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**October 22, 2019**

**FORM ADV PART 2A  
BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Sandy Cove Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 617-622-1500. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Sandy Cove Advisors, LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

Sandy Cove Advisors, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since the filing of our last annual updating amendment, dated March 23, 2018 we have no material changes to report.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Services and Fees

We are a registered investment adviser based in Hingham, Massachusetts. We are organized as a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Delaware and we have been providing investment advisory services since January, 2010. Deirdre Prescott is our principal owner.

We provide wealth management services designed to provide you with a complete investment plan that is aimed at integrating your overall retirement, estate and other planning and investment needs. Our wealth management services consist of discretionary or non-discretionary investment management services and financial planning services as described below. We also provide consulting services, consolidated reporting, on-line document storage services and selection of other advisers.

Please refer to the description of each service listed below for information on how we tailor our services to your individual needs.

As used in this brochure, the words "we," "our" and "us" refer to Sandy Cove Advisors, LLC and the words "you," "your" and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm. Also, you may see the term Associated Person throughout this brochure. As used in this brochure, our Associated Persons are our firm's officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm.

### Investment Management Services

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary investment management services to our clients and prospective clients. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for investment management services, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather from our initial meeting to develop an Investment Policy Statement and strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and to make investments on your behalf. As part of our investment management services, we may customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives and/or we may invest your assets according to one or more model portfolios developed by our firm. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, or select a model portfolio, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis, and will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances.

We may also render investment advisory services relative to: (1) your individual employer sponsored retirement plan and (2) variable life insurance products that you may own. In these instances, we will either direct or recommend the allocation of your assets amongst the various mutual fund subdivisions that comprise the retirement plan, college savings plan or variable life/annuity product. Your assets for these accounts will be maintained at either the specific insurance company that issued the life/variable annuity product or at the custodian designated by the sponsor of your retirement plan or college savings plan.

As part of our portfolio management services, we may also service employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries based upon the needs of the plan and the services requested by the plan sponsor or named fiduciary. In general, these services may include an existing plan review and analysis, plan-level advice regarding fund selection and investment options, education services to plan participants, investment performance monitoring, and/or ongoing consulting. These engagements are typically regulated under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act ("ERISA"). All services, whether discussed above or

customized for the plan based upon requirements from the plan fiduciaries (which may include additional plan-level or participant-level services) shall be detailed in a written agreement and be consistent with the parameters set forth in the plan documents.

If you participate in our discretionary investment management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow our firm to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm or trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account.

### **Financial Planning, Consulting and Vault Services**

Financial planning services will typically involve providing a variety of services, principally advisory in nature, regarding the management of your financial resources based upon an analysis of your individual needs. At the inception of the relationship, we will obtain relevant information from you to understand your goals, assets, tax rate, risk tolerance, liquidity needs and income. Financial planning services may include, but may not be limited to, a review of your overall financial situation and preparation of a plan or written report of recommendations covering cash flow, tax planning, divorce planning (may be provided as a stand-alone service), investment planning, retirement planning, estate planning, insurance review/planning, education planning, asset allocation recommendations, and written updates of existing financial plans.

In addition, we also provide consulting services whereby the services we provide to clients include, but are not be limited to: bill paying management, administrative reviews of financial and estate plans, 529 plan analysis, charitable giving funds, and analysis of other investment related documents. Our fees are negotiable depending upon the complexity and scope of the services rendered.

We also provide consolidated reporting and on-line vault services whereby we provide clients with access to a secure internet site to facilitate electronic storage of documents.

Our recommendations are based on the clients' stated goals, objectives, time horizon, and financial information you provide to our firm. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning and consulting recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the financial plan through any of our other investment advisory services or through any other professionals we may recommend to you. Moreover, you may act on our recommendations by placing securities transactions with any brokerage firm. It is your responsibility to promptly notify us if there is ever any change in your financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, or revising our previous recommendations and/or services.

As part of our overall wealth management approach, when you retain us to provide investment management services we may also provide you with financial planning services. Depending upon the complexity of your needs, we may elect to charge separate fees for financial planning, as described below, which will be in addition to investment management fees.

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

As part of our investment advisory services, we may recommend that you use the services of a third party money manager ("TPMM") to manage all, or a portion of, your investment portfolio. After gathering information about your financial situation and objectives, we will recommend that you engage a specific TPMM or investment program. Factors that we take into consideration when making our recommendation(s) include, but are not limited to, the following: the TPMM's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will monitor the TPMM's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will monitor the TPMM's performance to ensure its management and investment style remains aligned with your investment goals and objectives.

The TPMM(s) will actively manage your portfolio and will assume discretionary investment authority over your account. We may assume discretionary authority to hire and fire TPMM(s) and/or reallocate your assets to other TPMM(s) where we deem such action appropriate.

As part of our investment management services, we may use one or more independent managers, acting as sub-advisors, to manage a portion of your account on a discretionary basis. The independent manager(s) may use one or more of their model portfolios to manage your account. We will regularly monitor the performance of your accounts managed by independent manager(s), and may hire and fire any independent manager(s) and/or re-allocate assets amongst independent manager(s) without your prior approval where we deem such action appropriate.

### **Types of Investments**

We primarily provide advice on equities, separately managed accounts, no load mutual funds, exchange traded funds, and corporate and municipal bonds. Additionally, we may advise you on various types of investments based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship. Refer to the *Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss* below for additional disclosures on this topic.

You may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or certain types of securities. You must provide these restrictions to our firm in writing.

### **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2018, we managed \$156,337,730 in client assets on a discretionary basis and \$33,909,705 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **Investment Management Services**

Our fee for investment management services is based on a percentage of your assets we manage and is set forth in the following fee schedule:

- 1.00% on the first \$3,000,000
- 0.75% on the next \$2,000,000
- 0.50% on the remaining balance

\* Client relationships under \$500,000 are charged 1.25%.

**\*\*** In some cases, we may charge clients one fixed fee for providing both investment management services and financial planning/consulting/vault services.

Our annual investment management fee is generally billed and payable monthly in arrears based on the average value of your account during the month. In limited circumstances, other fee paying arrangements may be made. We will include the assets managed by independent managers/third party money managers when calculating our fee. In addition, you will be charged advisory fees by the independent managers/third party money managers which fees are separate and apart to the fees charged by our firm.

If the investment management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a month or billing period, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the month or billing period for which you are a client. Our advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in you paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above.

We will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least monthly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

You may terminate the investment management agreement upon 30 days' notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the investment management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the month for which you are a client.

### **Financial Planning, Consulting and Vault Services**

We charge either a fixed fee for financial planning and consulting services ranging between \$100 and \$200,000 which may be on a per annum basis or an hourly fee ranging between \$100 and \$500. The fee is negotiable depending upon the individual performing the services, complexity and scope of the plan or services, your financial situation, and your objectives. In determining the fee, we take into account frequency of meetings with clients, coordination with the client's other advisors, the complexity and detail of reports provided to the client and the number of services provided such as bill payment and vault services as well as any investment management services provided to the client.

We generally require that you pay a portion of the fee in advance and the remaining portion upon the completion of the services rendered. In certain circumstances, other fee paying arrangements may be made. In certain circumstances the fees may exceed the initial fee quoted, in which case we will obtain approval from you before performing additional services. We may, in our sole discretion, waive or reduce/offset the financial planning fee, including, in circumstances, where the client implements the plan and engages our firm to provide additional services.

For consolidated reporting services, we charge a flat fee or an annual fee based upon a percentage of the market value of the assets included in the accounts being reported upon. The fee generally ranges between 0.10% and 0.20% of total assets. The fee is negotiable and we reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to waive or reduce the fee.



You may terminate the client agreement by providing written notice to our firm. You will incur a charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a refund of those fees based on the work performed.

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

Advisory fees charged by Third Party Money Managers ("TPMMs") are separate and apart from our advisory fees. TPMM fees range between 0.16% and 1.00% per annum. Assets managed by TPMMs will be included in calculating our advisory fee, which is based on the fee schedule set forth above in Item 5. Advisory fees that you pay to the TPMM are established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each TPMM. These fees may or may not be negotiable. You should review the recommended TPMM's brochure and take into consideration the TPMM's fees along with our fees to determine the total amount of fees associated with this program, as disclosed.

You will be required to sign an agreement directly with the platform provider. You may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPMM according to the terms of your agreement with the TPMM. You should review each TPMM's brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPMM and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the TPMM directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the TPMM.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You will also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through which your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. There may be an additional fee related to the use of our integrated client platform service. This service includes, but is not limited to, the use of our client portal, performance reporting and data aggregation. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section of this Brochure.

We may charge clients a service fee for an integrated client platform provided to us by a third party vendor which we utilize in providing services to clients including our client portal, performance reporting and data aggregation services. Any such fee we charge will be disclosed to clients. The fee is the same amount charged to us for the use of the platform by the third party vendor.

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

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees.

Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Advisory Business* section above, and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.



## Item 7 Types of Clients

We offer investment advisory, consulting, and financial planning services to individuals, including high net worth individuals, family offices, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, and business entities.

For investment management services, we generally impose a minimum portfolio size of \$1,000,000 and a minimum annual fee of \$10,000. Our minimum financial planning fee is an hourly fee ranging between \$100 and \$500. We may in our sole discretion waive such minimums.

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

### Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

We may use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

- **Quantitative Screening** - Quantitative screening involves the gathering, processing and screening of investments against pre-determined criteria. The results are utilized for purposes of eliminating or including investments which meet the criteria. The risk of quantitative screening is that pre-determined criteria utilized do not guarantee or predict future price movements.
- **Fundamental Analysis**- Fundamental analysis involves analyzing individual securities and their industry groups, such as a securities' financial statements, details regarding the securities product line, the experience, and expertise of the securities' management, and the outlook for the securities industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the securities compared to the current market value. Risk: The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a securities value. If security prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.
- **Long Term Purchases** - Securities are purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year. Risk: Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost: "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.
- **Short Term Purchases** - Securities are purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations. Risk: Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a disproportionately higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are many factors that can affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term interest rate changes, cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of times.
- **Margin Transactions** - A securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan. Risk: If the value of the shares drops sufficiently, the investor will be required to either deposit more cash into the account or sell a portion of the stock in order to maintain the margin requirements of the account. This is known as a "margin call." An investor's overall risk includes the amount of money invested plus the amount that was loaned to them.

We may use short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Short-term trading is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use this strategy occasionally when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. However, frequent trading can negatively affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio.

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you continuously consult with a tax professional prior to and throughout the investment of your assets.

Moreover, as a result of revised IRS regulations, custodians and broker-dealers will begin reporting the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the average cost accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, please provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Please note that decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

### **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

Clients face the following investment risks:

- **Interest-Rate Risk:** Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
- **Market Risk:** The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic and social conditions may trigger market events.
- **Inflation Risk:** When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will not buy as much as a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
- **Currency Risk:** Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.
- **Reinvestment Risk:** This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e. interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.
- **Business Risk:** These risks are associated with a particular industry or a particular company

within an industry. For example, oil-drilling companies depend on finding oil and then refining it, a lengthy process, before they can generate a profit. They carry a higher risk of profitability than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter the economic environment.

- **Liquidity Risk:** Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many traders are interested in a standardized product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.
- **Financial Risk:** Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value.

### **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

As disclosed under the *Advisory Business* section in this Brochure, we primarily provide advice on equities, no load mutual funds, exchange traded funds, and corporate and municipal bonds.

There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to: the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, well established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

Mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. Exchange traded funds differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely which can dilute other investors' interests.

Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically lower risk investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal characteristics paying the same rate of return.

Municipal bonds, while generally thought of as lower risk, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the government entity that issues the bond; the stability of the revenue stream that is used to pay the interest to the bondholders; when the bond is due to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal characteristics paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

## Item 9 Disciplinary Information

We are required to disclose the facts of any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. We do not have any required disclosures under this item.

## Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

We have not provided information on other financial industry activities and affiliations because we do not have any relationship or arrangement that is material to our advisory business or to our clients with any of the types of entities listed below:

1. Broker-dealer, municipal securities dealer, or government securities dealer or broker.
2. Investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-end investment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or "hedge fund," and offshore fund).
3. Other investment adviser or financial planner.
4. Futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor.
5. Banking or thrift institution.
6. Accountant or accounting firm.
7. Lawyer or law firm.
8. Insurance company or agency.
9. Pension consultant.
10. Real estate broker or dealer.
11. Sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

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

### Description of Our Code of Ethics

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All of our Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

Our Code of Ethics is available to you upon request. You may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

### Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

Neither our firm nor any persons associated with our firm has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

### **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our Associated Persons nor we shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

We do not maintain custody of your assets that we manage, although we may be deemed to have custody of your assets if you give us authority to withdraw fees from your account (see *Item 15 - Custody*, below). Your assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. We recommend that clients in need of brokerage and custodial services utilize Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC ("Fidelity"), Member NYSE/SIPC or Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (referred to as Schwab), a FINRA registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, among others as the qualified custodians.

### **Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC**

We have an arrangement with Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC through which Fidelity provides us with Fidelity's "platform" services. The platform services include, among others, brokerage, custodial, administrative support, record keeping and related services that are intended to support intermediaries like our firm in conducting business and in serving the best interests of their clients but that may benefit our firm. Fidelity charges brokerage commissions and transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e., transactions fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and debt securities transactions). Fidelity enables us to obtain many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges. However, the commissions and transaction fees charged by Fidelity may be higher or lower than those charged by other custodians and broker-dealers. As part of the arrangement, Fidelity also may make available, at no additional charge, certain research and brokerage services, including research services obtained by Fidelity directly from independent research companies, as selected by our firm. Without this arrangement, we might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense. As a result of collectively keeping at least \$15 million of assets in accounts at Fidelity, our firm receives the above-mentioned services for no cost. We may have an incentive to continue to use or expand the use of Fidelity's services. Although the investment research products and services that may be obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account. Clients should be aware; however, that our receipt of economic benefits from a broker-dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence our choice of broker-dealer over another broker-dealer that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services.

### **Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.**

We are independently owned and operated and are not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to. While we suggest that you use Schwab as custodian/broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for you, although we may assist you in doing so. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account as described below (see "*Your Brokerage and Custody Costs*").



## **Your Brokerage and Custody Costs**

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account.

Schwab's commission rates applicable to our client accounts were negotiated based on the condition that our clients collectively maintain a total of at least \$10,000,000 of their assets in accounts at Schwab. This commitment benefits you because the overall commission rates you pay are lower than they would be otherwise. In addition to commissions, Schwab charges you a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that we have executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into your Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation you pay the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize your trading costs, we have Schwab execute most trades for your account. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades.

## **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 us 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, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us as long as our clients collectively maintain a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. If our clients collectively have less than \$10 million in assets at Schwab, Schwab may charge us quarterly service fees of \$1,200. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

**Services That Benefit You.** 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 you and your account.

**Services That May Not Directly Benefit You.** Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. 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:

- Provides access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- Facilitates trade execution and allocates aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- Provides pricing and other market data
- Facilitates payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- Assists with back-office functions, record keeping, 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:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
- 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 separately. We don't have to pay for Schwab's services so long as our clients collectively keep a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. Beyond that, these services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody. The \$10 million minimum may give us an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "*How We Select Brokers/Custodians*") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

We believe that Fidelity and Charles Schwab provide quality services at competitive rates. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by Fidelity and Charles Schwab, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of research services and additional brokerage products and services Fidelity and Charles Schwab provide, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

### **Directed Brokerage**

In some circumstances, and at our discretion, some clients may instruct our firm to use one or more particular brokers for the transactions in their accounts. If you choose to direct our firm to use a particular broker, you should understand that this might prevent our firm from obtaining favorable net price and execution. Thus, when directing brokerage business, you should consider whether the commission expenses, execution, clearance, and settlement capabilities that you will obtain through your broker are adequately favorable in comparison to those that we would otherwise obtain for you.

### **Block Trades**

We do not combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (the practice of combining multiple orders for shares of the same securities is commonly referred to as "block trading"). Accordingly, you may pay different prices for the same securities transactions than other clients pay. Furthermore, we may not be able to buy and sell the same quantities of securities for you and you may pay higher commissions, fees, and/or transaction costs than other clients.



## Item 13 Review of Accounts

### Investment Management

Deirdre Prescott and Katherine Saltonstall will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least annually to ensure that the advisory services provided to you and/or the portfolio mix are consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- Contributions and withdrawals;
- Year-end tax planning;
- Market moving events;
- Security specific events; and/or,
- Changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will provide investment management clients with reports at least annually which may include account holdings and performance information. You will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals, and objectives with our firm and to keep us informed of any changes to their financial situation. We will contact ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review our previous services and/or recommendations and to discuss the impact resulting from any changes in the client's financial situation and/or investment objectives.

### Financial Planning

For financial planning clients, reviews are conducted on an as needed basis and we will provide reports summarizing our analysis and conclusions as requested by you or otherwise agreed upon in writing. Such reviews and reports may be subject to our financial planning fees as stated above.

## Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We receive economic benefits from a non-client for providing investment advice or other advisory services to you. Through our participation in certain programs or use of a custodian we are entitled to receive economic benefits. As part of our fiduciary duty, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm from a non-client in and of themselves creates a potential conflict of interest and may influence our choice in providing services to your account. This arrangement does not cause our clients to pay any additional transaction fees beyond those that are traditionally charged by our firm and/or other service providers.

### Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. - Institutional

In addition, we receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors whose clients maintain their accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see *Item 12 - Brokerage Practices*). The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

We have entered into contractual arrangements with certain employees of our firm under which the individual receives compensation from our firm for the establishment of new client relationships. Employees who introduce clients to our firm must comply with the requirements of the jurisdictions where they operate. The compensation is a percentage of the advisory fee you pay our firm for as long

as you are a client of our firm, or until such time as our agreement with the referring employee expires. You will not be charged additional fees based on this compensation arrangement. Incentive-based compensation is contingent upon you entering into an advisory agreement with our firm. Therefore, the individual has a financial incentive to recommend our firm to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest; however, you are not obligated to retain our firm for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees may be available through other firms.

Refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our relationship with your account custodian.

## **Item 15 Custody**

### **Direct Debiting of Fees**

As paying agent for our firm, your independent custodian will directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

### **Custody Due to Access of Client Funds and/or Securities**

The SEC defines custody as holding, directly or indirectly, client funds or securities, or having any authority to obtain possession of them. The ability for Sandy Cove Advisors to, directly or indirectly, have the ability to withdraw client funds or securities upon instruction to a custodian imputes custody to Sandy Cove Advisors as we will have access to client funds. Therefore, Sandy Cove Advisors will comply with custody requirements of the Advisers Act and undergo an annual surprise exam by an independent public accountant.

### **Custody Due to Standing Letter of Authorization**

Sandy Cove Advisors may assist clients with the transfer of their assets between two or more of a client's accounts maintained at the client's custodian, or maintained with multiple custodians. This ability to transfer a client's assets between the client's accounts maintained at one or more qualified custodians if the client has authorized the adviser in writing to make such transfers causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. Pursuant to Rule 206(4)-2 (the "Custody Rule"), Sandy Cove Advisors has taken steps to have controls and oversight in place to support the no-action letter issued by the SEC on February 21, 2017 (the "SEC no-action letter"). With respect to third party standing letters of authorization ("SLOA") where a client may grant Sandy Cove Advisors the authority to direct custodians to disburse funds to one or more third party accounts, we are deemed to have limited custody. However, for these assets, we are not required to comply with the surprise examination requirement of the Custody Rule if we are otherwise in compliance with the seven representations noted in the February 21, 2017 no-action letter. Where the Adviser acts pursuant to a SLOA, we believe we are making a good faith effort to comply with the representations noted in the SEC's no-action letter. Additionally, since many of those representations involve the qualified custodian's operations, Sandy Cove Advisors will collaborate closely with its custodians to ensure that the representations would be able to be met.

**Wire Transfer and/or Bill Pay Authority**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may effect third party wire transfers for client accounts, and we have bill paying authority for specific client accounts. This activity results in our firm being subject to annual surprise exam by an independent public accountant.

**Use of Client Log-in Credentials**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may be in possession of client log-on information to the client's investment accounts. In general, where our account access gives us the ability to control client funds and securities, we are deemed to have custody. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer or other independent, qualified custodian. This activity results in our firm being subject to annual surprise exam by an independent public accountant.

**Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement, and/or trading authorization forms.

You may grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security. Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

**Item 17 Voting Client Securities****Proxy Voting**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of common stock or mutual funds, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

You may receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. In the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

**Class Action Lawsuits**

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by you.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

Our firm does not have any financial condition or impairment that would prevent us from meeting our contractual commitments to you. We do not require the prepayment of more than \$1200 in fees six or more months in advance nor have we filed a bankruptcy petition at any time in the past ten years. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement with this brochure.

## **Item 19 Requirements for State Registered Investment Advisers**

We are a federally registered adviser; therefore, we are not required to respond to this item.

## **Item 20 Additional Information**

### **Your Privacy**

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account.

### **Class Action Lawsuits**

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by you.

### **IRA Rollover Considerations**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may recommend that you withdraw the assets from your employer's retirement plan and roll the assets over to an individual retirement account ("IRA") that we will manage on your behalf. If you elect to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an asset based fee as set forth in the agreement you executed with our firm. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on

our behalf have an incentive to recommend a rollover to you for the purpose of generating fee based compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm.

Many employers permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of:

1. Leaving the funds in your employer's (former employer's) plan.
2. Moving the funds to a new employer's retirement plan.
3. Cashing out and taking a taxable distribution from the plan.
4. Rolling the funds into an IRA rollover account.

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and before making a change we encourage you to speak with your CPA and/or tax attorney.

If you are considering rolling over your retirement funds to an IRA for us to manage here are a few points to consider before you do so:

1. Determine whether the investment options in your employer's retirement plan address your needs or whether you might want to consider other types of investments.
  - a. Employer retirement plans generally have a more limited investment menu than IRAs.
  - b. Employer retirement plans may have unique investment options not available to the public such as employer securities, or previously closed funds.
2. Your current plan may have lower fees than our fees.
  - a. If you are interested in investing only in mutual funds, you should understand the cost structure of the share classes available in your employer's retirement plan and how the costs of those share classes compare with those available in an IRA.
  - b. You should understand the various products and services you might take advantage of at an IRA provider and the potential costs of those products and services.
3. Our strategy may have higher risk than the option(s) provided to you in your plan.
4. Your current plan may also offer financial advice.
5. If you keep your assets titled in a 401k or retirement account, you could potentially delay your required minimum distribution beyond age 70.5.
6. Your 401k may offer more liability protection than a rollover IRA; each state may vary.
  - a. Generally, federal law protects assets in qualified plans from creditors. Since 2005, IRA assets have been generally protected from creditors in bankruptcies. However, there can be some exceptions to the general rules so you should consult with an attorney if you are concerned about protecting your retirement plan assets from creditors.
7. You may be able to take out a loan on your 401k, but not from an IRA.
8. IRA assets can be accessed any time; however, distributions are subject to ordinary income tax and may also be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty unless they qualify for an exception such as disability, higher education expenses or the purchase of a home.
9. If you own company stock in your plan, you may be able to liquidate those shares at a lower capital gains tax rate.
10. Your plan may allow you to hire us as the manager and keep the assets titled in the plan name.

It is important that you understand the differences between these types of accounts and to decide whether a rollover is best for you. Prior to proceeding, if you have questions contact your investment adviser representative, or call our main number as listed on the cover page of this brochure.