

# **Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P.**

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## **Form ADV, Part 2A Brochure**

**March 14, 2019**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 714-432-5300 or [mp@mitpart.com](mailto:mp@mitpart.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Any reference to or use of the terms "registered investment adviser" or "registered," does not imply that Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. or any person associated with Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. has achieved a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## **ITEM 2 - MATERIAL CHANGES**

**Revised March 14, 2019**

The purpose of this page is to inform you of material changes since the previous annual update to our brochure. If you are receiving this brochure for the first time, this section may not be relevant to you.

Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. ("MPM") reviews and updates our brochure at least annually to confirm that it remains current. MPM has made no material changes since the last annual update dated March 23, 2018.

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## **ITEM 4 - ADVISORY BUSINESS**

### **Description of Advisory Firm**

Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. ("MPM," "we," "our," or "us") is a privately owned limited partnership headquartered in Costa Mesa, California. MPM is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In December 2014, Mitchell Portfolio Management, L.P. changed its name from J.E. Mitchell & Co., L.P.

James E. Mitchell founded MPM on January 1, 2005. MPM was initially exempt from registration as an investment adviser, then was subject to filing as an exempt reporting adviser with the SEC, and in 2014 first became subject to registration with the SEC. The principal owners of MPM are James E. Mitchell and Michael A. Mitchell. Ownership is either held directly or through family trusts. James E. Mitchell, William E. Mitchell, and Andrew J. Mitchell are General Partners of MPM.

### **Advisory Services Offered**

MPM is the General Partner of, and serves as the investment adviser to, two private investment funds: Mitchell Partners, L.P. (the "MP Fund") and Spinoff & Reorg Fund LP (the "S&R Fund"; collectively, the "Partnerships"). The MP Fund was formed by James E. Mitchell in December 1979, and the S&R Fund was formed by William E. Mitchell in December 2014. Each of the Partnerships is available only to "Accredited Investors," as the term is defined by Rule 501 of the Securities Act of 1933, and is offered only by a private offering memorandum. Investors in the Partnerships must also meet the financial requirements of SEC Regulation 275.205-3(b) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, since each of the Partnerships has a performance-based compensation structure. We offer investment advice limited to only private investment funds. Additional information on these standards is provided in the private placement memorandum and subscription agreement for the respective Partnership.

This Form ADV Part 2A Brochure is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, interests in either of the Partnerships. Such an offer can only occur when the prospective investor receives the offering documents.

### **Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We manage the Partnerships according to the investment objectives outlined in the respective Partnership documents. Since the Partnerships are pooled investment vehicles, investors may not impose restrictions on the investments held in the Partnerships.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2018, MPM's audited discretionary assets under our management were \$221,528,714. MPM has no non-discretionary assets under management.

## ITEM 5 - FEES AND COMPENSATION

Fees charged by MPM to the Partnerships are set forth in the respective organizational documents for each Partnership and are described below. MPM does not generally enter into side letters with Limited Partners regarding the payment of fees to MPM.

### The MP Fund

MPM is entitled to receive a quarterly "General Partner's Management Fee" equal to 0.225% of the net assets of the MP Fund, calculated as of the first day of each quarter. MPM's Management Fee is an expense of the MP Fund and is payable regardless of the level of the profitability of the MP Fund.

MPM is also entitled to a "General Partner's Incentive Fee" that is equal to 25% of the MP Fund's Ordinary Income that exceeds the "Compensation Threshold" of a cumulative, net 8% return on capital to the Limited Partners, subject to certain other restrictions and conditions. Because of MPM's past investment strategies to pursue long-term capital appreciation opportunities, MPM has never received any General Partner's Incentive Fee.

MPM is also entitled to a "General Partner's Special Allocation" equal to 25% of the sum of the MP Fund's Ordinary Income (to the extent MPM has not received the General Partner's Incentive Fee for such amount), the "Realized Long-Term Items" and the "Unrealized Items" that exceed the "Compensation Threshold" of a cumulative, net 8% return on capital to the Limited Partners, subject to other restrictions and conditions.

After taking into account payment of all of the MP Fund's expenses, including the General Partner's Management Fee, the Limited Partners are entitled to an allocation of all of the MP Fund's Ordinary Income, Realized Long-Term Items and Unrealized Items up to an amount that provides the Limited Partners with a cumulative net 8% return on capital (the "Compensation Threshold"). After the cumulative Compensation Threshold has been satisfied, the Limited Partners and MPM are allocated 75% and 25%, respectively, of the Ordinary Income, Realized Long-Term Items and Unrealized Items.

The General Partner's Management Fee, the General Partner's Incentive Fee, and the General Partner's Special Allocation are paid by the MP Fund.

The MP Fund may bear additional fees and expenses, which are outlined in the MP Fund's Limited Partnership Agreement .

### The S&R Fund

MPM is entitled to receive a quarterly "General Partner's Management Fee" equal to 0.25% of the

net assets of the S&R Fund, calculated as of the first day of each quarter. MPM's Management Fee is an expense of the S&R Fund and is payable regardless of the level of the profitability of the S&R Fund.

MPM is also entitled to a "General Partner's Special Allocation" equal to 20% of the S&R Fund's "Annual Return" that exceeds the "Compensation Threshold" of a net 5% return on capital to the Limited Partners, subject to certain other restrictions and conditions.

After taking into account payment of all of the S&R Fund's expenses, including the General Partner's Management Fee, the Limited Partners are entitled to an allocation of all of the S&R Fund's Ordinary Income, Realized Long-Term Items and Unrealized Items up to an amount that provides the Limited Partners with a net 5% return on capital (the "Compensation Threshold"). After the Compensation Threshold has been satisfied, the Limited Partners and MPM are allocated 80% and 20%, respectively, of the Ordinary Income, Realized Long-Term Items and Unrealized Items.

The General Partner's Management Fee and the General Partner's Special Allocation are paid by the S&R Fund.

The S&R Fund may bear additional fees and expenses, which are outlined in the S&R Fund's Limited Partnership Agreement.

## **Termination**

A Limited Partner may withdraw from either Partnership at the end of each year, as outlined in the respective Partnership documents. Unless terminated as provided in the respective Partnership documents, both the MP Fund and the S&R Fund will continue in perpetuity.

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

MPM is entitled to earn performance-based compensation on the Partnerships. The Partnerships are the only clients of MPM.

## **ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS**

MPM provides investment advisory services to private investment funds. Generally, Limited Partners must make a minimum investment of \$250,000 into either of the Partnerships. We may waive that minimum at our discretion.

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

### **Investment Objectives**

The Partnerships have each established investment objectives of long-term capital appreciation and, together with income, maximization of total return while seeking to avoid losses of principal. Currently, the MP Fund's primary means of seeking to achieve this objective is through investments in inactively traded publicly held securities of issuers with relatively small capitalization bases. Currently, the S&R Fund's primary means of seeking to achieve this objective is through investments primarily in the equity securities of developed-market, public companies that have recently experienced, or will imminently experience, an abrupt change to capital structure. We maintain a portion of the Partnerships' portfolios in actively traded securities to provide greater liquidity. From time to time, we may also invest in closed-end funds and ETFs. Additionally, as a general rule we do not employ leverage, purchase on margin, or trade in uncovered options. For the most part, we are long-only value investors.

### **Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

We are "value-oriented" investors. We believe the stock market is sometimes overly optimistic, placing an unreasonably high price on shares and is sometimes overly fearful, placing a low price on shares. We make our own estimate of a company's intrinsic value, trying to buy when the market is lower than our estimate or to sell when it is higher. We have a "bottom-up" approach. Rather than looking to a particular industry or broad area of the market, we concentrate on individual companies that, for various reasons, may be undervalued.

For the MP Fund, we look at small capitalization stocks and inactively traded securities. Possibly because inactive securities are followed by a relatively small number of security analysts and professional investors, we have found a number of them to be selling at a significant discount to the prices prevailing in the general market. We find such securities in a wide variety of industries located in all parts of the country and occasionally outside the U.S. There are, however, a few exceptions. We don't invest in companies that are in the process of developing new technologies or in start-up businesses. Users (as opposed to developers) of new technology are fine when the price is right.

For the S&R Fund, by contrast, we look at companies of all sizes that have recently undergone, or will soon undergo, an abrupt change to capital structure, such as a spinoff, self-tender, merger, rights offering or emergence from bankruptcy. We believe these events may cause temporary overvaluation or undervaluation by the market. Year-end tax selling by unrelated investment partnerships may also provide buying opportunities for the S&R Fund, which may result in increased trading volume for the S&R Fund in December.



We are risk-averse. Possibly this is due to the founding General Partner having a substantial sum of his own money invested in the MP Fund. As a result, we are widely diversified (currently in over 400 securities for the MP Fund) and tend to favor companies with unusually strong balance sheets. Neither the MP Fund nor the S&R Fund, as a matter of investment philosophy, invests in promoted offerings such as IPOs. We may, however, employ risk arbitrage in either fund, if appropriate.

Historically, securities of small capitalization companies have been more volatile in price than those of larger capitalized, more established companies. However, our portfolio of inactively traded stocks has historically been much less volatile than the popular stock market averages. This has resulted in our portfolio having what some investment professionals call a "very low beta."

We do our own research. Rather than making decisions based on the ideas and opinions of others, we make our independent evaluations of a company's past performance, current worth and the quality of its management.

We seek maximum total return with safety. By "total return" we refer to gains both from dividends and from stock price appreciation. Some of our stocks pay us substantial dividends and some pay no dividends, but manifest increased intrinsic value which may be reflected in a higher stock price. We consider the method of return to be less important than the potential to earn a return.

### **Investing Involves Risk**

Investment in private funds is speculative and involves a substantial degree of risk, which is why investing in private funds may not be suitable for all investors and why they are intended for sophisticated investors who can accept the risks associated with its investments. The investments may lose all or a substantial portion of their value and investors must be prepared to bear the risk of loss of their investments. Investors will not have recourse except with respect to the assets of the Partnership in which they have invested. The Partnership documents outline important information for investors, including risk factors. Investors should review all fund document(s) carefully and should consider conducting additional due diligence before investing in any private fund.

A substantial portion of the MP Fund is invested in publicly-traded companies that are non-SEC reporting companies. Non-SEC reporting companies are not required to make quarterly or annual financial statements available to the public (although, as a shareholder, the MP Fund usually receives annual financial reports from these issuers). This lack of required reporting creates potential investment risks due to undisclosed or substantially delayed disclosure of material financial and/or operational events that may affect the value of the issuer's securities.

### MPM General Partners' Duties and Key-man Risk

The three General Partners of MPM are James Mitchell, William Mitchell and Andrew Mitchell. James Mitchell is the primary portfolio manager for the MP Fund. William Mitchell is the primary portfolio manager for the S&R Fund. Andrew is currently contributing to both through part-time effort.

There is some degree of key-man risk due to the individual primary responsibilities of both James Mitchell and William Mitchell. Currently James Mitchell makes the final investment decisions for the MP Fund, and William Mitchell makes the final investment decisions for the S&R Fund.

This key-man risk is largely mitigated through the collaboration among the three partners. Inputs and suggestions from William and Andrew carry considerable weight and strongly influence the final investment decisions for the MP Fund, in particular. We believe there would be very little difficulty in any transition of duties, with no material effect on the operations or valuation of either fund.

## **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 business or the integrity of our management. We do not have any required disclosures to this Item.

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

### **Proprietary Private Funds**

MPM is the investment adviser and General Partner of the Partnerships, which are private investment funds. The Partnerships are not publicly offered or traded and are organized as limited partnerships. The Partnerships are only available to "Accredited Investors" as the term is defined by Rule 501 of the Securities Act of 1933. Partnership investors must also meet the financial requirements of Rule 205-3(b) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Those regulations generally provide that MPM may only offer interests in the Partnerships to certain institutions, certain organizations, certain trusts, or persons who meet stated income or net worth requirements. The offering memorandum and subscription agreement (the "Offering Documents") provide additional information on these standards. Prospective investors in the Partnerships receive the respective Offering Documents. This Form ADV Part 2A Brochure is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, membership interests in the Partnerships. Such an offer can only occur when the prospective investor receives the Offering Documents.

### **Publications**

William E. Mitchell, a General Partner of MPM, is the owner of Gemfinder, Inc., a Delaware corporation that sells investment research. Gemfinder and MPM have the same principal place of business. While research published by Gemfinder does not include investment

recommendations, Gemfinder's research may include research and discussion of securities that MPM is considering for the Partnerships or which one or both of the Partnerships may hold. To prevent the appearance of impropriety, MPM has adopted policies to give the Partnerships priority over recipients of such research.

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

### **Code of Ethics**

MPM believes that we owe clients the highest level of trust and fair dealing. As part of our fiduciary duty, we place the interests of our clients ahead of the interests of the firm and our personnel. MPM has adopted a Code of Ethics that emphasizes the high standards of conduct that MPM seeks to observe. MPM's personnel are required to conduct themselves with integrity at all times and follow the principles and policies detailed in our Code of Ethics.

MPM's Code of Ethics attempts to address specific conflicts of interest that either we have identified or that could likely arise. MPM's personnel are required to follow clear guidelines from the Code of Ethics in areas such as gifts and entertainment, other business activities, prohibitions of insider trading, and adherence to applicable federal securities laws. Additionally, individuals who formulate investment advice for clients, or who have access to nonpublic information regarding any clients' purchase or sale of securities (all considered "Access Persons"), are subject to personal trading policies governed by the Code of Ethics (see below).

MPM will provide a complete copy of the Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

### **Personal Trading Practices**

MPM and our Access Persons may purchase or sell securities for themselves, regardless of whether the transaction would be appropriate for the Partnerships. MPM and our Access Persons may purchase or sell securities for themselves that we also recommend for the Partnerships. This includes related securities (e.g., warrants, options, or futures). This presents a potential conflict of interest, as we may have an incentive to take investment opportunities from the Partnerships for our own benefit, favor our personal trades over Partnership transactions when allocating trades, or use the information about the transactions we intend to make for the Partnerships to our personal benefit by trading ahead of the Partnerships.

Our policies to address these conflicts include the following:

1. The Partnerships receive the opportunity to act on investment decisions prior to and in preference to accounts of MPM and our Access Persons. For an exception to this policy and how we address the resulting conflict of interest, please see Principal Transactions in this

item below. See also disclosures under Item 10 - Publications above.

2. MPM prohibits trading in a manner that takes personal advantage of price movements caused by Partnership transactions.
3. If we wish to purchase or sell the same security as we recommend or take action to purchase or sell for a Partnership, we will generally not do so until the broker fills Partnership orders. As a result of this policy, it is possible that the Partnerships may receive a better or worse price than MPM or any Access Person for the same security on the same day as a client or one or more days before or after a Partnership's transaction.
4. MPM requires our Access Persons to obtain pre-approval for personal transactions in equity securities with a market capitalization of \$1 billion or less from the Chief Compliance Officer.
5. Conflicts of interest also may arise when MPM's Access Persons become aware of limited offerings or IPOs, including private placements or offerings of interests in limited partnerships or any thinly traded securities, whether public or private. Given the inherent potential for conflict, limited offerings and IPOs demand extreme care. MPM's Access Persons are required to obtain pre-approval from the Chief Compliance Officer before trading in these types of securities.
6. MPM requires our Access Persons to report personal securities transactions on a quarterly basis.
7. Under certain limited circumstances, we make exceptions to the policies stated above. MPM will maintain records of these trades, including the reasons for any exceptions.

The following items represent situations where a conflict of interest exists between the client and MPM and our Access Persons:

MPM's investments for the Partnerships include investments in non-reporting companies. Non-reporting companies often do not issue shareholder reports to shareholders whose shares are held in street name. The qualified custodians of the Partnerships generally will only hold securities in street name. Consequently, a Partnership may not receive shareholder reports on non-reporting companies. To address this issue, either MPM or a General Partner of MPM may purchase a non-reporting company that MPM is considering for a Partnership or has determined to buy for a Partnership ("Library Card Positions"). These shares will be held in the name of MPM or the General Partner so that MPM or the General Partner will receive shareholder reports, which reports are essential for MPM to make investment decisions for the Partnership.

This creates a conflict of interest in that MPM or a General Partner will be buying shares of securities ahead of the respective Partnership. To address this conflict of interest, MPM has adopted the following policies, and the General Partners have agreed to these policies:

1. Library Card Positions may not exceed 100 shares.
2. Library Card Positions must be limited to non-reporting companies.
3. Once MPM makes a decision to no longer hold such shares for either Partnership (or if MPM determines not to acquire such shares for either Partnership), MPM will deduct any gain from the sale of a Library Card Position from its management fee.

This policy does not apply to securities purchased prior to MPM's registration with the SEC nor to securities listed on the Nasdaq or an exchange.

## **ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

### **Factors Considered in Selecting Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions**

MPM considers several factors in selecting broker-dealers for client transactions. These factors may include trading costs, net price, efficiency of execution, prime brokerage services offered, financial strength and stability, brand identity and reputation, availability of a dedicated trading desk, and accuracy and timeliness of reports. When transacting in small capitalization or inactively traded securities, the primary considerations for selecting broker-dealers for client transactions are information flow and which brokers make a market in the security to be traded.

MPM does not have soft-dollar arrangements and does not receive soft-dollar benefits.

Because the Partnerships are separately managed and traded, using different broker-dealers, MPM does not aggregate or combine securities trades for the Partnerships. When the portfolio managers for the Partnerships determine that they are interested in trading the same security, they will employ a "round robin" system of taking turns on alternate days to purchase or sell the security. They also rotate the order as to which portfolio manager may trade first. MPM believes that this system results in neither Partnership being favored over time.

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

### **Managed Account Reviews**

MPM continuously monitors the investments in the Partnerships. James E. Mitchell and William E. Mitchell, General Partners, review the Partnership investments on an ongoing basis, but no less than monthly.

### **Account Reporting**

As an investment adviser to private funds (our clients) we do not provide our clients with any

reports. However, quarterly we send unaudited performance results of the Partnerships and annually we send copies of the audited financial statements, performance results, and Limited Partner account balances to all Limited Partners in the Partnerships.

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

MPM does not have any arrangements under which we receive or pay any compensation for client referrals.

#### **ITEM 15 - CUSTODY**

MPM has custody of the assets of the Partnerships, which are private funds. While each Partnership has legal ownership of the assets of that Partnership, MPM, as General Partner, has control over and access to said assets. MPM has put controls in place, in compliance with federal rules, to protect Limited Partners' assets in the Partnerships. Independent qualified custodians hold the Partnerships' assets. In addition, an independent accountant audits the Partnerships each year, and we send copies of the audited financial statements to all Limited Partners in the Partnerships. An independent accountant will also audit each Partnership upon liquidation.

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

MPM has full discretion to decide all investments made within the Partnerships. We manage the Partnerships in accordance with the terms outlined in the respective Partnership offering documents.

#### **ITEM 17 - VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES**

##### **Proxy Voting**

MPM provides investment advisory services to the Partnerships. We are responsible for voting the proxies issued on securities held in the Partnerships. We have adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures in an effort to ensure we cast votes in the best interests of the Partnerships. These Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are summarized as follows:

We maintain written proxy voting guidelines in an effort to ensure that shares are voted in the best interest of the Partnerships and the value of the investment. We may, in some cases, vote a proxy contrary to our guidelines if we determine that such action is in the best interests of the Partnerships.

If we have a conflict of interest we may vote the proxy consistent with our voting guidelines or we may disclose the conflict to the investors in the Partnerships or we may contact a third party to advise MPM to determine the vote and/or provide voting recommendations. At any time, investors may contact us to request information about how we voted proxies for the

Partnerships or to get a copy of our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures.

**Class Actions:**

As General Partner of the Partnerships, MPM will make the determination whether a Partnership will participate as a member of a class action and, if so, will file any claim on the Partnership's behalf. MPM will also make the determination whether to bring any appraisal action. From time-to-time, MPM as General Partner may determine, based on its estimates of benefits and costs, that it is in the best interest of a Partnership to act as lead plaintiff in a class action or an appraisal action.

**ITEM 18 - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Registered investment advisers are required in this item to provide clients with certain financial information or disclosures about the firm's financial condition. MPM does not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, does not have or foresee any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients, and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.