



## **RATIO WEALTH GROUP, LLC**

### **PART 2A – FIRM BROCHURE DECEMBER 2019**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Ratio Wealth Group, LLC ("Ratio Wealth"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 720-420-4874. 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. Ratio Wealth 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 Ratio Wealth 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 Ratio Wealth is IARD# 306278.

## ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES

### **SUMMARY OF 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 filing with the SEC, therefore there are no material changes to report.

Currently, a free copy of our Brochure may be requested by contacting Darren Spreeuw PhD, Chief Compliance Officer of Ratio Wealth at 720-420-4874. The Brochure is also available on our web site [www.ratiowealthgroup.com](http://www.ratiowealthgroup.com).

We encourage you to read this document in its entirety.

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## ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS

This Disclosure document is being offered to you by Ratio Wealth Group LLC (“Ratio Wealth” 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 Colorado. We specialize in investment advisory services for individuals, high net worth individuals, foundations, employer sponsored retirement plans, trusts, and estates. Our Firm became a registered investment adviser in November 2019 and is owned by Derek Scarth and Graham Gerlach. Darren Spreeuw is the Chief Compliance Officer.

We are committed to helping clients build, manage and preserve their wealth. Our Firm provides services that help 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 Ratio Wealth execute an Investment Management Agreement.

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### INVESTMENT AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION SERVICES

We manage advisory accounts on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis. For discretionary accounts, 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 but within the expected investment guidelines. Account supervision is guided by the client’s written profile and investment plan. We may accept accounts with certain restrictions, if circumstances warrant. We primarily allocate client assets among various equities, Exchanged Traded Funds (“ETFs”), no-load or load-waived mutual funds, or alternative investments 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 types of investments to be included in a client’s portfolio and have allocated the assets, we provide ongoing investment review and management services.

With our discretionary relationship, we will make changes to the portfolio, as we deem appropriate, to meet client financial objectives. We trade these portfolios based on the combination of our market views and client 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. Clients have the ability to leave standing instructions with us to refrain from investing in particular industries or invest in limited amounts of securities.

If a non-discretionary relationship is in place, calls will be placed presenting the recommendation made and only upon your authorization will any action be taken on your behalf.

In all cases, clients have a direct and beneficial interest in their securities, rather than an undivided interest in a pool of securities. We do have limited authority to direct the Custodian to deduct our investment advisory fees from your accounts, but only with the appropriate written authorization from clients.

Where appropriate, we provide advice about any type of legacy position held in client portfolios. Typically, these are assets that are ineligible to be custodied at our primary custodian. Clients will engage us to advise

on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance, 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.

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## **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 (CPAs, Enrolled Agents, Estate Attorneys, Insurance Brokers, 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, expenses, risk, and liquidity factors for each goal. This includes IRA and qualified plans, taxable, and trust accounts that require special attention
- Design of a risk management plan including risk tolerance, risk avoidance, mitigation, and transfer, including liquidity as well as various insurance and possible company benefits; and
- Crafting and implementation of, in conjunction with your estate and/or corporate attorneys as tax advisor, an estate plan to provide for you and/or your heirs in the event of an incapacity or death

A written evaluation of each client's initial situation or Financial Plan is provided to the client. An annual review will be provided by the Advisor, if indicated by the Client and Advisor per the Agreement. More frequent reviews occur but are not necessarily communicated to the client unless immediate changes are recommended.

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## **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 Our Firm 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) Plan Sponsor

Investment Management Agreement between Our Firm and the Plan Sponsor. Under the 3(21) agreement, Our Firm 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”).
- Recommend QDIA alternatives.
- Recommend non-discretionary model portfolios.

We can also be engaged to provide Plan Consulting Services. Plan Consulting Services include: financial education to Plan participants, benchmarking the Plan services, education to fiduciary committee members, and monitoring the service provider. 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.

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#### **WRAP FEE PROGRAMS**

We do not place any client assets into a Wrap Fee Program.

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#### **ASSETS**

As of November 2019, we do not have any assets under management as this is a newly-formed entity.

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

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#### **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 entry, investment supervision, and other account maintenance activities. Our recommended Custodian charges transaction costs, custodial fees, redemption fees, retirement plan and administrative fees or commissions. See Additional Fees and Expenses below for details.

Our Firm’s advisory fees are based on an annual percentage of your assets that we manage. Our maximum investment advisory fee is 1.50%. Advisory fees are either billed quarterly in advance or quarterly in arrears based on managed account(s)’s average daily balance during the calendar quarter. The specific fee and billing arrangement is detailed and agreed to in the Investment Advisory Agreement and Addendum executed by both the Firm and you, the client. 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 our Firm and you as the client. In certain circumstances, our fees and the timing of the fee payments may be negotiated. Our employees and their family related accounts are charged a reduced fee for our services.

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 “house-holding” portfolios for fee purposes and may result in lower fees than if fees were calculated on portfolios separately. Our method of house-holding accounts for fee purposes looks at the overall family dynamic

and relationship. When applicable, and noted in Appendix of the Investment Management Agreement, legacy positions will also be excluded from the fee calculation.

The independent and qualified custodian holding your funds and securities will debit your account directly for the advisory fee and pay that fee to us. When establishing a relationship with Ratio, you provide written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian. Further, the qualified Custodian agrees to deliver an account statement to you on a quarterly basis indicating all the amounts deducted from the account including our advisory fees.

Either Ratio Wealth or you may terminate the management agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. The management fee will be pro-rated to the date of termination, for the quarter in which the cancellation notice was given and the unearned fee will be credited back to your account or any earned fee will be billed to you by our Firm.

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, Ratio Wealth will continue management of the account until we are notified of client's death or disability and given alternative instructions by an authorized party.

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#### **FINANCIAL PLANNING FEES**

For stand-alone financial planning arrangements, Ratio Wealth will negotiate the planning fees with you using either a fixed fee or an hourly rate. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of your individual or family circumstances and the amount of your assets under our management. Ratio Wealth will determine your fee for the designated financial advisory services based on a fixed fee arrangement described below.

Under our fixed fee arrangement, any 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 Ratio Wealth. Fixed fees for financial plans range from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

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 with one hundred percent (100%) payable at the time the financial plan is delivered. You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing us with written notice. There is no penalty for termination of your financial planning agreement prior to the plan being delivered to you. 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 Ratio Wealth fees based on, or related to, the performance of your funds or investments.

When both investment management or plan implementation and wealth planning services are offered, there is a conflict of interest since there is an incentive for us offering wealth planning services to recommend products or services for which Ratio Wealth receives compensation. However, Ratio Wealth will make all recommendations independent of such considerations and based solely on our obligations to consider your objectives and needs. As a wealth planning client, you have the right not to act upon any of our recommendations and not affect the transaction(s) through us if you decide to follow the recommendations.

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#### **RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES**

For Retirement Plan Advisory Services compensation, we charge an annual fee as negotiated with the client and as disclosed in the Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans Consulting Agreement (“Plan Consulting Agreement”). The compensation method is explained and agreed upon in advance before any services are rendered and detailed in the Agreement.

Plan advisory services begin with the effective date of the Plan Consulting Agreement, which is the date you sign the Plan Consulting 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 in arrears on the last business day of the quarter or as indicated on the Appendix of the Plan Consulting Agreement. 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 Plan Consulting Agreement and the Plan Sponsor paperwork.

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

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED BY ORION**

We have contracted with Orion, an unaffiliated firm to utilize their technology platform which supports data reconciliation, performance reporting, fee calculation, client relationship maintenance, quarterly performance evaluations, and other functions related to the administrative tasks of managing client accounts. Due to this arrangement, Orion will have access to client accounts, but Orion will not serve as an investment advisor to our clients or bill the accounts. Ratio Wealth and Orion are non-affiliated companies. Orion charges our Firm an annual fee for each account administered by its software. Please note that the fee charged to the client will not increase due to the annual fee Ratio Wealth pays to Orion. The annual fee is paid from the portion of the management fee retained by Ratio Wealth.

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#### **ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES:**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to our Firm, clients may 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 may include 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. Ratio Wealth’s 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, foundations, employee sponsored retirement plans, trusts and estates. We have a \$500,000 minimum dollar amount to open and maintain an advisory account. This minimum is negotiable.



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

### METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Ratio Wealth provides proprietary investment strategies to meet the needs and goals of individual clients. Our strategies are developed and maintained in-house by our team of investment professionals. Clients have direct access to the Ratio Team doing the research and making decisions regarding their accounts and the investments and strategies in which they are involved. We create diversified portfolios designed to optimize return, per unit of risk assumed, based on an individual client's return-requirements and comfort with risk. We diversify portfolios by utilizing multiple asset classes. Asset class diversification includes; asset style (value, core, growth), geography, market-cap and sector. Our Firm uses various software programs (Riskalyze, Fi360, Morningstar, Vanguard Advisor Portfolio Analytics, Excel) to help us access and analyze assets to guide our allocation and security selection decisions. We work to construct tax-efficient and cost-effective allocation strategies based on a client's unique cash flow needs, retirement objectives, stated return and risk profile goals.

Clients may hold or retain other types of assets as well. Our Firm may offer advice regarding those various assets as part of our service. When combined with quality research and value-based fundamental analysis, we feel that this is the best prescription for consistent preservation and growth of wealth.

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

*Fundamental Analysis:* We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of securities by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and corporate financial condition) to determine if asset classes are underpriced (indicating that it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating that it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk because 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 security.

*Asset Allocation:* We attempt to identify appropriate proportions of securities, fixed income, alternative investments and cash, suitable to the client's investment goals, cashflow needs, and risk tolerance.

Based on a diversified portfolio, the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular index, industry or security. Another risk is that the weightings of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

Ratio does rebalance portfolios on a consistent basis to insure investment allocations remain complimentary to Client objectives. Periodically we may encounter economic conditions that warrant temporary adjustments to the asset allocation of an investment strategy or portfolio. If we believe that these conditions present either an increase in risk or opportunity for that particular asset class, we may alter the appropriate allocation to reflect this conviction.

*Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis:* We use ETFs to appropriately weight sectors, geographies, market-caps and styles to insure portfolios accurately reflect opportunity within capital market assumptions over time.

We look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in other fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also monitor the funds or ETFs 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. Because 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 thereby 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.

*Risks for all forms of analysis:* Our methods rely on the assumption that the underlying companies within our security allocations are accurately reviewed by the rating agencies 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.

If deemed appropriate for your portfolio, our Firm may recommend investments classified as "alternative investments". Alternative investments may include a broad range of underlying assets including, but not limited to, hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, and registered, publicly traded securities. Alternative investments are speculative, not suitable for all clients and intended for only experienced and sophisticated investors who are willing to bear the high risk of the investment, which can include: loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative investment practices; lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for the fund and none expected to develop; volatility of returns; potential for restrictions on transferring interest in the fund; potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority with a single advisor; absence of information regarding valuations and pricing; potential for delays in tax reporting; less regulation and typically higher fees than other investment options such as mutual funds. The SEC requires investors be accredited to invest in these more speculative alternative investments. Investing in a fund that concentrates its investments in a few holdings may involve heightened risk and result in greater price volatility.

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## 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. 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 the asset allocation portfolios. However, we depend on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy.
- **NON-LIQUID ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS** - From time to time, our Firm will recommend to certain qualifying clients that a portion of such clients' assets be invested in private funds, private fund-of-funds and/or other alternative investments (collectively, "Nonliquid Alternative Investments"). Nonliquid Alternative Investments are not suitable for all our Firm's clients and are offered only to those qualifying clients for whom our Firm believes such an investment is suitable and in line with their overall investment strategy. Nonliquid Alternative Investments typically are available to only a limited number of sophisticated investors who meet the definition of "accredited investor" under Regulation D of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or "qualified client" under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or "qualified purchaser" under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Nonliquid Alternative Investments present special risks for our Firm's clients, including without limitation, limited liquidity, higher fees and expenses, volatile performance, no assurance of investment returns, heightened risk of loss, limited transparency, additional reliance on underlying management of the investment, special tax considerations, subjective valuations, use of leverage and limited regulatory oversight. When a Nonliquid Alternative Investment invests part or all of its assets in real estate properties, there are additional risks that are unique to real estate investing, including but not limited to: limitations of the appraisal value; the borrower's financial conditions (if the underlying property has been obtained by a loan), including the risk of foreclosures on the property; neighborhood values; the supply of and demand for properties of like kind; and certain city, state and/or federal regulations. Additionally, real estate investing is also subject to possible loss due to uninsured losses from natural and man-made disasters. The above list is not exhaustive of all risks related to an investment in Nonliquid Alternative Investments. A more comprehensive discussion of the risks

associated with a particular Nonliquid Investment is set forth in that fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client subscribing to a Nonliquid Alternative Investment, for review and consideration. It is important that each potential, qualified investor carefully read each offering or private placement memorandum prior to investing.

- **OPTIONS AND OTHER DERIVATIVES** Client portfolios may purchase or sell options, warrants, equity-related swaps or other derivatives that trade on an exchange. Both the purchasing and selling of call and put options entail risks. An investment in an option may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying securities. The effectiveness of purchasing or selling stock index options as a hedging technique depends upon the extent to which price movements in the hedged portfolios correlate with price movements of the stock index selected. Because the value of an index option depends upon movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular security, whether a portfolio realizes a gain or loss will depend upon movements in the level of security prices in securities markets generally rather than movements in the price of a particular security.
- **BOND MUTUAL FUNDS AND LADDERED INDIVIDUAL BONDS** A laddered individual bond portfolio is comprised of individual bonds where each bond or series of bonds features strategically staggered maturity dates at regular intervals. As each bond or series of bonds matures, proceeds are used to purchase new bonds to continue the bond ladder, or they are used as income. Both laddered individual bonds held in a laddered bond portfolio and bond funds generally have higher risks than money market funds, largely because they typically pursue strategies aimed at producing higher returns. Unlike money market funds, the SEC's rules do not restrict bond funds and laddered individual bonds to high quality or short-term investments. Because there are many different types of bonds, bond funds and laddered individual bonds, they can vary dramatically in their risks and rewards. Some of the risks associated with bond funds and laddered individual bonds include:
  - *Interest Rate Risk* - Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the market value of bonds will go down when interest rates go up. Because of this risk, investors can lose money in any bond fund or laddered individual bond portfolio, if a bond were sold before its maturity date. Interest rate risk applies to investments in insured bonds and U.S. Treasury Bonds. Longer-term bonds and bond funds tend to have higher interest rate risks.
  - *Credit Risk* - Credit risk refers to the risk that companies or other issuers may fail to pay their debts (including the debt owed to holders of their bonds). Consequently, this affects individual bond ladders, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that hold these bonds. Credit risk is less of a factor in investments including insured bonds or U.S. Treasury Bonds. By contrast, those that invest in the bonds of companies with poor credit ratings generally will be subject to higher risk.
  - *Prepayment Risk* - Issuers may choose to pay off debt earlier than the stated maturity date on a bond. For example, if interest rates fall, a bond issuer may decide to "retire" its debt and issue new bonds that pay a lower rate. When this happens, proceeds from the sale of individual bonds or a bond fund may not be able to be reinvested in an investment with as high a return or yield.

## 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

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## INSURANCE

Some of our Investment Advisor Representatives (“IARs”) or Direct owners of the Firm are licensed Insurance agents registered with various State(s) Insurance Department. Our firm indirectly receives compensation (commissions, trails, or other compensation from the respective insurance products) as a result of our IARs effecting insurance transactions for mutual client(s) of Ratio Wealth. Commissions generated by insurance sales do not offset regular advisory fees. Our firm has an incentive to recommend insurance products and this incentive creates a conflict of interest between your interests and our Firm. We mitigate this conflict by disclosing to clients they have the right to decide whether to engage the services of our affiliated Insurance agency. Further, clients should note they have the right to decide whether to act on the recommendations and the right to choose any professional to execute the advice for any insurance products through any licensed insurance agent not affiliated with our Firm. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place the client’s interests first and have established policies in this regard to avoid any conflicts of interest.

Clients should be aware that the ability to receive additional compensation by our Firm and its management persons or employees creates conflicts of interest that impair the objectivity of the Firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Our Firm endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps, among others to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for the Firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to the Firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they have the right to decide to purchase recommended investment products from our employees;
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client’s financial goals, objectives, and liquidity needs;
- the Firm conducts regular reviews of each client advisory account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are in the best interest of the client’s needs and circumstances;
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by the Firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

Our Firm does 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.

Our firm nor any of its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

## ITEM 11 - CODE OF ETHICS

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 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, and 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 Ratio Wealth, safeguard against the 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.

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

- A director, officer, or employee of Ratio Wealth 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 Ratio Wealth shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory client. Trades for supervised employees are traded alongside client accounts.
- 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 Ratio Wealth.
- We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to decline implementation of any advice rendered, except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority of the client's account.
- We require that all supervised employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
- Any supervised employee not in observance of the above may be subject to termination.

None of our associated persons may affect for himself/herself or for accounts in which he/she holds a beneficial interest, any transactions in a security which is being actively recommended to any of our clients, unless in accordance with the Firm's procedures.

You may request a complete copy of our Code by contacting us at the address, telephone, or email on the cover page of this Part 2; ATTN: Darren Spreeuw, 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 recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Advisor Services ("CS&Co"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated, and unaffiliated with CS&Co. CS&Co will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to.

While we recommend that clients use CS&Co as Custodian, client must decide whether to do so and open accounts with CS&Co by entering into account agreements directly with them. The Client opens the accounts with CS&Co. The accounts will always be held in the name of the client and never in our Firm's name.

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## HOW WE SELECT CUSTODIANS

We seek to recommend a custodian 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, exchange-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 our Firm 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 CS&Co)

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#### **CLIENT BROKERAGE AND CUSTODY COSTS**

For our clients' accounts that CS&Co maintains, CS&Co generally does not charge separately for custody services. However, CS&Co receives compensation by charging ticket charges or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into clients' CS&Co accounts. We have determined that having CS&Co 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 Custodians).

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#### **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO US FROM CS&CO**

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is CS&Co's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our Firm and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage, trading, custody, reporting, and related services, many of which are not typically available to CS&Co retail customers. CS&Co 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. CS&Co'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 economic benefits because there is an incentive to do business with CS&Co. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to always act in best interest of our clients and have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest.

Following is a more detailed description of CS&Co's support services:

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**SERVICES THAT BENEFIT OUR CLIENTS**

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

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**SERVICES THAT MAY NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT OUR CLIENTS**

CS&Co 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 CS&Co'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 CS&Co. In addition to investment research, CS&Co 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

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**SERVICES THAT GENERALLY BENEFIT ONLY US**

CS&Co 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

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

**Our Interest in CS&Co's Services**

The availability of these services from CS&Co 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 CS&Co in



trading commissions. We believe that our recommendation of CS&Co as custodian is in the best interests of our clients.

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

We place trades for our clients' accounts subject to its duty to seek best execution and its other fiduciary duties. CS&Co's execution quality may be different than other custodians.

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#### **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 to our existing clients (if any) and the Custodian(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.

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**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 or our trading platform provider, the custodian or trading platform provider 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.

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**SOFT DOLLARS**

Soft dollars are revenue programs offered by broker-dealers/Custodians whereby an advisor enters into an agreement to place security trades with the broker in exchange for research and other services. Our Firm does not participate in soft dollar programs sponsored or offered by any broker-dealer/Custodian. However, we do receive certain economic benefits from the Custodians as detailed above.

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**BROKERAGE REFERRALS**

We do not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with the recommendation for establishing an account.

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**DIRECTED BROKERAGE**

Our firm will place trades within the established account[s] at the Custodian designated by the Client. Further, all Client accounts are traded within their respective account[s], unless specifically directed otherwise. We will not engage in any principal transactions (i.e., trade of any security from or to the Advisor's own account) or cross transactions with other Client accounts (i.e., purchase of a security into one Client account from another Client's account[s]). In selecting the Custodian, our Firm will not be obligated to select competitive bids on securities transactions and does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available transaction costs. These costs are determined by the Custodian.

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.

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**ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

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**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.

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**STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The custodian for the individual client's account will provide clients with an account statement at least quarterly. Upon request, clients can receive Ratio Wealth prepared written report detailing their current positions, asset allocation, and year-to-date performance. You are urged to compare the reports and invoices provided by our Firm against the account statements you receive directly from your account custodian.

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

We receive an economic benefit from CS&Co. in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above under - Item 12 Brokerage Practices. The availability to us of CS&Co.'s products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

Our Firm does not accept any referral compensation for client referrals made nor does our Firm pay out any compensation to independent unaffiliated individuals/entities for client referrals. Further, we do not have any compensation arrangements other than what is disclosed in this Brochure.

#### **ITEM 15 – CUSTODY**

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

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#### **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 way 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 quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from Ratio Wealth. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact Ratio Wealth or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

Please refer to Item 5 for more information about the deduction of advisor fees.

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#### **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 Ratio Wealth 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 Ratio Wealth, 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 Ratio Wealth for you are:

- 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.
- Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall in writing as indicated on the investment advisory Agreement, Appendix B. You may change/amend these limitations as required.

In some instances, we may not have discretion. We will discuss all transactions with you prior to execution or you will be required to make the trades if in an employer sponsored account.

## 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 720-420-4874.

## 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.