

# **River Street Advisors, LLC**

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## **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of River Street Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at [rgartelmann@riverstreetadvisors.com](mailto:rgartelmann@riverstreetadvisors.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.

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

River Street 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**

As a registered investment adviser, we must ensure that our brochure is current and accurate and makes full disclosure of all material facts relating to the advisory relationship. If there have been any material changes to our business or advisory practices since our last annual update, we will provide a description of such material changes here.

Since our last annual updating amendment dated March 2, 2023, we have the following material changes:

Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. purchased TD Ameritrade in October of 2020 and on September 4, 2023, all our clients' accounts formally held at TD Ameritrade were transferred over in kind to Charles Schwab.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Your Advisory Firm

River Street Advisors, LLC ("RSA" and/or the "firm"), is an Illinois limited liability company and an independent asset management and financial planning firm that has been offering advisory services since June of 2010. RSA is principally owned by Old Second National Bank.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we," "our," and "us" refer to River Street Advisors, LLC and the words "you," "your," and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

### Portfolio Management Services

RSA's discretionary asset management services are predicated on creating diversified portfolios consisting of individual securities, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds. The portfolio allocation chosen seeks a projected return potential consistent with the client's investment objectives, goals, tolerance for risk, and other personal and financial circumstances. In preparing the asset allocation, RSA will analyze each client's current investments, investment objectives, goals, age, time horizon, financial circumstances, investment experience, investment restrictions and limitations, and risk tolerance. RSA's objective is to review the client's tax, financial, and estate planning goals in connection with the client's investment objectives, goals, tolerance for risk, and other personal and financial circumstances and make appropriate portfolio implementation decisions. RSA may engage third-party service providers to assist with the tax and estate planning portion of the services provided to clients. In addition, RSA may utilize third-party software to analyze individual security holdings and separate account managers utilized within the client's portfolio.

RSA will prepare an investment policy statement based on the client's investment objectives, goals, tolerance for risk and such other factors unique to the client and provide appropriate recommendations. On a quarterly basis, RSA, in connection with a third-party service provider, will provide such client s with reports regarding the performance of their portfolios. In addition, RSA will monitor those portfolios and make additional recommendations from time to time to rebalance and/or reallocate each client's investments as necessary.

If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant us discretionary authority to manage your account. Subject to a grant of discretionary authorization, we have the authority and responsibility to formulate investment strategies on your behalf. Discretionary authorization will allow us to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without obtaining your approval prior to each transaction. We will also have discretion over the broker or dealer to be used for securities transactions in your account. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm, a power of attorney, or trading authorization forms.

You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased or sold for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing.

RSA's investment advisory services to clients, as noted above, take into account a client's personal financial circumstances, investment objectives and tolerance for risk (e.g., cash-flow, tax and estate). RSA's engagement with a client will include, as appropriate, the following:

- Providing assistance in reviewing the client's current investment portfolio against the client's personal and financial circumstances as disclosed to RSA in response to a questionnaire and/or in discussions with the client and reviewed in meetings with the firm.
- Analyzing the client's financial circumstances, investment holdings and strategy, and goals.
- Providing assistance in identifying a targeted asset allocation and portfolio design.
- Implementing and/or recommending individual equity and fixed income securities, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds.
- Reporting to the client on a quarterly basis, or at some other interval agreed to with the client, information on contributions and withdrawals in the client's investment portfolio and the performance of the client's portfolio measured against appropriate benchmarks (including benchmarks selected by the client).
- Proposing changes in the client's investment policy statement and/or targeted asset allocation in consideration of changes in the client's personal circumstances, investment objectives and tolerance for risk, the performance record of any of the client's investments, and/or the performance of any fund or manager retained by the client.
- If the client's portfolio and personal circumstances, investment objectives, and tolerance for risk make such advice appropriate, providing recommendations to hedge a client's portfolio through the use of derivative strategies, to generate additional income through the use of covered call option writing strategies involving exchange listed or OTC options, and/or to monetize or hedge concentrated stock positions.

In addition to providing RSA with information regarding their personal financial circumstances, investment objectives and tolerance for risk, clients are required to provide RSA with any reasonable investment restrictions that should be imposed on the management of their portfolios and to promptly notify RSA of any changes in such restrictions or in their personal financial circumstances, investment objectives, goals, and tolerance for risk. On a quarterly basis, RSA's reports to clients will remind them of their obligation to inform RSA of any such changes or any restrictions that should be imposed on the management of their accounts. RSA will also contact clients at least annually to determine whether there have been any changes in a client's personal financial circumstances, investment objectives, and tolerance for risk.

We may also offer non-discretionary portfolio management services. 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. You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

As part of our portfolio management services, in addition to other types of investments (see disclosures below in this section), we may invest your assets according to one or more model portfolios developed by our firm. These models are designed for investors with varying degrees of risk tolerance ranging from a more aggressive investment strategy to a more conservative investment approach. Clients whose assets are invested in model portfolios may not set restrictions on the specific holdings or allocations within the model, nor the types of securities that can be purchased in the model. Nonetheless, clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities in their account. In such cases, this may prevent a client from investing in certain models that are managed by our firm.

### **Financial Planning Services**

We offer financial planning services which typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. These services can range from broad-based financial planning to consultative or single subject planning. If you retain our firm for financial planning services, we will meet with you to gather information about your financial circumstances and objectives. We may also use financial

planning software to determine your current financial position and to define and quantify your long-term goals and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we will develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Once we review and analyze the information you provide to our firm and the data derived from our financial planning software, we will deliver a written plan to you, designed to help you achieve your stated financial goals and objectives.

Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to us. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

Clients will receive a written or oral report (depending on the client's preference) providing a basic financial plan designed to help achieve their stated financial goals and objectives. Based on the client's needs, financial planning services may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Preparation of a recommended asset allocation that serves to diversify the client's portfolio among different categories of investments, such as domestic and international small, medium, and large capitalization securities; corporate and government fixed income (short-, intermediate-, and long-term maturities); emerging market securities (i.e., foreign issuers); real estate investment trusts; and such other alternative asset categories that are suitable in light of the client's investment goals, objectives, and risk tolerance.
- Preparation of an investment policy statement setting forth the client's investment plan, with specific direction in terms of diversification requirements, tax issues, estate planning issues, risk tolerance, retirement, and other identified objectives of the client, including a targeted rate-of-return objective.
- Preparation of a retirement plan that serves to identify whether the client is saving enough and investing in a way that meets retirement objectives in light of the client's financial circumstances and risk tolerance.
- Preparation of cash flow projections to ensure that the client can meet daily living expenses and obligations.
- Insurance planning to meet the needs of the client, taking into account family, business, and other financial objectives of the client.

RSA gathers required information through in-depth personal interviews and questionnaires. Information gathered includes a client's current financial status, investment objectives, future goals, and attitudes toward risk. Related documents supplied by the client are carefully reviewed, and a report is prepared covering one or more of the above-mentioned topics as directed by the client.

You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning 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. Moreover, you may act on our recommendations by placing securities transactions with any brokerage firm.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on equity securities, corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper), commercial paper, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, variable annuities, mutual fund shares, United States government securities, options contracts on securities, money market funds, REITs, derivatives and ETFs.

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.

Since our investment strategies and advice are based on each client's specific financial situation, the investment advice we provide to you may be different or conflicting with the advice we give to other clients regarding the same security or investment.

### **IRA Rollover Recommendations**

Effective December 20, 2021 (or such later date as the US Department of Labor ("DOL") Field Assistance Bulletin 2018-02 ceases to be in effect), for purposes of complying with the DOL's Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02 ("PTE 2020-02") where applicable, we are providing the following acknowledgment to you.

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

### **Wrap Fee Programs**

RSA does not participate in wrap fee programs. (Wrap fee programs offer services for one all-inclusive fee.)

### **Client Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2023, we provide continuous management services for \$310,325,235 in client assets on a discretionary basis and \$5,897,842 on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **Portfolio Management Services**

Our fee for portfolio management services is based on a percentage of the assets in your account and is set forth in the following annual fee schedule:

#### **Annual Fee Schedule**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Fee</b>
First \$1, 000,000	1.00%
Next \$1,000,000	0.80%
Next \$3,000,000	0.70%

Over \$5,000,000

0.50%

Our annual fee for portfolio management services varies depending upon the market value of your assets under our management, the type and complexity of the portfolio management services provided, as well as the level of administration requested either directly or assumed by the client.

The annual portfolio management fee is billed and payable, monthly in arrears, based on the balance at end of billing period. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion.

If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar month, 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 for which you are a client. Our advisory fee for portfolio management services 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 your paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above.

RSA generally requires a minimum account value of \$250,000 for accounts it manages on a discretionary basis. As such, there is an implied minimum annual fee of \$2,500. For accounts with less than \$250,000, clients may be able to find comparable services at more favorable pricing elsewhere. RSA, in its sole discretion, may waive the required minimum.

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 quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

If you have any questions about the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian call our main office number located on the cover page of this brochure.

If insufficient cash is available to pay such fees, securities in an amount equal to the balance of unpaid fees will be liquidated to pay for the unpaid balance. RSA may modify the fee at any time upon 30 days' written notice to the client. In the event the client has an ERISA-governed plan, fee modifications must be approved in writing by the client.

You, or RSA, may terminate the investment advisory agreement upon 30 days written notice. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the portfolio 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. Additionally, you have the right to terminate an agreement without penalty within five business days after entering into the agreement if you have not received RSA's disclosure documents (Brochure and Brochure Supplement) at least 48 hours prior to entering into the agreement.



## **Financial Planning Fees Services**

Fees for financial planning services are incorporated into the asset-based pricing schedule for discretionary asset management services when you implement the financial plan through our Portfolio Management Service. Otherwise we charged on a flat-fee basis of \$1,000, in advance, for our financial planning services. The first year of service includes development and delivery of your financial plan, unlimited email communication and a review meeting annually.

We will not require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$1,200.

A financial planning agreement may be terminated by either party for any reason upon receipt of written notice. Upon termination of any account, any earned, unpaid fees will be due and payable. The client has the right to terminate an agreement without penalty within five business days after entering into the agreement if the client has not received RSA's disclosure documents (Brochure and Brochure Supplement) at least 48 hours prior to entering into the agreement.

## **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 whom 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. 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, refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this brochure.

Please refer to the Brokerage Practices section (Item 12) for additional information regarding the firm's brokerage practices.

## **External Compensation for the Sale of Securities to Clients**

RSA's advisory professionals are compensated primarily through a salary and bonus structure.

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

RSA does not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of a capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. 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. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Fees and Compensation* 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**

RSA offers its investment services to various types of clients, including high-net-worth individuals, state and municipal government agencies, charitable organizations and corporations and other legal entities. Although RSA provides investment services to the various types of clients mentioned, the services are conditioned upon meeting certain minimum criteria established by the firm for each of the investment programs it offers.

RSA generally requires a minimum account value of \$250,000 for accounts it manages on a discretionary basis. As such, there is an implied minimum fee of \$2,500. For accounts with less than \$250,000, clients may be able to find comparable services at more favorable pricing elsewhere. RSA, in its sole discretion, may waive the required minimum.

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

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

RSA uses a variety of sources of data to conduct its economic, investment and market analysis, such as financial newspapers and magazines, economic and market research materials prepared by others, conference calls hosted by mutual funds, corporate rating services, annual reports, prospectuses, and company press releases. It is important to keep in mind that there is no specific approach to investing that guarantees success or positive returns; investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

RSA and its investment adviser representatives are responsible for identifying and implementing the methods of analysis used in formulating investment recommendations to clients. The methods of analysis may include quantitative methods for optimizing client portfolios, computer-based risk/return analysis, technical analysis, and statistical and/or computer models utilizing long-term economic criteria.

- Optimization involves the use of mathematical algorithms to determine the appropriate mix of assets given the firm's current capital market rate assessment and a particular client's risk tolerance.
- Quantitative methods include analysis of historical data such as price and volume statistics, performance data, standard deviation and related risk metrics, how the security performs relative to the overall stock market, earnings data, price to earnings ratios, and related data.
- Technical analysis involves studying past price patterns, trends and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and predict the direction of both the overall market and specific securities. The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that our analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.
- Computer models may be used to attempt the future value of a security based on assumptions of various data categories such as earnings, cash flow, profit margins, sales, and a variety of other company specific metrics.
- Analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. 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 stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

In addition, RSA reviews research material prepared by others, as well as corporate filings, corporate rating services, and a variety of financial publications. RSA may employ outside vendors or utilize third-party software to assist in formulating investment recommendations to clients.

## **Mutual Funds, Exchange-Traded Funds, Pooled Investment Vehicles, Individual Equity and Fixed Income Securities**

RSA may recommend no-load and load-waived funds, pooled investment vehicles, and individual securities (including fixed income instruments). Such management styles will include, among others, large-, mid-, and small-cap value, growth, and core; emerging markets; and alternative investments. A description of the criteria to be used in formulating an investment recommendation for mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, individual securities (including fixed income securities), and managers is set forth below. RSA has formed relationships with third-party vendors that perform:

- performance reports
- due diligence monitoring of mutual funds and pooled investment vehicles
- billing and certain other administrative tasks

RSA may utilize additional independent third parties to assist it in recommending and monitoring individual securities, mutual funds, and pooled investment vehicles to clients as appropriate under the circumstances.

RSA reviews certain quantitative and qualitative criteria related to mutual funds and to formulate investment recommendations to its clients. Quantitative criteria may include

- the performance history of a mutual fund evaluated against that of its peers and other benchmarks
- an analysis of risk-adjusted returns
- the fund's fee structure
- the relevant portfolio manager's tenure

Qualitative criteria used in recommending mutual funds include the investment objectives and/or management style and philosophy of a mutual fund; a mutual fund's consistency of investment style; and employee turnover and efficiency and capacity. RSA will discuss relevant quantitative and qualitative factors pertaining to its recommendations with clients prior to a client's determination to retain a mutual fund.

Quantitative and qualitative criteria related to mutual funds are reviewed by RSA on a quarterly basis or such other interval as mutually agreed upon by the client and RSA. In addition, mutual funds are reviewed to determine the extent to which their investments reflect efforts to time the market, or evidence style drift such that their portfolios no longer accurately reflect the particular asset category attributed to the mutual fund by RSA (both of which are negative factors in implementing an asset allocation structure). Based on its review, RSA will make recommendations to clients regarding the retention or discharge of a mutual fund.

RSA will regularly review the activities of mutual funds selected by the client. Clients that invest in mutual funds should first review and understand the disclosure documents of those mutual funds, which contain information relevant to such retention or investment, including information on the methodology used to analyze securities, investment strategies, fees and conflicts of interest. Similarly, clients qualified to invest in pooled investment vehicles should review the private placement memoranda or other disclosure materials relating to such vehicles before making a decision to invest.

**Long-Term Purchases** - securities 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 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.

**Trading** - We may use frequent trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Frequent 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. This may include buying and selling securities frequently in an effort to capture significant market gains and avoid significant losses.

**Risk:** When a frequent trading policy is in effect, there is a risk that investment performance within your account may be negatively affected, 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 information, liquidity needs and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio. **It is important that you notify us immediately with respect to any material changes to your financial circumstances, including for example, a change in your current or expected income level, tax circumstances, or employment status.**

### **Tax Considerations**

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 consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Custodians and broker-dealers must report the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts. Your custodian will default to the First-In First-Out ("FIFO") 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, provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. 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.

**Other Risk Considerations**

When evaluating risk, financial loss may be viewed differently by each client and may depend on many different risks, each of which may affect the probability and magnitude of any potential losses. The following risks may not be all-inclusive, but should be considered carefully by a prospective client before retaining our services.

**Liquidity Risk:** The risk of being unable to sell your investment at a fair price at a given time due to high volatility or lack of active liquid markets. You may receive a lower price or it may not be possible to sell the investment at all.

**Credit Risk:** Credit risk typically applies to debt investments such as corporate, municipal, and sovereign fixed income or bonds. A bond issuing entity can experience a credit event that could impair or erase the value of an issuer's securities held by a client.

**Inflation and Interest Rate Risk:** Security prices and portfolio returns will likely vary in response to changes in inflation and interest rates. Inflation causes the value of future dollars to be worth less and may reduce the purchasing power of a client's future interest payments and principal. Inflation also generally leads to higher interest rates which may cause the value of many types of fixed income investments to decline.

**Horizon and Longevity Risk:** The risk that your investment horizon is shortened because of an unforeseen event, for example, the loss of your job. This may force you to sell investments that you were expecting to hold for the long term. If you must sell at a time that the markets are down, you may lose money. Longevity Risk is the risk of outliving your savings. This risk is particularly relevant for people who are retired, or are nearing retirement.

**Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

We recommend various types of securities and we do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with the investment. A description of the types of securities we may recommend to you and some of their inherent risks are provided below.

**Equity Securities:** Investing in individual companies involves inherent risk. The major risks relate to the company's capitalization, quality of the company's management, quality and cost of the company's services, the company's ability to manage costs, efficiencies in the manufacturing or service delivery process, management of litigation risk, and the company's ability to create shareholder value (i.e., increase the value of the company's stock price). Foreign securities, in addition to the general risks of equity securities, have geopolitical risk, financial transparency risk, currency risk, regulatory risk and liquidity risk.



Additionally, equity securities prices can be affected by 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, better established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") are 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:** Mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETF") 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. ETFs 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 whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors.

ETFs may have tracking error risks. For example, the ETF investment adviser may not be able to cause the ETF's performance to match that of its Underlying Index or other benchmark, which may negatively affect the ETF's performance. In addition, for leveraged and inverse ETFs that seek to track the performance of their Underlying Indices or benchmarks on a daily basis, mathematical compounding may prevent the ETF from correlating with performance of its benchmark. In addition, an ETF may not have investment exposure to all of the securities included in its Underlying Index, or its weighting of investment exposure to such securities may vary from that of the Underlying Index. Some ETFs may invest in securities or financial instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but which are expected to yield similar performance.

Further, the use of leverage (i.e., employ the use of margin) generally results in additional interest costs to the ETF. Certain ETFs are highly leveraged and therefore have additional volatility and liquidity risk. Volatility and liquidity can severely and negatively impact the price of the ETF's underlying portfolio securities, thereby causing significant price fluctuations of the ETF.

**Exchange-Traded Notes ("ETNs"):** ETNs are structured debt securities. ETN liabilities are unsecured general obligations of the issuer. Most ETNs are designed to track a particular market segment or index. ETNs have expenses associated with their operation. When a fund invests in an ETN, in addition to directly bearing expenses associated with its own operations, it will bear its pro rata portion of the ETN's expenses. The risks of owning an ETN generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETN is designed to track, although lack of liquidity in an ETN could result in it being more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities. In addition, because of ETN expenses, compared to owning the underlying securities directly it may be more costly to own an ETN. The value of an ETN security should also be expected to fluctuate with the credit rating of the issuer.

**Corporate Debt, Commercial Paper, and Certificates of Deposit:** Fixed income securities carry additional risks than those of equity securities described above. These risks include the company's ability to retire its debt at maturity, the current interest rate environment, the coupon interest rate promised to bondholders, legal constraints, jurisdictional risk (U.S or foreign) and currency risk. If

bonds have maturities of 10 years or greater, they will likely have greater price swings when interest rates move up or down. The shorter the maturity the less volatile the price swings. Foreign bonds also have liquidity and currency risk.

**Money Market Funds:** A money market fund is technically a security. The fund managers attempt to keep the share price constant at \$1/share. However, there is no guarantee that the share price will stay at \$1/share. If the share price goes down, you can lose some or all of your principal. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") notes that "While investor losses in money market funds have been rare, they are possible." In return for this risk, you should earn a greater return on your cash than you would expect from a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insured savings account (money market funds are not FDIC insured). Next, money market fund rates are variable. In other words, you do not know how much you will earn on your investment next month. The rate could go up or go down. If it goes up, that may result in a positive outcome. However, if it goes down and you earn less than you expected to earn, you may end up needing more cash. A final risk you are taking with money market funds has to do with inflation. Because money market funds are considered to be safer than other investments like stocks, long-term average returns on money market funds tends to be less than long term average returns on riskier investments. Over long periods of time, inflation can eat away at your returns.

**Certificates of Deposit:** Certificates of deposit ("CD") are generally a safe type of investment since they are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company ("FDIC") up to a certain amount. However, because the returns are generally low, there is risk that inflation outpaces the return of the CD. Certain CDs are traded in the market place and not purchased directly from a banking institution. In addition to trading risk, when CDs are purchased at a premium, the premium is not covered by the FDIC.

**Commercial Paper:** Commercial paper ("CP") is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default. There is a less risk in asset-based commercial paper (ABCP). The difference between ABCP and CP is that instead of being an unsecured promissory note representing an obligation of the issuing company, ABCP is backed by securities. Therefore, the perceived quality of the ABCP depends on the underlying securities.

**Variable Annuities:** A variable annuity is a form of insurance where the seller or issuer (typically an insurance company) makes a series of future payments to a buyer (annuitant) in exchange for the immediate payment of a lump sum (single-payment annuity) or a series of regular payments (regular-payment annuity). The payment stream from the issuer to the annuitant has an unknown duration based principally upon the date of death of the annuitant. At this point, the contract will terminate and the remainder of the funds accumulated forfeited unless there are other annuitants or beneficiaries in the contract. Annuities can be purchased to provide an income during retirement. Unlike fixed annuities that make payments in fixed amounts or in amounts that increase by a fixed percentage, variable annuities, pay amounts that vary according to the performance of a specified set of investments, typically bond and equity mutual funds. Many variable annuities typically impose asset-based sales charges or surrender charges for withdrawals within a specified period. Variable annuities may impose a variety of fees and expenses, in addition to sales and surrender charges, such as mortality and expense risk charges; administrative fees; underlying fund expenses; and charges for special features, all of which can reduce the return. Earnings in a variable annuity do not provide all the tax advantages of 401(k)s and other before-tax retirement plans. Once the investor starts withdrawing money from their variable annuity, earnings are taxed at the ordinary income rate, rather than at the lower capital gains rates applied to other non-tax-deferred vehicles which are held for more than one year. Proceeds of most variable annuities do not receive a "step-up" in cost basis when the owner dies like stocks, bonds and mutual funds do. Some variable annuities offer "bonus credits." These are usually not free.

In order to fund them, insurance companies typically impose mortality and expense charges and surrender charge periods. In an exchange of an existing annuity for a new annuity (so-called 1035 exchanges), the new variable annuity may have a lower contract value and a smaller death benefit; may impose new surrender charges or increase the period of time for which the surrender charge applies; may have higher annual fees; and provide another commission for the broker.

**Municipal Securities:** Municipal securities, while generally thought of as safe, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the governmental 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 character paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

**Bonds:** Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer 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 character paying the same rate of return.

**U.S. Government Securities:** U.S. government securities include securities issued by the U.S. Treasury and by U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities. U.S. government securities may be supported by the full faith and credit of the United States.

**Real Estate Investment Trust:** A real estate investment trust ("REIT") is a corporate entity which invests in real estate and/or engages in real estate financing. A REIT reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges. REITs are required to declare 90% of their taxable income as dividends, but they actually pay dividends out of funds from operations, so cash flow has to be strong or the REIT must either dip into reserves, borrow to pay dividends, or distribute them in stock (which causes dilution). After 2012, the IRS stopped permitting stock dividends. Most REITs must refinance or erase large balloon debts periodically. The credit markets are no longer frozen, but banks are demanding, and getting, harsher terms to re-extend REIT debt. Some REITs may be forced to make secondary stock offerings to repay debt, which will lead to additional dilution of the stockholders. Fluctuations in the real estate market can affect the REIT's value and dividends.

**Government and Agency Mortgage-Backed Securities:** The principal issuers or guarantors of mortgage-backed securities are the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), Fannie Mae ("FNMA") and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"). GNMA, a wholly owned U.S. government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), creates pass-through securities from pools of government-guaranteed (Farmers' Home Administration, Federal Housing Authority or Veterans Administration) mortgages. The principal and interest on GNMA pass-through securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

FNMA, which is a U.S. government-sponsored corporation owned entirely by private stockholders that is subject to regulation by the secretary of HUD, and FHLMC, a corporate instrumentality of the U.S. government, issue pass-through securities from pools of conventional and federally insured and/or guaranteed residential mortgages. FNMA guarantees full and timely payment of all interest and principal, and FHLMC guarantees timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal of its pass-through securities. Mortgage-backed securities from FNMA and FHLMC are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.



**Corporate Debt Obligations:** Corporate debt obligations include corporate bonds, debentures, notes, commercial paper and other similar corporate debt instruments. Companies use these instruments to borrow money from investors. The issuer pays the investor a fixed or variable rate of interest and must repay the amount borrowed at maturity. Commercial paper (short-term unsecured promissory notes) is issued by companies to finance their current obligations and normally has a maturity of less than nine months. RSA may also invest in corporate debt securities registered and sold in the United States by foreign issuers (Yankee bonds) and those sold outside the U.S. by foreign or U.S. issuers (Eurobonds).

**Mortgage-Backed Securities:** Mortgage-backed securities represent interests in a pool of mortgage loans originated by lenders such as commercial banks, savings associations, and mortgage bankers and brokers. Mortgage-backed securities may be issued by governmental or government-related entities, or by non-governmental entities such as special-purpose trusts created by commercial lenders.

Pools of mortgages consist of whole mortgage loans or participations in mortgage loans. The majority of these loans are made to purchasers of between one and four family homes. The terms and characteristics of the mortgage instruments are generally uniform within a pool but may vary among pools. For example, in addition to fixed-rate, fixed-term mortgages, RSA may purchase pools of adjustable-rate mortgages, growing equity mortgages, graduated payment mortgages and other types. Mortgage poolers apply qualification standards to lending institutions, which originate mortgages for the pools as well as credit standards and underwriting criteria for individual mortgages included in the pools. In addition, many mortgages included in pools are insured through private mortgage insurance companies.

Mortgage-backed securities differ from other forms of fixed income securities, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts, with principal payments at maturity or on specified call dates. Most mortgage-backed securities, however, are pass-through securities, which means that investors receive payments consisting of a pro rata share of both principal and interest (less servicing and other fees), as well as unscheduled prepayments as loans in the underlying mortgage pool are paid off by the borrowers. Additional prepayments to holders of these securities are caused by prepayments resulting from the sale or foreclosure of the underlying property or refinancing of the underlying loans. As prepayment rates of individual pools of mortgage loans vary widely, it is not possible to accurately predict the average life of a particular mortgage-backed security. Although mortgage-backed securities are issued with stated maturities of up to 40 years, unscheduled or early payments of principal and interest on the mortgages may shorten considerably the securities' effective maturities.

**Asset-Backed Securities:** Like mortgages-backed securities, the collateral underlying asset-backed securities are subject to prepayment, which may reduce the overall return to holders of asset-backed securities. Asset-backed securities present certain additional and unique risks. Primarily, these securities do not always have the benefit of a security interest in collateral comparable to the security interests associated with mortgage-backed securities. Credit card receivables are in general unsecured. Debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such debtors the right to set-off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due.

Generally, automobile receivables are secured by automobiles. Most issuers of automobile receivables permit the loan servicers to retain possession of the underlying obligations. If the servicer were to sell these obligations to another party, there is a risk that the purchaser would acquire an interest superior to that of the holders of the asset-backed securities. In addition, because of the large number of

vehicles involved in a typical issuance and the technical requirements under state laws, the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have a proper security interest in the underlying automobiles. As a result, the risk that recovery on repossessed collateral might be unavailable or inadequate to support payments on asset-backed securities is greater for asset-backed securities than for mortgage-backed securities. In addition, because asset-backed securities are relatively new, the market experience in these securities is limited and the market's ability to sustain liquidity through all phases of an interest rate or economic cycle has not been tested.

**Collateralized Obligations:** Collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") are collateralized by mortgage-backed securities issued by GNMA, FHLMC or FNMA ("mortgage assets"). CMOs are multiple-class debt obligations. Payments of principal and interest on the mortgage assets are passed through to the holders of the CMOs as they are received, although certain classes (often referred to as "tranches") of CMOs have priority over other classes with respect to the receipt of mortgage prepayments. Each tranche is issued at a specific or floating coupon rate and has a stated maturity or final distribution date. Interest is paid or accrues in all tranches on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis. Payments of principal and interest on mortgage assets are commonly applied to the tranches in the order of their respective maturities or final distribution dates, so that generally no payment of principal will be made on any tranche until all other tranches with earlier stated maturity or distribution dates have been paid in full.

Collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs") include collateralized bond obligations ("CBOs"), collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs") and other similarly structured securities. CBOs and CLOs are types of asset-backed securities. A CBO is a trust that is backed by a diversified pool of high-risk, below-investment-grade fixed income securities. A CLO is a trust typically collateralized by a pool of loans, which may include, among others, domestic and foreign senior secured loans, senior unsecured loans and subordinate corporate loans, including loans that may be rated below investment grade or equivalent unrated loans.

### **Investment Strategy and Method of Analysis Material Risks**

**Leverage:** Although RSA, as a general business practice, does not utilize leverage, there may be instances in which exchange-traded funds, other separate account managers and, in very limited circumstances, RSA will utilize leverage. In this regard please review the following:

The use of leverage enhances the overall risk of investment gain and loss to the client's investment portfolio. For example, investors are able to control \$2 of a security for \$1. So if the price of a security rises by \$1, the investor earns a 100% return on their investment. Conversely, if the security declines by \$.50, then the investor loses 50% of their investment. The use of leverage entails borrowing, which results in additional interest costs to the investor. In addition, the use of leverage enhances the price volatility of the collateral securities which can result in significant loss.

Broker-dealers that carry customer accounts have a minimum equity requirement when clients utilize leverage. The minimum equity requirement is stated as a percentage of the value of the underlying collateral security with an absolute minimum dollar requirement. For example, if the price of a security declines in value to the point where the excess equity used to satisfy the minimum requirement dissipates, the broker-dealer will require the client to deposit additional collateral to the account in the form of cash or marketable securities. A deposit of securities to the account will require a larger deposit, as the security being deposited is included in the computation of the minimum equity requirement. In addition, when leverage is utilized and the client needs to satisfy a required margin deposit or withdraw cash, the client must sell a disproportionate amount of collateral securities to release enough cash to satisfy the withdrawal amount based upon similar reasoning as cited above.

Regulations concerning the use of leverage are established by the Federal Reserve Board and vary if the client's account is held at a broker-dealer versus a bank custodian. Broker-dealers and bank custodians may apply more stringent rules as they deem necessary.

**Options Contracts:** Options are complex securities that involve risks and are not suitable for everyone. Option trading can be speculative in nature and carry substantial risk of loss. It is generally recommended that you only invest in options with risk capital. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset at a specific price on or before a certain date (the "expiration date"). The two types of options are calls and puts:

A call gives the holder the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. Calls are similar to having a long position on a stock. Buyers of calls hope that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.

A put gives the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. Puts are very similar to having a short position on a stock. Buyers of puts hope that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

Selling options is more complicated and can be even riskier.

The option trading risks pertaining to options buyers are:

- Risk of losing your entire investment in a relatively short period of time.
- The risk of losing your entire investment increases if, as expiration nears, the stock is below the strike price of the call (for a call option) or if the stock is higher than the strike price of the put (for a put option).
- European style options which do not have secondary markets on which to sell the options prior to expiration can only realize its value upon expiration.
- Specific exercise provisions of a specific option contract may create risks.
- Regulatory agencies may impose exercise restrictions, which stops you from realizing value.

The option trading risks pertaining to options sellers are:

- Options sold may be exercised at any time before expiration.
- Covered Call traders forgo the right to profit when the underlying stock rises above the strike price of the call options sold and continues to risk a loss due to a decline in the underlying stock.
- Writers of Naked Calls risk unlimited losses if the underlying stock rises.
- Writers of Naked Puts risk unlimited losses if the underlying stock drops.
- Writers of naked positions run margin risks if the position goes into significant losses. Such risks may include liquidation by the broker.
- Writers of call options could lose more money than a short seller of that stock could on the same rise on that underlying stock. This is an example of how the leverage in options can work against the option trader.
- Writers of Naked Calls are obligated to deliver shares of the underlying stock if those call options are exercised.
- Call options can be exercised outside of market hours such that effective remedy actions cannot be performed by the writer of those options.
- Writers of stock options are obligated under the options that they sold even if a trading market is not available or that they are unable to perform a closing transaction.

- The value of the underlying stock may surge or ditch unexpectedly, leading to automatic exercises.

Other option trading risks are:

- The complexity of some option strategies is a significant risk on its own.
- Option trading exchanges or markets and option contracts themselves are open to changes at all times.
- Options markets have the right to halt the trading of any options, thus preventing investors from realizing value.
- Risk of erroneous reporting of exercise value.
- If an options brokerage firm goes insolvent, investors trading through that firm may be affected.
- Internationally traded options have special risks due to timing across borders.

Risks that are not specific to options trading include market risk, sector risk and individual stock risk. Option trading risks are closely related to stock risks, as stock options are a derivative of stocks.

**Derivatives:** Derivatives are types of investments where the investor does not own the underlying asset. There are many different types of derivative instruments, including, but not limited to, options, swaps, futures, and forward contracts. Derivatives have numerous uses as well as various risks associated with them, but they are generally considered an alternative way to participate in the market. Investors typically use derivatives for three reasons: to hedge a position, to increase leverage, or to speculate on an asset's movement. The key to making a sound investment is to fully understand the characteristics and risks associated with the derivative, including, but not limited to counter-party, underlying asset, price, and expiration risks. The use of a derivative only makes sense if the investor is fully aware of the risks and understands the impact of the investment within a portfolio strategy. Due to the variety of available derivatives and the range of potential risks, a detailed explanation of derivatives is beyond the scope of this disclosure.

## Item 9 Disciplinary Information

### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

RSA has nothing to disclose for this item.

### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

RSA has nothing to disclose for this item.

### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

RSA has nothing to disclose for this item.

## Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

### **Broker-Dealer or Representative Registration**

Neither RSA nor its affiliates are registered broker-dealers and do not have an application to register pending.

### **Futures or Commodity Registration**

RSA is not registered as a commodity firm, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading adviser and does not have an application to register pending.

**Affiliated Bank**

River Street's parent company is Old Second National Bank. Please be advised that there is no obligation for the client to engage River Street as a condition of its relationship with Old Second National Bank. Prospective clients are free to do business with the investment advisor of their choice.

Additionally, we will recommend that you use the services of our affiliate if appropriate for your needs. Our advisory services are separate and distinct from the compensation paid to our affiliate for their services.

Referral arrangements with an affiliated entity present a conflict of interest for us because we may have a direct or indirect financial incentive to recommend an affiliated firm's services. While we believe that compensation charged by an affiliated firm is competitive, such compensation may be higher than fees charged by other firms providing the same or similar services. You are under no obligation to use the services of any firm we recommend, whether affiliated or otherwise, and may obtain comparable services and/or lower fees through other firms.

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

In accordance with the Advisers Act, RSA has adopted policies and procedures designed to detect and prevent insider trading. In addition, RSA has adopted a Code of Ethics (the "Code"). Among other things, the Code includes written procedures governing the conduct of the firm's advisory and access persons. The Code also imposes certain reporting obligations on persons subject to the Code. RSA will send clients a copy of its Code of Ethics upon written request.

RSA has policies and procedures in place to ensure that the interests of its clients are given preference over those of the firm, its affiliates, and its employees. For example, there are policies in place to prevent the misappropriation of material nonpublic information, and such other policies and procedures reasonably designed to comply with federal and state securities laws.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

**Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest**

RSA does not engage in principal trading (i.e., the practice of selling stock to advisory clients from a firm's inventory or buying stocks from advisory clients into a firm's inventory). In addition, RSA does not recommend any securities to advisory clients in which it has some proprietary or ownership interest.

**Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest**

RSA, its affiliates, employees and their families, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, and retirement plans established by it may purchase the same securities as are purchased for clients in accordance with its Code of Ethics policies and procedures. The personal securities transactions by advisory representatives and employees may raise potential conflicts of interest when they trade in a security that is:

- owned by the client, or
- considered for purchase or sale for the client.

Such conflict generally refers to the practice of front-running (trading ahead of the client), which RSA specifically prohibits. RSA has adopted policies and procedures that are intended to address these conflicts of interest. These policies and procedures:

- require our advisory representatives and employees to act in the client's best interest,
- prohibit front-running, and
- provide for the review of transactions to discover and correct any trades that result in an advisory representative or employee benefitting at the expense of a client.

Advisory representatives and employees must follow RSA's procedures when purchasing or selling the same securities purchased or sold for the client.

### **Client Securities Recommendations or Trades and Concurrent Advisory Firm Securities Transactions and Conflicts of Interest**

RSA, its affiliates, employees and their families, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, and retirement plans established by it may effect securities transactions for their own accounts that differ from those recommended or effected for other of the firm's clients. RSA will make a reasonable attempt to trade securities in client accounts at or prior to trading the securities in its affiliate, corporate, employee or employee-related accounts. Trades executed the same day will likely be subject to an average pricing calculation. It is RSA's policy to place the clients' interests above those of the firm and its employees.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

### **Factors Used to Select Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions**

#### **Custodian Recommendations**

RSA maintains relationships with multiple custodians/brokerage firms, and we will typically recommend that you establish an account with Charles Schwab ("Schwab") for custody, brokerage, and trade execution. Although RSA may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with Schwab, RSA is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab does not charge separately for custody services, but is compensated by account holders through commissions and other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through or that settle into Schwab accounts.

RSA considers the financial strength, reputation, operational efficiency, cost, execution capability, level of customer service, and related factors in recommending broker-dealers or custodians to advisory clients.

In certain instances and subject to approval by the firm, RSA will recommend to clients certain broker-dealers and/or custodians based on the needs of the individual client, taking into consideration the nature of the services required, the experience of the broker-dealer or custodian, the cost and quality of the services, and the reputation of the broker-dealer or custodian. The final determination to engage a broker-dealer or custodian recommended by RSA will be made by and in the sole discretion of the client. The client recognizes that broker-dealers and/or custodians have different cost and fee structures and trade execution capabilities. As a result, there may be disparities with respect to the cost of services and/or the transaction prices for securities transactions executed on behalf of the client. Clients are responsible for assessing the commissions and other costs charged by broker-dealers and/or custodians.

#### **Soft Dollar Arrangements**

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements.

As indicated above, individual clients may direct RSA (subject to certain conditions which may from time to time be imposed by RSA) to effect portfolio transactions through specific brokers or dealers. A client who chooses to direct the use of a particular broker or dealer should consider whether such a



direction may result in certain costs or disadvantages to the client, either because the client may pay higher commissions on some transactions than might otherwise be obtainable by RSA, or may receive less favorable executions on some transactions, or both. The ability of RSA to negotiate commission rates with directed brokers will be limited. A client who directs brokerage may also be subject to the disadvantages discussed in Item 12.B.3 below regarding aggregation of orders. In determining whether to instruct RSA to utilize a particular broker or dealer, the client may wish to compare the possible costs or disadvantages of such an arrangement with the value of the services provided.

### **Economic Benefits**

As a registered investment adviser, we have access to the institutional platform of your account custodian. As such, we will also have access to research products and services from your account custodian and/or other brokerage firm. These products may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers that utilize the institutional services platforms of these firms, and are not considered to be paid for with soft dollars. However, you should be aware that the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction or set of transactions may be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.

As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, RSA endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by RSA or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence RSA's recommendation of broker-dealers such as Schwab for custody and brokerage services.

### **Schwab - Your Custody and Brokerage Costs**

For our clients' accounts it 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 and/or asset-based fees applicable to our client accounts were negotiated based on our commitment to maintain \$105 million of our clients' assets statement equity in accounts at Schwab. This commitment benefits you because the overall commission rates and/or asset-based fees you pay are lower than they would be if we had not made the commitment. In addition to commission rates and/or asset-based fees 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.

### **Schwab Adviser Services**

Schwab Advisor Services 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 are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us.

### 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 some 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:

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

### Services that Generally Benefit Only Us

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

- educational conferences and events;
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession;
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers; and
- marketing and consulting support.

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

### **Our Interest in Schwab's Services**

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. These services 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. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of Schwab's services (based on the factors discussed above – see "The Custodian and Broker We Use") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us. We do not believe that maintaining our client's assets at Schwab for services presents a material conflict of interest.



**Recommendation of Prime Broker**

In some circumstances, where a client has not previously made custodial arrangements, we may suggest that the client use a particular broker-dealer to act as custodian for the funds and securities we manage. In those cases, we generally only recommend broker-dealers capable of acting as a "prime broker." Under "prime broker" arrangements, the firm may, on a transaction-by-transaction basis, either use the "prime broker"/custodian or select other broker-dealers, who will execute transactions for settlement into the client's "prime brokerage" account. In making suggestions as to "prime broker"/custodians, we will consider, among other things, the clearance and settlement capabilities of the broker-dealer where other broker-dealers execute transactions, the broker-dealer's ability to provide effective and efficient reporting to the client and our firm, the broker-dealer's reliability and financial stability, and the likelihood that the broker-dealer will often be chosen as executing broker-dealer on the basis of the considerations described above, including the prospects that the broker-dealer will provide valuable research services and products.

**Brokerage for Client Referrals**

RSA does not engage in the practice of directing brokerage commissions in exchange for the referral of advisory clients.

**Directed Brokerage**

We routinely require that you direct our firm to execute transactions through Charles Schwab. As such, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions and you may pay higher brokerage commissions than you might otherwise pay through another broker-dealer that offers the same types of services. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage.

**Client-Directed Brokerage**

Occasionally, clients may direct RSA to use a particular broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for their accounts or request that certain types of securities not be purchased for their accounts. Clients who designate the use of a particular broker-dealer should be aware that they will lose any possible advantage RSA derives from aggregating transactions. Such client trades are typically effected after the trades of clients who have not directed the use of a particular broker-dealer. RSA loses the ability to aggregate trades with other RSA advisory clients, potentially subjecting the client to inferior trade execution prices as well as higher commissions.

**Aggregating Securities Transactions for Client Accounts****Best Execution**

RSA may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with Charles Schwab, both are FINRA-registered broker-dealers, member SIPC, to maintain custody of clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. Clients are directed to consult their current custodian for their policies and fees.

RSA, pursuant to the terms of its investment advisory agreement with clients, may have discretionary authority to determine which securities are to be bought and sold, the price of such securities, the executing broker, and the commission rates to be paid to effect such transactions. RSA recognizes that the analysis of execution quality involves a number of factors, both qualitative and quantitative. RSA will follow a process in an attempt to ensure that it is seeking to obtain the most favorable execution under the prevailing circumstances when placing client orders. These factors include but are not limited to the following:

- The financial strength, reputation, and stability of the broker
- The efficiency with which the transaction is effected
- The ability to effect prompt and reliable executions at favorable prices (including the applicable

- dealer spread or commission, if any)
- The availability of the broker to stand ready to effect transactions of varying degrees of difficulty in the future
- The efficiency of error resolution, clearance, and settlement
- Block trading and positioning capabilities
- Performance measurement
- Online access to computerized data regarding customer accounts
- Availability, comprehensiveness, and frequency of brokerage and research services
- Commission rates
- The economic benefit to the client
- Related matters involved in the receipt of brokerage services

Consistent with its fiduciary responsibilities, RSA seeks to ensure that clients receive best execution with respect to the clients' transactions by blocking client trades to reduce commissions and transaction costs. To the best of RSA's knowledge, these custodians provide high-quality execution, and RSA's clients do not pay higher transaction costs in return for such execution.

Commission rates and securities transaction fees charged to effect such transactions are established by the client's independent custodian and/or broker-dealer. Based upon its own knowledge of the securities industry, RSA believes that such commission rates are competitive within the securities industry. Lower commissions or better execution may be able to be achieved elsewhere.

### **Security Allocation**

Since RSA may be managing accounts with similar investment objectives, the firm may aggregate orders for securities for such accounts. In such event, allocation of the securities so purchased or sold, as well as expenses incurred in the transaction, is made by RSA in the manner it considers to be the most equitable and consistent with its fiduciary obligations to such accounts.

RSA's allocation procedures seek to allocate investment opportunities among clients in the fairest possible way, taking into account the clients' best interests. RSA will follow procedures to ensure that allocations do not involve a practice of favoring or discriminating against any client or group of clients. Account performance is never a factor in trade allocations.

RSA's advice to certain clients and entities and the actions of RSA for those and other clients are frequently premised not only on the merits of a particular investment but also on the suitability of that investment for the particular client in light of his or her applicable investment objectives, guidelines, and circumstances. Thus, any action of RSA with respect to a particular investment may, for a particular client, differ or be opposed to the recommendation, advice, or actions of RSA to or on behalf of other clients.

### **Order Aggregation**

Orders for the same security entered on behalf of more than one client will generally be aggregated (i.e., blocked or bunched) subject to the aggregation being in the best interests of all participating clients. Subsequent orders for the same security entered during the same trading day may be aggregated with any previously unfilled orders. Subsequent orders may also be aggregated with filled orders if the market price for the security has not materially changed and the aggregation does not cause any unintended duration exposure. All clients participating in each aggregated order will receive the average price and, subject to minimum ticket charges and possible step outs, pay a pro rata portion of commissions.

To minimize performance dispersion, "strategy" trades should be aggregated and average priced. However, when a trade is to be executed for an individual account and the trade is not in the best

interests of other accounts, then the trade will only be performed for that account. This is true even if RSA believes that a larger size block trade would lead to best overall price for the security being transacted.

### **Allocation of Trades**

All allocations will be made prior to the close of business on the trade date. In the event an order is "partially filled," the allocation will be made in the best interests of all the clients in the order, taking into account all relevant factors including, but not limited to, the size of each client's allocation, clients' liquidity needs, and previous allocations. In most cases, accounts will get a pro forma allocation based on the initial allocation. This policy also applies if an order is "over-filled."

RSA acts in accordance with its duty to seek best price and execution and will not continue any arrangements if it determines that such arrangements are no longer in the best interests of its clients.

### **Mutual Fund Share Classes**

Mutual funds are sold with different share classes, which carry different cost structures. Each available share class is described in the mutual fund's prospectus. When we purchase, or recommend the purchase of, mutual funds for a client, we select the share class that is deemed to be in the client's best interest, taking into consideration the availability of advisory, institutional or retirement plan share classes, initial and ongoing share class costs, transaction costs (if any), tax implications, cost basis and other factors. We also review the mutual funds held in accounts that come under our management to determine whether a more beneficial share class is available, considering cost, tax implications, and the impact of contingent or deferred sales charges.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

### **Schedule for Periodic Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans and Advisory Persons Involved**

The review of accounts is conducted in the first instance by the RSA professional servicing the client relationship. Such professionals are subject to the general authority of RSA's CEO. The CEO or his designee(s) must review and approve the opening of each new advisory relationship and oversee reviews of client accounts. The CEO or his designee(s) is also responsible for ensuring that any significant change in a client's investment strategy or in the concentration of a client's assets is appropriate for and has been reviewed with the client. Such reviews are performed no less frequently than quarterly.

### **Review of Client Accounts on Non-Periodic Basis**

RSA may perform ad hoc reviews on an as-needed basis if there have been material changes in the client's investment objectives or risk tolerance, or a material change in how RSA formulates investment advice.

### **Content of Client-Provided Reports and Frequency**

In addition to monthly statements (no less frequently than quarterly) provided by the client's custodian, which detail transaction activity, holdings and portfolio value, RSA engages a third party to produce quarterly client reports that detail account performance, comparison of account performance against appropriate benchmarks, and other such measures designed to identify the risk and performance of the client's investment portfolio. The client's independent custodian also provides account statements directly to the client no less frequently than quarterly. The custodian's statement is the official record of the client's securities account and supersedes any statements or reports created on behalf of the client by RSA.

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

### **Economic Benefits Provided to the Advisory Firm from External Sources and Conflicts of Interest**

Other than as described in Items 10 and 12 of this Brochure, RSA does not receive economic benefits from external sources.

### **Advisory Firm Payments for Client Referrals**

As disclosed in Item 4, we are a wholly owned subsidiary of Old Second Bank. Old Second Bank has a program whereby bank employees who refer prospective clients to RSA for wealth management services may receive a nominal bonus and/or monetary award for the referral to be paid directly by Old Second Bank. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral bonus program sponsored by our parent organization. Incentive based compensation is contingent upon you entering into an advisory agreement with us. Therefore, the individual has a financial incentive to recommend us to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest; however, you are not obligated to retain us for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees may be available through other firms.

## **Item 15 Custody**

Upon your written authorization, 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.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may grant a limited power of attorney to RSA with respect to trading activity in their accounts by signing the appropriate custodian limited power of attorney form. In such cases, RSA will exercise full discretion as to the nature and type of securities to be purchased and sold, the amount of securities for such transactions, the amount of commissions to be paid, and the executing broker to be used. Investment limitations may be designated by the client as outlined in the investment advisory agreement.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

RSA often has voting power with respect to securities in client accounts. As such, RSA owes certain fiduciary duties with respect to the voting of proxies. These fiduciary duties include (i) the duty of care, which requires RSA to monitor corporate events and to vote the proxies; and (ii) the duty of loyalty, which requires RSA to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interests of the client and to put the client's interests before the firm's own interests. In keeping with its fiduciary duties, RSA has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy, which sets forth the firm's policies and procedures designed to ensure that it votes each client's securities in the best interests of the client.

RSA will be authorized to take action and render any advice with respect to the voting of proxies for securities held in the client's account. RSA will make an independent valuation for each applicable

company held in the client's account in accordance with its fiduciary obligations as detailed in this policy. Clients may contact RSA's Managing Member for information about how RSA voted with respect to any of the securities held in their accounts.

Except as required by applicable law, RSA will not be obligated to render advice or take any action on behalf of clients with respect to assets presently or formerly held in their accounts that become the subject of any legal proceedings, including bankruptcies.

As a general rule, RSA will vote all proxies relating to a particular proposal the same way for all client accounts holding the security in accordance with RSA's Proxy Voting Policy, unless a client specifically instructs in writing to vote such client's securities otherwise. When making proxy voting decisions, RSA may seek advice or assistance from third-party consultants, such as proxy voting services or legal counsel.

A copy of RSA's Proxy Voting Policy will be provided upon receipt of a written request. Please send such requests to:

River Street Advisors, LLC  
37 S. River Street  
Aurora, Illinois 60506

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

### **Balance Sheet**

Our firm does not have any financial condition or impairment that would prevent us from meeting our contractual commitments to you. We do not take physical custody of client funds or securities, or serve as trustee or signatory for client accounts, and, we do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six or more months in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement with this brochure.

### **Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Advisory Firm's Ability to Meet Commitments to Clients**

RSA does not have any financial issues that would impair its ability to provide services to clients.

### **Bankruptcy Petitions During the Past Ten Years**

There are no bankruptcy petitions to report.

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

We are a federally registered investment 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 our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure if you have any questions regarding this policy.

**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.