



GIFFORD FONG ASSOCIATES

ADV Part 2A Brochure

GIFFORD FONG ASSOCIATES

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This brochure provides information about the qualification and business practices of Gifford Fong Associates. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at: 925-299-7800, or by info@gfong.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.

GFA is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about Gifford Fong Associates, is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov

January, 2024

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■ **Material Changed**

Annual Update

Yes

Material Changes since the Last Update

Jan 15, 2013,	- Hourly Consulting rates increased, October 2013
October, 2014	- updated ADV Part 2A, provided more detailed information
January, 2015	- updated ADV Part 2A, provided more detailed information
March, 2015	- Annual Amendment Review
June, 2015	- Removed Steven Fong as Executive Director
January, 2016	- Annual Amendment Review
January, 2017	- Hourly consulting rates increased
May, 2017	- Amended – removed David Chin and added Xulin (Cathleen) Li
June, 2017	- Amended – added Steven Fong, CFO
January, 2018	- Added Shuqi (Annie) Pan, Financial Engineer
January, 2019	- Hourly consulting rates changed, assets under management, removed Clifford Fong
January, 2020	- Assets under management
November, 2020	- Hourly consulting rates changes, assets under management
January, 2021	- Assets under management
January, 2022	- Assets under management, Xulin Li's bio
January, 2023	- Assets under management, removed Shuqi Pan, updated Xulin Li's bio
January, 2024	- Assets under management

■ **Advisory Business**

Firm Description

Our Asset Management group is uniquely positioned to provide customized portfolio solutions according to its clients' investment objectives. The use of its own proprietary investment technology enables the firm to achieve above benchmark returns for a particular risk level. Since October 2006, our team has been led by H. Gifford Fong as the portfolio manager and manages client relationships. Other GFA services and products available since 1974 include: Portfolio Optimization and Management, Independent Valuation, Fixed Income Analysis, Credit Risk Analysis, Derivative Analysis, Evaluation Audit Support, and Litigation Support. The other services and products provide a unique insight of the current market conditions and our staff has extensive training and experience in finance, mathematics, statistics, and computer science to assist in the interpretation of the market conditions.

Principle Owners

Harry Gifford Fong	President and Shareholder
Steven Fong	Chief Financial Officer and Shareholder
Timothy Fong	Shareholder
Vivian Fong	Shareholder

Types of Advisory Services

GFA offers a variety of equity and fixed income investment strategies for institutional investors and provides solutions for investors to optimally construct and rebalance portfolios.

Tailored Relationships

Our relationships with our clients are tailored to their needs. We can strictly follow their investment guidelines and with the focus on our expertise in investment research, we are able to design the relationship to effectively and efficiently meet our client's requests.

Agreements

Formal agreements are established with each client to avoid any confusion as to what will be provided and all related costs.

Financial Planning Agreement

We do not provide Financial Planning Services.

Comprehensive Financial Agreement

We do not provide Comprehensive Financial Services.

Retainer Agreement

We currently do not have any Retainer Agreements.

Investment Management Agreement

Formal agreements are established with each client to avoid any confusion as to what will be provided and all related costs.

Assets under management are is \$471,866,324 on a discretionary basis as of December 31, 2023.

■ **Fees and Compensation**

Description

Asset Management Fees are based on Assets under management. Special projects are based on estimated hours using our hourly rate schedule.

ASSET MANAGEMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Gifford Fong Associates (hereafter referred to as the MANAGER) and *Client* agrees to the following fee schedule:

1. *Client* shall compensate MANAGER for its services hereunder at the following annual rate:

If the assets in the Account are in excess of \$50 million, the fee shall be as follows:

0.50 of 1% on all assets in the Account.

If the assets in the Account are less than or equal to \$50 million, the fee shall be as follows:

0.60 of 1% on the first \$25 million of the assets in the Account; and
0.50 of 1% on the next \$25 million of the assets in the Account.

2. Fees shall be payable quarterly in arrears upon receipt of an invoice from MANAGER. The invoice shall set forth the amount of the fees owed by *Client* and the valuation of assets in the Account as of the average of the closing asset value of the last day of each month in the quarter, divided by 3, multiplied by the fee schedule, and then that annual calculation is divided by 4 to obtain the quarterly calculation.
3. MANAGER warrants that the fees provided for herein are the lowest rates made available by MANAGER to similarly situated clients with a similar size account and for services substantially the same as those provided by MANAGER to *Client*.

GIFFORD FONG ASSOCIATES

Hourly Consulting Rates
Effective November 1, 2020

Labor Category	Per Hour Charge
Data Analyst	\$215.00
Admin/Clerical	\$215.00
Tech Specialist	\$230.00
Admin Accounting	\$230.00
Research Intern	\$260.00
Senior Financial Analyst	\$315.00
Programmer	\$315.00
Research Assistant	\$420.00
Research Associate	\$575.00
Financial Engineer	\$575.00
Senior Software Engineer	\$575.00
Director	\$665.00
Research Consultant	\$865.00
Principal	\$1,005.00

Hourly rates are for labor only. Administrative expenses such as photocopies, postage, telephone/fax charges, computer and technology usage, research and library databases and similar expense items will be billed at a rate of 2% of fees. Hourly rates are subject to periodic review and may change without prior notice.

Expense Ratios

0.50% for 2023

(5B) Client may select to have fees deducted from assets or billed on a quarterly basis.

(5C) In addition to the fees incurred from the above schedule, Client is responsible for fees incurred related to custodian fees, mutual fund expenses and other related transaction costs.

■ **Performance – Based Fees**

No fees charged based on performance.

Sharing of Capital Gains

We do not share in Capital Gains.

■ **Types of Clients**

Description of Clients

Institutional Public Insurance Fund.

Account Minimums

\$10 Million.

■ **Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

Methods of Analysis

Quantitatively driven, highly risk controlled approach designed to achieve incremental return over and above a specified benchmark. This strategy is based on the highest quality investment technology for portfolio structuring.

Investment Strategies

The process employed can customize the product to achieve a wide range of risk exposures and equity mandate objectives.

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.

■ **Disciplinary Information**

Legal and Disciplinary

We have not been the subject of any legal or disciplinary actions.

■ **Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Financial Industry Activities

GFA is affiliated with the Journal of Investment Management (JOIM) and sponsors the JOIM Conference Series which bridge the theory and practice of investment management. Further information, www.joim.com.

Affiliations

We have no affiliations.

■ **Codes of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading**

Code of Ethics

GFA has adopted a Code of Ethics to ensure full conformity to the rules and regulations of the many governing bodies to which we are a subject to. Their focus is also on encouraging sound investment principles and the highest ethical standards. A copy of the Code of Ethics will be provided to clients and prospective clients upon request.

Participants or Interest in Client Transactions

No conflicts of interest. Securities traded are blacklisted for all employees for a period of two days.

■ **Brokerage Practices**

Gifford Fong Associates is not a broker dealer. We provide our own research and only require brokers to provide execution of trades. We will use those brokers as directed by our client.

■ **Review of Accounts**

Periodic Reviews

The portfolio manager and analyst will review the portfolio on a weekly basis. Sector allocation and tracking error are reviewed to determine if an adjustment is required to maintain strategic parameters. In addition to the weekly reviews, other factors such as changes to the benchmark or periods of high volatility will trigger actions to review the portfolio.

Monthly reports of the current holdings and return are provided to the client. Quarterly reports are provided to include the monthly holdings, returns, changes and a market commentary. Reports can include additional information at the client's request.

Regular Reports

Quarterly.

■ **Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

Incoming Referrals

Upon request.

Referrals Out

We have no referrals out.

Other Compensation

No other forms of compensation.

■ **Custody**

Account Statements

From Custodian.

Performance Reports

From Custodian and Gifford Fong Associates.

Net worth Statements

From Custodian.

■ **Investment Discretion**

Discretionary Authority for Trading

We have discretionary trading authority based on our proposed investment strategy.

Limited Power of Attorney

No.

■ **Voting Client Securities**

Proxy Voting

Gifford Fong Associates can accept the fiduciary responsibilities to voting proxies. GFA has guidelines to votes regarding the usual voting position on certain recurring proxy issues. These recurring issues include: analyst independence, auditors, board of directors, independent directors, capital structure, corporate governance and director responsibilities, disclosure and operational transparency, executive and director compensation, general voting provisions, equal employment, and EEO reporting. Conflicts of interest are voted to ensure the best interest of the client. Full disclosure of GFA's proxy voting and guidelines are available upon request.

■ **Financial Information**

Financial Condition

There are no impairments likely to affect our ability to meet any contractual commitment to our clients. Gifford Fong Associates has never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.



GIFFORD FONG ASSOCIATES
Part 2B of Form ADV
Brochure Supplement

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Educational Background and Business Experience

Supervised Persons

H. Gifford Fong

Born: 1944

Education Background:

University of California, Berkeley

B.S., M.B.A, and J.D. Law

Business Background:

Gifford Fong Associates
President

1974 - present

Management Sciences Division of Morgan Olmsted
Kennedy and Gardner
Managing Director of Fixed Income Research and Product Development

1972-1974

H. Gifford Fong is the President of Gifford Fong Associates, a firm with a focus on fixed income, derivative products, and asset allocation analysis. The company is engaged in independent valuation, model validation, and portfolio strategy analysis. Mr. Fong received a B.S., M.B.A., and a J.D. (law) from the University of California at Berkeley.

In his role as the editor of the Journal Of Investment Management (JOIM), Mr. Fong contributes significantly to financial research and discourse. He co-founded and edits the China JOIM and initiated the JOIM Conference Series. His professional involvement has included roles with the MIT Sloan School of Management's Corporation Visiting Committee and North American Executive Board, as well as being an advisory board member for MIT Sloan's Finance Faculty. He is also the founding sponsor and a steering committee member for the Masters in Financial Engineering Program at UC Berkeley, and a member of the Haas Hall of Fame and the Academic Advisory Board of the Consortium for Systemic Risk Analytics.

Mr. Fong has been active in both academia and industry. His advisory roles have spanned the MIT Golub Center for Finance and Policy, the UC Berkeley Foundation, and the University of California Regents Committee on Investments. He has held editorial positions at the Financial Analysts Journal and contributed to the Institute for Quantitative Research in Finance. Additionally, he has served as a vice-chair and member of the research committee for the CFA Institute's Research Foundation.

As an author, Mr. Fong has co-authored "Fixed-Income Portfolio Management" (Dow Jones-Irwin) and "Advanced Fixed Income Portfolio Management: The State of the Art" (Probus Publishing). He has also edited "The Credit Market Handbook: Advanced Modeling Issues" (Wiley Finance), along with books on hedge funds and risk management by World Scientific. His numerous publications in professional journals indicate his engagement and commitment to the field.

Mr. Fong has been recognized with awards such as the Institute for Quantitative Research in Finance Award and the Financial Analysts Journal Graham and Dodd Award of Excellence. He also dedicates time to serving on various non-profit and company boards.

Steven Fong, CEO

Born: 1972

Education Background:

U.C. Berkeley Haas School of Business
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BS in Finance
MBA

Business Background:

Gifford Fong Associates
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Director

2017 - present
2009 - 2015

Mr. Fong's duties include responsibilities for overseeing management functions such as asset allocation, performance attribution, and reporting for institutional clients; working with Client Services team to communicate portfolio performance, positioning and investment outlook to clients, prospects and consultants; working closely with GFA's Investment Team to ensure intimate knowledge on specific holdings, the investment process and trade rational – acting as a proxy for the portfolio manager in all sales and client service capacities; addressing client service escalations and inquiries; overseeing RFP responses, review and contribute to creation of product materials; representing GFA and its investment approaches in a variety of forums including conferences, final presentations, client update meetings, and onsite due diligence meetings; maintaining an awareness of asset management peers (firms, strategies, performance, etc.); working closely with senior management team in their efforts to maximize prospect pipeline and formulate new business strategy through product positioning and product development.

Prior to GFA, he has held senior level finance positions at Visa USA, Fisher Investments, and Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, focusing on budgeting, financial modeling, and strategic planning activities.

Xulin (Cathleen) Li, Senior Research Associate

Born: 1990

Education Background:

MBA, International Technological University

M.S., Applied Finance and Global Business, Pepperdine University, Graziadio School of Business and Management

Bachelor of Management, Business Management and Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, Joint Degree Program - Jinan University and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Business Background:

Gifford Fong Associates
Research Analyst
Research Associate

2016
2021 - present

Disciplinary Information

Neither Gifford Fong Associates nor any Supervised Persons have been involved in any activities resulting in material or legal disciplinary disclosure.

Other Business Activities

Other business activities include valuation and analysis of a wide range of derivatives and complex fixed-income securities such as Auction Rate Securities (ARS) and Structured Products (CDO, ABS, MBS, etc.) and we provide litigation support services.

Additional Compensation

No Supervised Person receives any formal economic benefit from activities related to investment management or brokerage outside of regular salaries or bonuses.

Supervision

H. Gifford Fong supervises all persons named in this Form ADV Part 2B Investment Adviser Brochure Supplement. H. Gifford Fong supervises these persons by holding regular staff, investment and other ad hoc meetings. Steven Fong regularly reviews client reports, emails, and trading, as well as employees' personal securities transaction and holdings reports.

H. Gifford Fong or Steven Fong may be reached at (925) 299-7800.