

**Item 1: Cover Page  
Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
February 2024**



**Fortiter Wealth Management, LLC  
1980 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77056  
[www.fortiterwealth.com](http://www.fortiterwealth.com)**

**Firm Contact:  
Vince Elliott  
Chief Compliance Officer**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Fortiter Wealth Management, LLC ("Fortiter Wealth"). If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (832)-941-1234. 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 our firm is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching CRD #169577.

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of our firm and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Clients are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise clients for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Fortiter Wealth is required to make clients aware of information that has changed since the last annual update to the Firm Brochure ("Brochure") and that may be important to them. Clients can then determine whether to review the brochure in its entirety or to contact us with questions about the changes.

Since our FYE 2022 Annual Amendment filing, our firm has no material changes to report.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

Founded in August 2014 by its Managing Member, Vincent Elliott, Fortiter Wealth Management is a Delaware Limited Liability Company offering a variety of advisory services, which include financial planning, investment management and wealth management services. In dealing with clients, the Firm seeks first to evaluate a client's current, holistic financial situation prior to managing their investments. Fortiter Wealth Management then designs and implements an investment plan aimed at achieving a client's financial objectives. Prior to the Firm rendering any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with Fortiter Wealth Management setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the "Advisory Agreement").

The purpose of this Brochure is to disclose the conflicts of interest associated with the investment transactions, compensation and any other matters related to investment decisions made by our firm or its representatives. As a fiduciary, it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing our client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizons. Working with clients to understand their investment objectives while educating them about our process, facilitates the kind of working relationship we value.

### **Types of Advisory Services Offered**

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#### **Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

As part of our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service clients will be provided asset management and financial planning or consulting services. Our firm conducts client meetings to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what is learned, an investment approach is presented to the client, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, ETFs, options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives. Upon client request, our firm provides a summary of observations and recommendations for the planning or consulting aspects of this service.

Our firm utilizes the sub-advisory services of Breckinridge Capital Advisors, a third-party investment advisory firm or individual advisor to aid in the implementation of a municipal bond investment portfolio. We regularly monitor the allocation, performance, and registration basis of any outside manager utilized in our client accounts.

#### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our firm provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education. Retirement Plan Consulting services typically include:

- Establishing an Investment Policy Statement – Our firm will assist in the development of a statement that summarizes the investment goals and objectives along with the broad strategies to be employed to meet the objectives.
- Investment Options – Our firm will work with the Plan Sponsor to evaluate existing investment options and make recommendations for appropriate changes.
- Asset Allocation and Portfolio Construction – Our firm will develop strategic asset allocation models to aid Participants in developing strategies to meet their investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation and tolerance for risk.
- Investment Monitoring – Our firm will monitor the performance of the investments and notify the client in the event of over/underperformance and in times of market volatility.

In providing services for retirement plan consulting, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, “Excluded Assets”). All retirement plan consulting services shall be in compliance with the applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans (“Plan”) governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointment to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) or 3(38) of ERISA as designated by the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

### **Portfolio Monitoring:**

Our Portfolio Monitoring Service provides for general asset allocation guidance within parameters of a plan held with outside custodians. Our firm will evaluate the securities offered and advise clients on suggested allocations based on their wholistic financial picture. This service is solely consultative in nature and involves no on-going supervision, trading, or discretion with respect to securities transactions. Clients are responsible for placing and executing their own trades, either on their own or with another investment adviser. We provide non-continuous and periodic outside account monitoring.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

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Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients.

Each Comprehensive Portfolio Management client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account.

### **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

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Our firm does not offer or sponsor a wrap fee program.

## Regulatory Assets Under Management

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Our firm manages \$326,646,032 on a discretionary basis as of 12/31/2023.

### Item 5: Fees & Compensation

#### Compensation for Our Advisory Services

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##### Comprehensive Portfolio Management:

Portfolio Value	Annualized Base Fee
First \$1,000,000	1.13%
Next \$4,000,000	0.83%
Next \$5,000,000	0.58%
Over \$10,000,000	0.53%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the Client. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in advance based on the value of the account(s) on the last day of the previous quarter. Certain illiquid assets that do not have daily valuations will be billed based upon their most recently available valuation. If assets in excess of \$10,000 are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a quarterly billing period, the fee payable with respect to such assets is adjusted to reflect the interim change in portfolio value. It should be noted that we bill on cash balances unless otherwise agreed to. At the discretion of management, households may be taken into account when determining the client's fee rate. Fees are not negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

Please note, that the above fee-schedule is tiered. For example, if a client has \$2,500,000 in assets under management with our firm, based on the above schedule, our firm will charge an annualized fee of 1.13% on the first \$1,000,000 in assets, and an 0.83% annualized fee on the remaining \$1,500,000 in assets. The annualized fee will be calculated as follows:  $(1.13\% \times \$1,000,000) + (0.83\% \times \$1,500,000) = (\$11,300) + (\$12,450) = \$23,750$  annualized fee.

- The client's independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly showing the market values for each security included in the account and all account disbursements, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm;
- Clients will provide authorization permitting our firm to be directly paid by these terms. Our firm will send an invoice directly to the custodian; and
- If our firm sends a copy of our invoice to the client, a legend urging the comparison of information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian will be included.

For the sub-advisory services rendered to our clients, the sub-advisor will deduct the total fee from the client account(s). The fee charged by the sub-advisor shall be 15 basis points in addition to the fee published above for our firm's services.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our Retirement Plan Consulting services are billed based on the percentage of Plan assets under management and shall not exceed 50 bps. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client.

### **Portfolio Monitoring:**

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 1.13%. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in advance based on the value of the account(s) on the last day of the previous quarter. Clients will be directly billed for our portfolio monitoring service according to the terms outlined in their executed agreement. Our bill is due and payable within 30 days.

### **Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

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Clients will incur transaction fees for trades executed by their chosen custodian, either based on a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account(s) or via individual transaction charges. These transaction fees are separate from our firm's advisory fees and will be disclosed by the chosen custodian.

Fidelity Brokerage Services ("Fidelity") eliminated transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds for clients who opt into electronic delivery of statements or maintain at least \$1 million in assets at Fidelity. Clients who do not meet either criteria will be subject to transaction fees charged by Fidelity for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

Clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees, initial or deferred sales charges, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, and other fund expenses), mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

### **Termination & Refunds**

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Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for Portfolio Management services in writing at any time. Upon notice of termination our firm will process a pro-rata refund of the unearned portion of the advisory fees charged in advance.

Either party to a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement may terminate at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Full refunds will only be made in cases where cancellation occurs within 5 business days of signing an agreement. After 5 business days from initial signing, either party must provide the other party 30 days written notice to terminate billing. Billing will terminate 30 days after receipt of termination notice. Clients will be charged on a pro-rata basis, which takes into account work completed by our firm on behalf of the client. Clients will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered up to the point of termination (determined as 30 days from receipt of said written notice) and such fees will be due and payable.

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

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Our firm and representatives do not sell securities for a commission in advisory accounts.

## Item 6: Performance-Based Fees

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements

Our firm has the following types of clients:

- High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans;
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types

Our firm does not impose requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us. Certain Independent Managers may, however, impose more restrictive account requirements and billing practices from the Firm. In these instances, Fortiter Wealth Management may alter its corresponding account requirements and/or billing practices to accommodate those of the Independent Managers.

## Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss

### Methods of Analysis

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

Fundamental analysis involves an evaluation of the fundamental financial condition and competitive position of a particular fund or issuer. For Fortiter Wealth Management, this process typically involves an analysis of an issuer's management team, investment strategies, style drift, past performance, reputation and financial strength in relation to the asset class concentrations and risk exposures of the Firm's model asset allocations. A substantial risk in relying upon fundamental analysis is that while the overall health and position of a company may be good, evolving market conditions may negatively impact the security.

Modern Portfolio Theory ("MPT") is a mathematical based investment discipline that seeks to quantify expected portfolio returns in relation to corresponding portfolio risk. The basic premise of MPT is that the risk of a particular holding is to be assessed by comparing its price variations against those of the market portfolio. However, MPT disregards certain investment considerations and is based on a series of assumptions that may not necessarily reflect actual market conditions. As such, the factors for which MPT does not account (e.g., tax implications, regulatory constraints and brokerage costs) may negate the upside or add to the actual risk of a particular allocation. Nevertheless, Fortiter Wealth Management's investment process is structured in such a way to integrate those assumptions and real-life considerations for which MPT analytics do not account.



## **Investment Strategies We Use**

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We use the following strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

### **Mutual Funds and ETFs**

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as mutual funds and ETFs are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event, they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss.

Shares of mutual funds are generally distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (e.g., sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual NAV fluctuates with intraday changes to the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares may differ significantly from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to actual NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for indexed based ETFs and potentially more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies may cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their pro rata NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. If a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

### **Alternative Investments**

Hedge funds, commodity pools, Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"), Business Development Companies ("BDCs"), and other alternative investments involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Alternative investments may lack transparency as to share price, valuation and portfolio holdings. Complex tax structures often result in delayed tax reporting. Compared to mutual funds, hedge funds and commodity pools are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees and may require "capital calls" which would require additional investment. Alternative investment managers typically exercise broad investment discretion and may apply similar strategies across multiple investment vehicles, resulting in less diversification.

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs")**

REITs primarily invest in real estate or real estate-related loans. Equity REITs own real estate properties, while mortgage REITs hold construction, development and/or long-term mortgage loans. Changes in the value of the underlying property of the trusts, the creditworthiness of the issuer, property taxes, interest rates, tax laws, and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment all can affect the values of REITs. Both types of REITs are dependent upon management skill, the cash flows generated by their holdings, the real estate market in general, and the possibility

of failing to qualify for any applicable pass-through tax treatment or failing to maintain any applicable exempted status afforded under relevant laws.

REITs involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Additionally, they may lack transparency as to share price, valuation and portfolio holdings as they are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees.

#### Use of Independent Managers

As stated above, Fortiter Wealth Management may select certain Independent Managers to manage a portion of its clients' assets. In these situations, Fortiter Wealth Management continues to conduct ongoing due diligence of such managers, but such recommendations rely to a great extent on the Independent Managers' ability to successfully implement their investment strategies. In addition, the Firm generally may not have the ability to supervise the Independent Managers on a day-to-day basis.

#### Management through Similarly Managed "Model" Accounts

Fortiter Wealth Management manages certain accounts through the use of similarly managed "model" portfolios, whereby the Firm allocates all or a portion of its clients' assets among various mutual funds and/or securities on a discretionary basis using one or more of its proprietary investment strategies. In managing assets through the use of models, the Firm remains in compliance with the safe harbor provisions of Rule 3a-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The strategy used to manage a model portfolio may involve an above average portfolio turnover that could negatively impact clients' net after tax gains. While the Firm seeks to ensure that clients' assets are managed in a manner consistent with their individual financial situations and investment objectives, securities transactions effected pursuant to a model investment strategy may be done without regard to a client's individual tax ramifications. Clients should contact the Firm if they experience a change in their financial situation or if they want to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of their accounts.

#### **Risk of Loss**

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Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and the account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease, and the account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that clients understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, and that their assets are appropriately diversified in investments. Clients are encouraged to ask our firm any questions regarding their risk tolerance.

#### **Market Risks**

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and all investors should be guided accordingly. The profitability of a significant portion of the Firm's recommendations and/or investment decisions may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks, bonds and other asset classes. There can be no assurance that Fortiter Wealth Management will be able to predict those price movements accurately or capitalize on any such assumptions.

### Margin Risks

Our firm may purchase stocks, mutual funds, and/or other securities for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings. Margin accounts and transactions are risky and not necessarily appropriate for every client. It should be noted that our firm bills advisory fees on securities purchased on margin which creates a financial incentive for us to utilize margin in client accounts.

The potential risks associated with these transactions are (1) You can lose more funds than are deposited into the margin account; (2) the forced sale of securities or other assets in your account; (3) the sale of securities or other assets without contacting you; (4) you may not be entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your account(s) are liquidated or sold to meet a margin call; and (5) custodians charge interest on margin balances which will reduce your returns over time.

### Volatility Risks

The prices and values of investments can be highly volatile, and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, general economic conditions, the condition of the financial markets, the financial condition of the issuers of such assets, changing supply and demand relationships, and programs and policies of governments.

### Cash & Cash Equivalent Management Risks

The Firm may invest some of a client's assets temporarily in money market funds or other similar types of investments, during which time an advisory account may be prevented from achieving its investment objective.

Cash & Cash Equivalents generally refer to either United States Dollars or highly liquid short-term debt instruments such as but not limited to, treasury bills, bank CD's and commercial papers. Generally, these assets are considered nonproductive and will be exposed to inflation risk as well as considerable opportunity cost risk. Further it is important to note that investments in Cash & Cash Equivalents will generally return less than the advisory fee charged by our firm. Our firm will from time-to-time use Cash and Cash Equivalents as part of our clients' asset allocation when deemed appropriate, such as but not limited to, when employing the Core-Satellite Cash Allocation strategy disclosed above. It is important to note that our firm considers cash and cash equivalents as an asset class and as such will be included for the purpose of calculating advisory fees.

### Description of Material, Significant or Unusual Risks

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Our firm generally invests client cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, our firm tries to achieve the highest return on client cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management services, as applicable.

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

### Licensed Insurance Agents

Representatives of our firm are insurance agents/brokers. They offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest exists as these insurance sales create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation adviser and/or our supervised persons may earn. To mitigate this potential conflict, our firm will act in the client's best interest.

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

As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transactions and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demand the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

To prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. To monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. To minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. To minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day unless included in a block trade or after all client executions.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

### Selecting a Brokerage Firm

Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets (except for the limited instance of standing letters of authorization described below). Client assets must be maintained by a qualified custodian. Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. The factors considered, among others, are these:

- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors
- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Expertise as it relates to specific securities
- Financial condition
- Business reputation
- Quality of services

Our firm has an arrangement with National Financial Services LLC and Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC (collectively, and together with all affiliates, "Fidelity") through which Fidelity provides our firm with "institutional platform services." Our firm is independently operated and owned and is not affiliated with Fidelity. The institutional platform services include, among others, brokerage, custody, and other related services.

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

Fidelity's institutional platform services that assist us in managing and administering clients' accounts include software and other technology that (i) provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements); (ii) facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts; (iii) provide research, pricing and other market data; (iv) facilitate payment of fees from its clients' accounts; and (v) assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Fidelity may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. Research products and services provided by Fidelity may include: research reports on recommendations or other information about particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by Fidelity to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. The aforementioned research and brokerage services qualify for the safe harbor exemption defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Fidelity does not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm's use. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which our firm has investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of Fidelity as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend Fidelity and have determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

Our non-wrap fee clients may pay a transaction fee or commission to Fidelity that is higher than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where our firm determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the client as a whole. Fidelity Brokerage Services ("Fidelity") eliminated transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds for clients who opt into electronic delivery of statements or maintain at least \$1 million in assets at Fidelity. Clients who do not meet either criteria will be subject to transaction fees charged by Fidelity for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

### **Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not receive soft dollars in excess of what is allowed by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The safe harbor research products and services obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all our clients but not necessarily all at any one particular time.

Our firm, however, may receive without cost from Fidelity computer software and related systems support, which allows our firm to better monitor client accounts maintained at Fidelity. We may receive the software and related support without cost because our firm renders investment management services to Clients that maintain assets at Fidelity. The software and support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e., not “soft dollars”), but is tied specifically to the amount of Client assets at Fidelity. The software and related systems support may benefit our firm, but not Clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to our Clients, our firm endeavors at all times to put the interests of Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that our firm’s receipt of economic benefits from a broker-dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence our choice of broker-dealer over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services. Specifically, our firm may receive the following benefits from Fidelity:

- Payments made directly to qualifying third-party service providers who make certain transition support services, software and technology available to our firm;
- Receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements;
- Access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional traders;
- Access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and
- Access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

### **Client Brokerage Commissions**

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In addition to the benefits described above, Fidelity also makes available to our firm other products and services that benefit our firm. These benefits may include national, regional or investment adviser specific educational events organized and/or sponsored by Fidelity. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of our firm by Fidelity personnel, including meals, invitations to sporting events, including golf tournaments, and other forms of entertainment, some of which may accompany educational opportunities. Some of these products and services assist our firm in managing and administering clients’ accounts. These include software and other technology (and related technological training) that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of our fees from clients’ accounts, and assist with back-office training and support functions, recordkeeping and client reporting. Many of these services may be used to service all or some substantial number of our accounts, including accounts not maintained at Fidelity. Fidelity also makes available to our firm other services intended to help our firm manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services may include professional compliance, legal and business consulting, publications and conferences on practice management, information technology, business succession, regulatory compliance, employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, insurance, and marketing. Fidelity may also make available, arrange and/or pay vendors for these types of services rendered to our firm by independent third parties. Fidelity may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to our firm. While, as a fiduciary, our firm endeavors to act in our clients’ best interests, our recommendation/requirement that clients maintain their assets in accounts at Fidelity may be based in part on the benefit to our firm of the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and other arrangements and not solely on the nature, cost, or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Fidelity, which creates a potential conflict of interest.

As a result of receiving such products and services for no cost, our firm may have an incentive to continue to place client trades through broker-dealers that offer soft dollar arrangements/the aforementioned services and products. This interest conflicts with the clients’ interest of obtaining

the lowest commission rate available. Therefore, our firm must determine in good faith, based on the best execution policy stated above that such commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the services provided by such executing broker-dealers.

#### **Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

#### **Directed Brokerage**

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Neither our firm nor any of our firm's representatives have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers-dealers and/or custodians with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected. Our firm routinely recommends/requests/requires that clients direct us to execute through a specified broker-dealer. Our firm recommends the use of Fidelity. Each client will be required to establish their account(s) with Fidelity if not already done. Please note that not all advisers have this requirement.

#### **Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, our firm will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

#### **Client-Directed Brokerage**

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Our firm does not allow client-directed brokerage.

#### **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

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Our firm provides investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when our firm believes that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, our firm attempts to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.



## Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans

Fortiter Wealth Management monitors and reviews accounts on at least a quarterly basis for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Our firm does not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when our Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients are contacted.

Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

Financial Planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. Our firm does not provide ongoing services to financial planning clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Financial Planning clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately engage our firm for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

Retirement Plan Consulting clients receive reviews of their retirement plans for the duration of the service. Our firm also provides ongoing services where clients are met with upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Retirement Plan Consulting clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their plans unless they choose to engage our firm for ongoing services.

## Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation

### **Fidelity**

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Except for the arrangements outlined in Item 12 of Form ADV Part 2A, our firm has no additional arrangements to disclose.

### **Product Sponsor Funded Events**

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In an effort to keep our clients informed as to the services we offer and the various financial products we utilize, our firm occasionally sponsors events in conjunction with our product providers. These events are educational in nature and are not dependent upon the use of any specific products. While a conflict of interest may exist given that these events are at least partially funded by product sponsors, all funds received from the sponsors are used for the education of our clients, and we will always adhere to our fiduciary duties in selecting appropriate investments for our clients.

### **Referral Fees**

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In accordance with Rule 206 (4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, our firm does not provide cash or non-cash compensation directly or indirectly to unaffiliated persons for testimonials or

endorsements (which include client referrals).

## Item 15: Custody

Our firm does not have custody of client funds or securities, except for the limited instance of standing letters of authorization described below. All of our clients receive account statements directly from their qualified custodians at least quarterly upon opening of an account. If our firm decides to also send account statements to clients, such notice and account statements include a legend that recommends that the client compare the account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm. Clients are encouraged to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

### **Third Party Money Movement:**

The SEC issued a no-action letter ("Letter") with respect to the Rule 206(4)-2 ("Custody Rule") under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of instruction ("SLOA") is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguarding procedures in conjunction with our custodian, Fidelity:

- Fidelity's forms, used to establish a standing letter of authorization, include the name and account number on the receiving account and must be signed by the client.
- Fidelity's SLOA forms currently require client's signature.
- Fidelity performs verification on all SLOA forms and sends a transfer of notice to the client promptly following the transaction.
- Clients always have the ability to terminate (or amend) an SLOA in writing.
- Our firm has no authority, or ability, to amend the third party designated on a standing instruction.
- Our firm maintains records showing the third party is not a related party of our firm or located at our firm.
- Fidelity notifies the client in writing when a new standing instruction is set up. Clients also receive an annual mailing reconfirming the existence of the standing instruction.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed investment advisory client agreement. By granting investment discretion, our firm is authorized to execute securities transactions, determine which securities are bought and sold, and the total amount to be bought and sold. Should clients grant our firm non-discretionary authority, our firm would be required to obtain the client's permission prior to effecting securities transactions. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgement.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third-party money manager votes proxies, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities, beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third-party money manager), our firm and/or the client shall instruct the qualified custodian to forward to copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

## Item 18: Financial Information

Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition that is likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments.
- Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.