

## Item 1 Cover Page

GBC Investment Group  
5773 Saybrook Circle  
Sanford, FL 32771  
[www.gbcinvestments.com](http://www.gbcinvestments.com)

January 24, 2024

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of GBC Investment Group. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 407-501-8870. 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. Registration as a registered investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

**Additional information about GBC Investment Group also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

## **Item 2 Material Changes**

There have been no material changes to this brochure since the date of the last annual update noted below.

The material changes discussed above are only those changes that have been made to this brochure since the firm's last annual update of the brochure. The date of the last annual update of the brochure was January 18, 2023.

### Item 3 Table of Contents

#### Brochure

Item 1 Cover Page .....	i
Item 2 Material Changes .....	ii
Item 3 Table of Contents .....	iii
Item 4 Advisory Business .....	4
Item 5 Fees and Compensation .....	5
Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management .....	6
Item 7 Types of Clients .....	6
Item 8 Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss .....	6
Item 9 Disciplinary Information .....	8
Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations .....	8
Item 11 Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading .....	9
Item 12 Brokerage Practices .....	9
Item 13 Review of Accounts .....	11
Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation .....	12
Item 15 Custody .....	12
Item 16 Investment Discretion .....	12
Item 17 Voting Client Securities .....	12
Item 18 Financial Information .....	13

## **Item 4 Advisory Business**

GBC Investment Group is an investment advisory firm registered with the SEC since April 2021. From July 2020 until April 2021, the firm was registered with the State of Florida.

The principal owner of GBC Investment Group is George B. Clement, CEO.

### Advisory Services

GBC Investment Group (“GBC” or “Advisor”) principal service is providing fee-based investment advisory services, and financial planning services. The Advisor practices custom management of portfolios, on a discretionary basis, according to the client’s objectives. The Advisor’s primary approach is to use a tactical allocation strategy aimed at reducing risk and increasing performance. The Advisor may use exchange listed securities, over-the-counter securities, corporate debt securities, commercial paper, CDs, municipal securities, mutual funds, and United States government securities to accomplish this objective. The Advisor measures and selects mutual funds by using various criteria, such as the fund manager’s tenure, and/or overall career performance. The Advisor may recommend, on occasion, redistributing investment allocations to diversify the portfolio in an effort to reduce risk and increase performance. The Advisor may recommend specific stocks to increase sector weighting and/or dividend potential. The Advisor may recommend employing cash positions as a possible hedge against market movement which may adversely affect the portfolio. The Advisor may recommend selling positions for reasons that include, but are not limited to, harvesting capital gains or losses, business or sector risk exposure to a specific security or class of securities, overvaluation or overweighting of the position(s) in the portfolio, change in risk tolerance of client, or any risk deemed unacceptable for the client’s risk tolerance.

### Financial Planning

GBC may provide financial planning services to some of its clients. The Advisor’s financial planning services may include recommendations for portfolio customization based on the client’s investment objectives, goals and financial situation, recommendations relating to investment strategies as well as tailored investment advice. Financial planning may also include non-investment advice such as developing strategies to achieve retirement or other financial goals, tax optimization strategies, cash flow and budgeting analysis and recommendations, financing and financial education, estate planning, and asset protection strategies.

GBC will tailor its advisory services to its client’s individual needs based on meetings and conversations with the client. If clients wish to impose certain restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities, the Advisor will address those restrictions with the client to have a clear understanding of the client’s requirements.

GBC does not provide portfolio management services to wrap fee programs.

As of December 31, 2023, GBC had \$212,159,000 in discretionary client assets under management.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### Asset Management Fees

Pursuant to an Investment Advisory contract signed by each client, the client will pay GBC an annual management fee, payable quarterly in arrears, based on the value of portfolio assets of the account on the last business day of the preceding quarter. New account fees will be prorated from the inception of the account to the end of the first quarter.

Management fees range up to 1.00% depending on the type and complexity of the investment management strategy employed as well as the size of the account or overall client relationship. These fees may be negotiated by GBC at its sole discretion. The client will give written authorization permitting the Advisor to be paid directly from their account held by the custodian. The custodian will send a statement at least quarterly to the client. Where it is not practical to deduct fees directly from client accounts, client will be sent an invoice after the end of each quarter. The invoice is payable upon receipt.

### Hourly Fee

Some clients will contract to have investment advisory advice and/or financial planning advice provided based on an hourly fee rather than based on the assets under management. The Advisor's hourly fee will be billed at a rate of \$250 per hour, but may be negotiated in advance. Hourly fee-based clients are billed on a monthly basis upon completion of work performed.

### Fixed Fees

GBC also offers comprehensive and limited financial plans on a fixed fee basis. The comprehensive plan cost is \$1,500 and the limited plan is \$750 per plan as contracted with client in advance. Fixed fees may be negotiated at the discretion of the Advisor. Fixed fee-based clients are billed one-half of the fee on signing the financial planning agreement and the balance on delivery of the plan. All financial plans are delivered in less than six months from the agreement date.

For each of the Advisor's services described above, the Client may terminate these services within five business days of the effective date of an Agreement signed with the Advisor without penalty.

All fees paid to GBC for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the expenses charged by mutual funds to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses.

At no time will GBC accept or maintain custody of a client's funds or securities except for authorized fee deduction. Client is responsible for all custodial and securities execution fees charged by the custodian and executing broker-dealer. The Advisor's fee is separate and distinct from the custodian and execution fees.

Half of GBC's fixed fees for financial planning is payable in advance. Upon termination of the agreement, any fees paid in advance will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned fees will be refunded to client.

Neither GBC nor its supervised persons accepts compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

GBC does not charge performance-based fees.

#### **Item 7 Types of Clients**

The Advisor will offer its services to individuals, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and other business entities.

The Advisor does not have any minimum requirements for opening or maintaining an account.

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

The Advisor utilizes fundamental analysis techniques in formulating investment advice or managing assets for clients.

Fundamental analysis of businesses involves analyzing its financial statements and health, its management and competitive advantages and its competitors and markets. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data but with the goal of making financial forecasts. There are several possible objectives; to conduct a company stock valuation and predict its probable price evolution; to make a projection on its business performance; to evaluate its management and make internal business decisions and to calculate its credit risk.

The investment strategy the Advisor will implement primary consists of long-term purchases of securities held at least for one year.

Clients need to be aware that investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients need to be prepared to bear.

The methods of analysis and investment strategies followed by the Advisor are utilized across all of the Advisors clients, as applicable. One method of analysis or investment strategy is not more significant than the other as the Advisor is considering the client's portfolio, risk tolerance, time horizon and individual goals. However, the client should be aware that with any trading that occurs in the client account, the client will incur transaction and administrative costs.

Investing includes the risk that the value of an investment can be negatively affected by factors specifically related to the investment (e.g., capability of management, competition, new inventions by other companies, lawsuits against the company, labor issues, patent expiration, etc.), or to factors related to investing and the markets in general (e.g., the economy, wars, civil unrest or terrorism around the world, concern about oil prices or unemployment, etc.).

Risks of fundamental analysis may include risks that market actions, natural disasters, government actions, world political events or other events not directly related to the price or valuation of a specific company's fundamental analysis can adversely impact the stock price of a company causing a portfolio containing that security to lose value. Risks may also include that the historical data and projections on which the fundamental analysis is performed may not continue to be relevant to the operations of a company going forward, or that management changes or the business direction of management of the company may not permit the company to continue to produce metrics that are consistent with the prior company data utilized in the fundamental analysis, which may negatively affect the Advisor's estimate of the valuation of the company.

All investments involve some degree of risk. In finance, risk refers to the degree of uncertainty and/or potential financial loss inherent in an investment decision. In general, as investment risks rise, investors seek higher returns to compensate themselves for taking such risks.

Every saving and investment product have different risks and returns. Differences include how readily investors can get their money when they need it, how fast their money will grow, and how safe their money will be. The primary risks faced by investors include:

#### Business Risk

With a stock, you are purchasing a piece of ownership in a company. With a bond, you are loaning money to a company. Returns from both of these investments require that the company stays in business. If a company goes bankrupt and its assets are liquidated, common stockholders are the last in line to share in the proceeds. If there are assets, the company's bondholders will be paid first, then holders of preferred stock. If you are a common stockholder, you get whatever is left, which may be nothing.

The business risk in purchasing an annuity is that the financial strength of the insurance company issuing the annuity may decline and not be able to pay out the annuity obligation.

#### Volatility Risk

Even when companies aren't in danger of failing, their stock price may fluctuate up or down. Large company stocks as a group, for example, have lost money on average about one out of every three years. A stock's price can be affected by factors inside the company, such as a faulty product, or by events the company has no control over, such as political or market events.

#### Inflation Risk

Inflation is a general upward movement of prices. Inflation reduces purchasing power, which is a risk for investors receiving a fixed rate of interest. The principal concern for individuals investing in cash equivalents is that inflation will erode returns.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate changes can affect a bond's value. If bonds are held to maturity the investor will receive the face value, plus interest. If sold before maturity, the bond may be worth more or less than the face value. Rising interest rates will make newly issued bonds more appealing to investors because the newer bonds will have a higher rate of interest than older ones. To sell an older bond with a lower interest rate, you might have to sell it at a discount.

### Liquidity Risk

This refers to the risk that investors won't find a market for their securities, potentially preventing them from buying or selling when they want. This can be the case with the more complicated investment products. It may also be the case with products that charge a penalty for early withdrawal or liquidation such as a certificate of deposit (CD).

The Advisor does not primarily recommend a particular type of security. However, clients are advised that many unexpected broad environmental factors can negatively impact the value of portfolio securities causing the loss of some or all of the investment, including changes in interest rates, political events, natural disasters, and acts of war or terrorism. Further, factors relevant to specific securities may have negative effects on their value, such as competition or government regulation. Also, the factors for which the company was selected for inclusion in a client portfolio may change, for example, due to changes in management, new product introductions, or lawsuits.

### **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

Neither GBC nor its management persons have any current, reportable legal or disciplinary events. When George B. Clement, CEO was a teenager, he was charged with several felonies and misdemeanors concerning two unrelated events for which he was given probation, community service and required to pay court costs and a fine. Further information concerning the events are disclosed on Mr. Clement's Form U-4 which can be found <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/>.

### **Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Neither GBC nor any of its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

Neither GBC nor any of its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

GBC does not currently have any relationships or arrangements that are material to its advisory business or clients with either a broker-dealer, municipal securities dealer, or government securities dealer or broker, investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-end investment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or "hedge fund" and offshore fund), other investment advisor or financial planner, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor, banking or thrift institution, accountant or accounting firm, lawyer or law firm, pension consultant, real estate broker or dealer or sponsor of syndicator of limited partnerships.

GBC does not recommend or select other investment advisers for clients.



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

GBC is registered with the SEC and maintains a Code of Ethics pursuant to Rule 204A-1 that sets forth the basic policies of ethical conduct for all managers, officers, and employees of the adviser. In addition, the Code of Ethics governs personal trading by each employee of GBC deemed to be an Access Person and is intended to ensure that securities transactions effected by Access Persons of GBC are conducted in a manner that avoids any conflict of interest between such persons and clients of the adviser or its affiliates. GBC collects and maintains records of securities holdings and securities transactions effected by Access Persons. These records are reviewed to identify and resolve conflicts of interest. GBC will provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

GBC and/or its investment advisor representatives may from time to time purchase or sell products that they may recommend to clients. This practice creates conflicts of interest in that personnel of GBC can take advantage of the advance knowledge of firm securities trading and trade their personal accounts ahead of the client trades or recommend trades in client accounts that may affect the price of the securities owned by the Investment Advisor Representatives. To mitigate these conflicts, GBC has adopted a Code of Ethics that sets forth the basic policies of ethical conduct for all managers, officers, and employees of the adviser. In addition, the Code of Ethics governs personal trading by each employee of GBC deemed to be an Access Person and is intended to ensure that securities transactions effected by Access Persons of GBC are conducted in a manner that avoids any actual or potential conflict of interest between such persons and clients of the adviser or its affiliates. GBC collects and maintains records of securities holdings and securities transactions effected by Access Persons. These records are reviewed quarterly by the Chief Compliance Officer to identify and resolve potential conflicts of interest. GBC's Code of Ethics is available upon request. Finally, supervised persons of registered investment advisors are fiduciaries by law and are required to put the client's interest before those of the firm and themselves.

GBC requires that its investment advisor representatives follow its basic policies and ethical standards as set forth in its Code of Ethics.

Investment Advisor Representatives of GBC may trade for their own accounts securities that are being traded for client accounts at or about the same time. To mitigate the conflict of interest in such circumstances, GBC's policy is to require the trading of all relevant client account prior to the trading of their own accounts. The Chief Compliance Officer examines personal trading activities of GBC's personnel to verify compliance with this policy.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

GBC will recommend a broker-dealer to be used as the custodian for client assets. GBC selects the recommended broker-dealer based on execution and custodial services offered, cost, quality of service and industry reputation. GBC considers factors such as commission price, speed and quality of execution, client management tools, and convenience of access for both the Advisor and

client in making its recommendation. Advisor is not affiliated with the brokerage firm. The broker does not supervise the advisor, its agents or activities.

GBC may receive proprietary research services or other products as a result of recommending a particular broker which may result in the client paying higher commissions than those obtainable through other brokers. If GBC does receive such products or services, it will follow procedures which ensure compliance with Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or applicable state securities rules.

The firm seeks to obtain the most favorable net results for clients' price, execution quality, services and commissions. Although the firm seeks competitive commission rates, it may pay commissions on behalf of clients which may be higher than those available from other brokers in order to receive other services. The firm may enter into such transactions so long as it determines in good faith that the amount of commission paid was reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker. The services that may be considered in this determination of reasonableness may include (1) advice, either directly or through publications or writing, as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities; (2) analysis and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy, and the performance of accounts; or (3) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental thereto. Such research furnished by broker-dealers may be used to service any or all of GBC's clients and may be used in connection with accounts other than those that pay commissions to the broker-dealers providing the research. In particular, third-party research provided by broker-dealers may be used to benefit all of the firm's clients. This creates a conflict of interest in that the firm has an incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on its interest in receiving the research or other products or services, rather than on the clients' interest in receiving most favorable execution.

Benefits received may be used as soft dollars provided that:

- The service is primarily for the benefit of GBC's clients
- The commission rates are competitive with rates charged by comparable broker-dealers; and
- GBC does not guarantee a minimum amount of commissions to any broker-dealer.

GBC does not receive client referrals from any broker-dealer or third party as a result of the firm selecting or recommending that broker-dealer to clients.

GBC recommends that all clients use a particular broker-dealer for execution and/or custodial services. The broker-dealer is recommended based on criteria such as, but not limited to, reasonableness of commissions charged to the client, tools and services made available to the client and the Advisor, and convenience of access to the account trading and reporting. The client will provide authority to GBC to direct all transactions through that broker-dealer in the investment advisory agreement.

As an investment advisory firm, GBC has a fiduciary duty to seek best execution for client transactions. While best execution is difficult to define and challenging to measure, there is some

consensus that it does not solely mean the achievement of the best price on a given transaction. Rather, it appears to be a collective consideration of factors concerning the trade in question. Such factors include the security being traded, the price of the trade, the speed of the execution, apparent conditions in the market, and the specific needs of the client. GBC's primary objectives when placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities for client accounts is to obtain the most favorable net results taking into account such factors as 1) price, 2) size of order, 3) difficulty of execution, 4) confidentiality and 5) skill required of the broker. GBC may not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent as specific transactions may involve specialized services on the part of the broker.

GBC will allow clients to direct brokerage at the firm's sole discretion. Clients should be aware that if they direct GBC to a particular broker-dealer for execution GBC may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of client transactions. Directing brokerage may cost clients more money than if GBC were to execute transactions at the broker-dealer where it has an established relationship. The client may pay higher brokerage commissions because GBC may not be able to aggregate orders to reduce transaction costs or the client may receive less favorable prices.

GBC may combine orders into block trades when more than one account is participating in the trade. This blocking or bunching technique must be equitable and potentially advantageous for each such account (e.g. for the purposes of reducing brokerage commissions or obtaining a more favorable execution price). Block trading is performed when it is consistent with the duty to seek best execution and is consistent with the terms of GBC's investment advisory agreements. Equity trades are blocked based upon fairness to client, both in the participation of their account, and in the allocation of orders for the accounts of more than one client. Allocations of all orders are performed in a timely and efficient manner. All managed accounts participating in a block execution receive the same execution price (average share price) for the securities purchased or sold in a trading day. Any portion of an order that remains unfilled at the end of a given day will be rewritten on the following day as a new order with a new daily average price to be determined at the end of the following day. Due to the low liquidity of certain securities, broker availability may be limited. Open orders are worked until they are completely filled, which may span the course of several days. If an order is filled in its entirety, securities purchased in the aggregated transaction will be allocated among the accounts participating in the trade in accordance with the allocation statement. If an order is partially filled, the securities will be allocated pro rata based on the allocation statement. GBC may allocate trades in a different manner than indicated on the allocation statement (non-pro rata) only if all managed accounts receive fair and equitable treatment.

### **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

The firm reviews client accounts on an annual basis, or when conditions would warrant a review based on market conditions or changes in client circumstances. Client accounts are reviewed by George B. Clement, CEO. The nature of the review is to determine if the client account is still in line with the client's stated objectives. Triggering factors may include GBC becoming aware of a change in client's investment objective, a change in market conditions, change of employment, or a change in recommended asset allocation weightings in the account that exceed a predefined guideline.

The client is encouraged to notify the Advisor and Investment Advisor Representative if changes occur in his/her personal financial situation that might materially affect his/her investment plan.

The client will receive written statements no less than quarterly from the custodian. In addition, the client will receive other supporting reports from mutual funds, asset managers, trust companies or other custodians, insurance companies, broker-dealers and others who are involved with client accounts. GBC will provide clients with written quarterly performance and positions reports.

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

GBC is not compensated by anyone for providing investment advice or other advisory services except as previously disclosed in this Brochure.

GBC does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not a supervised person for client referrals.

#### **Item 15 Custody**

GB does not have custody of client funds or securities, except for the withdrawal of advisory fees directly from client accounts (please see Item 5 which describes the safeguards around direct fee deduction). However, as noted in Item 13 above, clients will receive statements not less than quarterly from the qualified custodian, and we encourage you to review those statements carefully. Any discrepancies should be immediately brought to the firm's attention. Advisor is not affiliated with the custodian. The custodian does not supervise the advisor, its agents or activities.

GBC will also provide written quarterly performance and positions reports to clients. Clients are urged to compare the account statement they receive from the qualified custodian with the reports they receive from GBC. Any discrepancies should be immediately brought to the firm's attention.

#### **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

GBC generally has discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be bought or sold in client accounts without obtaining prior consent or approval from the client for each transaction. However, these purchases or sales may be subject to specified investment objectives, guidelines, or limitations previously set forth by the client and agreed to by GBC.

Discretionary authority will only be provided upon full disclosure to the client. The granting of such authority will be evidenced by the client's execution of an Investment Advisory Agreement containing all applicable limitations to such authority. All discretionary trades made by GBC will be in accordance with each client's investment objectives and goals.

#### **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

GBC will not vote, nor advise clients how to vote, proxies for securities held in client accounts. The client clearly keeps the authority and responsibility for the voting of these proxies. Also, GBC

cannot give any advice or take any action with respect to the voting of these proxies. The client and GBC agree to this by contract. Clients will receive proxy solicitations from their custodian and/or transfer agent.

### **Item 18 Financial Information**

GBC does not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, and is not required to file a balance sheet.

GBC has discretionary authority over client accounts and is not aware of any financial condition that will likely impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. If GBC does become aware of any such financial condition, this brochure will be updated and clients will be notified.

GBC has never been subject to a bankruptcy petition.