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.

**Quantitative Analysis.** We use mathematical models in an attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a company's quantifiable data, such as the value of a share price or earnings per share, and predict changes to that data.

A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis.** We subjectively evaluate non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management, labor relations, and strength of research and development factors not readily subject to measurement, and predict changes to share price based on that data.

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 the following strategy(ies) in managing client accounts, provided that such strategy(ies) are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

**Long-term purchases.** We purchase securities with the idea of holding them in the client's account for a year or longer. Typically we employ this strategy when we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class. A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantage 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.

**Short-term purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we 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.

A short-term purchase strategy poses risks should the anticipated price swing not materialize; we are then left with the option of having a long-term investment in a security that was designed to be a short-term purchase, or potentially taking a loss.

In addition, this strategy involves more frequent trading than does a longer-term strategy, and will result in increased brokerage and other transaction-related costs, as well as less favorable tax treatment of short-term capital gains.

**Trading.** We purchase securities with the idea of selling them very quickly (typically within 30 days or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of our predictions of brief price swings.

**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:

- 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.

- 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 speculate on the possibility of a sharp price swing. We will also 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.

***Risk of Loss.*** Securities investments are not guaranteed and you may lose money on your investments. We ask that you work with us to help us understand your tolerance for risk.

## **Item 9    Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

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

Our firm and our related persons are not engaged in other financial industry activities and have no other industry affiliations.

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

Our firm has adopted a Code of Ethics which sets forth high ethical standards of business conduct that we require of our employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

Equistar Wealth Management LLC and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

Our Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by the firm's access persons. Among other things, our Code of Ethics also requires the prior approval of any acquisition of securities in a limited offering (e.g., private placement) or an initial public offering. Our code also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

Equistar Wealth Management LLC's Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, all employees are reminded that such information may not be used in a personal or professional capacity.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [jenny@eswealth.com](mailto:jenny@eswealth.com), or by calling us at 512-250-2277.

Equistar Wealth Management LLC and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in principal transactions.

Equistar Wealth Management LLC and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in agency cross transactions.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of our employees will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts.

Our firm and/or individuals associated with our firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) may have an interest or position in a certain security(ies) which may also be recommended to a client.

It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing such employee(s) from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

Equistar Wealth Management LLC requires that clients provide us with written authority to determine the broker-dealer to use and the commission costs that will be charged to our clients for these transactions.

These clients must include any limitations on this discretionary authority in this written authority statement. Clients may change/amend these limitations as required. Such amendments must be provided to us in writing.

As a matter of policy and practice, Equistar Wealth Management LLC does not generally block client trades and, therefore, we implement client transactions separately for each

account. Consequently, certain client trades may be executed before others, at a different price and/or commission rate. Additionally, our clients may not receive volume discounts available to advisers who block client trades

Equistar Wealth Management LLC may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with the Schwab Institutional division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, to maintain custody of clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. Although we recommend that clients establish accounts at Schwab, it is the client's decision to custody assets with Schwab. Equistar Wealth Management LLC is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab.

Schwab provides Equistar Wealth Management LLC with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services generally are available to independent investment advisers on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the adviser's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Schwab Institutional. These services are not contingent upon our firm committing to Schwab any specific amount of business (assets in custody or trading commissions). Schwab's brokerage services include the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For our client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions and other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Schwab Institutional also makes available to our firm other products and services that benefit Equistar Wealth Management LLC but may not directly benefit our clients' accounts. Many of these products and services may be used to service all or some substantial number of our client accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab.

Schwab's products and services that assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts include software and other technology that

- i. provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements);
- ii. facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- iii. provide research, pricing and other market data;
- iv. facilitate payment of our fees from clients' accounts; and
- v. assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Schwab Institutional also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services may include:

- i. compliance, legal and business consulting;

- ii. publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- iii. access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay third-party vendors for the types of services rendered to Equistar Wealth Management LLC. Schwab Institutional may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to our firm. Schwab Institutional may also provide other benefits such as educational events or occasional business entertainment of our personnel. In evaluating whether to recommend or require that clients custody their assets at Schwab, we may take into account the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and other arrangements as part of the total mix of factors we consider and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Schwab, which may create a potential conflict of interest.

## **Item 13    Review of Accounts**

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** The performance of the registered investment adviser(s) selected to manage client portfolios as well as individual securities within client accounts are continually monitored. Accounts are formerly reviewed at least quarterly. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Jenny Fleming, Partner or Sara Seely, Partner

**REPORTS:** In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide quarterly reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings.

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** While reviews may occur at different stages depending on the nature and terms of the specific engagement, typically no formal reviews will be conducted for Financial Planning clients unless otherwise contracted for.

**REPORTS:** Financial Planning clients will receive a completed financial plan. Additional reports will not typically be provided unless otherwise contracted for.

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

It is Equistar Wealth Management LLC's policy not to engage solicitors or to pay related or non-related persons for referring potential clients to our firm.



It is Equistar Wealth Management LLC's policy not to accept or allow our related persons to accept any form of compensation, including cash, sales awards or other prizes, from a non-client in conjunction with the advisory services we provide to our clients.

## **Item 15 Custody**

We previously disclosed in the "Fees and Compensation" section (Item 5) of this Brochure that our firm directly debits advisory fees from client accounts.

As part of this billing process, the client's custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis, the custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

In addition to the periodic statements that clients receive directly from their custodians, we also send account statements directly to our clients on a quarterly basis. We urge our clients to carefully compare the information provided on these statements to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

Our firm does not have actual or constructive custody of client accounts.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may hire us to provide discretionary asset management services, in which case we place trades in a client's account without contacting the client prior to each trade to obtain the client's permission.

Our discretionary authority includes the ability to do the following without contacting the client:

- determine the security to buy or sell; and/or
- determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

Clients give us discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may also change/amend such limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy, we do not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Therefore, although our firm may provide investment advisory services relative to client investment assets, 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. Clients are responsible for instructing each custodian of the assets, to forward to the client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

We may provide clients with consulting assistance regarding proxy issues if they contact us with questions at our principal place of business.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

Equistar Wealth Management LLC has no additional no financial circumstances to report.

Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 per client more than six months in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

Equistar Wealth Management LLC has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.

## **Confidentiality**

Equistar Wealth Management is committed to safeguarding the confidential information of its clients. We hold all personal information provided to our firm in the strictest confidence. These records include all personal information that we collect from them in connection with any of the services provided by our firm. We have never disclosed information to non-affiliated third parties, except as required by law or as preauthorized by a client, and do not anticipate doing so in the future. If we were to anticipate such a change in firm policy, we would be prohibited under law from doing so without advising the client first. The following is our policy with respect to personal information about our clients:

- We limit employee and agent access to information only to those who have a business or professional reason for knowing, and only to non-affiliated parties as permitted or required by law. For example, we may share a limited amount of information about clients with a brokerage firm in order to execute securities transactions on their behalf, or so that we can discuss your financial situation with your accountant or lawyer.
- We maintain a secure office and computer environment to ensure that information is not placed at unreasonable risk.
- The nonpublic personal information that we collect depends upon the scope of the client engagement. It will include information about (1) personal finances, including information with respect to income, expenses, assets, liabilities, and taxation; (2) information about health to the extent it is needed for the planning process; and (3) information about transactions between clients and third parties.
- For unaffiliated third parties that require access to personal information, including financial service companies, consultants, and auditors, we also require strict confidentiality in our agreements with them and expect them to keep this information private. Federal and state regulators, as well as licensing authorities such as the CFP Board of Standards or National Association of Personal Financial Advisors also may review firm records as permitted under law or regulatory authority.
- We do not provide identifiable information to mailing list vendors or solicitors for any purpose.

- Personally identifiable information about clients will be maintained during the time they remain a client, and for the required time thereafter that such records are required to be maintained by federal and state securities laws, and consistent with the CFP Board Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility. After this required period of record retention, all such information will be destroyed.



**Part 2B of Form ADV: Brochure Supplements**

**Jenny Fleming**

**Sara Seely**

**Equistar Wealth Management LLC**

**901 S Mopac Plaza One Suite 300**

**Austin, Texas 78746**

**512-250-2277**

**March 20, 2017**

## **Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience**

**Full Legal Name: Jenny Gipson Fleming      Born: 1955**

### **Education**

- Stephen F Austin State university; BA, Accounting; 1983

### **Business Experience**

- Gipson Life Insurance Company; Treasurer; from 01/1983 to 12/1997
- North America Life Insurance Company; Treasurer/Senior Vice President; from 10/2002 to 11/2003
- Austin Asset Management Company; Financial Planner; from 05/2005 to 09/2008
- EquiStar Wealth Management; Managing Partner; from 09/2008 to Present

### **Designations**

Jenny Gipson Fleming has earned the following designation(s) and is in good standing with the granting authority:

- CFP; Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc; 2005
  - CPA; Texas State Board of Public Accountancy; 2007
  - PFS; American Institute of Public Accountants; 2008
- 

## **Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience**

**Full Legal Name: Sara Leigh Seely      Born: 1976**

### **Education**

- Texas Tech University; BA, Finance; 1999

### **Business Experience**

- Equistar Wealth Management LLC; Partner; from 4/15/2013 to Present
- Durbin Bennett Peterson Private Wealth Management; Senior Advisor; from 09/02/2008 to 4/12/2013
- Eklektikos Capital Management LP; Research Analyst; from 09/09/2005 to 09/08/2008
- Waterstreet Investment Consultants, LLC; Advisor / Director of Research; from 09/17/2004 to 09/08/2008
- Citigroup Global Markets; Investment Management Analyst; from 01/08/2001 to 09/17/2004

### **Designations**

Sara Leigh Seely has earned the following designation(s) and is in good standing with the granting authority:

- Chartered Financial Analyst®; CFA Institute; 2005

## **Professional Certifications**

### **Chartered Financial Analyst**

This designation is offered by the CFA Institute (formerly the Association for Investment Management and Research [AIMR]). To obtain the CFA® charter, candidates must successfully complete three exams and gain at least three (3) years of qualifying work experience, among other requirements. In passing these exams, candidates demonstrate their competence, integrity and extensive knowledge in accounting, ethical and professional standards, economics, portfolio management and security analysis.

### **Certified Financial Planner**

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. Currently, more than 62,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP Board's Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.
- Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:
  - Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
  - knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;

- **Ethics** – Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

**Certified Public Accountant (CPA)** [1] CPAs are licensed and regulated by their state boards of accountancy. While state laws and regulations vary, the education, experience and testing requirements for licensure as a CPA generally include minimum college education (typically 150 credit hours with at least a baccalaureate degree and a concentration in accounting), minimum experience levels (most states require at least one year of experience providing services that involve the use of accounting, attest, compilation, management advisory, financial advisory, tax or consulting skills, all of which must be achieved under the supervision of or verification by a CPA), and successful passage of the Uniform CPA Examination. In order to maintain a CPA license, states generally require the completion of 40 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) each year (or 80 hours over a two year period or 120 hours over a three year period). Additionally, all American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) members[2] are required to follow a rigorous *Code of Professional Conduct* which requires that they act with integrity, objectivity, due care, competence, fully disclose any conflicts of interest (and obtain client consent if a conflict exists), maintain client confidentiality, disclose to the client any commission or referral fees, and serve the public interest when providing financial services. The vast majority of state boards of accountancy have adopted the AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct* within their state accountancy laws or have created their own.

**Personal Financial Specialist (PFS)** [1] The PFS credential demonstrates that an individual has met the minimum education, experience and testing required of a CPA in addition to a minimum level of expertise in personal financial planning. To attain the PFS credential, a candidate must hold an unrevoked CPA license, fulfill 3,000 hours of personal financial planning business experience, complete 75 hours of personal financial planning CPE credits, pass a comprehensive financial planning exam and be an active member of the AICPA. A PFS credential holder is required to adhere to AICPA's *Code of Professional Conduct*, and is encouraged to follow

AICPA's Statement on Responsibilities in Financial Planning Practice. To maintain their PFS credential, the recipient must complete 60 hours of financial planning CPE credits every three years. The PFS credential is administered through the AICPA.

### **Item 3 Disciplinary Information**

Neither Equistar Wealth Management nor any Supervised Persons have been involved in any activity resulting in a disciplinary disclosure.

### **Item 4 Other Business Activities**

#### **A. Investment-Related Activities**

1. Neither Equistar Wealth Management or any Supervised Person is engaged in any other investment-related activities.

2. Neither Equistar Wealth management nor any Supervised Person receives commissions, bonuses or other compensation on the sale of securities or other investment products.

#### **B. Non Investment-Related Activities**

Equistar Wealth Management nor any Supervised Person is engaged in any other business or occupation that provides substantial compensation or involves a substantial amount of his or her time.

### **Item 5 Additional Compensation**

Equistar Wealth Management nor any Supervised Person receive any economic benefit from a non-advisory client for the provision of advisory services.

### **Item 6 Supervision**

**Supervisor:** Jenny Fleming and Sara Seely

**Title:** Partners

**Phone Number:** 512-250-2277