

Item 1: Cover Page
Part 2A Appendix 1 of Form ADV: Wrap Fee Program Brochure
October 2024

Ascend Investment Partners Wrap Program

Sponsored by:

Ascend Investment Partners
2225 Washington Blvd., Suite 110
Ogden, UT 84401

Firm Contact:
Garrett Smith
Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Kesler, Norman & Wride, LLC *dba* Ascend Investment Partners. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (801) 476-1200 or via email garrett@ascendinvestment.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority. Additional information about our firm is also available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov by searching CRD #307667.

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

Item 2: Material Changes

Kesler, Norman & Wride, LLC *dba* Ascend Investment Partners is required to notify clients of any information that has changed since the last annual update of the Wrap Brochure ("Wrap Brochure") that may be important to them. Clients can request a fully copy of our Wrap Brochure or contact us with any questions that they may have about the changes.

Since our most recent Annual Amendment filing on 03/21/2024, the following changes have been made:

- Our firm has updated its Primary Office Address. (Cover Page)
- Our firm has amended ownership interests. (Item 4)
- Our firm no longer offers proxy voting for client securities (Item 6)
- Our firm compensates third parties for client solicitation activities. (Item 9)
- Our firm no longer offers the "Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management" services, please note that this does not affect any of our current clients. The firm continues to offer the "Wrap Portfolio Management" services.
- Our firm has entered into a party to a promoter's agreement with Absolute Capital. (Item 9)

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Item 4: Services, Fees & Compensation

Our firm is dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Utah in 2009 and has been in business as an investment adviser since 2020. Our firm is owned by CD Kesler Wealth Management, Inc., PM Norman Wealth Management, Inc., Haydar Properties, LLC, GGS Wealth Management, Inc. and Brett Keller, which are owned and managed by Chris Kesler, Paul Norman, Darcy Wride and Garrett Smith respectively.

Our firm manages assets for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizons. As a fiduciary, it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing the client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication. Working with clients to understand their investment objectives while educating them about our process facilitates the kind of working relationship we value.

Our firm sponsors and offers a wrap fee program, which allows clients to pay a single fee for investment advisory services and associated custodial transaction costs. Transaction fees will be paid by our firm via individual transaction charges. Because our firm absorbs client transaction fees, an incentive exists to limit trading activities in client accounts.

Regulatory Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2023, our firm manages \$483,025,666 of client assets on a discretionary basis and \$27,946,976 on a non-discretionary basis.

Our Wrap Advisory Services

Wrap Asset Management:

As part of our Wrap Asset Management service, a portfolio is created, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Portfolios will be designed to meet a particular investment goal, determined to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

Fee Schedule:

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 1.90%. Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis monthly in arrears based on the value of the account(s) on the time-weighted daily average of the month. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). Further, it's important to note that our firm charges advisory fees on cash and cash equivalents held in clients' managed

accounts. In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

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

Other Types of Fees & Expenses:

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

Termination and Refunds:

Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for Wrap Asset Management services in writing at any time. Upon notice of termination pro-rata advisory fees for services rendered to the point of termination will be charged. If advisory fees cannot be deducted, our firm will send an invoice for due advisory fees to the client.

Wrap Fee Program Recommendations:

Our firm does not recommend or offer the wrap program services of other providers.

Item 5: Account Requirements & Types of Clients

Our firm has the following types of clients:

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

Our firm does not impose requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us.

Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection & Evaluation

Selection of Portfolio Managers:

Our firm utilizes our in-house portfolio managers as well as a selection of outside portfolio managers. In-house accounts are managed by licensed investment adviser representatives (“IARs”) of our firm. Prior to becoming licensed with our firm, each IARs industry experience, licensure, outside business activities, client complaints (if any), disciplinary or regulatory history (if any) and financial well-being will be reviewed. Each IAR will then have a Form U4 and ADV Part 2B on file with our firm. Outside portfolio managers, either individually or firm-wide, are selected based on past performance, investment philosophy, market outlook, experience of associated portfolio managers and executive team, disciplinary, legal and regulatory histories of the firm and its associates, and/or whether compliance procedures are in place to address at a minimum, insider trading, conflicts of interest, and/or anti-money laundering.

Performance returns of wrap portfolios are reviewed at least quarterly. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives and appropriately positioned based on market conditions. If these standards fall below the client objectives, our firm will discuss the review with the portfolio manager for proactive action to realign the investment strategy.

Advisory Business:

Information about our wrap fee services can be found in Item 4 of this brochure. Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Wrap Asset Management clients.

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

Participation in Wrap Fee Programs:

Our firm only offers wrap fee accounts to our clients, which are managed on an individualized basis according to the client’s investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance, etc.

Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management:

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss:

The following methods of analysis are utilized by our firm when formulating investment advice and/or managing client assets:

Charting: In this type of technical analysis, our firm reviews charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict when how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.

Cyclical Analysis: Statistical analysis of specific events occurring at a sufficient number of relatively predictable intervals that they can be forecasted into the future. Cyclical analysis asserts that cyclical forces drive price movements in the financial markets. Risks include that cycles may invert or

disappear and there is no expectation that this type of analysis will pinpoint turning points, instead be used in conjunction with other methods of analysis.

Fundamental Analysis: The analysis of a business's financial statements (usually to analyze the business's assets, liabilities, and earnings), health, and its competitors and markets. When analyzing a stock, futures contract, or currency using fundamental analysis there are two basic approaches one can use: bottom up analysis and top down analysis. The terms are used to distinguish such analysis from other types of investment analysis, such as quantitative and technical. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data, but with the goal of making financial forecasts. There are several possible objectives: (a) to conduct a company stock valuation and predict its probable price evolution; (b) to make a projection on its business performance; (c) to evaluate its management and make internal business decisions; (d) and/or to calculate its credit risk; and (e) to find out the intrinsic value of the share.

When the objective of the analysis is to determine what stock to buy and at what price, there are two basic methodologies investors rely upon: (a) Fundamental analysis maintains that markets may misprice a security in the short run but that the "correct" price will eventually be reached. Profits can be made by purchasing the mispriced security and then waiting for the market to recognize its "mistake" and reprice the security; and (b) Technical analysis maintains that all information is reflected already in the price of a security. Technical analysts analyze trends and believe that sentiment changes predate and predict trend changes. Investors' emotional responses to price movements lead to recognizable price chart patterns. Technical analysts also analyze historical trends to predict future price movement. Investors can use one or both of these different but complementary methods for stock picking. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

Qualitative Analysis: A securities analysis that uses subjective judgment based on unquantifiable information, such as management expertise, industry cycles, strength of research and development, and labor relations. Qualitative analysis contrasts with quantitative analysis, which focuses on numbers that can be found on reports such as balance sheets. The two techniques, however, will often be used together in order to examine a company's operations and evaluate its potential as an investment opportunity. Qualitative analysis deals with intangible, inexact concerns that belong to the social and experiential realm rather than the mathematical one. This approach depends on the kind of intelligence that machines (currently) lack, since things like positive associations with a brand, management trustworthiness, customer satisfaction, competitive advantage and cultural shifts are difficult, arguably impossible, to capture with numerical inputs. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

Quantitative Analysis: The use of models, or algorithms, to evaluate assets for investment. The process usually consists of searching vast databases for patterns, such as correlations among liquid assets or price-movement patterns (trend following or mean reversion). The resulting strategies may involve high-frequency trading. The results of the analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

Sector Analysis: Sector analysis involves identification and analysis of various industries or economic sectors that are likely to exhibit superior performance. Academic studies indicate that the health of a stock's sector is as important as the performance of the individual stock itself. In other

words, even the best stock located in a weak sector will often perform poorly because that sector is out of favor. Each industry has differences in terms of its customer base, market share among firms, industry growth, competition, regulation and business cycles. Learning how the industry operates provides a deeper understanding of a company's financial health. One method of analyzing a company's growth potential is examining whether the amount of customers in the overall market is expected to grow. In some markets, there is zero or negative growth, a factor demanding careful consideration. Additionally, market analysts recommend that investors should monitor sectors that are nearing the bottom of performance rankings for possible signs of an impending turnaround.

Technical Analysis: A security analysis methodology for forecasting the direction of prices through the study of past market data, primarily price and volume. A fundamental principle of technical analysis is that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so their analysis looks at the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. Therefore, price action tends to repeat itself due to investors collectively tending toward patterned behavior – hence technical analysis focuses on identifiable trends and conditions. Technical analysts also widely use market indicators of many sorts, some of which are mathematical transformations of price, often including up and down volume, advance/decline data and other inputs. These indicators are used to help assess whether an asset is trending, and if it is, the probability of its direction and of continuation. Technicians also look for relationships between price/volume indices and market indicators. Technical analysis employs models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, such as the relative strength index, moving averages, regressions, inter-market and intra-market price correlations, business cycles, stock market cycles or, classically, through recognition of chart patterns. Technical analysis is widely used among traders and financial professionals and is very often used by active day traders, market makers and pit traders. The risk associated with this type of analysis is that analysts use subjective judgment to decide which pattern(s) a particular instrument reflects at a given time and what the interpretation of that pattern should be.

Third-Party Money Manager Analysis: The analysis of the experience, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. Analysis is completed by monitoring the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of the due-diligence process, the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks are surveyed and reviewed. A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that they may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as our firm does not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as our firm does not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, our firm may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

Preferred Investments:

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

Asset Allocation: The implementation of an investment strategy that attempts to balance risk versus reward by adjusting the percentage of each asset in an investment portfolio according to the

investor's risk tolerance, goals and investment time frame. Asset allocation is based on the principle that different assets perform differently in different market and economic conditions. A fundamental justification for asset allocation is the notion that different asset classes offer returns that are not perfectly correlated, hence diversification reduces the overall risk in terms of the variability of returns for a given level of expected return. Although risk is reduced as long as correlations are not perfect, it is typically forecast (wholly or in part) based on statistical relationships (like correlation and variance) that existed over some past period. Expectations for return are often derived in the same way.

An asset class is a group of economic resources sharing similar characteristics, such as riskiness and return. There are many types of assets that may or may not be included in an asset allocation strategy. The "traditional" asset classes are stocks (value, dividend, growth, or sector-specific [or a "blend" of any two or more of the preceding]; large-cap versus mid-cap, small-cap or micro-cap; domestic, foreign [developed], emerging or frontier markets), bonds (fixed income securities more generally: investment-grade or junk [high-yield]; government or corporate; short-term, intermediate, long-term; domestic, foreign, emerging markets), and cash or cash equivalents. Allocation among these three provides a starting point. Usually included are hybrid instruments such as convertible bonds and preferred stocks, counting as a mixture of bonds and stocks. Other alternative assets that may be considered include: commodities: precious metals, nonferrous metals, agriculture, energy, others.; Commercial or residential real estate (also REITs); Collectibles such as art, coins, or stamps; insurance products (annuity, life settlements, catastrophe bonds, personal life insurance products, etc.); derivatives such as long-short or market neutral strategies, options, collateralized debt, and futures; foreign currency; venture capital; private equity; and/or distressed securities.

There are several types of asset allocation strategies based on investment goals, risk tolerance, time frames and diversification. The most common forms of asset allocation are: strategic, dynamic, tactical, and core-satellite.

- **Strategic Asset Allocation:** The primary goal of a strategic asset allocation is to create an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Generally speaking, strategic asset allocation strategies are agnostic to economic environments, i.e., they do not change their allocation postures relative to changing market or economic conditions.
- **Dynamic Asset Allocation:** Dynamic asset allocation is similar to strategic asset allocation in that portfolios are built by allocating to an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Like strategic allocation strategies, dynamic strategies largely retain exposure to their original asset classes; however, unlike strategic strategies, dynamic asset allocation portfolios will adjust their postures over time relative to changes in the economic environment.
- **Tactical Asset Allocation:** Tactical asset allocation is a strategy in which an investor takes a more active approach that tries to position a portfolio into those assets, sectors, or individual stocks that show the most potential for perceived gains. While an original asset mix is formulated much like strategic and dynamic portfolio, tactical strategies are often traded more actively and are free to move entirely in and out of their core asset classes
- **Core-Satellite Asset Allocation:** Core-Satellite allocation strategies generally contain a 'core' strategic element making up the most significant portion of the portfolio, while applying a dynamic or tactical 'satellite' strategy that makes up a smaller part of the portfolio. In this way, core-satellite allocation strategies are a hybrid of the strategic and dynamic/tactical allocation strategies mentioned above.

Duration Constraints: Our firm adhere to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis. The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.

Fixed Income: Fixed income is a type of investing or budgeting style for which real return rates or periodic income is received at regular intervals and at reasonably predictable levels. Fixed-income investors are typically retired individuals who rely on their investments to provide a regular, stable income stream. This demographic tends to invest heavily in fixed-income investments because of the reliable returns they offer. Fixed-income investors who live on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk of inflation eroding their spending power.

Some examples of fixed-income investments include treasuries, money market instruments, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds and international bonds. The primary risk associated with fixed-income investments is the borrower defaulting on his payment. Other considerations include exchange rate risk for international bonds and interest rate risk for longer-dated securities. The most common type of fixed-income security is a bond. Bonds are issued by federal governments, local municipalities and major corporations. Fixed-income securities are recommended for investors seeking a diverse portfolio; however, the percentage of the portfolio dedicated to fixed income depends on your own personal investment style. There is also an opportunity to diversify the fixed-income component of a portfolio. Riskier fixed-income products, such as junk bonds and longer-dated products, should comprise a lower percentage of your overall portfolio.

The interest payment on fixed-income securities is considered regular income and is determined based on the creditworthiness of the borrower and current market rates. In general, bonds and fixed-income securities with longer-dated maturities pay a higher rate, also referred to as the coupon rate, because they are considered riskier. The longer the security is on the market, the more time it has to lose its value and/or default. At the end of the bond term, or at bond maturity, the borrower returns the amount borrowed, also referred to as the principal or par value.

Long-Term Purchases: Our firm may buy securities for your account and hold them for a relatively long time (more than a year) in anticipation that the security's value will appreciate over a long horizon. The risk of this strategy is that our firm could miss out on potential short-term gains that could have been profitable to your account, or it's possible that the security's value may decline sharply before our firm makes a decision to sell.

Master Limited Partnerships ("MLPs"): MLPs are publicly traded partnerships that trade mainly on the New York Stock Exchange and/or the NASDAQ, the same as stocks. With a few exceptions, MLPs hold and operate assets related to the transportation and storage of energy (certain MLPs may have commodity risk). Most publicly traded companies are corporations. Corporate earnings are usually taxed twice. The business entity is taxed on any money it makes and then shareholders are taxed on the earnings the company distributes to them. In the 1980s, Congress allowed public trading of certain types of companies as partnerships instead of corporations. The main advantage a partnership has over a corporation is that partnerships are "pass through" entities for tax purposes. This means that the company does not pay any tax on its earnings. Distributions are still taxed, but this avoids the problem of double taxation that most publicly traded companies face. Congress requires that any company designated as an MLP has to produce 90% of its earnings from "qualified resources" (natural resources and real estate). Most MLPs are involved in energy infrastructure, i.e.

things like pipelines. MLPs are required to pay minimum quarterly distributions to limited partners. A contract establishes the payments, so distributions are predictable. Otherwise, the shareholders could find the company in breach of contract.

MLPs bear three primary risks: (a) The government could step in and change the rules of the game. That can always happen. Since one of the main advantages of these securities is their tax advantages, this poses a considerable risk for an investor.; (b) It is commonly thought that these types of investments do better when interest rates are low, making their yield higher in relation to the safest investments, such as Treasury bills and securities that are guaranteed by the U.S. government. Consequently, MLPs may perform better during periods of declining or relatively low interest rates or, more poorly during periods of rising or high interest rates.; and (c) MLPs are pass-through entities, passing earnings through to the limited partners. Investors must be aware that there are potentially significant tax implications of investing in MLPs and they should consult with their tax advisor before investing in these securities.

Options: An option is a financial derivative that represents a contract sold by one party (the option writer) to another party (the option holder, or option buyer). The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price (the strike price) during a certain period of time or on a specific date (exercise date). Options are extremely versatile securities. Traders use options to speculate, which is a relatively risky practice, while hedgers use options to reduce the risk of holding an asset. In terms of speculation, option buyers and writers have conflicting views regarding the outlook on the performance of a:

- *Call Option:* Call options give the option to buy at certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go up. Conversely, the option writer needs to provide the underlying shares in the event that the stock's market price exceeds the strike due to the contractual obligation. An option writer who sells a call option believes that the underlying stock's price will drop relative to the option's strike price during the life of the option, as that is how he will reap maximum profit. This is exactly the opposite outlook of the option buyer. The buyer believes that the underlying stock will rise; if this happens, the buyer will be able to acquire the stock for a lower price and then sell it for a profit. However, if the underlying stock does not close above the strike price on the expiration date, the option buyer would lose the premium paid for the call option.
- *Put Option:* Put options give the option to sell at a certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go down. The opposite is true for put option writers. For example, a put option buyer is bearish on the underlying stock and believes its market price will fall below the specified strike price on or before a specified date. On the other hand, an option writer who sells a put option believes the underlying stock's price will increase about a specified price on or before the expiration date. If the underlying stock's price closes above the specified strike price on the expiration date, the put option writer's maximum profit is achieved. Conversely, a put option holder would only benefit from a fall in the underlying stock's price below the strike price. If the underlying stock's price falls below the strike price, the put option writer is obligated to purchase shares of the underlying stock at the strike price.

The potential risks associated with these transactions are that (1) all options expire. The closer the option gets to expiration, the quicker the premium in the option deteriorates; and (2) Prices can move very quickly. Depending on factors such as time until expiration and the relationship of the stock price to the option's strike price, small movements in a stock can translate into big movements in the underlying options.

Margin Transactions: Our firm may purchase stocks, mutual funds, and/or other securities for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings. Margin accounts and transactions are risky and not necessarily appropriate for every client. The potential risks associated with these transactions are (1) You can lose more funds than are deposited into the margin account; (2) the forced sale of securities or other assets in your account; (3) the sale of securities or other assets without contacting you; and (4) you may not be entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your account(s) are liquidated or sold to meet a margin call.

Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"): REITs primarily invest in real estate or real estate-related loans. Equity REITs own real estate properties, while mortgage REITs hold construction, development and/or long-term mortgage loans. Changes in the value of the underlying property of the trusts, the creditworthiness of the issuer, property taxes, interest rates, tax laws, and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment all can affect the values of REITs. Both types of REITs are dependent upon management skill, the cash flows generated by their holdings, the real estate market in general, and the possibility of failing to qualify for any applicable pass-through tax treatment or failing to maintain any applicable exempted status afforded under relevant laws.

Please Note: Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease, and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that you understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, are appropriately diversified in your investments, and ask any questions you may have.

Capital Risk: Capital risk is one of the most basic, fundamental risks of investing; it is the risk that you may lose 100% of your money. All investments carry some form of risk and the loss of capital is generally a risk for any investment instrument.

Equity (Stock) Market Risk: Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and, volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. If you held common stock, or common stock equivalents, of any given issuer, you would generally be exposed to greater risk than if you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer.

Fixed Income Securities Risk: Typically, the values of fixed-income securities change inversely with prevailing interest rates. Therefore, a fundamental risk of fixed-income securities is interest rate risk, which is the risk that their value will generally decline as prevailing interest rates rise, which may cause your account value to likewise decrease, and vice versa. How specific fixed income securities may react to changes in interest rates will depend on the specific characteristics of each security. Fixed-income securities are also subject to credit risk, prepayment risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. Credit risk is the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of a bond to decline.

Inflation Risk: Inflation risk involves the concern that in the future, your investment or proceeds from your investment will not be worth what they are today. Throughout time, the prices of resources and end-user products generally increase and thus, the same general goods and products today will likely be more expensive in the future. The longer an investment is held, the greater the chance that

the proceeds from that investment will be worth less in the future than what they are today. Said another way, a dollar tomorrow will likely get you less than what it can today.

Manager Risk: There is always the possibility that poor security selection will cause your investments to underperform relative to benchmarks or other funds with a similar investment objective.

Market Risk: The value of your portfolio may decrease if the value of an individual company or multiple companies in the portfolio decreases or if our belief about a company's intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies perform, the value of your portfolio could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, in response to changes in the market, and you could lose money. Investment risks include price risk as may be observed by a drop in a security's price due to company specific events (e.g., earnings disappointment or downgrade in the rating of a bond) or general market risk (e.g., such as a "bear" market when stock values fall in general). For fixed-income securities, a period of rising interest rates could erode the value of a bond since bond values generally fall as bond yields go up. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Options Risk: Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than an investment in the underlying securities. Additionally, options have an expiration date, which makes them "decay" in value over the amount of time they are held and can expire worthless. Purchasing and writing put and call options are highly specialized activities and entail greater than ordinary investment risks.

Past Performance: Charting and technical analysis are often used interchangeably. Technical analysis generally attempts to forecast an investment's future potential by analyzing its past performance and other related statistics. In particular, technical analysis often times involves an evaluation of historical pricing and volume of a particular security for the purpose of forecasting where future price and volume figures may go. As with any investment analysis method, technical analysis runs the risk of not knowing the future and thus, investors should realize that even the most diligent and thorough technical analysis cannot predict or guarantee the future performance of any particular investment instrument or issuer thereof.

Strategy Risk: There is no guarantee that the investment strategies discussed herein will work under all market conditions and each investor should evaluate his/her ability to maintain any investment he/she is considering in light of his/her own investment time horizon. Investments are subject to risk, including possible loss of principal.

Voting Client Securities:

Our firm will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Client will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Client should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

Item 7: Client Information Provided to Portfolio Manager(s)

Our firm communicates with your portfolio manager(s) on a regular basis as needed to ensure your most current investment goals and objectives are understood by your portfolio manager(s). In most cases, our firm will communicate such information as part of our regular investment management duties. Nevertheless, our firm will also communicate information to your portfolio manager(s) when you ask us to, when market or economic conditions make it prudent to do so, etc.

Item 8: Client Contact with Portfolio Manager(s)

Any questions or concerns about the management of client portfolios shall be directed to our firm.

Item 9: Additional Information

Disciplinary Information

On February 23, 2005, Kevin C. Kesler entered a Stipulation, Consent, and Waiver with the Utah Division of Securities. In this Consent and Waiver, Kevin C. Kesler was involved in a dispute over Mutual Fund share classes which was settled for a fine of \$75,000, restitution payment totaling \$281,868.47, and a three-week suspension which required Kevin C. Kesler to requalify by taking and passing the Series 7 and Series 66 Exams. For additional information please search CRD #1270191 at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

Representatives of our firm are licensed insurance agents. They may offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest may arise as these insurance sales may create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation/commissions earned. To mitigate this potential conflict, representatives of our firm as fiduciaries, will act in the client's best interest. Further, our firm's representatives will not be offering insurance products outside of fee-only annuities, nor will they receive customary fees/commissions as a result of insurance sales.

Representatives of our firm are also independent authors, who write books and author other educational materials on the securities industry and personal finance. These books are offered independently of the Educational Services, Materials, & Seminars described above in this Brochure and are governed by a separate engagement agreement. Clients are under no obligation to utilize these services.

Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading

As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times.

Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

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

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts¹. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

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

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

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day unless it is traded in the last 30 minutes of the trading day.

Review of Accounts

Our management personnel or financial advisors review accounts on at least an annual basis for our Wrap Asset Management clients. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc. Our firm does not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when our Wrap Asset Management clients are contacted.

Other Compensation

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

Our firm receives economic benefit from Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC (“First Clearing”) and Altruist Financial, LLC (“Altruist”) 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 First Clearing and Altruist. These products and services, how they benefit our firm, and the related conflicts of interest are described in the Firm Brochure ADV 2A (*see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices*). The availability of First Clearing’s and Altruist’s products and services is not based on our firm giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

Product Sponsor Funded Events

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

Client Referrals

Our Firm compensates third parties as lead generators for advisory referrals. Our Firm and the referral entities comply with the SEC Promoter rules and regulations. Our Firm will provide data regarding our services to the third party that may match certain clients with the services of the Firm. Compensation will be paid by Ascend for referrals, and the fee for referrals will be properly disclosed to any potential clients of Ascend in accordance with the Agreement entered between the parties. Fees paid for referrals will not affect fees paid by clients or prospective clients.

Absolute Capital

Our Firm has entered into a party to a promoter’s agreement with Absolute Capital. The Agreement creates an opportunity for our Firm to receive payment for referring clients to a third party, under the SEC requirements within Rule 206(4)-1 and any corresponding state securities laws.

Financial Information

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

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