

**PRIVATE COUNSEL GROUP, LTD.**

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

601 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 4050  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213-330-3344

**December 14, 2018**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Private Counsel Group, LTD (“PCG”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 213-330-3344 or [Anthony.larosa@privatecounselgroup.com](mailto:Anthony.larosa@privatecounselgroup.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. PCG is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration as an Investment Adviser with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about PCG 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 an IARD number. The IARD number for PCG is 300083.

---

## ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES

---

This section of the Brochure will address only those “material changes” that have been incorporated since our last delivery or posting of this document on the SEC’s public disclosure website (IAPD) [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). This is our initial 2A Brochure and, therefore there are no material changes to report.

If you would like another copy of this Brochure, please download it from the SEC Website as indicated above or you may contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Anthony LaRosa at 213-330-3344 or [anthony.larosa@privatecounselgroup.com](mailto:anthony.larosa@privatecounselgroup.com).

We encourage you to read this document in its entirety.

---

**ITEM 3 – TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

ITEM 1 – COVER PCGE	1
ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES	2
ITEM 3 – TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS	4
ITEM 5 - FEES AND COMPENSATION	7
ITEM 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT	11
ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS	11
ITEM 8 - METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS	11
ITEM 9 - DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION	13
ITEM 10 - OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS	13
ITEM 11 - CODE OF ETHICS PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING	14
ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES	15
ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS	19
ITEM 14 – CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION	20
ITEM 15 – CUSTODY	20
ITEM 16 – INVESTMENT DISCRETION	21
ITEM 17 – VOTING YOUR SECURITIES	21
ITEM 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION	22

---

#### **ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS**

---

This Disclosure document is being offered to you by Private Counsel Group, LTD (“PCG” or “Firm”) about the investment advisory services we provide. It discloses information about our services and the way those services are made available to you, the client.

We are an investment management firm located in Manhattan Beach, CA. We specialize in investment advisory services for individuals, high net worth individuals, employer sponsored retirement plans, trusts and estates. Our Firm became a registered investment adviser in June 2018. Anthony LaRosa is the Managing Director and sole owner of the firm.

We are committed to helping clients build, manage, and preserve their wealth, and to provide assistance that helps clients to achieve their stated financial goals. We will offer an initial complimentary meeting upon our discretion; however, investment advisory services are initiated only after you and PCG execute an Investment Management Agreement.

##### **Investment Management Services**

We manage advisory accounts on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis. Once we have determined a profile and investment plan with a client, we will execute the day-to-day transactions without seeking prior client consent. Account supervision is guided by the written profile and investment plan of the client. We may accept accounts with certain restrictions if circumstances warrant. We primarily allocate client assets among various equities, Exchanged Traded Funds (“ETFs”), mutual funds and debt securities in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

During personal discussions with clients, we determine the client’s objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review a client’s prior investment history, as well as family composition and background. Based on client needs, we develop a client’s personal profile and investment plan. We then create and manage the client’s investments based on that policy and plan. It is the client’s obligation to notify us immediately if circumstances have changed with respect to their goals.

Once we have determined the appropriate strategy for you and your family and executed the strategy, we will provide ongoing investment review and management services. This approach requires us to periodically review your portfolio.

With our discretionary relationship, we will make changes to the portfolio, as we deem appropriate, to meet your financial objectives. We trade these portfolios based on the combination of our market views and your objectives, using our investment process. We tailor our advisory services to meet the needs of our clients and seek to ensure that your portfolio is managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. You will have

the ability to leave standing instructions with us to refrain from investing in particular industries or invest in limited amounts of securities.

Where appropriate, we provide advice about concentrated stock positions held in client portfolios. Clients will engage us to advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans).

You are advised and are expected to understand that our past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Certain market and economic risks exist that adversely affect an account's performance. This could result in capital losses in your account.

### **Financial Planning**

Through the financial planning process, our team strives to engage our clients in conversations around the family's goals, objectives, priorities, vision, and legacy – both for the near term as well as for future generations. With the unique goals and circumstances of each family in mind, our team will offer financial planning ideas and strategies to address the client's holistic financial picture, including estate, income tax, charitable, cash flow, wealth transfer and family legacy objectives. Our team partners with our client's other advisors (CPA, estate attorney, insurance broker, etc.) to ensure a coordinated effort of all parties toward the client's stated goals. Such services include various reports on specific goals and objectives or general investment and/or planning recommendations, guidance to outside assets and periodic updates.

Our specific services in preparing your plan may include:

- Review and clarification of your financial goals;
- Assessment of your overall financial position including cash flow, balance sheet, investment strategy, risk management and estate planning;
- Creation of a unique plan for each goal you have, including personal and business real estate, education, retirement or financial independence, charitable giving, estate planning, business succession and other personal goals;
- Development of a goal-oriented investment plan, with input from various advisors to our clients around tax suggestions, asset allocation, asset location, expenses, risk and liquidity factors for each goal. This includes IRA and qualified plans, taxable and trust accounts that require special attention;

A written evaluation of each client's initial situation or Financial Plan is provided to the client. The recommendations will not be reviewed nor updated, unless requested by the client at which point a new Agreement between Client and Adviser may be executed.

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

Our firm may utilize the services of third-party money managers for the management of client accounts. Investment advice and trading of securities will only be offered by or through the chosen third party money managers. Our firm will not offer advice on any specific securities or other investments in connection with this service. Prior to referring clients, our firm will provide initial due diligence on third party money managers and ongoing reviews of their management of client accounts. In order to assist in the selection of a third-party money manager, our firm will gather client information pertaining to financial situation, investment objectives, and reasonable restrictions to be imposed upon the management of the account.

Our firm will periodically review third party money manager reports provided to the client at least annually. Our firm will contact clients from time to time in order to review their financial situation and objectives; communicate information to third party money managers as warranted; and, assist the client in understanding and evaluating the services provided by the third party money manager. Clients will be expected to notify our firm of any changes in their financial situation, investment objectives, or account restrictions that could affect their financial standing.

### **Employer Sponsored Retirement Plan Services**

For employer-sponsored retirement plans with participant-directed investments, our firm provides its advisory services as an investment advisor as defined under Section 3(21) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

When serving as an ERISA 3(21) investment advisor, the plan sponsor and PCG share fiduciary responsibility. The plan sponsor retains ultimate decision-making authority for the investments and may accept or reject the recommendations in accordance with the terms of a separate ERISA 3(21) Investment Advisor Agreement between PCG and the plan sponsor. PCG provides the following services to the plan sponsor:

- Screen investments and make recommendations.
- Monitor the investments and suggests replacement investments when appropriate.
- Provide a quarterly monitoring report.
- Assist the plan sponsor in developing an Investment Policy Statement ("IPS").

Plan participants have the ability to exercise control over the assets in their account, and we have no authority or discretion to direct the investment of assets of any participant's account under the Plan. We offer management of 401(k), 457, and 403(b) accounts both on a plan level and on the individual participant level.

### **Participant Level**

We can also be engaged to provide financial education to Plan participants. The scope of education provided to participants will not constitute “investment advice” within the meaning of ERISA and participant education will relate to general principles for investing and information about the investment options currently in the Plan. We may also participate in initial enrollment meetings and periodic workshops and enrollment meetings for new participants.

### **Consulting Services**

We also provide clients investment advice on a more-limited basis on one-or-more isolated areas of concern such as small business consulting, real estate, pension plan consulting, or any other specific topic. Additionally, we provide advice on non-securities matters about the rendering of estate planning, insurance, real estate, and/or annuity advice.

In these cases, you will be required to select your own investment managers, custodian and/or insurance companies for the implementation of consulting recommendations. If your needs include brokerage and/or other financial services, we will recommend the use of one of several investment managers, brokers, banks, custodians, insurance companies or other financial professionals. You must independently evaluate these firms before opening an account or transacting business, and you have the right to effect business through any firm you choose. Also note, you have the right to choose whether to follow the consulting advice that we provide.

### **Wrap Fee Program**

We do not offer a Wrap Fee Program.

### **Assets**

Because this is our initial filing of the Part 2A Brochure, we have no assets under discretionary or non-discretionary management.

---

## **ITEM 5 - FEES AND COMPENSATION**

---

### **Investment Management Fees and Compensation**

Our Firm charges a fee as compensation for providing Investment Management services on your account. These services include advisory services, trade execution, investment supervision, and other account-maintenance activities. Our custodian charges transaction costs, custodial fees, redemption fees, retirement plan and administrative fees or commissions. See Additional Fees and Expenses below for additional details.

The fees for investment management are based on an annual percentage of assets under management and are applied to the household asset value on a pro-rata basis and billed monthly in arrears. The initial fee will be based upon the market value of the portfolio on

the last business day of the partial month, prorated for the number of days in the month that your account is under management. Thereafter, the monthly fee will be calculated on last day of the calendar month. The value will be determined as reported by the Custodian. Fees are assessed on all assets under management, including securities, cash and money market balances. Margin account balances are not included in the fee billing.

Our maximum investment advisory fees as a percentage of assets under management is .50% or an hourly fee of between \$250-\$500 billed in arrears. The specific advisory fees and arrangement of fees are set forth in your Investment Advisory Agreement.

We may negotiate a lower advisory fee or have the right to waive the minimum fee. Fees may vary based on the size of the account, complexity of the portfolio, extent of activity in the account or other reasons agreed upon by us and you as the client. In certain circumstances, our fees and the timing of the fee payments may be negotiated.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Client, we will aggregate related client accounts for the purposes of determining the account size and annualized fee. The common practice is often referred to as “householding” portfolios for fee purposes and may result in lower fees than if fees were calculated on portfolios separately. Our method of householding accounts for fee purposes looks at the overall family dynamic and relationship. When applicable and noted in the Investment Management Agreement, concentrated stock positions will also be excluded from the fee calculation.

The independent qualified custodian holding your funds and securities will debit your account directly for the advisory fee and pay that fee to us. You will provide written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian. At our discretion, you may pay the advisory fees directly to our Firm by check. Further, the qualified custodian agrees to deliver an account statement to you on a monthly basis indicating all the amounts deducted from the account including our advisory fees.

Either PCG or you may terminate the Investment Advisory Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. The management fee will be pro-rated to the date of termination, for the month in which the cancellation notice was given and the earned fee billed to your account as indicated in your Agreement. Upon termination, you are responsible for monitoring the securities in your account, and we will have no further obligation to act or advise with respect to those assets. In the event of client’s death or disability, our Firm will continue management of the account until we are notified of client’s death or disability and given alternative instructions by an authorized party.



### **Financial Planning Fees**

We will negotiate the planning fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of your individual or family circumstances and the amount of your assets under our management. Our fee will be agreed in advance of services being performed. The fee will be determined based on factors including the complexity of your financial situation, agreed upon deliverables, and whether or not you intend to implement any recommendations through PCG. Hourly fees for financial plans range from \$250 to \$500. The specific fixed fee for your financial plan is specified in your planning agreement with PCG.

Typically, we complete a plan within a month and will present it to you within 90 days of the contract date, if you have provided us all information needed to prepare the financial plan. Fees are billed and payable at the time the financial plan is delivered to you. You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing us with written notice. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any earned portion of the fee will be billed to you based on an hourly rate of \$250.00. We will not require prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six (6) or more months in advance of providing any services.

*In no case are our fees based on, or related to, the performance of your funds or investments.*

### **Employer Sponsored Retirement Plan Services**

For Retirement Plan Advisory Services compensation, we charge an annual fee as negotiated with the client and disclosed in the Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans Investment Advisory Agreement. The compensation method is explained and agreed upon in advance before any services are rendered. Fees shall not exceed 0.50% annually.

Plan advisory services begin with the effective date of the Investment Advisory Agreement, which is the date you sign the Investment Advisory Agreement. For that calendar quarter, fees will be adjusted pro rata based upon the number of calendar days in the calendar quarter that the Agreement was effective. Our fee is billed either in arrears or advance on the last business day of the calendar quarter. Billing is indicated in the Investment Advisory Agreement signed and acknowledged by the client. Invoices are sent out each quarter to either the client or the custodian of the Plan. For Plans where our fee is billed to the custodian, the fee is deducted directly from the participant accounts. Written authorization permitting us to be paid directly from the custodial account is outlined in the Investment Advisory Agreement.

Either party may terminate the Investment Advisory Agreement at any time upon immediate notice. You are responsible to pay for services rendered until the termination of the agreement.

### **Third Party Money Manager (“TPMM”) Fees**

Fees and billing methods are outlined in each respective TPMM’s Brochure and Advisory Contract. The Client pays an on-going fee directly to the TPMM based upon a percentage of your assets under management with respect to each TPMM. You will receive disclosure of all fees by the TPMM, which include the terms of the compensation arrangement and a description of the compensation paid, at the time of signing an advisory agreement with the TPMM.

The minimum account size for will vary from TPMM to TPMM. All such minimums will be disclosed in the respective TPMM’s Brochure. We may have the ability to negotiate such minimums for you.

You may terminate your relationship in accordance with the respective TPMMs’ disclosure documents. We may recommend you terminate the relationship with a TPMM. Factors involved in the termination of a TPMM may include a failure to adhere to their stated management style or your objectives, a material change in the professional staff of the TPMM, unexplained poor performance, unexplained inconsistency of account performance, or our decision to no longer include the TPMM on our list of approved TPMMs.

Account custodial services may be provided by several account custodians depending on the investment management program offered. Programs may have higher or lower fees than other programs available through PCG or available elsewhere. Investment management programs may differ in the services provided and method or type of management offered, and each may have different account minimums. Client reports will depend upon the management program selected. Please see complete details in the program brochure and custodial account agreement for each program recommended and offered.

### **Consulting**

We provide consulting services for clients who need advice on a limited scope of work. We will negotiate consulting fees with you. Fees range from \$250 to \$500 an hour for Consulting Services and may vary based on the extent and complexity of the consulting project. Fees will be billed as services are rendered. Either party may terminate the agreement.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses:**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to our Firm, clients also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges include securities, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the Independent Managers, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic

fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below. Neither our Firm nor its supervised persons accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products. Further, our firm does not share in any of these additional fees and expenses outlined above.

---

**ITEM 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

---

We do not charge advisory fees on a share of the capital appreciation of the funds or securities in a client account (so-called performance-based fees) nor engage side by side management.

---

**ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS**

---

We provide investment advice to individuals, high net worth individuals, employer sponsored retirement plans, trusts and estates. We have no minimum initial account value.

---

**ITEM 8 - METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS**

---

**Methods of Analysis**

Our financial advice and investment strategy varies with each client. We will determine the investments chosen based on a comprehensive assessment that includes a determination of an investor's risk tolerance, time horizon, investment goals, financial situation, and any special circumstances. Once this assessment is complete, a portfolio is built with an individualized asset allocation model specifically tailored to meet the client's objectives. In some circumstances, many of the client's existing holdings will not be sold and will be held. We will utilize equities, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange traded funds to construct this customized portfolio.

**Investment Strategies**

Our core belief is premised upon the concept that less is more. We believe in a long term strategic view of investing. In short, fewer transactions. This approach is cost effective and leads to higher tax efficiencies as well. A long view is less reactionary and more patient. Accordingly, the client benefits with reduced administrative burdens as opposed to a highly active portfolio. It follows that our fees will be substantially lower than traditional investment advisory services. This reduced cost will further enhance long-term performance of the client's portfolio.

We further believe in efficient markets and do not time the markets. It follows that our core approach is premised upon solid diversification. We will utilize a mix of large, medium, and small capitalized equities or equity base funds with both value and growth orientations. Fixed income securities and funds will be utilized as well. We further recognize that a global perspective is necessary to achieve ultimate results. Accordingly, global and

closed end mutual funds as well as exchange traded funds will have utilized to accomplish this segment of the strategy. Individual securities will only be used with express written consent of the client. Outside third party managers could be used as well.

As we implement the strategy we take into account the overall state of the economy and further evaluate its various components in positioning the portfolio. It is top down and thematic in nature. We further approach implementing this personalized strategy over an agreed upon period with the client.

We do not believe in cookie cutter approaches to providing financial and investment advice. We welcome an open approach to consulting with our clients concerning all of their assets and all advisors that serve the client. We value the discerning nature of utilizing a collective and collaborative approach. We embrace that concept that the number of financial advisors, consultants, and financial institutions engaged in the client's plan is at the sole discretion of the client. It is an honor to provide financial advice to a family. It follows that our only concern is to provide solid and independent financial advice.

### **Risk of Loss**

Clients must understand that past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, current and prospective clients should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. Investing in securities involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments there will be varying degrees of risk. Clients and prospective clients should be prepared to bear investment loss including loss of original principal.

Because of the inherent risk of loss associated with investing, our Firm is unable to represent, guarantee, or even imply that our services and methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to market corrections or declines.

Investors should be aware that accounts are subject to the following risks:

**Market Risk** — Even a long-term investment approach cannot guarantee a profit. Economic, political and issuer-specific events will cause the value of securities to rise or fall. Because the value of investment portfolios will fluctuate, there is the risk that you will lose money and your investment may be worth more or less upon liquidation.

**Foreign Securities and Currency Risk** — Investments in international and emerging-market securities include exposure to risks such as currency fluctuations, foreign taxes and regulations, and the potential for illiquid markets and political instability.

**Capitalization Risk** — Small-cap and mid-cap companies may be hindered as a result of limited resources or less diverse products or services, and their stocks have

historically been more volatile than the stocks of larger, more established companies.

**Interest Rate Risk** — In a rising rate environment, the value of fixed-income securities generally declines and the value of equity securities may be adversely affected.

**Credit Risk** — Credit risk is the risk that the issuer of a security may be unable to make interest payments and/or repay principal when due. A downgrade to an issuer's credit rating or a perceived change in an issuer's financial strength may affect a security's value and, thus, impact the fund's performance.

**Securities Lending Risk** — Securities lending involves the risk that the fund loses money because the borrower fails to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The fund could also lose money if the value of the collateral provided for loaned securities, or the value of the investments made with the cash collateral, falls. These events could also trigger adverse tax consequences for the fund.

**Exchange-Traded Funds** — ETFs face market-trading risks, including the potential lack of an active market for shares, losses from trading in the secondary markets and disruption in the creation/redemption process of the ETF. Any of these factors may lead to the fund's shares trading at either a premium or a discount to its "net asset value."

**Performance of Underlying Managers** — We select the mutual funds and ETFs in our portfolios. However, we depend on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy.

**Liquidity Risk** - Liquidity risk exists when particular investments would be difficult to purchase or sell, possibly preventing clients from selling such securities at an advantageous time or price.

---

#### **ITEM 9 - DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

---

We do not have any legal, financial or other "disciplinary" item to report.

---

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

---

IARs of PCG Financial Group, LLC may act as agents appointed with various life, disability or other insurance companies and receive commissions, trails, or other compensation from the respective product sponsors and/or as a result of effecting insurance transactions for clients. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest of our clients and have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest. You have the right to decide whether or not to act on the insurance

recommendations from PCG's IARs. If you decide to act upon our insurance recommendations, you have the right to choose the insurance professional to use to purchase the insurance products.

IARs of our Firm do not have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading adviser, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

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

We have developed and implemented a Code of Ethics that sets forth standards of conduct expected of our advisory personnel to mitigate this conflict of interest. The Code of Ethics addresses, among other things, personal trading, gifts, the prohibition against the use of inside information. The Code of Ethics is designed to protect our clients to detect and deter misconduct, educate personnel regarding the firm's expectations and laws governing their conduct, remind personnel that they are in a position of trust and must act with complete propriety at all times, protect the reputation of PCG, guard against violation of the securities laws, and establish procedures for personnel to follow so that we may determine whether their personnel are complying with the firm's ethical principles.

Our Firm and persons associated with us are allowed to invest for their own accounts or to have a financial investment in the same securities or other investments that we recommend or acquire for your account and may engage in transactions that are the same as or different than transactions recommended to or made for your account. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to act in your best interest and have established policies to mitigate conflicts of interest.

We have established the following restrictions in order to ensure our firm's fiduciary responsibilities:

1. A director, officer or employee of PCG shall not buy or sell any securities for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is substantially derived, in whole or in part, by reason of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public on reasonable inquiry. No supervised employee of PCG shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory client. Trades for supervised employees are traded alongside client accounts.
2. We maintain a list of all securities holdings of anyone associated with this advisory practice with access to advisory recommendations. These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by an appropriate officer/individual of PCG.

3. We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority of the client's account.
4. We require that all supervised employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
5. Any supervised employee not in observance of the above may be subject to termination.

You may request a complete copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this Part 2; Attn: Chief Compliance Officer.

---

## **ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

---

Clients must maintain assets in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. We generally recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Advisor Services ("Schwab"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated, and unaffiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities as instructed. In some cases, our Firm may recommend that you establish accounts with a firm other than Schwab to maintain custody of your assets.

While we recommend that clients use Schwab as Custodian, client must decide whether to do so and open accounts with Schwab or any other custodian by entering into account agreements directly with them. The client opens the accounts directly with the Custodian. The accounts will always be held in the name of the client and never in PCG or the Advisors' name.

### Recommendation of Custodians

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

1. Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
2. Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
3. Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)

4. Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ex-change-traded funds [ETFs], etc.)
5. Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
6. Quality of services
7. Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
8. Reputation, financial strength, and stability
9. Prior service to PCG Advisors and our other clients
10. Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab)

#### Client Brokerage and Custody Costs

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services. On occasion, a client may be charged fees to custody alternative investments held outside of Schwab. Schwab receives compensation by charging ticket charges or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into clients' Schwab accounts. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of client trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see How We Select Brokers/Custodians).

#### Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide PCG Advisors and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage, trading, custody, reporting, and related services, many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts; others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us. These are considered soft dollar bene-fits because they create an incentive to do business with Schwab. This incentive creates a conflict of interest. We have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest. We believe that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of clients. PCG Advisors will at all times act in the best interest of their clients and act as a fiduciary in carrying out services to clients.

Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

#### Services That Benefit Our Clients

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment



products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit our clients and their accounts.

#### Services That May Not Directly Benefit Our Clients

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit our clients or their accounts. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

1. Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
2. Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
3. Provide pricing and other market data
4. Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
5. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

#### Services That Generally Benefit Only Us

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

1. Educational conferences and events
2. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
3. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
4. Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

#### Our Interest in Schwab's Services

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. These services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions. We believe that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients.

Some of the products, services and other benefits provided by Schwab benefit PCG and may not benefit our client accounts. Our recommendation or requirement that you place assets in Schwab's custody may be based in part on benefits Schwab provides to us, or our agreement to maintain certain Assets Under Management at Schwab, and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and execution services provided by Schwab.

We place trades for our clients' accounts subject to its duty to seek best execution and its other fiduciary duties. Schwab's execution quality may be different than other Custodians. PCG annually reviews the relationship between Charles Schwab, PCG and the client in order to determine if the custodial relationship is in the best interest of the client.

### **Aggregation and Allocation of Transactions**

We may aggregate transactions if we believe that aggregation is consistent with the duty to seek best execution for our clients and is consistent with the disclosures made to clients and terms defined in the client Investment Advisory Agreement. We may make trades in individual accounts (that are not aggregated with others) so that we may address that client's unique circumstances. No advisory client will be favored over any other client, and each account that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price (per custodian) for all transactions in that security on a given business day.

We will aggregate trades for ourselves or our associated persons with your trades, providing that the following conditions are met:

1. Our policy for the aggregation of transactions shall be fully-disclosed separately to our existing clients (if any) and the broker/dealer(s) through which such transactions will be placed;
2. We will not aggregate transactions unless we believe that aggregation is consistent with our duty to seek the best execution (which includes the duty to seek best price) for you and is consistent with the terms of our Investment Advisory Agreement with you for which trades are being aggregated.
3. No advisory client will be favored over any other client; each client that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price for all our transactions in a given security on a given business day, with transaction costs based on each client's participation in the transaction;
4. We will prepare a written statement ("Allocation Statement") specifying the participating client accounts and how to allocate the order among those clients;

5. If the aggregated order is filled in its entirety, it will be allocated among clients in accordance with the allocation statement; if the order is partially filled, the accounts that did not receive the previous trade's positions should be "first in line" to receive the next allocation.
6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the order may be allocated on a basis different from that specified in the Allocation Statement if all client accounts receive fair and equitable treatment and the reason for difference of allocation is explained in writing and is reviewed by our compliance officer. Our books and records will separately reflect, for each client account, the orders of which aggregated, the securities held by, and bought for that account.
7. We will receive no additional compensation or remuneration of any kind as a result of the proposed aggregation; and
8. Individual advice and treatment will be accorded to each advisory client.

#### **Trade Errors**

We have implemented procedures designed to prevent trade errors; however, trade errors in client accounts cannot always be avoided. Consistent with our fiduciary duty, it is our policy to correct trade errors in a manner that is in the best interest of the client. In cases where the client causes the trade error, the client will be responsible for any loss resulting from the correction. Depending on the specific circumstances of the trade error, the client may not be able to receive any gains generated as a result of the error correction. In all situations where the client does not cause the trade error, the client will be made whole and we will absorb any loss resulting from the trade error if the error was caused by the firm. If the error is caused by the Custodian, the Custodian will be responsible for covering all trade error costs. If an investment gain results from the correcting trade, the gain will be donated to charity. We will never benefit or profit from trade errors.

#### **Directed Brokerage**

We do not routinely recommend, request or require that you direct us to execute transaction through a specified broker dealer. Additionally, we typically do not permit you to direct brokerage. We place trades for your account subject to our duty to seek best execution and other fiduciary duties.

---

### **ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

---

#### **Account Reviews and Reviewers – Investment Supervisory Services**

Our Investment Adviser Representatives will monitor client accounts on a regular basis and perform annual reviews with each client. All accounts are reviewed for consistency with client investment strategy, asset allocation, risk tolerance and performance relative to the

appropriate benchmark. More frequent reviews may be triggered by changes in an account holder's personal, tax or financial status. Geopolitical and macroeconomic specific events may also trigger reviews.

### **Statements and Reports**

The custodian for the individual client's account will provide clients with an account statement at least quarterly. Reports may also be provided at every client meeting. Communication to clients will be done on an as needed basis with a minimum of 1 contact per calendar year. You are urged to compare the reports provided by PCG against the account statements you receive directly from your account custodian.

Those clients who are exclusively Consulting or Financial Planning clients (i.e. those who have no assets under management with us in our advisory program) will receive no regular reports from the Firm.

---

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

---

We do not pay referral fees or receive compensation for referrals.

---

## **ITEM 15 – CUSTODY**

---

Custody has been defined by regulators as having access or control over client funds and/or securities. Our firm does not have *physical custody*, as it applies to investment advisors.

### **Deduction of Advisory Fees**

For all accounts, our firm has the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts. Our firm has established procedures to ensure all client funds and securities are held at a qualified custodian in a separate account for each client under that client's name. Clients or an independent representative of the client will direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address and the manner in which the funds or securities are maintained. Finally, account statements are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client, or the client's independent representative, at least monthly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from our Firm. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact our Firm or the qualified custodian preparing the statement. Please refer to Item 5 for more information about the deduction of adviser fees.

### **Standing Letters of Authorization ("SLOA")**

Our firm is deemed to have custody of clients' funds or securities when clients have standing authorizations with their custodian to move money from a client's account to a third-party ("SLOA") and, under that SLOA, it authorizes us to designate the amount or timing of transfers with the custodian. The SEC has set forth a set of standards intended to protect

client assets in such situations, which we follow. We do not have a beneficial interest on any of the accounts we are deemed to have Custody where SLOAs are on file. In addition, account statements reflecting all activity on the account(s), are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client or the client's independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from us. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact us, your Advisor or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

---

#### **ITEM 16 – INVESTMENT DISCRETION**

---

For discretionary accounts, prior to engaging PCG to provide investment advisory services, you will enter a written Agreement with us granting the firm the authority to supervise and direct, on an on-going basis, investments in accordance with the client's investment objective and guidelines. In addition, you will need to execute additional documents required by the Custodian to authorize and enable PCG, in its sole discretion, without prior consultation with or ratification by you, to purchase, sell or exchange securities in and for your accounts. We are authorized, in our discretion and without prior consultation with you to: (1) buy, sell, exchange and trade any stocks, bonds or other securities or assets and (2) determine the amount of securities to be bought or sold and (3) place orders with the custodian. Any limitations to such discretionary authority will be communicated to our Firm in writing by you, the client.

The limitations on investment and brokerage discretion held by PCG for you are:

1. For discretionary accounts, we require that we be provided with authority to determine which securities and the amounts of securities to be bought or sold.
2. Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall in writing as indicated on the Investment Advisory Agreement. You may change/amend these limitations as required.

---

#### **ITEM 17 – VOTING YOUR SECURITIES**

---

We will **not** vote proxies on your behalf. You are welcome to vote proxies or designate an independent third-party at your own discretion. You designate proxy voting authority in the custodial account documents. You must ensure that proxy materials are sent directly to you or your assigned third party. We do not take action with respect to any securities or other investments that become the subject of any legal proceedings, including bankruptcies. Clients can contact our office with questions about a particular solicitation by phone at 213-330-3344.

---

**ITEM 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

---

We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for our most recent fiscal year. We are not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.