

Provident Financial Planning, LLC

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January 12, 2024

Branch Office:

2626 Cole Ave. Ste. 300

Dallas, TX 75204

Branch Office:

2325 E Camelback Rd, Ste. 400,

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Branch Office:

5700 Tennyson Pkwy. Ste. 300

Plano, TX 75024

Branch Office:

3379 Peachtree Road NE

Suite 700

Atlanta, Georgia 30326

Branch Office:

5100 Westheimer Road, Suite 200

Houston, TX 77056

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Provident Financial Planning, LLC ("Provident", "Adviser", "us", "we", "our"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (469) 500-5200 or via email at Paul@ProvidentFP.com. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Provident is also available via the SEC's website www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. You can search this site by using a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. The CRD number for Provident is #291830. The SEC's web site also provides information about any persons affiliated with Provident who are registered, or are required to be registered, as Investment Adviser Representatives of Provident. Provident is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information that you may use to determine whether to hire or retain them.

Item 2 – Material Changes

Since our last amendment filing on June 13, 2023, the following material change(s) were made to the brochure:

- Item 1 has been updated with the new branch office address for our branch office located in Phoenix, AZ.
- Item 5 has been updated to reflect a change to the fee schedule.
- Item 12 and Item 15 has been updated to remove TD Ameritrade as a custodian due to the acquisition by Charles Schwab & Co.

In the future, this section of the Brochure will discuss only the specific material changes that were made to the Brochure and will provide you with a summary of all material changes that have occurred since the last filing of this Brochure. This section will also identify the date of our last annual Brochure update.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 90 days of the close of our business' fiscal year end, which is December 31. We will provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as they occur. We will also provide you with information on how to obtain the complete brochure. Currently, our Brochure may be requested at any time, without charge, by contacting Paul Michel at (469) 500-5200.

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Item 4 – Advisory Business Introduction

Our Advisory Business

Provident is a registered investment adviser with Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). The Adviser was founded in 2017 by Paul Michel. The Adviser’s principal owner is Paul Michel. In December 2022, Zachary Montgomery, and Neal Reinig became minority owners of Provident. In June 2023, Creig Manson became a minority owner of Provident. Zachary Montgomery serves as the Chief Compliance Officer.

Services

Provident offers asset management and financial planning consulting services, with an emphasis on building portfolios designed to meet the needs of our clients. Our focus is on helping you develop and execute plans that are designed to build and preserve your wealth. We are available during normal business hours either by telephone, email, or in person by appointment to answer your questions.

Active Asset Management

Tailored Asset Management Services

As part of the active asset management process we will meet with you to discuss your financial circumstances, investment goals and objectives, and to determine your risk tolerance. We will ask you to provide statements summarizing current investments, income and other earnings, recent tax returns, retirement plan information, other assets and liabilities, wills and trusts, insurance policies, and other pertinent information.

Based on the information you share with us; we will analyze your situation and tailor a portfolio with appropriate asset allocations and investment strategies. Our recommendations and ongoing management are based upon your investment goals, objectives and risk tolerance. We will monitor the account, trade as necessary, and communicate regularly with you.

We will work with you on an ongoing basis to evaluate your asset allocation as well as rebalance your portfolio to keep it in line with your goals as necessary. We will be reasonably available to help you with questions about your account.

* Please note that pursuant to the investment advisory agreement you are obligated to notify us promptly when your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change. *

You shall have the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of your account, including the ability to instruct us not to purchase certain mutual funds, stocks or other securities. These restrictions may be a specific company security, industry sector, asset class, or any other restriction you request.

Under certain conditions, securities from outside accounts may be transferred into your advisory account; however, we may recommend that you sell any security if we believe that it is not suitable for the current recommended investment strategy. Additionally, trading may be required to meet initial allocation

targets, after substantial cash deposits that require investment allocation, and/or after a request for a withdrawal that requires liquidation of a position.

Periodically, your account may need to be rebalanced or reallocated in order to reestablish the targeted percentages of your initial asset allocation. This rebalancing or reallocation will occur as required or pursuant to the schedule we have determined together.

You will be responsible for all tax consequences resulting from the sale of any security, rebalancing or reallocation of the account. You are responsible for any taxable events in these instances. We are not tax professionals and do not give tax advice. However, we will work with your tax professionals to assist you with tax planning.

You will be notified of any purchases or sales through trade confirmations and statements that are provided by the custodian. These statements list the total value of the account, itemize all transaction activity, and list the types, amounts, and total value of securities held. You will at all times maintain full and complete ownership rights to all assets held in your account, including the right to withdraw securities or cash, proxy voting and receiving transaction confirmations.

Financial Planning and/or Consulting

We provide services such as investment planning, general financial planning, income tax planning, college education funding, business succession planning, retirement planning, educational fund planning, individual tax planning and filing services, risk management, estate planning, business planning, and insurance planning. Fee based financial planning is a comprehensive relationship which incorporates many different aspects of your financial status into an overall plan that meets your goals and objectives. The financial planning relationship consists of face-to-face meetings and ad hoc meetings with you and/or your other advisors (attorneys, accountants, etc.) as necessary.

In performing financial planning services, we typically examine and analyze your overall financial situation, which may include issues such as taxes, insurance needs, overall debt, credit, business planning, retirement savings and reviewing your current investment program. Our services may focus on all or only one of these areas depending upon the scope of our engagement with you.

It is essential that you provide the information and documentation we request regarding your income, investments, taxes, insurance, estate plan, etc. We will discuss your investment objectives, needs and goals, but you are obligated to inform us of any changes. We do not verify any information obtained from you, your attorney, accountant or other professionals.

If you engage us to perform these services, you will receive a written agreement detailing the services, fees, terms and conditions of the relationship. You will also receive this Brochure. You are under no obligation to implement recommendations through us. You may implement your financial plan through any financial organization of your choice.

We obtain information from a wide variety of publicly available sources. We do not have any inside private information about any investments that are recommended. All recommendations developed by us are based upon our professional judgment. We cannot guarantee the results of any of our recommendations. Choosing which advice to follow is your decision.

We can also work with you, in a consulting capacity, to create an Investment Policy Statement (IPS) that will serve as the roadmap to guide your wealth management program. Your IPS will incorporate many different aspects of your financial status into an overall plan designed to meet your goals and objectives. We will create a formal IPS and deliver it to you upon completion.

If you decide to implement our recommendations, we will help you open a custodial account(s). The funds in your account will generally be held in a separate account, in your name, at an independent custodian, and not with us. We recommend using Charles Schwab & Co.; however, you may use any custodian you wish

Wrap Fee

The Adviser does not sponsor or participate in a third-party sponsored wrap fee program.

Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2023, Provident had \$130,501,454 in discretionary assets under management and \$2,036,707 in non-discretionary assets under management.

Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

Asset Management Fee Schedule

Provident does not impose a minimum account balance for the opening of an account with the Adviser. Fees are charged monthly, in arrears. Payments are due and will be assessed on the last business day of each month, based on the number of hours spent actively managing the account(s) under management for the preceding month. The Adviser will not pro rate for deposits and withdrawals in the account during the billing period.

The below ranges are the standard fee ranges that are typically charged.

Asset Management Fee Schedule	
Assets Under Management	Annual Management Fee
Up to \$500,000	\$5,000
Up to \$750,000	\$7,000
Up to \$1,000,000	\$9,000
Up to \$2,000,000	\$10,000
Up to \$4,000,000	\$18,000
Up to \$6,000,000	\$25,000
Up to \$8,000,000	\$32,000

Up to \$10,000,000	\$39,000
Up to \$15,000,000	\$57,000
Up to \$20,000,000	\$75,000
Up to \$20,000,001+	Negotiable

The annual management fee will be billed in quarterly installments for its Asset Management Service. Any registered investment adviser who wishes to charge 3.0% or greater of the assets under management must disclose that such fee is in excess of the industry norm and that similar advisory services can be obtained for less. The fees shown above are annual fees and may be negotiable based upon certain circumstances. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without prior written notification. Provident believes the advisory fee is reasonable considering the fees charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs.

You may also pay additional advisory fees to a third-party money manager depending upon which manager you select. Our fees will not be based upon a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of the funds or any portion of your funds.

Automatic Payment of Fee

The Client agrees to authorize the Custodian to pay directly to Provident upon receipt of notice, the Account's investment advisory services fee. Fee withdrawals will occur no more frequently than monthly from the Client's Account, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the Client.

The Custodian will send to the Client a statement, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts disbursed from the Account, including the fee paid directly to Provident. Provident's access to the Assets of the Account will be limited to trading and the withdrawals authorized above.

If you do not want us to charge your account for the fee, you may pay the fee directly to us. We will send you an invoice detailing the fee calculation. Fees are due in full 15 days after receipt of the invoice.

Third Party Fees

Our fees do not include brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses. You may incur certain charges imposed by custodians and other third parties. These include fees charged by managers, custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual funds, money market funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in the fund's prospectus. These fees may include, but are not limited to, a management fee, upfront sales charges, and other fund expenses. Certain strategies offered by us may involve investment in mutual funds and/or ETFs. Load and no load mutual funds may pay annual distribution charges, sometimes referred to as "12(b)(1) fees". These 12(b)(1) fees come from fund assets, and thus indirectly from clients' assets. We do not receive any compensation from these fees. All of these fees are in addition to the management fee you pay us. You should review all fees charged to fully

understand the total amount of fees you will pay. Services similar to those offered by us may be available elsewhere for more or less than the amounts we charge. Our brokerage practices are discussed in more detail under Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

Other Compensation

While Paul Michel endeavors at all times to put the interest of our clients first as part of our fiduciary duty, the possibility of receiving additional compensation creates a conflict of interest and may affect Paul Michel's judgment when making recommendations. We require that all IARs disclose this conflict of interest when such recommendations are made. Also, we require IARs to disclose that Clients may purchase recommended securities from other registered representatives not affiliated with us.

Financial Planning and/or Consulting Fees

For clients who engage our firm for its ongoing asset management services, we do not charge a separate fee for our financial planning services. In those instances, the financial planning services we may offer will be incidental to our asset management services and will be detailed in your Advisory Agreement.

For clients who do not engage our firm for its ongoing asset management services, we will charge an hourly fee of \$300 or a fixed project cost, which may be negotiable depending upon the nature and complexity of the client's circumstances.

The fee is due upon presentation of an investment plan or the rendering of consulting services. Investment plans will be presented to you within 90 days of the contract date, provided that all information needed to prepare the investment plan has been promptly provided to us. We do not accept prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. The financial planning agreement will terminate once you receive the final plan.

The Financial Planning Agreement will show the fee you will pay.

Based upon your needs, we may also provide consultations throughout the year to advice and counsel you about other financial issues. We can help you with transition planning, major transaction analysis, coordinated with cash flow needs, retirement needs, estate planning needs, income tax planning, life and disability insurance needs, investment needs, and college education planning.

All recommendations developed by us are based upon our professional judgment. We cannot guarantee the results of any of our recommendations.

Item 6 – Performance Based Fee and Side by Side Management

We do not charge any performance-based fees. These are fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

Item 7 – Types of Client(s)

We provide investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, estates and not for profit organizations. We have no minimum account opening balance.

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

Methods of Analysis

We use Fundamental Analysis, Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), Technical Analysis and Cyclical Analysis as part of our overall investment management discipline; the implementation of these analyses as part of our investment advisory services to you may include any, all or a combination of the following:

Fundamental Analysis

Fundamental analysis is a technique that attempts to determine a security's value by focusing on the underlying factors that affect a company's actual business and its future prospects. Fundamental analysis is about using real data to evaluate a security's value. It refers to the analysis of the economic well-being of a financial entity as opposed to only its price movements.

The end goal of performing fundamental analysis is to produce a value that we can compare with the security's current price, with the aim of figuring out what sort of position to take with that security (underpriced = buy, overpriced = sell or short).

Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT)

We use Modern Portfolio Theory to help select the funds we use in your account.

Modern portfolio theory tries to understand the market as a whole, rather than looking for what makes each investment opportunity unique. Investments are described statistically, in terms of their expected long-term return rate and their expected short-term volatility. The volatility is equated with "risk," measuring how much worse than average an investment's bad years are likely to be. The end goal is to identify your acceptable level of risk tolerance, and then to find a portfolio with the maximum expected return for that level of risk.

Technical Analysis

Technical Analysis is a technique that attempts to determine a security's value by developing models and trading rules based upon price and volume transformation. Technical analysis assumes that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so the analysis focuses on the history of a security's trading behavior rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. The practice of technical analysis incorporates the importance of understanding how market participants perceive and act upon relevant information rather than focusing on the information itself. Ultimately, technical analysts develop trading models and rules by evaluating factors such as market trends, market participant behaviors, supply and demand and pricing patterns and correlations.

As with other types of analysis, the predictive nature of technical analysis can vary greatly; models and rules are often modified and updated as new patterns and behaviors develop. Past performance is not an indicator of future return.

Cyclical Analysis

While we do not attempt to time the market, we may use cyclical analysis in conjunction with other strategies to help determine if shifts are required in your investment strategies depending upon long and short-term trends in financial markets and the performance of the overall national and global economy.

Investment Strategies

In order to perform this analysis, we use many resources, such as: Morningstar, annual reports, prospectuses, filings, and Riskalyze.

- Morningstar
- Annual reports, prospectuses, filings
- Riskalyze
- Thomson Reuters

The investment strategies we use to implement any investment advice given to you include, but are not limited to:

- Risk adjusted long term growth strategy
- Income generating strategy
- Preservation of wealth strategy

Risk of Loss

We cannot guarantee our analysis methods will yield a return. In fact, a loss of principal is always a risk. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. You need to understand that investment decisions made for your account by us are subject to various market, currency, economic, political and business risks. The investment decisions we make for you will not always be profitable nor can we guarantee any level of performance.

A list of all risks associated with the strategies, products and methodology we offer are listed below:

Alternative Investment Risk

Investing in alternative investments is speculative, not suitable for all clients, and intended for experienced and sophisticated investors who are willing to bear the high economic risks of the investment, which can include:

- Loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling or other speculative investment practices
- Lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for the fund, and none expected to develop
- Volatility of returns

- Absence of information regarding valuations and pricing
- Delays in tax reporting
- Less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds.

Fundamental Analysis Risk

Fundamental analysis, when used in isolation, has a number of risks:

- There are an infinite number of factors that can affect the earnings of a company, and its stock price, over time. These can include economic, political and social factors, in addition to the various company statistics.
- The data used may be out of date.
- It is difficult to give appropriate weightings to the factors.
- It assumes that the analyst is competent.
- It ignores the influence of random events such as oil spills, product defects being exposed, and acts of God and so on.

Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT) Risk

Modern Portfolio Theory tries to understand the market as a whole and measure market risk in an attempt to reduce the inherent risks of investing in the market. However, with every financial investment strategy there is a risk of a loss of principal. Not every investment decision will be profitable, and there can be no guarantee of any level of performance.

Cyclical Analysis Risk

Looking at market cycles in conjunction with other investment strategies can be useful when making investment decisions. However, market cycles are not always predictable. Each financial investment strategy has benefits and risks. Not every investment decision will be profitable, and there can be no guarantee of any level of performance.

Exchange Traded Fund ("ETF") Risk

Most ETFs are passively managed investment companies whose shares are purchased and sold on a securities exchange. An ETF represents a portfolio of securities designed to track a particular market segment or index. ETFs are subject to the following risks that do not apply to conventional funds:

- The market price of the ETF's shares may trade at a premium or a discount to their net asset value;
- An active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained; and
- There is no assurance that the requirements of the exchange necessary to maintain the listing of an ETF will continue to be met or remain unchanged

Mutual Funds Risk

The following is a list of some general risks associated with investing in mutual funds.

- Country Risk - The possibility that political events (a war, national elections), financial problems (rising inflation, government default), or natural disasters (an earthquake, a poor harvest) will weaken a country's economy and cause investments in that country to decline.

- **Currency Risk** -The possibility that returns could be reduced for Americans investing in foreign securities because of a rise in the value of the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies. Also called exchange-rate risk.
- **Income Risk** - The possibility that a fixed-income fund's dividends will decline as a result of falling overall interest rates.
- **Industry Risk** - The possibility that a group of stocks in a single industry will decline in price due to developments in that industry.
- **Inflation Risk** - The possibility that increases in the cost of living will reduce or eliminate a fund's real inflation-adjusted returns.
- **Manager Risk** -The possibility that an actively managed mutual fund's investment adviser will fail to execute the fund's investment strategy effectively resulting in the failure of stated objectives.
- **Market Risk** -The possibility that stock fund or bond fund prices overall will decline over short or even extended periods. Stock and bond markets tend to move in cycles, with periods when prices rise and other periods when prices fall.
- **Principal Risk** -The possibility that an investment will go down in value, or "lose money," from the original or invested amount.

Stock Fund Risk

Overall "market risk" poses the greatest potential danger for investors in stocks funds. Stock prices can fluctuate for a broad range of reasons, such as the overall strength of the economy or demand for particular products or services.

Technical Analysis risk

- Technical analysis is derived from the study of market participant behavior and its efficacy is a matter of controversy.
- Methods vary greatly and can be highly subjective; different technical analysts can sometimes make contradictory predictions from the same data.
- Models and rules can incur sufficiently high transaction costs.

Overall Risks

Clients need to remember that past performance is no guarantee of future results. All funds carry some level of risk. You may lose some or all of the money you invest, including your principal, because the securities held by a fund goes up and down in value. Dividend or interest payments may also fluctuate, or stop completely, as market conditions change.

Before you invest, be sure to read a fund's prospectus and shareholder reports to learn about its investment strategy and the potential risks. Funds with higher rates of return may take risks that are beyond your comfort level and are inconsistent with your financial goals.

While past performance does not necessarily predict future returns, it can tell you how volatile (or stable) a fund has been over a period of time. Generally, the more volatile a fund, the higher the investment risk. If you need your money to meet a financial goal in the near-term, you probably can't afford the risk of

investing in a fund with a volatile history because you will not have enough time to ride out any declines in the stock market.

Item 9 – Disciplinary Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of us or the integrity of our management. We do not have any information to disclose concerning Provident or any of our IARs. We adhere to high ethical standards for all IARs and associates.

Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Neither Provident nor any of its management persons are registered as a broker-dealer or registered as a representative of a broker-dealer, nor does it have any pending application to register. In addition, neither Provident nor its management persons are affiliated with any broker-dealer.

Provident and its management persons are not registering as a commodity pool operator, futures commission merchant, or commodity trading advisor.

Other Financial Industry Affiliations

Zachary Montgomery is the managing member of Provident Legal Counsel, PLLC, and spends approximately 40 hours per month in this role. Provident Legal Counsel, PLLC, offers legal services for additional compensation. We do not require its IARs to encourage clients to utilize Provident Legal Counsel's services. Clients have the right to utilize legal services offered by other providers and not affiliated with us.

Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Accounts and Personal Trading

General Information

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for all IARs of the firm describing its high standards of business conduct, and fiduciary duty to you, our client. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a prohibition of rumor mongering, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts, the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures. All of our IARs must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually, or as amended.

Participation or Interest in Client Accounts

Our Compliance policies and procedures prohibit anyone associated with Provident from having an interest in a client account or participating in the profits of a client's account without the approval of the CCO.

The following acts are prohibited:

- Employing any device, scheme or artifice to defraud
- Making any untrue statement of a material fact
- Omitting to state a material fact necessary in order to make a statement, in light of the circumstances under which it is made, not misleading
- Engaging in any fraudulent or deceitful act, practice or course of business
- Engaging in any manipulative practices

Clients and prospective clients may request a copy of the firm's Code of Ethics by contacting the CCO.

Personal Trading

We may recommend securities to you that we will purchase for our own accounts. We may trade securities in our account that we have recommended to you as long as we place our orders after your orders. This policy is meant to prevent us from benefiting as a result of transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

Certain affiliated accounts may trade in the same securities with your accounts on an aggregated basis when consistent with our obligation of best execution. When trades are aggregated, all parties will share the costs in proportion to their investment. We will retain records of the trade Order (specifying each participating account) and its allocation. Completed Orders will be allocated as specified in the initial trade order. Partially filled Orders will be allocated on a pro rata basis. Any exceptions will be explained on the Order.

Provident has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of "Access Persons". The policy requires that an Access Person of the firm provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his designee with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Adviser selects; provided, however that at any time that the Adviser has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

We have established the following restrictions in order to ensure our fiduciary responsibilities regarding insider trading are met:

- No securities for our personal portfolio(s) shall be bought or sold where this decision is substantially derived, in whole or in part, from the role of IARs of Provident, unless the information is also available to the investing public on reasonable inquiry. In no case, shall we put our own interests ahead of yours.

Privacy Statement

We are committed to safeguarding your confidential information and hold all personal information provided to us in the strictest confidence. These records include all personal information that we collect from you or receive from other firms in connection with any of the financial services they provide. We also require other firms with whom we deal with to restrict the use of your information. Our Privacy Policy is available upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

Provident's IARs may employ the same strategy for their personal investment accounts as it does for its clients. However, IARs may not place their orders in a way to benefit from the purchase or sale of a security.

We act in a fiduciary capacity. If a conflict of interest arises between us and you, we shall make every effort to resolve the conflict in your favor. Conflicts of interest may also arise in the allocation of investment opportunities among the accounts that we advise. We will seek to allocate investment opportunities according to what we believe is appropriate for each account. We strive to do what is equitable and in the best interests of all the accounts we advise.

Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

Factors Used to Select Custodians

In recommending a custodian/broker-dealer, we look for a company that offers relatively low transaction fees, access to desired securities, trading platforms, and support services. We may recommend clients use Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (Schwab) or Equity Trust Company as the qualified custodian for their accounts when utilizing our asset management services.

Soft Dollars

Charles Schwab or Equity Trust may provide us with certain brokerage and research products and services that qualify as "brokerage or research services" under the rules. These research products and/or services will assist the IAR in its investment decision making process. Such research generally will be used to service all of the IAR's clients, but brokerage commissions paid by the client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing the client's account. The account may pay to a broker-dealer a commission greater than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to affect the same transaction where the IAR determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received.

Because soft dollar benefits could be considered to provide a benefit to the adviser that might cause the client to pay more than the lowest available commission without receiving the most benefit, they are considered a conflict of interest in recommending or directing custodial and third party managerial services. Provident mitigates these conflicts of interest through strong oversight of soft-dollar arrangements by the Chief Compliance Officer, in order to assure the soft dollar benefits serve the best interests of the client.

There may be other benefits from recommending TD Ameritrade, Charles Schwab & Co., Equity Trust or other third party managers such as 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.

Other services may include, but are not limited to, performance reporting, financial planning, contact management systems, third party research, publications, access to educational conferences, roundtables and webinars, practice management resources, access to consultants and other third party service providers who provide a wide array of business related services and technology with whom Provident may contract directly.

Soft dollar benefits may be proportionally allocated to any accounts that may generate different amounts of the soft dollar benefits.

Economic Benefits

Provident may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with the Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (Schwab), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, to maintain custody of clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. The final decision to custody assets with Schwab is at the discretion of the Advisor's clients, including those accounts under ERISA or IRA rules and regulations, in which case the client is acting as either the plan sponsor or IRA account holder. Provident is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab provides Provident with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services generally are available to independent investment advisors on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the advisor's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Schwab Advisor Services. Schwab's services include brokerage services that are related to the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, including that in the form of advice, analyses and reports, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For Provident client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions or other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Schwab also makes available to Provident other products and services that benefit Provident but may not benefit its clients' accounts. These benefits may include national, regional or Provident specific educational events organized and/or sponsored by Schwab Advisor Services. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of Provident by Schwab Advisor Services personnel, including meals, invitations to sporting events, including golf tournaments, and other forms of entertainment, some of which may accompany educational opportunities. Other of these products and services assist Provident 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 Provident's fees from its clients' accounts, and assist with back-office training and support functions, recordkeeping and client reporting. Many of these services generally may be used to service all or some substantial number of Provident's accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab Advisor Services. Schwab Advisor Services also makes available to Provident other services intended to help Provident manage and further develop its 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. In addition, Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay vendors for these types of services rendered to Provident by independent third parties. Schwab Advisor Services 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 Provident. While, as a fiduciary, Provident endeavors to act in its clients' best interests, Provident Financial Planning's recommendation/requirement that clients maintain their assets in accounts at Schwab may be based in part on the benefit to Provident 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 Schwab, which may create a potential conflict of interest.

Best Execution

We have an obligation to seek best execution for you. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible commission 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, reputation and responsiveness. Therefore, we will seek competitive commission rates, but we may not obtain the lowest possible commission rates for account transactions.

Brokerage for Client Referrals

In selecting and/or recommending broker-dealers, we do not take into consideration whether or not we will receive client referrals from the broker-dealer or third party.

Directed Brokerage

Clients are permitted to use the custodian of their choosing. Not all advisory firms permit you to direct brokerage. If you elect to select your own broker-dealer or custodian and direct us to use them, you may pay higher or lower fees than what is available through our relationships. Generally, we will not negotiate lower rates below the rates established by the executing broker-dealer or custodian for this type of directed brokerage account, unless we believe that such rate is unfair or unreasonable for the size and type of transaction. In all instances, we will seek best execution for you.

Trading

Transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. We may (but are not obligated to) combine or "batch" such Orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among our clients' differences in prices and commission or other

transaction costs. Under this procedure, transactions will be price-averaged and allocated among our clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day.

Best Execution

The Adviser does not trade in any Plan client accounts.

Trading

The Adviser does not trade in individual Plan participant accounts.

Qualified Retirement Plan Trading

We do not accept trading authorization with respect to any participants' plan account.

Item 13 – Review of Accounts

Reviews

Reviews are conducted at least annually or as agreed to by us. Reviews will be conducted by our Chief Compliance Officer, Zachary Montgomery. You may request more frequent reviews and may set thresholds for triggering events that would cause a review to take place. Generally, we will monitor for changes and shifts in the economy, changes to the management and structure of a mutual fund or company in which client assets are invested, and market shifts and corrections.

Reports

We do not provide any additional statements to clients; the only statements clients will receive are those provided by the custodian(s).

Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation

Our firm receives economic benefits from Schwab in the form of the support products and services made available to our firm and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit our firm, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices). The availability of Schwab's products and services is not based on our firm giving investment advice, such as buying securities for our clients.

Item 15 – Custody

We do not have physical custody of any accounts or assets. However, we may be deemed to have custody of your account(s) if we have the ability to instruct the custodian to deduct your advisory fees from your custodial account(s). We recommend Schwab as the custodian and/or broker-dealer for all your accounts. You should receive at least quarterly statements from the broker-dealer or custodian that holds and maintains your investment assets. We urge you to carefully review such statements.

We do not debit the client fees directly from your advisory account. We send information to your custodian to debit your fees and to pay them to us. You authorized the custodian to pay us directly at the onset of the relationship.

Item 16 – Investment Discretion

We manage assets on a discretionary and/or a non-discretionary basis. If you provide discretion authority, which will be evidenced via the written, discretionary agreement between the client and the Adviser, we will have the authority to determine the following without your consent:

- Securities to be bought or sold for your account
- Amount of securities to be bought or sold for your account

In all cases this discretion is exercised in a manner consistent with your stated investment objectives for your account and in accordance with any restrictions placed on the account(s).

When active asset management services are provided on a discretionary basis the client will enter into a separate custodial agreement with the custodian. The custodian agreement will include a limited power of attorney to trade in the client's account(s) which authorizes the custodian to take instructions from us regarding all investment decisions for your account.

If you do not give us the authority to manage your account on a discretionary basis, which will be evidenced via the written, non-discretionary agreement between the client and the Adviser, then we cannot buy or sell any security in your account without your prior, express permission. Please be advised that this could adversely affect the Adviser's ability to take advantage of price swings when attempting to purchase or sell securities in the client's account, especially in instances where the Adviser is not able to contact the client in a timely manner.

When active asset management services are provided on a non-discretionary basis the client will enter into a separate custodial agreement with the custodian. The custodian agreement will include a limited power of attorney to trade in the client's account(s) which authorizes the custodian to take instructions from us regarding trades approved by the client.

The third-party money manager and/or custodians may have discretion over your account. The Advisory Agreement and ADV Part 2 of the third-party money manager and the custodial new account documentation will detail this in full.

Item 17 – Voting Client Securities

As a matter of firm policy and practice, we do not have any authority to and do not vote proxies on behalf of advisory clients. You retain the responsibility for receiving and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in your portfolios. We may provide advice to you regarding your voting of proxies. The

custodian will forward you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your account assets.

Item 18 – Financial Information

We are required to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that would impair our ability to meet any contractual and fiduciary commitments to you, our client. We have not been the subject of any bankruptcy proceedings. In no event shall we charge advisory fees that are both in excess of five hundred dollars and more than six months in advance of advisory services rendered.