

## **Park Avenue Securities LLC**

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**March 15, 2024**

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# **Firm Brochure**

This firm brochure ("Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Park Avenue Securities LLC ("PAS"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure or would like to obtain a free copy of this Brochure, please contact us at (888) 600-4667. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") or by any state securities authority.

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

PAS is a registered investment adviser. Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

**PAS017974 (3/24)**



## 2. Material Changes

Pursuant to SEC rules, this item summarizes the specific material changes, if any, that have been made to this Park Avenue Securities LLC (“PAS,” “the Firm,” “we,” “our,” or “us”) Form ADV disclosure brochure (“Firm Brochure”) since the last annual update of the Firm Brochure on March 15, 2023.

When required or appropriate, we will also provide clients interim summary updates of material changes to this Firm Brochure. Clients may ask for a copy of our current Firm Brochure, which includes all material changes since the previous Firm Brochure, or a summary of material changes to the previous Firm Brochure at any time, without charge, by contacting us at (888) 600-4667.

The following is a summary of material changes to this Firm Brochure since the last annual update on March 15, 2023.

### **February 9, 2024 Update**

#### Item 5. Fees and Compensation

- Details related to PAS’ mutual fund share class processes and ongoing share class conversions, which are to be effective by June 1, 2024, are provided. Please see section *Mutual Fund Share Class Selection* for more information.

### **October 19, 2023 Update**

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

- Additional details related to the Dreyfus Insured Deposits Program, inclusive of an increase of the Program’s maximum fee received by PAS, Pershing, and the third party administrator from 400 to 600 basis points, are provided. Please see section *Dreyfus Insured Deposits Program* for more information.

### **September 13, 2023 Update**

#### Item 4. Advisory Business

- Introduction of Securities Backed Lines of Credit offered by Tri-State Capital Bank. Details can be found under section *Lending Services*.
- Additional description related to Margin Lending found under section *Lending Services*.
- Introduction of alternative investment funds issued by HPS Investment Partners, LLC (“HPS”). PAS’ parent company, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (“GLIC”), owns a minority stake in HPS. Additional details can be found under section *Alternative Investments and Institutional Capital Network, Inc.*

#### Item 7. Types of Clients and Account Requirements

- Account minimums of the Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> program are lowered to \$10,000.

## **June 29, 2023 Update**

### Item 4. Advisory Business

- Added a description of Alternative Investment offerings in PAS programs and details related to PAS' contracting with Institutional Capital Network, Inc.

### Item 9. Disciplinary Information

- In connection with an undisclosed outside business activity of a PAS Registered Representative, PAS, without admitting or denying the findings, agreed to a Letter of Acceptance, Waiver, and Consent with FINRA for the purpose of settling alleged FINRA rule violations. PAS was censured and fined \$30,000 by FINRA for violating FINRA Rule 3110 by failing to investigate red flags that the Representative was engaged in an undisclosed outside business activity, unapproved private securities transactions and FINRA Rule 2010.

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## 4. Advisory Business

### Firm Description

Park Avenue Securities LLC (“PAS”) is a dually registered broker-dealer and investment adviser that provides investment advisory services through investment adviser representatives (each, an “IAR”). PAS has been registered with the SEC as an investment adviser since November 13, 2000. Additional information about PAS is available via the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The SEC’s website also provides information about persons who are registered as IARs of PAS.

### Principal Owners

PAS is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (“GLIC”), a New York mutual life insurance company. GLIC and its affiliates sell their products through a system of insurance agents, most of whom are also registered representatives and IARs of PAS.

### Types of Advisory Services Offered

PAS offers proprietary investment advisory programs (each, a “PAS Proprietary Program”) and select third- party investment advisory programs (each, a “Third-Party Investment Advisory Program”), together the “Programs.” In addition, certain IARs offer financial planning, consulting, business planning and education services to clients.

### Understanding your Relationship with PAS

PAS is subject to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “Advisers Act”), and as a registered investment adviser, PAS, along with its IARs, have a fiduciary duty to you. This generally means that PAS and its IARs will act in your best interest when providing investment advice under the Advisers Act and will disclose or avoid all material conflicts of interest. **Throughout the various sections of this Brochure PAS has identified material conflicts of interest where you see such language bolded or within specific sections identified as discussing material conflict of interest.** Within the advisory programs described in this Brochure, PAS provides services as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act.

In providing investment advice, your PAS Investment Adviser Representative (IAR”) can select from different products and programs. This includes advisory programs described in this brochure and other advisory programs described in PAS Wrap Fee Brochures. Your IAR can also act in his or her capacity as a registered representative of PAS providing securities recommendations in a PAS brokerage account. This includes the recommendations and sales of products such as mutual funds, variable annuities, variable life, or individual stocks and bonds, if appropriately licensed. In each of these scenarios, your IAR provides different services and will be paid differently depending on the account type, product or program selected. There are important differences within these types of accounts/products in terms of ongoing services provided, costs and the obligations of your IAR and PAS.

You should discuss with your IAR the benefits and costs associated with the different advisory programs available at PAS as well as what relationship may be best for you. This should include a discussion about the benefits and costs associated with a brokerage versus an advisory relationship, the products offered within each relationship and the IAR’s ongoing obligations when acting as an IAR versus a registered representative.

An advisory account may not be appropriate for low volume trading activity, if you have a long term buy-and- hold investment strategy or if you direct PAS to execute a significant amount of trades on your behalf. In these instances, a transaction-based brokerage account may be more appropriate. Trading activity and the costs and expenses associated with an investment product, among other things, should be considered when deciding whether an advisory account is appropriate for you.

Based on the following scenarios, a brokerage relationship may be right for you, if:

- You want an adviser to provide occasional advice and recommendations on certain investments and

- execute on your investment decisions;
- You plan to buy only a few securities and follow a buy-and-hold strategy over a longtime period without the need for ongoing advice from an adviser; and/or
- You wish to pay fees based on each transaction that you place and not for ongoing advice.

As a broker-dealer, PAS offers a variety of financial products and services and can render advice as to the value and/or advisability of purchasing or selling securities without receiving special compensation where such advice is solely incidental to the conduct of its business as a broker-dealer. In certain situations, PAS may offer general, impersonal investment advice in the form of publications and other services. PAS will not be deemed to be providing investment advisory services unless it has entered into a contract with the client for that purpose.

If you are seeking one or more of the following scenarios, an investment advisory relationship may be right for you:

- Discretionary management of your investment portfolio;
- Ongoing advice and investment services;
- Trading and rebalancing of your portfolio on a periodic basis; and
- An annual fee that is based on the amount of assets managed and is not tied to the number or type of transactions in the account.

In some cases, an investment advisory relationship may cost you more than a brokerage relationship and vice versa. You should periodically discuss the various options with your IAR. PAS IARs are compensated for servicing and providing investment advice for the Programs. The compensation paid to IARs for each of the Programs is generally comparable, except for VestWise™, the digital advisory program offered by PAS, which has a lower fee structure. This compensation may be more than what the IAR would receive if you pay separately for investment advice, brokerage, and other services.

Under PAS Proprietary Programs, clients must establish an account through PAS with Pershing LLC ("Pershing"). Pershing acts as the clearing firm and custodian for client assets within PAS Proprietary Programs. Accordingly, all trading activity under PAS Proprietary Programs will be processed through client accounts with Pershing. In its capacity as a clearing and custodial firm Pershing performs centralized custody, bookkeeping and execution functions.

Pershing handles the delivery and receipt of securities purchased or sold on behalf of PAS clients, receives, and distributes dividends and other distributions, and processes exchange offers, rights offerings, warrants, tender offers, and redemptions. Pershing sends statements of account activity no less often than quarterly.

## **Rollovers and Fiduciary Acknowledgement**

When PAS and its IARs recommend to a) participants in ERISA-covered retirement plans to roll over assets into an IRA or b) owners of IRAs to roll over or transfer assets to another IRA, PAS and its IARs are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. Fiduciary status for this purpose does not necessarily mean PAS and its IARs are acting as fiduciaries for purposes of other applicable laws. This acknowledgement of fiduciary status does not confer contractual rights or obligations on you, PAS, or the IARs.

With respect to rollover transactions, certain portions of this Firm Brochure disclosure are intended to comply with requirements under the U.S. Department of Labor's Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02, specifically; (i) information regarding the scope of services provided by PAS and its IARs, (ii) the fiduciary acknowledgement above, and (iii) the description of the material conflicts of interest under which PAS and your IARs are operating.

### **Rollovers**

**PAS and your IAR get paid when you engage in a rollover transaction. PAS can recommend that you rollover assets from your workplace retirement plan or from an existing IRA into an IRA account with**

**PAS. When you engage in a rollover to an IRA, PAS and your IAR will receive compensation in connection with the investments you will acquire for your IRA account and hold in the account. This compensation incentivizes PAS and your IAR to make a rollover recommendation.**

### **Transferring an Existing Account to PAS Programs**

There may be instances in which you have chosen to open a Program account that requires you to liquidate existing investment assets or accounts and transfer the proceeds to the Program in which you wish to participate. In making the request to liquidate assets and transfer your proceeds, you may experience costs due to the requested liquidation. These costs can include, but are not limited to, account termination charges, contingent deferred sales charges, surrender charges, and commissions on the sale of stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds, closed end mutual funds, limited partnership shares or any other securities you hold in these accounts. If you redeem, surrender, or sell existing assets to fund an account you should carefully consider the costs and benefits of the transaction including any tax liability.

**You should also ask your IAR if the sale of the assets used to fund your Program account will benefit your IAR in the form of a commission or fee payable to them and take that into consideration before you initiate the liquidation of any assets to fund your Program account.** The liquidation of any investment may trigger taxable gains or losses, could trigger the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) and may require additional quarterly estimated tax payments. Neither PAS nor your IAR provide tax advice or tax management services. You are responsible for any taxable events. You should always consult with your tax advisor for specific tax advice.

### **Tailored Client Relationships**

For programs other than VestWise™, the digital advisory program offered by PAS, your IAR will request information from you regarding your financial background, investment experience, investment objectives, risk tolerance, and any reasonable restrictions that you wish to impose on investing in certain specific securities and types of securities and will provide important disclosures to you. Your IAR will work with you to help you determine your investment goals and will assist you in selecting one of the PAS Proprietary Programs or a Third-Party Investment Advisory Program. As your goals and objectives change over time, your IAR will update your records and client file and may provide new recommendations and advice that fit your needs. You should notify your IAR promptly if there are any changes in your financial situation, risk tolerance, investment objectives or account restrictions. Your IAR will periodically review performance and other periodic reports provided to you and will offer to meet with you at least annually to review your financial situation and investment objectives.

### **Client Advisory Agreement**

If you select a PAS Proprietary Program, you will sign a client agreement which consists of a Statement of Investment Selection and Terms and Conditions (the "Client Agreement"). The Client Agreement will detail all of the important information pertaining to your account, including the management fee and the termination provisions. You are encouraged to read all of the terms of the Client Agreement.

In a Third-Party Investment Advisory Program, you will sign an investment advisory agreement directly with the third-party investment adviser or, in certain circumstances, a tri-party agreement with PAS and the third-party investment adviser, as described below under "Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs."

### **Financial Planning and Consulting**

Certain IARs are authorized by PAS to offer financial planning and consulting services. For these services, the IAR may negotiate a fee based upon the overall experience of the IAR, a client's financial needs and investment objectives, the time necessary to develop a plan and the complexity of a plan. If you engage an IAR for financial planning or consulting services, at the beginning of the relationship your IAR will provide you with a Financial Planning or Consulting Agreement, which will detail all the important terms and conditions pertaining to the financial plan or consultation, including the fee.

Fee-based financial planning is a service that considers many different aspects of your financial circumstances, typically by utilizing a financial planning software program to create an overall plan that is designed to meet your goals and objectives.

Financial consulting is an open architecture process that requires your IAR to collect information from you and develop customized recommendations that are delivered to you within the parameters of an agreed upon scope of consulting services.

The financial planning and consulting services provide for ongoing consultation with your IAR, typically through a series of personal meetings and telephone calls. The services provided may include follow-up meetings with you and your other advisors (e.g., attorneys, accountants, etc.).

Depending on your needs and pursuant to the agreement with your IAR, your formal written financial plan or consultation recommendations may cover:

- General Financial Planning
- Goal Planning (e.g., Education Planning)
- Retirement Planning
- Risk Management
- Cash Flow Planning
- Wealth Transfer Planning
- Business Succession and Exit Planning
- Investment Analysis

Your written financial plan or consultation will consist of observations, assumptions, strategies, and recommendations. You will have the opportunity to renew the agreement and update your plan at least annually, or as your circumstances change. You may choose to implement all or any part of the financial plan or consultation recommendations through PAS, or through any other broker-dealer, investment adviser or service provider of your choice. Please note if you choose to implement all or part of the financial plan through PAS, your IAR will receive additional compensation for any product purchases or additional investment advisory services.

### **Subscription Based Financial Planning**

Certain IARs are authorized by PAS to offer on-going financial planning services via Subscription-Based Financial Planning. The subscription arrangement will provide you with the ability to engage your IAR for financial planning services by paying an annual fee on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Your agreement will renew annually unless you choose to terminate the agreement. Your IAR will provide you with analysis, recommendations, and ongoing monitoring based on your current financial situation and goals. On an annual basis you will receive a written summary of the terms of the engagement which will include an outline of your goals, both accomplished and future, a summary of the meetings with your IAR, your fee arrangement, and a reminder of the termination option within the agreement.

Listed below is an overview of the services that may be provided through the Subscription-Based Financial Planning Program. Included with the services is access to your IAR throughout the subscription period. A full description of each service can be found within the Subscription-Based Planning Agreement.

#### **Core Services:**

- Initial Consultation, including obtaining and organizing essential documents
- Obtaining essential documents
- Organizing documents
- Cash Flow and Debt Planning Analysis



- Net Worth Statement
- Investment Analysis
- Risk Analysis
- Access to your Advisor throughout the subscription period

### **Advanced Planning:**

- Charitable Planning
- Wealth Transfer Planning
- Goals-based Planning
- Education Planning and Funding
- Retirement Planning
- Tax Planning Strategies
- Life Events
- Business Planning

It is important to note that if your IAR provides advice related to a separate brokerage account, advisory account, or other investment as part of this engagement, the Subscription-Based Financial Planning fee will be in addition to any fees or commissions associated with those accounts. However, the advice provided within the Subscription-Based Financial Planning arrangement cannot solely be comprised of existing PAS accounts. Additionally, if you choose to implement recommendations from your IAR as part of this engagement, the fees or commissions associated with products purchased or sold will be in addition to your Subscription-Based Financial Planning fee.

### **Fiscalyze**

When providing financial consulting services to business clients, certain IARs may utilize the services of The Advanced Practice Network LLC, doing business as Fiscalyze ("Fiscalyze"), a third-party vendor who provides services to PAS IARs. Fiscalyze charges a fee for these services which is in addition to the fee that a client pays for the financial consulting services provided by the PAS IAR.

The services that Fiscalyze provides are not investment advice and consist of the following, all of which are offered through the PAS IAR when providing financial consulting services to a client:

- Inventory and Organization of Documents
- Annual Review of Objectives
- Personal & Family Checklist
- Enterprise Checklist
- Capital & Cash Flow Priorities Worksheet
- Personal & Family Concerns Assessment
- Enterprise Concerns Assessment
- Business Continuity Analysis to explore the most likely interruptions to the business.
- Qualified Plan Insights
- Executive Benefits and Carve-out Insights
- Employee Benefits Insights
- Professionally Adjusted Business Valuation (Enterprise Drivers) Reports.
- Margin Analysis (Profit Drivers)
- Cash Cycle Analysis (Cash Drivers)
- Lender Analysis
- Forecasting Analysis
- Capital Analysis
- Comprehensive Gap Analysis
- Industry Benchmarking Analysis
- An inventory of strategies which tracks progress over time.

**Fiscalyze is owned by Kelly Kidwell, Eric McDermott, and Matthew Shipman (the “General Agents”). The General Agents also own Pacific Advisors, LLC (“Pacific Advisors”). Pacific Advisors is a general agency of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (“GLIC”), and as such has entered into contracts with GLIC and PAS, pursuant to which the General Agents supervise and may influence the PAS IARs associated with Pacific Advisors. These contracts also provide for compensation, in the form of a certain percentage of the financial consulting fee (an “override”) that is charged to clients on the financial plans provided by PAS IARs who are associated with Pacific Advisors, to be paid to the General Agents. In addition to that override compensation, as owners of Fiscalyze, the General Agents also receive compensation directly from Fiscalyze when a PAS IAR uses the Fiscalyze tool to provide financial consulting services to a client. Thus, in the event a PAS IAR who is associated with Pacific Advisors uses Fiscalyze, these General Agents will receive two types of compensation, overrides based on the financial consulting fee and a portion of the fee that is paid to Fiscalyze for its services.**

### **Fiscalyze Subscription Based Business Financial Consulting**

Certain IARs are authorized by PAS to offer on-going Subscription-Based business financial consulting services utilizing Fiscalyze. The subscription arrangement will provide you with the ability to obtain ongoing financial consulting services for your business by paying an annual fee on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Your agreement will renew automatically on an annual basis unless you choose to terminate the agreement. Your IAR will provide you with analysis, recommendations, and ongoing monitoring based on the current financial situation and goals for you and your business. On an annual basis you will receive a written summary of the terms of the engagement which will include an outline of your goals, both accomplished and future, a summary of the meetings with your IAR, your fee arrangement, and a reminder of the termination option within the agreement.

Listed below is an overview of the services that may be provided through the Subscription Based Business Financial Consulting Program. Included with the services is access to your IAR throughout the subscription period. A full description of each service can be found within the Subscription Based Business Financial Consulting Agreement.

#### **Personal Services**

- Review of Personal Financial Objectives
- Personal & Family Concerns Assessment
- Capital & Cash Flow Priorities Assessment
- Personal & Family Inventorying and Organization of Documents
- Personal Balance Sheet and Cashflow Insights
- Personal Protection Insights
- Personal Investment Insights
- Sufficiency Insights
- Personal Insights Briefing, Debriefing, and Follow-Up Coordination
- An inventory of personal financial strategies which tracks progress overtime

#### **Enterprise Services**

- Annual Review of Enterprise Financial Objectives
- Enterprise Inventorying and Organization of Documents
- Enterprise Concerns Assessment
- Business Continuity Analysis
- Enterprise Financial Performance Insights
- Census-Driven Insights
- Enterprise Insights Briefing, Debriefing, and Follow-Up Coordination
- An inventory of enterprise financial strategies which tracks progress overtime

## **Fiscalyze Get Organized and Take Control Financial Consulting**

Certain IARs are authorized by PAS to offer on-going consulting services to assist clients with organization and taking control of their finances. Your IAR will assist you with identifying the services needed, sourcing personal and business data to be analyzed and assist you with using the analysis to evaluate business risk and business decisions. In providing the Get Organized and Take Control Financial Consulting services, your IAR will also utilize the reports and services of The Advanced Practice Network LLC, doing business as Fiscalyze. Listed below is an overview of the services that may be provided through the Get Organized and Take Control Financial Consulting program. A full description of the services can be found in the Get Organized and Take Control Financial Consulting Agreement.

### **Get Organized and Take Control Services:**

#### **Essential Services**

- Inventory & Organization of Documents
- Annual Review of Objectives
- Cash Flow Analysis
- Personal Balance Sheet Population
- Organizing Tax Forms (Single Household/Single Entity Filings (1-2 Tax Returns Per Year)
- Organizing Estate Documents (Basic Wills and Living Trusts)
- Organizing Business Owners (Lifestyle Business/One Entity no Enterprise Value)

#### **Advanced Services (*all of the above in addition to the following*)**

- Organizing Tax Forms (Multiple Household/Entity filings (more than 1-2 Tax Returns across Household, Business & Trusts)
- Organizing Estate Documents (Multiple/Complex Trusts such as Irrevocable, Dynastic Trusts)
- Organizing Business Owners (Enterprise Business or Multiple Entities)
- Annual Personal Financial Sufficiency Report and Specialist Consult

You and your IAR will meet for an initial consultation at no cost. If, at the end of the initial consultation you wish to retain the services of your IAR, you will execute an agreement. By signing the agreement, you agree to pay the disclosed fee for the analysis and/or recommendations produced by your IAR. The fee is based on the service you selected, essential or advanced which includes a one-time set up fee and an ongoing annual fee that you may elect to pay monthly or quarterly. The fee range is between \$250 to \$25,000.

### **Corporate Financial Education Services**

Certain PAS IARs can work with business clients to provide group financial education seminars for the employees of such businesses.

### **Business Exit Consulting**

Certain IARs will analyze the financial situation of your business for the purpose of establishing business exit planning strategies and recommendations.

Your IAR will coordinate with your accounting and legal advisors as well as other professionals you deem appropriate or that your IAR recommends. These professionals are selected, retained, and paid for by you. Any advice provided by these outside professionals is separate and distinct from the advice provided by your IAR and any fees paid to outside professionals are separate and distinct from the fee charged as part of the Business Exit Consulting Agreement.

You may choose either a Comprehensive Exit Plan or a Focused Exit Plan. A Comprehensive Exit Plan is a

written action plan for accomplishing your objectives with regards to the growth of your business, the preservation and realization of maximum business value, and your ultimate departure from the business within established timelines and terms.

In a Focused Exit Plan, you will select your objectives from the following list:

- Business Valuation
- Incentive Planning
- Ownership Transfer Planning
- Business Continuity Planning
- Personal Wealth Management Planning
- Wealth Transfer Planning

Once the objectives have been established, the IAR will collect the requisite information to create the focused plan. Please note that a Focused Exit Plan cannot solely be made up of the Personal Wealth Management Planning or Wealth Transfer Planning. All of these components are more fully described within the Business Exit Consulting Client Agreement.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting Services (Investment Advisory)**

PAS may enter into an agreement with an employer sponsored qualified retirement plan to provide investment advisory services to the plan. PAS, through its authorized IARs, will assist the named plan fiduciary in determining the investment lineup available to the plan's participants. Only appropriately credentialed IARs specifically approved by PAS are authorized to provide these services to plan sponsors. A summary of the services is provided below. Plan sponsors should refer to their written agreement with PAS for more details regarding the specific services to be provided as well as the fees charged.

*Investment Option Recommendations* – The PAS IAR will analyze the list of available investment options for the qualified plan and provide the plan sponsor with a recommended list of core asset classes that, when combined, constitute an investment lineup for a qualified plan seeking a basic level of complexity. The IAR will also provide definitions of additional asset classes/categories that, when combined with core asset classes, will constitute investment lineups for those plan sponsors seeking more sophisticated levels of complexity. The IAR will identify for the plan sponsor's consideration one or more investment options from each asset class/category that are appropriate for long-term strategic asset allocations and will evaluate the investment options, including comparing their performance to appropriate benchmarks and peer group(s). The IAR will provide the plan sponsor with a "core list" of recommended investment options within each of the core asset class groups, as well as supplemental asset classes/categories and provide some general guidelines as to how many and what management type (active or passive) of investment options are appropriate to select with respect to each of the asset class groups to assist the plan sponsor in making its final investment option selections.

*Monitoring of Investment Options* – The IAR reviews investment option performance on a quarterly basis or on such other agreed-to basis. Each investment option will be reviewed, and investment options that do not meet the identified criteria will be placed on a watch list. The placement of an investment option on the watch list does not mean that it will be recommended to be removed from the plan's investment options lineup, but rather triggers further due diligence on the investment option. The purpose of the due diligence is to determine if the original reasons for selecting the investment option are still valid. The IAR shall provide the plan sponsor with a report summarizing its review. Once an investment option is on the watch list, it will remain on there until further due diligence indicates that it should be removed from the watch list or it is or it is recommended for removal as an investment option. To be removed from the watch list, certain qualitative and quantitative measures must be met. If, after further due diligence, the IAR determines that the investment option no longer meets the criteria for remaining on the core list, the IAR will, to the extent available on the platform, identify one or more suitable replacements for the plan sponsor to select from.

*Additional Provisions* – PAS and its IAR will not exercise any discretion or authority regarding the plan sponsor's

selection of the specific securities, mutual funds, institutional funds, or funds available through group annuity contracts and mutual funds that may be eligible investment options under the qualified plan. Furthermore, neither the IAR nor PAS will have any discretion over plan assets in any capacity.

It is the sole responsibility of the plan sponsor or named fiduciary to review, approve and implement the recommendation of the IAR for the following items:

- the investment policy statement for the qualified plan.
- the selection and retention of service providers (e.g., (without limitation) investment provider(s), investment managers and advisers, a plan record-keeper and a third-party administrator). It is also the plan sponsor or named fiduciary's sole responsibility to supervise the performance of such providers.
- the determination of the appropriate mix and number of asset classes to be included in the investment options available under the qualified plan.
- to the selection of the specific mutual funds, institutional funds, or funds available through group annuity contracts that will be investment options under the qualified plan.

If a qualified plan contains a company stock or self-directed brokerage investment option, the IAR shall not be required to take such investment options into account with respect to its determinations or recommendations. The plan sponsor shall retain sole fiduciary responsibility with respect to such company stock or self-directed brokerage option. The plan sponsor will agree to review at least annually and to advise the IAR of any changes in the investment options that may be available under the qualified plan or any changes to the demographic or other information previously provided to the IAR regarding the qualified plan. In providing these services to plan sponsors, PAS and its IARs must utilize the software and other tools provided by Envestnet Retirement Solutions, LLC ("ERS"). PAS, its affiliates and IARs are not affiliated with or under common ownership, control, or operation with ERS. PAS agreements with plan sponsors for plan investment advisory services do not include services provided by other PAS IARs, who may work separately with plan participants in their individual capacity, including the provision of advice regarding rollovers.

This Brochure also constitutes the disclosure required to be provided to plan sponsors under the regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Labor pursuant to Section 408(b)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The fee charged for these services and other important information relating to the fees for the investment advisory services shall be contained within the Plan Services Agreement for Investment Advisory Services under Section 3(21) of ERISA ("Plan Services Agreement"). Please see the section entitled "ERISA Section 408(b)(2) Disclosure to Responsible Plan Fiduciaries of ERISA-Covered Qualified Retirement Plans" later in this Brochure for further information. In addition to the program described above, in limited circumstances, certain PAS IARs may enter into joint work arrangements whereby such professionals refer plans to other PAS IARs who are credentialed to provide such plan investment advisory services. In such instances, the credentialed IAR will serve as the primary client contact. The referring IAR may receive initial and ongoing compensation for the referral. Please contact your IAR for more details.

## **Investment Advice to Retirement Plan Participants**

Certain IARs are authorized by PAS to offer investment advice to participants of ERISA retirement plans. These services will consider aspects of your financial circumstances and the investment options allowed and selected by the retirement plan fiduciary for use by its participants.

At the beginning of the relationship your IAR will provide you with the Retirement Plan Participant Investment Advice Client Agreement, which will detail the terms and conditions pertaining to the services, including the fee. In addition, you will be required to complete a risk tolerance questionnaire. Upon completion and review of a risk tolerance questionnaire, your IAR will provide you with a recommendation regarding the selection of your investment options and allocation of your plan assets best suited to your goals and risk tolerance. On at least a semi-annual basis, your IAR will develop and provide you with a report, detailing investment recommendations which shall be limited to the investments available within your retirement plan investment line up selected by the

retirement plan fiduciary.

## **Retirement Plan Services (Non-Investment Advisory)**

PAS may enter into an agreement with an employer sponsored qualified retirement plan to provide certain non-investment advisory services to the plan. The PAS IAR will assist in assessing, analyzing, and addressing the needs of the plan. Below are the services made available to the plan sponsor and/or the plan participants.

### **Plan Governance and Committee Education**

- Reviewing retirement plan committee structure and requirements
- Assisting plan sponsor to determine plan objectives
- Reviewing participant education and communication strategy
- Assisting with responding to participant requests for additional information. Assisting the plan sponsor to develop and maintain a fiduciary audit file
- Coordination of data and plan design with the designated third-party administrator

### **Plan Service Provider Selection/Review and Vendor Management**

- Assisting plan sponsor with his/her determination of the appropriate funding vehicle for the Plan
- Providing periodic benchmarking of fees and services to assist review for reasonableness
- Assisting the plan sponsor to generate and evaluate service provider requests for proposals (RFPs) and/or requests for information (RFIs)
- Assistance with service provider transition and/or plan conversion

### **Services to be provided to the Plan Participants: Employee Investment Education and Communication**

- Providing group enrollment and investment education meetings for employees
- Providing periodic updates, upon request or via newsletter
- Assisting participants with retirement readiness

## **PAS Proprietary Investment Advisory Programs**

PAS is the sponsor of the PAS Proprietary Programs. PAS Proprietary Programs offer a range of investment strategies, from conservative to ultra-aggressive growth.

The following description applies to all PAS Proprietary Programs other than VestWise™, the digital advisory program offered by PAS. An IAR will analyze your individual financial situation and make recommendations as to an appropriate program based on your individual needs and investment objectives. Prior to funding a PAS Proprietary Program account, your PAS IAR will help you complete an account application, a client questionnaire and/or other forms in order to determine your investment objectives and risk tolerance, also known as the Investor Risk Rating. The Investor Risk Rating is the level of risk a client is willing to take with their investments based upon questions asked within the client questionnaire. Your IAR will provide you with recommendations in the form of a proposal ("Proposal") based on the information you provide. Your Proposal includes your recommended PAS Proprietary Program, which may include load-waived and no-load mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), closed-end funds, stocks, and bonds as well as separately managed accounts.

PAS Proprietary Programs include both discretionary and non-discretionary programs. In a discretionary program, PAS (for VestWise™), your IAR (for Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup>) or the applicable third-party strategist, investment manager, or overlay manager (in all other discretionary Proprietary Programs), manages your assets within the parameters of the program and model portfolio you select. Each discretionary Proprietary Program also allows PAS, the applicable IAR, strategist, investment or overlay manager to place trades for your account at its discretion without requiring your prior approval. This gives PAS, the applicable IAR, strategist, investment or overlay manager the authority to determine, without obtaining your specific consent, the securities

to be bought or sold, and the amount of the securities to be bought or sold for your account. In a discretionary program, you have the ability to impose any reasonable restrictions or modify any existing restrictions on the management of your account.

The non-discretionary Proprietary Program Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> has been designed to give you, the client, flexibility to use your account as you deem appropriate within certain prescribed limits. Your IAR shall make recommendations for portfolio transactions within the parameters of your strategy and within but not exceeding, your Investor Risk Rating, and must obtain your permission prior to effecting any transactions in your account.

For all PAS Proprietary Programs, either PAS or your IAR is available on an ongoing basis to assist you in evaluating your portfolio strategy and asset allocation. Your IAR will provide you with advice and guidance that is based on the information you provide at the time you open your PAS Proprietary Program account and as you update or amend it from time to time. To assist you in managing your account assets, PAS will provide you with:

- Periodic performance reports showing the performance of your PAS Proprietary Program account assets; and
- Opportunities for you to engage in periodic account reviews with your IAR to address progress toward asset allocation and your investment objectives.

You may transfer securities from outside accounts into your PAS Proprietary Program account; however, your IAR may recommend that you sell some or all of the securities if he or she believes that holding such securities is not appropriate for the current recommended investment strategy. Any securities held in your account that are classified as Unsupervised Assets are not managed by PAS or your IAR. These may include securities transferred into your PAS Proprietary Program account from outside accounts that your IAR has identified to you as not appropriate for your current investment strategy for the particular account. These assets may remain in the account at your discretion but shall be classified as Unsupervised.

Unsupervised Assets are not included in the periodic performance reports for your PAS Proprietary Program account. PAS and your IAR do not provide investment advisory services of any kind with regard to Unsupervised Assets, do not charge an advisory fee on such assets and do not have any responsibility with respect to the management of any holdings classified as Unsupervised Assets. PAS, your IAR, Strategist or Investment Manager do not consider Unsupervised Assets when providing investment advice for your PAS Proprietary Program account.

Your account can be managed in a tax-sensitive manner; however, neither PAS nor your IAR may provide tax advice or tax management services. You are responsible for any taxable events in all instances. You should always consult with your tax advisor for specific tax advice.

### **Investnet Asset Management, Inc.**

PAS has contracted with Investnet Asset Management, Inc. ("Investnet"), an SEC registered investment adviser, to provide a technology structure for PAS and its clients through Proprietary Programs other than VestWise<sup>TM</sup> to efficiently connect with third-party asset managers referred to as Investment Managers or Strategists and to act in some Programs as co-adviser to clients. Investnet provides overlay management services on a discretionary basis administering model portfolios developed by the Investment Manager or Strategist and taking directions from the Investment Manager or Strategist to adjust asset allocations, add, remove, or replace securities in the account, and rebalance the account as it deems necessary. Investnet also provides advice related to program design and support, including the structure and design of asset allocation portfolios and underlying investment research on Separately Managed Accounts ("SMAs," which are portfolios of individually owned securities managed by an asset manager), mutual funds, and Exchange- Traded Funds ("ETFs") that may be available within certain of the PAS Proprietary Programs. However, Investnet is not responsible for the specific investment choices made with respect to the portfolios developed and maintained by the Strategist or Investment Manager. The IAR in consultation with their client is required to fill out a client questionnaire. Once the client questionnaire is completed, Investnet will be responsible for determining the suggested target asset mix.

For all PAS Proprietary Programs, you have the ability to impose any reasonable restrictions or modify any existing restrictions on the management of your account. Clients may impose new, or change any existing, investment restrictions at any time by contacting their IAR.

The following is a description of each of the PAS Proprietary Programs:

### **Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> Program**

- The Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> program is a non-discretionary program where your selected IAR advises and may recommend to you various investment vehicles, such as mutual funds, ETFs, stocks, and bonds, in accordance with your investment objectives and Investor Risk Rating, utilizing model portfolios for a range of investment objectives. Although your IAR will furnish you with advice and guidance, all transactions in your Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> account will take place only upon your specific approval. You assume full responsibility for all trading decisions.
- Based upon your investment objectives, your IAR will recommend a model portfolio that is constructed with a variety of investments to fulfill your recommended strategic risk/return strategy. When building your portfolio, your IAR may recommend investments from a wide array of investment options, including mutual funds, ETFs, equity securities, exchange-listed securities, over-the-counter securities, securities of foreign issuers (including American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”), and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”), corporate debt, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, United States government securities, and municipal securities. You are under no obligation to accept such recommendations or to authorize transactions through PAS or the IAR. A mutual fund-only option is also available under the program. Any purchase or sale of securities in your account may cause the account to vary from your initial asset allocation and investment objectives.
- Client-Initiated Transactions – You may request your IAR to execute transactions that are initiated solely by you without a recommendation from your IAR (client-initiated transactions). These client-initiated transactions are solely your responsibility. PAS will not be responsible for the performance of these client-initiated transactions; however, PAS will include such assets in the Total Client Fee calculation. The advice of your IAR is a key service of the Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> program. A pattern of client-initiated transactions may indicate that this program is no longer appropriate for you as you would not be utilizing the advice of your IAR.
- If you have completed a client-initiated transaction and have acquired a security without the advice of your IAR, so long as you hold the position in your Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> account, PAS will take that asset into consideration:
  - as part of the overall account assets;
  - when PAS gives you periodic asset allocation advice;
  - when PAS values your account holdings; and
  - when PAS provides analyses and reports on the account's performance.
- PAS may also recommend that you consider selling the asset if, and when PAS deems it appropriate.

Park Avenue Portfolio Select typically assesses ticket charges to clients for the purchase and sale of certain securities in a client's account. The ticket charges are retained by PAS and are not shared with your IAR. IARs may elect to pay the ticket charges on a client's behalf. Park Avenue Portfolio Select clients should understand that their IAR may elect to pay ticket charges for the accounts of some but not all of their clients. If your IAR elects to pay your ticket charges, you should understand that the annual fee you pay may be higher than what you would otherwise pay if your IAR did not elect to pay ticket charges for your account, and your IAR may have a financial incentive to trade less for your account. Clients who choose to open a Park Avenue Portfolio Select account should carefully consider these factors and discuss the costs and benefits of whether they or their advisor should pay ticket charges.



## **PAS Wrap Fee Programs**

Foundations<sup>SM</sup>, Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Separately Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Unified Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> and VestWise<sup>TM</sup> are PAS wrap fee programs. Under a wrap fee program, you pay a single asset-based fee for investment advisory services and execution of your transactions. Unless otherwise noted, administrative and investment advisory fees, along with transaction fees, are “wrapped” into one comprehensive fee, which is paid quarterly. A portion of the wrap fee is used to pay PAS and your IAR for investment advisory services.

Wrap fee program portfolio managers may employ “trading away” practices, in which they use a broker other than PAS to execute trades for which a commission or other transaction-based fee is charged, in addition to the wrap fee. Although transaction fees are usually included in the wrap program fee, sometimes you will pay an additional transaction fee for investments bought and sold outside the wrap fee program. For more information regarding trade away practices, please go to [www.parkavenuesecurities.com](http://www.parkavenuesecurities.com).

Each PAS wrap fee program has its own Wrap Fee Brochure which describes in detail the investment options and services for each program. To obtain a Wrap Fee Brochure for one of the programs listed, please request the brochure from your IAR or call PAS at (800) 600-4667. Below is a brief description of each PAS wrap fee program.

### **Foundations<sup>SM</sup> and Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup> Programs**

The Foundations and Quantitative Innovations programs are discretionary investment advisory programs sponsored by PAS that provide clients with access to model portfolios managed by Integrated Capital Management, Inc. (“iCM”), a third-party investment manager that has been retained by Envestnet Asset Management, Inc. (“Envestnet”). Envestnet provides overlay management of the iCM investment models by performing administrative and trading services, such as directing the rebalancing of the portfolios invested in the models. By executing the Client Agreement (which includes the Statement of Investment Selection), you grant Envestnet the discretionary authority to invest, reinvest, and otherwise rebalance your account assets at Envestnet’s discretion. Model portfolios are created and managed by iCM, which allocates the portfolios across investment asset classes to create a blend that fits your investment objectives and Investor Risk Rating. Envestnet performs administrative and/or trading duties at the direction of iCM via a licensing agreement between Envestnet and iCM. The portfolios are managed pursuant to one of the model portfolios created and maintained by iCM in a single account allocated among different mutual funds and/or ETFs. iCM provides ongoing management that includes the ability to adjust asset allocations, add, remove, or replace securities in the account, and rebalance the account as it deems necessary. The Foundations program consists of mutual fund only portfolios (both standard and tax-sensitive), representing various investment styles and asset classes. The Quantitative Innovations program utilizes diversified model portfolios (both standard and tax-sensitive), composed of selected mutual funds and ETFs representing various investment styles and asset classes. iCM will continually monitor the portfolios, and at times make adjustments to the asset class percentages of the models as well as to the mutual fund and ETF allocations within each asset class in each model portfolio. The programs employ multiple model portfolios which are designed to reflect risk and volatility levels that range from conservative to ultra-aggressive.

### **Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup> and Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup> Programs**

The Park Avenue Strategist Select and Strategist Select Plus programs are discretionary investment advisory programs sponsored by PAS that provide clients with access to third-party investment advisory firms, referred to as Strategists, that have been retained by Envestnet. These programs offer single asset allocation portfolios created and managed by the Strategist using mutual funds and ETFs. Envestnet provides overlay management of the investment models developed and maintained by the Strategist by performing administrative and trading services, such as directing the rebalance of the portfolios invested in the models. The Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus program offers additional Strategists that use individual securities in separately managed accounts as well as mutual funds and ETFs to create portfolios.

### **Park Avenue Separately Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup> Program (SMA Select)**

The SMA Select Program is a discretionary investment advisory program sponsored by PAS that provides clients with access to the investment strategies of third-party investment managers and advisory firms referred to as Investment Managers that have been retained by Envestnet. Envestnet provides SMA Select Program clients with the ability to access one or more Investment Managers, either directly using a separately managed account for each Investment Manager where the Investment Manager trades directly for the account or indirectly through the use of an investment strategy model created and maintained by the selected Investment Manager but administered by Envestnet by providing overlay management of the investment models through the performance of administrative and trading services. An SMA Select Program account will contain one Investment Managers' held in a separate custodial account.

### **Park Avenue Unified Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup> Program (UMA Select)**

The UMA Select Program is a discretionary investment advisory program sponsored by PAS that provides clients with access to the investment strategies of third-party investment managers and advisory firms, referred to as Investment Managers, that have been retained by Envestnet. The UMA Select Program provides recommended asset allocation models which consist of asset allocation targets or sleeves across various asset classes and investment strategies. Based upon your investment objectives and Investor Risk Rating, your IAR will recommend Investment Manager(s) who may invest in mutual funds, ETFs, as well as individual stocks and bonds to fulfill your asset allocation targets based on the risk/return strategy. Your IAR may also recommend a Strategist portfolio from the Strategist Select/Strategist Select Plus program to populate an asset allocation sleeve. You will complete the UMA Select Program account by selecting which Investment Manager strategies to populate within each asset allocation sleeve.

Envestnet acts as the overlay manager and administers the UMA Select Program by implementing the model portfolios provided and maintained by the individual Investment Manager(s) selected (an "Investment Model") by you. An UMA Select Program account may contain one or multiple Investment Models investing in different asset classes according to the selected portfolio allocation strategy. The UMA Select Program account may also contain mutual funds, ETFs, individual stocks, bonds, or strategist model portfolios to complete the strategy. The securities within the selected Investment Models, as well as any mutual funds, ETFs, or individual stocks and bonds outside of the Investment Models, will be held in a single custodial account. Your IAR has the ability to make changes to the Program Account within your Investor Risk Rating and upon your approval by removing or replacing one Investment Manager with another. By executing the Client Agreement, you grant Envestnet the authority to buy and sell securities and investments for the account pursuant to the direction of the Investment Manager and perform rebalancing or other such discretionary authorities you agree upon. In certain cases, the Investment Manager may directly trade client assets within the UMA Select Program instead of providing an Investment Model to Envestnet. In those instances, Envestnet shall be authorized to delegate the investment discretion described above to the Investment Manager.

### **Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> Program**

The Signature Portfolio Program is a discretionary investment advisory program whereby investment management services and advice are offered on a fully discretionary basis through the PAS IAR you select. You authorize PAS through your IAR to purchase and sell securities according to your investment objectives on a discretionary basis. Based upon your investment objectives and Investor Risk Rating, your IAR will build a model portfolio that is constructed with a variety of investments to fulfill your risk/return strategy. When building your portfolio, your IAR may select investments from a wide array of investment options, including mutual funds, ETFs, equity securities, exchange-listed securities, over-the-counter securities, securities of foreign issuers (including American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"), and Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs"), corporate debt, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, United States government securities, and municipal securities. Your IAR will have your permission to buy or sell securities, in quantity, price and at the time that your IAR sees fit without your prior consent in accordance with the investment

objectives selected by you. Any purchase or sale of securities in your account may cause the account to vary from your initial asset allocation and investment objectives. Envestnet performs administrative and/or trading duties at the direction of your PAS IAR via a licensing agreement between PAS and Envestnet.

## **VestWise™**

VestWise™ is the branded name for the PAS automated or digital (i.e., internet/web-based) investment advisory solution. The VestWise program consists of Model Portfolios whose underlying holdings consist of a series of individual Exchange Traded Funds, (“ETFs”). Franklin Advisers, Inc. (“Franklin Advisers”), an investment adviser registered with the SEC, provides PAS with the Model Portfolios for the VestWise program, which are periodically updated by Franklin Advisers acting in the role of a “Model Provider.” PAS acts as the sponsor and the discretionary investment manager for this program, which means PAS is provided the authority to manage the securities held in your VestWise account without seeking prior trading approval from you. If you elect the recommended VestWise strategy (“Model Portfolio”) and open an account, PAS uses this discretion to make changes to the holdings within the account over time consistent with the selected Model Portfolio.

The technology platform being utilized by PAS to provide the VestWise program is offered by AdvisorEngine, an affiliate of Franklin Advisers. PAS pays AdvisorEngine an annual technology fee that is calculated based on the assets under management on the platform.

The VestWise program is intended to be a hybrid of a digital adviser (i.e., internet/web-based adviser) and a traditional human adviser. Your IAR will be available to assist you with the following:

- Reviewing the Model Portfolio VestWise has recommended for you; and
- Providing you with advice and guidance, upon your request, based on the information provided at the time you opened your VestWise account and as you update or amend it from time to time.

PAS will provide you with:

- Discretionary investment management of your VestWise account;
- Periodic performance reports showing the performance of VestWise account assets;
- Opportunities for you to engage in periodic account reviews to address progress toward your investment objectives and goals for the account; and
- Automated quarterly rebalancing at the end of each calendar quarter using rebalancing rules established by PAS.

## **Lending Services**

### *Non-Purpose Loan Program*

You may apply for a non-purpose loan from Pershing LLC through the PAS Non-Purpose Loan Program using an eligible securities account as collateral. These eligible securities accounts may include one or more of your PAS Proprietary Program accounts. In order for PAS Proprietary Program accounts to be eligible to serve as collateral for a non-purpose loan, the account may not serve as collateral for any margin lending or reinvestment into any securities or insurance products. You will be required to open a brokerage account to support the loan and will receive a separate statement for this account.

If you participate in the Non-Purpose Loan Program, you will pay interest to Pershing LLC and PAS on the loan value in addition to any Program advisory fees charged in the PAS Proprietary Program account being used as collateral. PAS IARs do not receive any portion of the interest paid by clients for non-purpose loans.

### *Securities Based Line of Credit (“SBLOC”) through Tri-State Capital Bank (“Tri-State”)*

You may apply for a Securities Based Line of Credit (“SBLOC”) from Tri-State using an eligible securities account as collateral. These eligible securities accounts may include one or more of your PAS Proprietary

Program accounts. In order for PAS Proprietary Program accounts to be eligible to serve as collateral for a non-purpose loan, the account may not serve as collateral for any margin lending or reinvestment into any securities or insurance products.

If you participate in SBLOC, you will pay interest to Tri-State and PAS on the loan value in addition to any Program advisory fees charged in the PAS Proprietary Program account being used as collateral. PAS IARs do not receive any portion of the interest paid by clients for non-purpose loans.

### *Investment Credit Line*

High net worth investors may apply for the BNY Mellon, N.A. Investment Credit Line program (ICL), a flexible line of credit that provides liquidity for personal or business needs. The ICL is secured by qualifying liquid assets held in your investment account(s) custodied at Pershing, LLC. Many forms of collateral are accepted, such as bonds, domestic equities, mutual funds, and government securities. The minimum credit line size is \$1,000,000 requiring assets valued at least \$1,500,000 in Pershing accounts. Interest is paid only on the funds borrowed. For additional information about this program speak with your IAR.

### *Mortgage Program*

High net worth clients may apply for mortgage programs provided by BNY Mellon, N.A. The minimum loan amount is \$500,000. Qualified borrowers may borrow up to 100% of the home's value by pledging qualifying assets held in accounts at Pershing, LLC in lieu of a cash down payment. Financing may be used for the purchase of single-family, primary and vacation homes, condos, and co-ops but not investment properties. For additional information about this program speak with your IAR.

### *Important Considerations relating to Lending Services*

**In certain circumstances, your IAR may recommend, and PAS may approve Lending Services in your advisory account. Your IAR will benefit from recommending Lending Services because you do not have to liquidate assets in your account to pay for items with cash, which would diminish the assets held in the account and the potential fees and commissions that could be earned by your IAR from holding or engaging in future transactions with those assets. For example, with a fee-based account, by recommending a Non-Purpose loan to fund some purchase or financial need rather than liquidate securities, PAS and your IAR continue to earn fees on the full account value. PAS will also receive a portion of the loan interest when you participate in the Pershing Non-Purpose Loan and / or the Tri-State SBLOC Programs. Furthermore, there are conflicts of interest associated with the various lending programs as PAS does not earn interest on the Investment Credit Line, therefore creating an incentive to recommend the Pershing and/or Tri-State lending programs in which PAS does share in the interest payments with the lender but which may have higher interest rates than the Investment Credit Line program. You may also seek lending services using your advisory account as collateral through third-party banks which do not have a relationship with PAS and which may offer more competitive interest rates.**

You must meet certain eligibility requirements and complete loan documentation prior to applying for Lending Services. Specifically, you will be required to execute loan documents with Pershing and/or BNY Mellon depending on the Lending Services being sought.

Funds borrowed and proceeds from any recommended Lending Service may not be used to purchase securities or fund brokerage accounts.

The decision to use PAS Proprietary Program account assets as collateral rests with you and should only be made if you understand:

- the risks of borrowing and the impact of the use of borrowed funds on advisory accounts;

- how the use of loans may affect your ability to achieve investment objectives;
- the risk that you may lose more than your original investment; and
- the possibility you may not benefit from collateralizing your account for a loan in a Program account if the performance of your account does not exceed the interest expense being charged on the loan plus the additional advisory fees incurred by your account as a result of the deposit of the loan proceeds.

Due to the fact your PAS Proprietary Program account will be pledged to support any loans extended under the lending services program; you will not be permitted to withdraw any of the assets from the account unless there is a sufficient amount of collateral otherwise supporting the loan (as determined by PAS, Tri-State, or Pershing in their sole discretion).

If the market value of the collateralized account depreciates, you may be required to deposit additional funds. Failure to promptly meet a request for additional collateral or repayment or other circumstances (e.g., a rapidly declining market) could cause PAS, in our discretion, to liquidate some or all of the collateral account(s) to meet the loan requirements. Depending on market circumstances, the prices obtained for the securities may be less than favorable. Any required liquidations may disrupt your long-term investment strategies and may result in adverse tax consequences. PAS does not provide legal or tax advice; you should consult your legal and tax advisors regarding the legal and tax implications of borrowing and using securities as collateral for a loan. You are personally responsible for repaying the loan in full, even if the value of the collateral is insufficient.

Neither PAS nor its IARs will act as investment adviser to you with respect to the liquidation of securities held in a PAS Proprietary Program account to meet a loan demand. Those liquidations will be executed in PAS' capacity as broker-dealer and creditor and may, as permitted by law, result in executions on a principal basis in your account. In addition, as creditors, PAS may have interests that are adverse to your interests. Additional limitations and availability may vary by state.

**Defaults** – Non-purpose loans, SBLOC, investment credit lines and the 100% financing mortgage option are full recourse, demand loans and clients with collateralized loan accounts may need to deposit additional cash or collateral or repay part or all of the loan if the value of the portfolio declines below the required loan-to-value ratio. Repayment may be demanded at any time.

There are substantial risks associated with the use of securities as collateral for a loan. For further information, clients should carefully read the application and disclosure information provided for the program selected.

## **Margin Loans**

A margin loan is created when you borrow funds from your account using your security investments as collateral to purchase additional securities or withdraw funds.

Not all securities are eligible to be used for collateral (considered "marginable") and not all customers are eligible for a margin loan.

When a margin loan is created, accounts are charged interest on the loan amount in addition to other fees in your account. The interest is charged by PAS' clearing firm Pershing LLC with rates based upon the Federal Funds Target Rate, plus an additional percentage charge depending on the size of the loan. The additional percentage charge above the Federal Funds Target Rate may be as high as 8%. PAS will retain a portion of the additional percentage rate charged above the Federal Funds Target Rate.

Margin loans can increase potential losses. As previously stated, marginable investments in a portfolio provide the collateral for a margin loan. While the value of that collateral fluctuates according to the market, the amount borrowed stays the same or will increase due to interest charged. If the value of the margined securities decline to the point where they no longer meet the minimum equity requirements for the margin loan, there will be a margin call. When this happens, PAS or Pershing LLC will request that more cash or marginable securities be deposited into the account to meet the minimum equity requirement and satisfy the margin call. Failure to meet a request for additional cash or securities deposit could cause PAS or Pershing, at their discretion, to liquidate

some or all of the securities in your account to satisfy the margin call.

Various risks are associated with margin loans. Clients should carefully review disclosures regarding risks, fees, and other considerations appearing in margin account agreements prior to establishing a margin loan.

#### *Important Considerations Relating to Margin Loans*

**PAS will earn revenue on margin loan interest. This revenue, which increases based on the amount of the margin loan held in your account, represents a conflict of interest as PAS has a financial incentive to recommend or maintain a margin loan. This compensation is retained by PAS and is not shared with your IAR however, your IAR has a conflict when recommending a margin loan as it will maintain or increase the assets under management within the account which is the basis of the overall advisory fee paid to your advisor. This conflict occurs because your advisory fee is based on the total market value of the securities and cash balances in your account. When initially creating a margin loan, the total market value of your account will either increase if additional securities are purchased to create the loan or, be retained if a withdrawal is taken to create the loan.**

#### **Alternative Investments and Institutional Capital Network, Inc.**

PAS has contracted with Institutional Capital Network, Inc. ("iCapital") to utilize iCapital's alternative investment technology platform.

iCapital and its affiliates receive asset based and other fees for providing advisory and other services to the alternative investments that they issue and/or manage, including alternative investments made available through its platform. iCapital therefore, will have an incentive to include one or more affiliated alternative investments through the platform.

The alternative investments offered by PAS issue multiple share classes to investors. The share classes offered in PAS advisory programs will contain no up-front sales charges or ongoing distribution and/or servicing fees payable to PAS.

Customers that agree to invest in an alternative investment will be subject to the eligibility requirements of the issuer; details of such eligibility requirements may be found in the product prospectus or offering documents. The Alternative investments offered in PAS advisory programs require investors to qualify as a Qualified Purchaser or an Accredited Investor. Your IAR will review and verify your qualification status prior to any purchase of an alternative investment in your account.

Certain PAS IARs are granted access to the iCapital platform whose alternative investments may be purchased in the PAS Signature Portfolio and Portfolio Select programs. Only PAS approved alternative investments may be purchased in the program which include Private Equity, Private Credit, Real Estate, and Hedge funds.

**PAS makes available alternative investment funds issued by HPS Investment Partners, LLC ("HPS"). PAS' parent company, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America ("GLIC"), owns a minority stake in HPS. This minority ownership creates a conflict as customer investments into HPS funds positively impacts GLIC's investment in HPS. Neither PAS nor GLIC will share profits from GLIC's HPS investment with your IAR therefore, your IAR does not have a financial incentive to recommend an HPS product.**

#### Common Risks Associated with Alternative Investments

Alternative investments, which are generally defined as anything other than traditional stock or bonds and not traded on an exchange or a public market, often referred to as private markets, involve a higher degree of risk and complexity than traditional investments. As such, alternative investments are not suitable for all investors. A prospectus or offering document that discloses all risks, fees and expenses, and risk factors associated with a particular alternative investment may be obtained from your IAR and must be read carefully before investing.

Investments in alternative investment strategies can expose you to certain specific risks. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the risks and considerations associated with alternative investments:

- **Transparency:** Alternative investments may not offer the same level of transparency as traditional investments which are required to provide frequent and full disclosure;
- **Liquidity:** Alternative Investment are highly illiquid and are difficult to sell or be transferred. You may not be able to redeem your investment for an extended period;
- **Fees:** Alternative investment fees are generally higher than those associated with traditional investments;
- **Valuation:** Alternative Investment are highly illiquid and are difficult to sell or be transferred. If your IAR purchases an Alternative Investment for your account, it will be included for purposes of calculating PAS' advisory fee. PAS relies on the issuer and Pershing to provide a good faith, fair market value. The timing and process for fair market valuation of Alternative Investments is not as reliable as valuations of publicly traded securities. Depending on the size of the fee and the market value of the Alternative Investment over the life of the investment, PAS and your IAR could earn more revenue than if the same investment was held in a brokerage account or directly with the issuer. Therefore, to earn these ongoing advisory fees, PAS and your IAR have an incentive to recommend that you purchase interests through your advisory account instead of in a brokerage account.
- **Investment strategies which may be employed by Alternative Investments:**
  - **Concentration:** Alternative investment strategies may be highly concentrated in a few funds or holdings.
  - **Leverage:** The use of borrowing (leverage) exposes an investor to additional levels of risk including greater losses from investments than would otherwise have been the case without borrowing; margin calls or changes in margin requirements may force premature liquidations of investments; and losses on investments where the investment fails to earn a return that equals or exceeds the cost of the leverage.
  - **Lack of diversification:** The portfolio may not generally be as diversified as other investment vehicles. Accordingly, investments may be subject to more rapid change in value than would be the case if the portfolio were required to maintain a wide diversification among types of securities, geographical areas, issuers and industries. Accordingly, a loss in a single position could have a materially adverse impact on a portfolio.
  - **Event-driven trading:** Event-driven trading involves the risk that the event identified may not occur as anticipated or may not have the anticipated effect, which may result in a negative impact upon the market price of securities held in the portfolio.

## **Donor-Advised Funds**

A donor-advised fund (DAF) works like a charitable investment account, for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about. The DAF is a separately identified account that is maintained and operated by a sponsoring 501(c)(3) charitable organization. When you contribute cash, securities, or other assets to a DAF you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then those funds can be invested for tax-free growth and you can recommend grants to virtually any IRS-qualified public charity. Once the donor makes the contribution, the sponsoring organization has legal control over it. However, the donor retains privileges with respect to the distribution of funds and the investment of assets in the account.

Through Pershing, PAS makes available three DAF options. American Endowment Foundation and Renaissance Charitable Foundation both allow clients to select their IARs to manage their charitable assets in accounts custodied at Pershing. The BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund offers various investment strategies through the fund's investment manager, BNY Mellon, N.A. Each DAF sponsor provides donor support services and a portal that enables clients to recommend grants and view fund activity history.

The American Endowment Foundation and Renaissance Charitable Foundation Funds are for clients who wish to make a charitable contribution but continue working with their PAS IAR to manage contributed assets in accounts held at Pershing. These accounts will be invested in either the Park Avenue Strategist Select Program or the Strategist Select Plus Program. PAS and the IAR will receive advisory fees from accounts invested in these Programs as described within the Statement of Investment Selection.

If the donor selects the BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund, the donor can choose from several investment options using BNY Mellon N.A. as investment manager and the assets are custodied away from Pershing.

The Gift Fund offers five diversified investment strategies and a cash reserve option. The PAS IAR will not act in the capacity of Authorized Representative on the account and neither PAS nor the IAR will receive any compensation from this arrangement.

**The donor advised fund options pose a conflict of interest in that IARs have an incentive to recommend the DAF which pays advisory fees to the IAR over the option with no compensation.**

### **Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs**

PAS offers various Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs in which PAS, unless otherwise noted, acts as a solicitor for an unaffiliated Third-Party Investment Adviser (each, a “Third-Party Investment Adviser”) and receives a fee. In these programs, you will sign an investment advisory agreement directly with the Third-Party Investment Adviser or a tri-party agreement which shall include both PAS and the Third-Party Investment Adviser. Your IAR will provide you with the Third-Party Investment Adviser’s Form ADV Part 2, which you are encouraged to review as it contains important information such as the program fees and expenses and any conflicts of interest of the Third-Party Investment Adviser which may exist. Following the approval of your application, the Third-Party Investment Adviser shall allocate your funds in accordance with the model portfolio you select. Depending upon the program, the Third-Party Investment Adviser shall provide one or more of the following: (i) construct model portfolios with various investment objectives; (ii) select and monitor mutual funds, ETFs, money managers and/or other securities as permitted, for inclusion in the program; and (iii) allocate, manage and, in some programs, rebalance assets in accordance with the model portfolio selected. Please be aware that similar to any type of securities investing, when investing in a model portfolio developed by a Third-Party Investment Adviser, there is no assurance that your investment objectives will be achieved.

In its role as a solicitor, your IAR will work with you to select an appropriate Third-Party Investment Advisory Program based on a number of factors, including but not limited to your financial needs, preferences, and cost. Once you have selected a Third-Party Investment Advisory Program, your IAR will gather information about your investment objectives, risk tolerance and other pertinent information through a client questionnaire typically provided by the Third-Party Investment Adviser to assist you in the selection of a model portfolio. You may accept or reject your IAR’s recommendation of a Third-Party Investment Advisory Program or model portfolio.

Your IAR will answer all questions about the program and the Third-Party Investment Adviser and will educate you about the features, advantages, disadvantages, risks, and costs associated with the Third-Party Investment Advisory Program selected. Your IAR will also assist you in completing the application and paperwork required by the Third-Party Investment Adviser and shall initiate the steps necessary for your participation in the Third-Party Investment Advisory Program. Your IAR will forward to PAS all account opening documentation and information, including any reasonable investment restrictions requested by you. PAS will then forward such documentation to the Third-Party Investment Adviser for review and approval. The Third-Party Investment Adviser is solely responsible for reviewing, accepting, or rejecting and implementing any reasonable investment restrictions imposed by you.

If you have granted the Third-Party Investment Adviser discretion under an applicable Third-Party Investment Advisory Program, you have the ability to add or modify any previously requested investment restrictions imposed on the Third-Party Investment Adviser. Your IAR, on an ongoing basis, shall review and discuss your participation in the Third-Party Investment Advisory Program(s) and model portfolio(s) and shall communicate changes in your financial situation to the Third-Party Investment Adviser, as necessary. PAS will forward any updated information it receives from you to the Third-Party Investment Adviser for review and assist you in making any appropriate changes to your account, if necessary.

PAS does not serve as a broker-dealer for your Third-Party Investment Advisory Program account and does not place trades in connection with the securities held in your account.



## **Securities-Backed Lines of Credit Offered Through Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs**

You may be eligible to use your Third-Party Investment Advisory Program account as collateral for a Securities-Based Line of Credit ("SBLOC").

If you participate in an SBLOC program, you will pay interest on the loan value in addition to any advisory fees charged in the Third-Party Investment Advisory Program account being used as collateral. Neither PAS nor its IARs receive any portion of the interest paid by clients for SBLOC services.

To determine if your Third-Party Investment Advisory Program account is eligible for SBLOC services, please consult with your PAS IAR.

### *Important Considerations relating to SBLOC services*

In certain circumstances, your IAR may recommend, and your account may be approved for SBLOC services. Your IAR will benefit from recommending SBLOC services because you do not have to liquidate assets in your account to pay for items with cash, which would diminish the assets held in the account and the potential fees and commissions that could be earned by your IAR from holding or engaging in future transactions with those assets. For example, with a fee-based account, by recommending an SBLOC loan to fund some purchase or financial need rather than liquidate securities, PAS and your IAR continue to earn fees on the full account value.

There are substantial risks associated with the use of securities as collateral for a loan such as:

- the risk of borrowing and the impact of the use of borrowed funds on advisory accounts;
- the risk that you may lose more than your original investment;
- the possibility you may not benefit from collateralizing your account for a loan in a Third Party Advisory program account if the performance of your account does not exceed the interest expense being charged on the loan plus the additional advisory fees incurred by your account as a result of the deposit of the loan proceeds; &
- the risk of being required to deposit additional funds into your Third-Party Investment Advisory Program account if the account depreciates in value.

For more information about SBLOC services through your elected Third-Party Investment Advisor, inclusive of any potential conflicts the Advisor may have in offering these services, please review the Advisory Brochure of your Third-Party Investment Advisor.

If you elect to, and are approved for SBLOC services, it is important you understand these risks and carefully read the application and disclosure information provided when applying for SBLOC services.

The following is a list of Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs available through PAS, where PAS acts as a solicitor, or in some instances, as adviser or co-adviser:

### *Third-Party Investment Advisers*

- SEI Investment Management Corp.
- AssetMark, Inc.
- Matson Money, Inc.
- Morningstar Investment Services, Inc.
- BNY Mellon
- Stonebridge Capital Management\*
- Gould Asset Management, LLC\*
- Silvercrest Asset Management Group, LLC\*

- Orion Portfolio Solutions, LLC
- Efficient Advisors, LLC

Please note that from time to time one or more of the above-listed programs may not be available to new clients. Additional information about these Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs is available through your IAR, or you may access the Form ADV for each of these advisers via the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The primary Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs PAS offers are summarized below.

\*Noted Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs are only offered through specific IARs of PAS. Please contact your IAR if you have questions regarding the programs offered through these firms

### **SEI Investment Management Corporation**

SEI Investment Management Corporation ("SIMC") sponsors and is adviser to the SEI programs, which are offered through PAS for investment by its clients, such as high net worth individuals, trusts, endowments and foundations, and institutions. PAS offers two types of programs through SEI: (i) the SEI Asset Management Program which is an institutional mutual fund asset allocation program; and (ii) the SEI Managed Account Solutions program which is a wrap fee program that charges a bundled fee that includes advisory, brokerage and custody services.

#### SEI Asset Management Program (closed to new clients as of April 2, 2018)

For the SEI Asset Management Program, your IAR will assist you in the establishment of your account, which is custodied at SEI Trust Company. The relationship between you and SEI Trust Company is governed by a separate custodial agreement. Under the SEI Asset Management Program, you grant PAS limited authority with respect to reallocations in your account based on changes made by SIMC to the asset allocation models. PAS will direct SEI Trust Company to allocate your investments in accordance with the asset allocation policy adopted by you. You have the ability to impose any reasonable restrictions or modify any existing restrictions on the management of your account.

#### SEI Managed Account Solutions

Under the SEI Managed Account Solutions Program, SIMC enters into a tri-party investment advisory agreement with you and PAS, which provides for the management of your assets in accordance with the terms of the Investment Management Agreement. Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, you appoint PAS as your investment adviser for the purpose of assisting you in selecting an appropriate asset allocation strategy and selecting available sub-advisers that have been assigned to the strategy by SIMC. You appoint SIMC, through its manager-of-managers structure, as your investment adviser to manage the assets in each Managed Account Solutions portfolio in accordance with the strategy selected by you with the assistance of PAS. You may elect to invest in one or more of the Portfolios. Portfolios may include: (i) allocations to one or more asset classes managed through your selection of specific Portfolio Managers; (ii) allocation to investment models consisting solely of investments in SEI Funds ("SEI Fund Models") or exchange traded funds or (iii) an allocation to a DFS Strategy, which are portfolios of SEI Funds or ETFs intended for investors in or near retirement. You have the ability to impose any reasonable restrictions or modify any existing restrictions on the management of your account.

Under the SEI programs, PAS is responsible for gathering information about your current financial situation, risk tolerance, time horizon, and asset class preference. PAS uses tools made available by SEI, including SEI's proprietary proposal tools, to develop the appropriate asset allocation strategy for you. Based upon your information, you will work with PAS to select from one of several asset allocation models developed by SEI, which may be composed of SEI mutual funds. SEI may provide PAS with assistance in developing client investment proposals using SEI mutual funds or managed accounts. Your IAR will continue to review the account for program suitability and your IAR will retain responsibility for an annual review of your account.

Any securities in your SEI account that are not managed under the SEI programs described above will be held in

Client Directed Portfolios. Securities which are held in Client Directed Portfolios are not included in the periodic performance reports of the SEI program portfolio you have selected. PAS, SIMC and your IAR do not provide investment advisory services of any kind with regard to Client Direct Portfolios, do not charge an advisory fee on such assets and do not have any responsibility with respect to the management of holdings within Client Directed Portfolios. SEI does not take holdings held within Client Directed Portfolios into consideration when providing investment advice for your SEI program account.

## **SEI Institutional Program**

PAS IARs are compensated for referrals to the SEI Institutional Group. SIMC offers investment management and investment advisory services directly to institutional clients through SEI's business segment called Institutional Investors (the "Institutional Group"). SIMC's Institutional Group delivers integrated retirement and non-profit investment solutions to institutional clients including, but not limited to, corporate and union sponsored pension plans, public plans, defined contribution plans (including 401(k) plans), endowments, charitable foundations, and hospital organizations (each a, "Client" and together the "Clients"). All investment advisory services regarding the Client's SEI Institutional Group will be provided by the SEI Institutional Group pursuant to an agreement between the Client and SEI Institutional Group.

Please review the Fee Disclosure Statement or contact your representative at SEI for more information on SEI's respective investment advisory practices.

## **AssetMark, Inc.**

AssetMark, Inc. ("AssetMark") is the sponsor and adviser of the AssetMark investment advisory programs ("AssetMark Platform") and works with PAS to implement the AssetMark Platform for PAS clients. As part of its services, AssetMark provides account administration and has developed internet-based software, which provides PAS and its IARs with the ability to directly monitor client accounts, download information concerning changes in the AssetMark Platform, and access current information relating to the AssetMark Platform.

To establish an account on the AssetMark Platform, you will enter into a Client Services Agreement with AssetMark and PAS. In establishing your account, you may complete a questionnaire, or otherwise provide information to PAS, to enable you and PAS to identify your risk tolerance and investment objectives. You may be asked to provide information concerning your investment experience, anticipated need for liquidity, potential timing of the need for retirement funds, and other investment needs and parameters. This information will assist you and PAS in selecting the risk/return profile that is most closely aligned with your investment goals.

AssetMark makes a number of different investment options available to clients through the AssetMark Platform. These include Mutual Fund Accounts, ETF Accounts, Guided Portfolios, Privately Managed Accounts and Unified Managed Accounts.

AssetMark's Custom GPS Select – This product is available to eligible PAS IARs who are Series 7 licensed. Your IAR has the ability to make changes to the asset allocation and /or investment selection of the Custom GPS Select portfolio selected within your prescribed risk profile and investment objectives upon your approval. AssetMark retains responsibility for the management of your account and will confirm changes made to a pre-existing Custom GPS Select portfolio by your IAR to ensure any new allocation continues to align with your risk profile and investment objectives.

Your IAR will continue to review the account for program suitability and will retain responsibility for an annual review of your account.

## **Matson Money, Inc.**

Matson Money, Inc. ("Matson") sponsors and is adviser to the Matson Money Fund Platform, which is offered through PAS for investment by its clients. To establish an account through the Matson Money Fund Platform, you

enter into an investment management agreement with Matson and PAS under which Matson is granted discretionary authority to invest your assets and PAS acts as the soliciting adviser. Under the Matson Money Fund Platform, you respond to a client questionnaire that assesses your risk tolerance and investment objectives. Based on your responses to the questionnaire, Matson will assign you to one of its various model portfolios.

Each model portfolio is composed of mutual funds managed by Matson, currently the Free Market U.S. Equity Fund, Free Market International Equity Fund and Free Market Fixed-Income Fund (the “Matson Funds”). Each Matson Fund is a “fund of funds,” which invests primarily in shares of no-load mutual funds managed by Dimensional Fund Advisors (“DFA”) which, as sub-adviser to each Matson Fund, selects the underlying DFA mutual funds based on the investment characteristics specified by Matson and described in the Matson Funds prospectus. Each Matson Fund is designed to target specified percentages of certain asset classes in the Matson Fund’s applicable investment category to seek maximum portfolio diversification, enhanced return potential and diminished portfolio volatility. Matson reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to create, and allocate assets in client accounts to, additional Matson Funds in the future.

Matson may also invest your assets in unaffiliated cash sweep vehicles for temporary or other defensive purposes. More complete information is available in the Matson Funds prospectus.

**IARs who wish to offer the Matson Money advisory programs are required to pay a fee to Matson in the amount of \$10,000. The fee includes educational and training courses, some of which are required by Matson prior to permitting participation as a solicitor. Matson also requires IARs to solicit at least \$100,000 of client assets within the first year of acting as a solicitor. If this minimum is not met, Matson reserves the right to terminate its relationship with your IAR. As the amount of assets referred to Matson by your IAR increases, the amount of marketing assistance provided to your IAR also increases, at no additional cost. Therefore, IARs who offer the Matson advisory programs have an incentive to select Matson over another program.**

Your IAR will continue to review the account for program suitability and will retain responsibility for an annual review of your account.

### **Morningstar Investment Services, LLC**

Morningstar Investment Services LLC (“Morningstar”) is the sponsor and adviser to the Morningstar Managed Portfolios Program (the “Morningstar Program”) which is offered through PAS for investment by its clients. The Morningstar Program consists of multiple investment strategies with multiple portfolios intended for a range of clients based on such factors as age, financial situation, time horizon, risk tolerance, and any reasonable restrictions that you may place on the portfolio selected for your account.

The Morningstar Program includes various strategies consisting of mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and equity securities; Morningstar or an affiliate provides discretionary management for the Morningstar Program strategies.

To establish an account, you enter into an investment management agreement with Morningstar under which Morningstar is granted discretionary authority to invest your assets. Your IAR will assist you with filling out a client questionnaire to assist in your selection of an appropriate investment strategy from those available within the Morningstar Program (i.e., mutual fund strategies, stock basket strategies and exchange-traded funds strategies) and in determining whether any reasonable restrictions on the investment of your account assets should be imposed. This information will be provided to Morningstar before your account is opened including, when applicable, your basis for selecting a portfolio other than the one identified by the Morningstar Program questionnaire/proposal system.

PAS will continue to review the account for program suitability and your IAR will retain responsibility for an annual review of your account.

This program is also available through Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>.

### **Orion Portfolio Solutions, LLC**

Orion Portfolio Solutions, LLC ("Orion") is the sponsor and adviser to the Orion Strategist Program (as defined below) which is offered through PAS for investment by its clients. Through this program Orion provides a fee-based platform for PAS IARs to utilize Orion's selected institutional portfolio strategists (the "Orion Strategist Program") that are vetted and monitored by Orion. For the Orion Strategist Program, Orion retains third party investment managers that are not affiliated with OPS ("Strategists"), to design and manage model portfolios that IARs can recommend to clients for management of client assets.

To establish an account through Orion you must enter into an investment management agreement with Orion and PAS under which Orion is granted discretionary authority to invest your assets and PAS acts as a solicitor.

Your IAR will continue to review the account for program suitability and will retain responsibility for an annual review of your account.

Certain Orion programs are also available through Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>.

### **Efficient Advisors, LLC**

PAS IARs may refer ERISA qualified plan assets to Efficient Advisors, LLC ("Efficient"). Efficient acts as an investment manager and controls the investment of plan assets. Efficient provides investment-related services to qualified plan assets as an investment adviser registered under the SEC and provides these services in its capacity as a fiduciary within the meaning of § 3(38) of ERISA.

Efficient provides the following services:

- Construct, maintain and monitor model asset allocation portfolios (Models) for Plan participants.
- Develop or assist with the development of an investment policy statement (IPS) for the Plan.
- Exercise full investment discretion with regard to buying, managing, and selling assets held in Models.
- Monitor investment options.
- Meet with plan sponsor on a periodic basis to discuss the reports and the investment recommendations.
- Select a qualified default investment alternative under ERISA section 404(c)(5).
- Communicate to the plan's investment committee all significant changes pertaining to the assets it manages or the investment management firm itself. PAS IARs may provide the following services to the plan sponsor:
  - Assisting plan sponsor with completing all appropriate documentation to support plan implementation.
  - Conducting enrollment meetings with participants and providing investment education services to plan participants.

### **ManagedPlan™ Program**

The ManagedPlan™ program is available on the Envestnet Wealth Management Technology platform and is a comprehensive retirement plan solution whereby Envestnet Retirement Solutions, LLC ("ERS") will perform implementation services with the retirement plan record-keeper, PCS Retirement, LLC ("PCS").

ERS provides investment related services to qualified plans such as 401(k), 403(b) and 401(a) plans, profit sharing plans, defined benefit pension plans and cash balance plans, and acts in the capacity as a fiduciary within the meaning of Rule 3(38) of ERISA. When acting as a fiduciary, ERS acts in accordance with the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended ("Advisers Act") and for Plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, ("ERISA"), in accordance with ERISA Title I rules. In providing Plan Sponsor Services, ERS acts with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence that a prudent person, acting in the same

capacity and with the same information, in a similar situation would utilize. ERS provides an investment strategy (“Strategist Model”) of a non-affiliated third-party investment manager (“Third Party Strategist”), whereby the Third-Party Strategist, acting as an investment model provider, constructs an asset allocation and selects the underlying investments for each portfolio. The Strategists are American Funds, Blackrock, and Orion.

The Plan Sponsor is responsible for selecting the Third-Party Strategist that it wishes to make available to its Plan. Acting as the “investment manager” (as defined in Section 3(38) of ERISA), ERS performs overlay management of the Strategist Model by monitoring the investment strategy and, in certain cases, facilitating the routing of trade orders to the recordkeepers for execution, and periodically updating and rebalancing each Strategist Model pursuant to the direction of the Third-Party Strategist. ERS may, from time-to-time, replace existing Third-Party Strategists and cannot guarantee the continued availability of Strategist Models.

ERS retains final decision-making authority with respect to removing and/or replacing investments in the core lineup, and communicates instructions to the appropriate third-party, including the Plan’s record keeper, custodian, and/or third-party administrator to facilitate investment changes.

PAS IARs may refer qualified plan assets to ERS to invest in the ManagedPlan™ program and may provide the following services to the plan sponsor:

- Assisting plan sponsor with completing all appropriate documentation to support plan implementation.
- Conducting enrollment meetings with participants and providing investment education services to plan participants.

The annual fee for the referral and ongoing services provided by your PAS IAR ranges from 50bps to 175bps, a portion of which is retained by PAS. The fee does not include recordkeeping or individual participant fees, which are fully disclosed in the client agreement and proposal. The fee also excludes other related charges such as custody and clearing, Third Party Administrator (TPA) fee, and 3(38) services provided by ERS.

### **BNY Mellon Wealth Management**

PAS IARs may refer ultra-high net worth clients to BNY Mellon Wealth Management for Investment advisory services while also providing ongoing client services in a co-advisory capacity. The investment management of the client’s BNY Mellon account will be provided by BNY Mellon pursuant to an agreement between the client and BNY Mellon. BNY Mellon provides the following services to clients:

- Strategically designed platform of investment solutions tailored for private clients.
- Actively managed investment strategies across a range of asset classes and styles.
- Customized objective-based allocation recommendations.

A separate agreement between PAS and you govern the services the PAS IAR will provide as it relates to the BNY Wealth Management program. The services your PAS IAR will provide are:

- Ongoing holistic advice and guidance across your overall investment portfolio;
- Interviewing you prior the introduction to BNY Mellon’s services to ascertain your financial position, investment goals and objectives, investment limitations, reasonable restrictions (if any) and risk tolerance.
- Determining the suitability of the introduction to BNY Mellon and determining whether the BNY Mellon services may be suitable.
- Contacting you at least annually to determine whether there has been a change in your financial situation or investment objectives.
- Participate in the BNY Mellon annual review process with you.

Please review the fee disclosure document or your PAS IAR for more information on BNY Mellon’s respective investment advisory practices.

## Stonebridge Capital Management

Certain PAS IARs are compensated for referrals to Stonebridge Capital Management ("Stonebridge"). All investment advisory services regarding the client's Stonebridge account will be provided by Stonebridge pursuant to an agreement between the client and Stonebridge.

Stonebridge may allocate (and/or recommend that the client allocate) a portion of a client's investment assets among unaffiliated independent investment managers ("Independent Managers") in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the Independent Manager[s] shall have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. Stonebridge shall continue to render investment advisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. Factors which Stonebridge shall consider in recommending Independent Manager[s] include the client's designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research. Please review Stonebridge's Form ADV Part 2A or contact your representative at Stonebridge for more information on Stonebridge's respective investment advisory practices.

## Gould Asset Management LLC

Certain PAS IARs are compensated for referrals to Gould Asset Management LLC. ("Gould"). Gould provides investment management services, primarily through individually managed accounts for individuals and institutions. Unless otherwise noted, Gould constructs portfolios primarily or exclusively using mutual funds, including traditional open-end, exchange-traded, and closed-end funds. Such mutual funds may be primarily or exclusively index or index-like funds, depending on the investment strategy. Gould's management agreement with the client generally provides Gould with authority to act on a discretionary basis with client assets. Please review Gould's Form ADV Part 2A or contact your representative at Gould for more information on Gould's respective investment advisory practices.

## Silvercrest Asset Management Group LLC

Certain PAS IARs are compensated for referrals to Silvercrest Asset Management Group LLC ("Silvercrest"). Client accounts are generally managed on a fully discretionary basis where Silvercrest makes all decisions as to which securities are bought or sold and/or the total amount bought or sold. Silvercrest tailors its advisory services to the individual needs of its clients. Silvercrest's portfolio managers apply specific objectives and guidelines for each client portfolio which they are responsible for managing. Please review Silvercrest's Form ADV Part 2A or contact your IAR for more information on Silvercrest's respective investment advisory practices.

## Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2023, PAS maintained \$11,881,593,369 of Regulatory Assets Under Management of which, \$10,134,454,678 were managed on a discretionary basis and \$1,747,138,691 were managed on a non-discretionary basis. In its capacity as a solicitor or co-adviser, PAS maintained assets under administration of \$8,997,671,211.

## 5. Fees and Compensation

Fees paid to PAS are based on the value of the assets within your account and may be individually negotiated by the client. Discounts are not generally available to clients but may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of PAS. At its discretion, PAS pays a portion of the fee it receives to IARs. **Fees earned by an IAR vary by Program. Therefore, an IAR has an incentive to recommend one Program over another.**

There is no guarantee that the PAS investment advisory services offered will result in the client's goals and objectives being met. Nor is there any guarantee of profit or protection from loss. The fees and expenses in connection with these advisory services may be higher than the cost of similar services offered through other

financial firms or the fees associated with other financial services. Use of asset-based fee or “wrap fee” programs may result in the payment of fees by clients in excess of the combined total of separate advisory fees and brokerage commissions paid on an individual transaction basis. In investment advisory accounts, the PAS IAR is not paid a sales commission or trail commission. Please note that a client may be able to purchase recommended no-load mutual funds outside of a PAS Proprietary Program at little or no transaction cost and without the payment of advisory fees; however, the client will not receive the benefit of the investment advice and other services that PAS provides to clients participating in its advisory programs.

In general, compensation payable to PAS in connection with investment advisory services is comparable to compensation charged by other full-service firms for the same services. In some cases, similar services are available from other sources at lower fees and charges (which may have the effect of lowering the cost to the customer and/or increasing the return on the product).

**PAS and its IARs provide investment management advice to a variety of different clients. Certain types of clients and fee arrangements create conflicts of interest for PAS. Some IARs provide advice or manage accounts “side by side” with accounts that have different characteristics. As such, these IARs have an incentive to favor some accounts over others.**

**PAS IARs may also provide advisory services to retail clients via other PAS advisory programs. VestWise, the digital advisory program offered by PAS, which has a lower advisory fee structure, may be invested in securities that are comparable to client accounts that are invested in other PAS advisory programs. You should carefully review the description of each program and the related fees and consider which program may be more appropriate. If you want a description of all advisory programs, please contact PAS or, alternatively, you may go to [www.parkavenuesecurities.com](http://www.parkavenuesecurities.com) to view all of the Firm Brochures available for PAS.**

**PAS is conscious of these potential conflicts. Overall, where we are providing fiduciary services, the goal of our policies and procedures is to act in good faith and to treat all client accounts in a fair and equitable manner over time, regardless of their strategy, fee arrangements or the influence of their owners or beneficiaries. These policies include those addressing the fair allocation of investment opportunities across client accounts and the best execution of all client transactions.**

## **Advisory and Transaction Fees**

### *The VestWise Program*

You will pay one advisory fee for the services provided in the VestWise program. The maximum annual fee for the VestWise program is 0.45% paid quarterly in arrears. The fee is calculated quarterly, using the average daily balance of the assets held in the Model Portfolio for your account for the completed quarter.

The annual client advisory fee agreed upon by you and PAS is indicated in the VestWise Investment Advisory Agreement.

The advisory fee charged by PAS does not include internal expenses charged by the ETFs in which account assets are invested. All internal expenses are fully disclosed in the respective ETF prospectuses.

### *PAS Proprietary Programs Other Than VestWise*

Other than the VestWise program, the advisory fee for a PAS Proprietary Program is based on the average daily balance of assets in a client's account during the previous calendar quarter and is payable in advance for the following quarter. You will pay one advisory fee (“Total Client Fee”) for the services provided in the program you have selected. Your Total Client Fee is separated into different components, which vary depending on the



program you have selected. The components of the Total Client Fee consist of the following:

- An Adviser Fee for the advisory services provided by your IAR which ranges from .50% to 1.75% of assets under management.
- A Platform Fee for the technology related services and/or the advisory related services provided by PAS and Envestnet, and the brokerage services involved in purchasing and selling the securities in your account. Please see section Annual Platform Fee – PAS Proprietary Programs Other Than VestWise Accounts for additional information.
- A Manager Fee for the advisory services provided by Strategists and Investment Managers (as applicable) which ranges from .02% to .65% of assets under management.

The Total Client Fee is located in your Statement of Investment Selection. The fee is calculated at the end of each quarter and is debited from the account between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> business day of the following quarter.

If you choose a standard fee schedule rather than a negotiated fee, and your assets exceed a fee breakpoint or fall below a fee breakpoint, your Total Client Fee will be adjusted to the appropriate fee schedule in the subsequent quarter. **IARs have an incentive to select a manager with a lower manager fee to enable them to charge a higher Adviser Fee without increasing your Total Client Fee. Similarly, advisors have an incentive to negotiate their Adviser Fee to a higher level when the platform portion of the fee decreases so your Total Client Fee remains level rather than decreasing at certain breakpoints.**

Upon termination of your account, you will receive a pro-rata refund representing the period from termination date to the end of the quarter. No refunds are made in the case of a partial withdrawal from the account. The standard Total Client Fee schedule for each program is set forth below. As broker-dealer of record for client accounts in PAS Proprietary Programs, PAS may charge clients for certain transactions as footnoted below. PAS transaction charges cover both the underlying Pershing transaction charges as well as administrative services provided by PAS in connection with the transactions.

Each PAS wrap fee program has its own Wrap Fee Brochure which describes in detail the investment options, services, and fees for each program. To obtain a Wrap Fee Brochure for one of these programs, please request the brochure from your IAR or call PAS at (800) 600-4667.

#### Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup>

Assets Under Management	Maximum Client Fee
\$ 0 - \$499,999.99	2.05%
\$500,000.00 - \$999,999.99	2.00%
\$1,000,000.00 - \$1,999,999.99	1.95%
\$2,000,000.00 – over	1.90%

In addition, other administrative charges may apply, including:

- Ticket Charges: \$10.00 per transaction
- IRAs & Certain ERISA Plans: \$125.00 termination fee.

Other Fees and Charges – Strategists or Investment Managers in the UMA/SMA Select or Strategist Select/Strategist Select Plus programs may execute trades in fixed income, thinly traded or illiquid securities. In order to obtain best execution and minimize market impact, these trades may be executed outside of Envestnet's trading process in order to gain best execution and minimize market impact. In some instances, trades under these circumstances are executed by the Investment Manager or Strategist without any additional commission or markup or markdown. However, in other instances, the executing firm may impose a commission or a markup or markdown on the trade. If trades are placed with an executing firm that imposes a commission or equivalent fee on the trade, including a commission that may be imbedded in the price of the security, you will

incur costs in addition to the wrap fee that is paid to PAS.

### Annual Platform Fee - PAS Proprietary Program Other Than VestWise Accounts

The annual Platform Fee is a component of the Total Client Fee as described in your Statement of Investment Selection. The annual Platform Fee ranges in the aggregate from .05% to .30% of assets under management with a minimum annual fee of \$90.00.

Should your account's balance during a quarter be below the point at which at least \$22.50 in Platform Fees, on average, are generated, your client fee shall be increased incrementally to satisfy the minimum. Using the example from above, if an account with a balance of \$50,000 during a quarter generated a Platform Fee of \$24.00, the \$22.50 minimum quarterly fee would have been satisfied and no additional expense would be incurred. However, if an account with a balance of \$45,000 during a quarter generated a Platform Fee of \$22.20, the \$22.50 minimum quarterly fee would not have been satisfied, resulting in the incremental increase of your client fee to make up for the additional \$0.30.

On average, account balances greater than \$45,000 will not see any impact from this minimum fee. For accounts with balances less than this amount, the Platform Fee portion of your Total Client Fee shall be increased incrementally to satisfy the minimum quarterly Platform Fee. This may cause your Total Client Fee percentage to be greater than the percentage indicated on the SIS, may fluctuate from quarter-to-quarter, and is dependent on the value of your account's assets during the prior quarter. Fluctuations in the account value during some quarters may cause the annual Platform Fee to be higher or lower than if the Platform Fee were calculated annually on the average account value.

#### *Householding for Annual Platform Fee*

PAS shall allow householding for multiple PAS Proprietary Program accounts among family members that share the same mailing address and/or social security number and will consider the total assets held across the full relationship versus each account individually when determining the minimum annual platform fee applicable to each individual account. PAS may consider other accounts to be in your household if the account holder is in the same family and there is a dependent or immediate family relationship. For family relationships that do not share an address or social security number, you are responsible identifying these accounts and working with your PAS IAR to include them in the correct household for billing purposes.

	Advisory Account Balance	Current Annual Platform Fee*	Future Annual Platform Fee (As of Oct. 1, 2021)	Adjustment to Annual Platform Fee to Reach \$90 Minimum
Family Relationship	2 separate accounts, \$25,000 each (Total = \$50,000)	\$55 each (Total = \$110)	\$55 each (Total = \$110)	None
Accounts or Family Relationships with less than \$45,000 in aggregate assets	\$35,000	\$77	\$90	+ \$13 to meet the minimum

\*Assumes Strategist Select account(s); your individual account platform fee may differ from this example; please contact your financial advisor if you would like more information

For Individual Retirement Accounts ("IRAs") being added to a household it is the client's responsibility to consider the balances and activities of that account in a household and determine if it's appropriate to household such account. A client should contact their legal or tax advisor to understand any possible unanticipated tax consequences of householding such accounts. If a client determines that they wish to exclude an IRA account from a billing group, the client is required to contact Park Avenue Securities or their financial advisor to request that the account not be included in the household.

## **Other Fees Applicable to All PAS Proprietary Programs**

If cash or cash-equivalent funds in your account are not sufficient to pay the fee or any of the other fees charged in connection with your account or transactions for your account, investments in your account may be liquidated in order to pay the outstanding fees. If your account is managed for only a portion of the quarter, the fee will be prorated accordingly. Other than in a wrap program, the total advisory fee for a PAS Proprietary Program does not include costs or charges associated with liquidation of a client's account or transaction charges for securities transactions.

The total advisory fee also excludes other related charges, including but not limited to, express postage and handling charges, returned check charges, short-term mutual fund trading fees, fees listed in a mutual fund prospectus, Corestone Checking account fees, legal transfer fees, safekeeping fees, valuation fees, wire or transfer fees, transfer taxes or exchange fees, fees for paper statements and paper confirmations or other fees mandated by law, or non-brokerage related fees such as Individual Retirement Account ("IRA") trustee or custodian fees and tax qualified retirement plan account fees, each of which is charged separately. These related charges are collected by Pershing; however, PAS marks up the noted charges by as much as 150% and retains the markup. For example, to process a domestic overnight check, Pershing charges PAS \$12, you will be charged \$15 (Pershing collects \$12, PAS collects \$3). The markup on these charges helps defray our costs associated with maintaining and servicing client accounts. The additional compensation due to the markup presents a conflict of interest because PAS receives a financial benefit when it provides services in connection with maintaining and servicing your account. However, because your IAR does not share in these other account fees, your IAR does not have a financial incentive to recommend certain transactions or recommend that PAS provide such additional services. A full listing of charges is listed in the Client Fee Schedule which can be found in your account opening documents, or you may obtain a current version of the Client Fee Schedule by calling PAS at (888)-600-4667.

## **Mutual Funds, Close End Funds and ETFs in Proprietary Advisory Programs**

In addition to the total advisory fee, you pay the fees and expenses of the mutual funds, closed-end funds and ETFs (mutual funds, closed-end funds and ETFs collectively, "Fund(s)" in which your account is invested. Fund fees and expenses are charged directly to the pool of assets the Fund invests in and are reflected in each Fund's net asset value. These fees and expenses are an additional cost to you and are not included in the fee amount in your account statements. Each Fund expense ratio (the total amount of fees and expenses charged by the Fund) is stated in its prospectus. The expense ratio generally reflects the costs incurred by shareholders during the Fund's most recent fiscal reporting period. Current and future expenses may differ from those stated in the prospectus.

You do not pay any sales charges for purchases of Funds in the programs described in this Brochure. However, some Funds may charge, and not waive, a redemption fee on certain transaction activity in accordance with their prospectuses. Please refer to the applicable prospectus for more information. If you have authorized prospectus redirection to PAS in a discretionary Proprietary Program, you may contact your IAR or PAS to review or obtain a copy of the prospectus for Funds used within the PAS Proprietary Programs.

You should be aware that, in addition to the Total Client Fee paid by you for advisory services under a PAS Proprietary Program, each investment company (i.e., mutual fund) in the program also has its own separate investment management fees and other expenses. These mutual funds may include assets managed by Park Avenue Institutional Advisers LLC ("PAIA"), an affiliate of PAS, as a sub-adviser to certain mutual funds offered by Victory Capital. Further, certain "load" mutual funds may be purchased in a client's account at net asset value ("NAV") without a sales charge to a client ("NAV Funds"). Certain mutual funds available through the PAS Proprietary Programs may make payments to broker-dealers, including PAS, with respect to sales of mutual fund shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("Rule 12b-1 Service/Distribution Fees") or otherwise as administrative service fees. These fees are described in the prospectus for the respective mutual fund. Such payments are made from mutual fund assets and have the effect of reducing mutual fund performance. PAS does not negotiate these payments, which are made solely at the discretion of the mutual fund.

PAS credits any Rule 12b-1 Service/Distribution Fees it may receive to client accounts (with the exception of certain money market mutual funds and FDIC sweep vehicles).

PAS shall not be responsible for any misstatement or omission or for any loss attributable to such misstatement or omission contained in any Fund prospectus, fact sheet or any other disclosure document provided to us for distribution to you. **PAS has the following conflicts of interest as it relates to Funds in Proprietary Advisory Programs.**

### ***Mutual Fund Share Class Selection***

The following description of the mutual fund share class selection process will no longer be effective as of June 1, 2024.

When negotiating and discussing your Total Client Fee, you should understand that mutual fund companies offer a variety of share classes with different expense levels. You should not assume that you will be invested in the share class with the lowest expense ratio for a mutual fund because certain share classes have minimum account sizes for which you are not eligible, or a particular mutual fund company may not allow all share classes to be available in PAS Proprietary Programs. An investor who holds a more expensive share class of a mutual fund will pay higher fees over time and earn lower investment returns than an investor who holds a less expensive share class of the same mutual fund. When evaluating the reasonability of fees, you should consider not just the fees that you pay for investment advisory services through PAS, but also the additional fees and expenses charged by the mutual funds in your account.

In many instances, PAS makes available mutual funds in our advisory programs that offer shares designated as Class A Shares and Class I Shares. In other instances, a mutual fund may offer only Class A Shares, but another similar mutual fund may be available that offers Class I Shares. When an account purchases Class A Shares, PAS receives from the mutual fund 12b-1 Service/Distribution fees that are charged to you by the mutual fund. Class I Shares generally are not subject to 12b-1 Service/Distribution fees. Because of the different expenses of the mutual fund share classes, it is generally more expensive for you to own Class A Shares than Class I Shares. **Because PAS earns additional revenue in connection with the purchase of Class A Shares in your Account, we have a financial incentive to recommend Class A Shares for your account even where Class I Shares are available in the same or a comparable mutual fund. However, to mitigate this conflict of interest, in instances when a 12b-1 Service/Distribution fee is charged to your account (with the exception of certain money market mutual funds purchased as a part of the cash management sweep program as described below), PAS will credit back such fee on either a monthly or quarterly basis depending on when the charge occurs from the mutual fund company.** You should review the mutual fund prospectus and contact your IAR for questions and additional information.

Your IAR's assessment of the appropriate share class is based on many factors, including but not limited to: minimum investment requirements, the Total Client Fee that is charged, whether transaction charges are applied to the purchase or sale of mutual funds, limitations on share class eligibility contained within the mutual fund prospectus, whether PAS has selling agreements with the mutual fund sponsors, the ability of PAS to access particular share classes through the custodian, and the availability of revenue sharing, distribution fees, shareholder servicing fees or other compensation associated with offering a particular class of shares.

### ***Mutual Fund Share Class Selection – Effective by June 1, 2024***

Effective by June 1, 2024, PAS' mutual fund selection process, applicable to PAS Proprietary Programs, exclusive of VestWise™ and mutual fund portfolios managed by a Strategist or Investment manager, will be amended as described below.

When negotiating and discussing your Total Client Fee, you should understand that mutual fund companies offer a variety of share classes with different expense levels. These expense levels, known as expense ratios, are fees and expenses charged by the mutual fund company and that investors will pay to purchase, hold, and sell shares of a mutual fund. You should not assume that you will always be invested in the share class with the

lowest expense ratio for a mutual fund due to the following factors:

- investor eligibility requirements prescribed by a mutual fund company;
- PAS' mutual fund share class selection processes.

An investor who holds a more expensive share class of a mutual fund will pay higher fees over time and earn lower investment returns than an investor who holds a less expensive share class of the same mutual fund. When evaluating the reasonability of fees, you should consider not just the fees that you pay for investment advisory services through PAS, but also the additional fees and expenses charged by the mutual fund companies in your account.

For detailed descriptions of the components of a fund's expense ratio by share class, please refer to the mutual fund prospectus. In addition, an overview of mutual funds share classes is available within the PAS Mutual Fund Disclosure document located at [www.parkavenuesecurities.com/legal/mutual-disclosure](http://www.parkavenuesecurities.com/legal/mutual-disclosure).

As a matter of practice, PAS will not invest clients into share classes containing sales charges and distribution fees such as 12b-1 fees.

After determining the share classes that the Programs are eligible to purchase, pursuant to each fund's prospectus, we will further evaluate each of these share classes and aim to select the lowest cost available share class for which the majority of the programs' clients are eligible to purchase. This results in PAS excluding certain share classes with the lowest expense ratios if the majority of clients are not eligible to purchase, such as certain Retirement share classes.

Moreover, while we avoid using share classes that charge a Distribution Fee, such as a 12b-1 fee, as part of our Programs, if a Distribution Fee bearing share class is transferred into a client account, the fees are credited to client accounts monthly, as applicable, until the share class is converted pursuant to PAS' share class conversion process. Please read the section below for additional details related to share class conversions.

In some instances, among the various share classes issued by a mutual fund company, a fund company may offer share classes that include a fee referred to as a Sub-Transfer Agent Fee ("Sub-TA Fee") and share classes that do not contain this fee. Sub-TA Fees are paid by the mutual fund company to a third-party provider to subsidize certain services otherwise done by the mutual fund company, such as processing daily transactions, maintenance of account balances, mailing of prospectuses, etc. The Sub-TA Fee increases the total expense ratio of a fund. The amount of a Sub-TA Fee may differ by mutual fund company. Details related to the cost of a Sub-TA Fee are described within fund prospectuses.

**As matter of practice, in these instances, PAS will select the share class containing the Sub-TA Fee for use within the Programs. This means that PAS may not select the lowest cost share class for which the client is eligible even if there is a less costly share class that does not charge Sub-TA Fees.**

**The Sub-TA Fee compensates Pershing, LLC (PAS' custodian) for sub-accounting, recordkeeping, and related services at the individual account level. Pershing, LLC passes along a surcharge to PAS for any mutual fund that is part of a PAS advisory Program which does not contain a Sub-TA Fee. PAS' practice of selecting a share class that contains a Sub-TA Fee when a share class of the same fund without a Sub-TA Fee is available, causes a conflict of interest as PAS has a financial interest in selecting the Sub-TA bearing share class to avoid the Pershing, LLC surcharge.**

In the Park Avenue Portfolio Select, Park Avenue UMA Select and Park Avenue Signature Portfolio programs, your IAR can make mutual fund recommendations as part of your overall asset allocation. The mutual funds made available for recommendation and selection by your IAR in these programs will only be those with which PAS has a selling agreement and those that have been deemed appropriate for these programs by PAS.

*Share Class Conversions.* At least annually, PAS will review the mutual fund share classes held within the Park

Avenue Portfolio Select and Park Avenue Signature Portfolio programs. Mutual funds recommended by IARs in the UMA Select program will also be reviewed. If a lower cost share class is found to be available in these programs, pursuant to the funds' eligibility requirements and PAS' share class selection processes, PAS will process a conversion to a lower cost share class. Therefore, you may hold a higher cost share class of a mutual fund in these circumstances for up to twelve months before PAS converts your investment to a lower cost share class. Until the conversion is implemented, we will continue to retain shares of the less favorable class for your account. PAS will only convert share classes to a lower cost share class. If you are already invested in a share class that is lower in cost than what is available in these programs, as described above, you will retain your investment and will not be converted to a higher cost share class.

***Park Avenue SMA Select and UMA Select, Park Avenue Strategist Select and Strategist Select Plus, and Quantitative Innovations and Foundations Investment Manager Mutual Fund Share Class Selection***

PAS IARs may also recommend the use of Strategists or Investment Managers within the above referenced Programs who may use mutual funds as part of an asset allocation for your account. Each Strategist or Investment Manager has their own policy regarding mutual fund share class selection and they are responsible for the mutual fund share classes chosen. PAS cannot require an Investment Manager or Strategist to use the lowest cost share class available. PAS also reviews a Strategist/Investment Manager's mutual fund share class selection as part of PAS' ongoing due diligence process to determine the continued use of such Strategist/Investment Manager. Please refer to the applicable Strategist or Investment Manager's Form ADV Part 2A or Wrap Fee Program disclosure included in your account opening documents or at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) for information regarding their mutual fund share class selection.

***Cash Management Sweep Program***

A Cash Management Sweep Program ("Sweep Program") is a service PAS makes available to clients which allows clients to automatically transfer free credit balances to either a money market fund product (the "Money Market Sweep") or an account at a bank whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("Bank Sweep"). PAS Proprietary Program Accounts ("Accounts") are eligible to participate in the Sweep Program. The PAS Sweep Program is comprised of a Bank Sweep product, which all clients shall be defaulted to at account opening, as well as specific money market funds which serve as overflow funds for accounts whose Bank Sweep product balance exceeds certain Federal Deposit Insurance ("FDIC") limits.

At the time you open your Account, you shall be defaulted to one of two Bank Sweeps. All Accounts, except for IRA and Retirement Plan Accounts, will be defaulted to the Dreyfus Insured Deposits Program (DIDV). The default DIDV Bank Sweep product is an FDIC insured multi-bank deposit sweep program. Additionally, balances in DIDV within the same account which are in excess of the \$2.5 million FDIC insured limit will be automatically redirected to the Dreyfus Government Money Fund (DGUXX). IRA and Retirement Plan Accounts will default to DIDM—a design of the Dreyfus Insured Deposit Program specifically for IRA/Retirement Accounts. Any balances within the same IRA/Retirement Plan Account over the \$2.5 million in FDIC coverage will be diverted to the Dreyfus Government Money Fund (DGVXX).

**PAS has a conflict of interest by offering the DIDV and DGUXX Sweep Programs. PAS receives an economic benefit when cash balances are swept into these Sweep Programs, rather than being reinvested in other investment funds or securities. For the DIDV Bank Sweep, PAS receives a share in the earned income based on the amount of assets placed within the Bank Sweep. PAS also receives a distribution from the DGUXX Money Market Sweeps used for overflow balances pursuant to the Fully Disclosed Clearing Agreement with its clearing firm, Pershing, LLC. The receipt of the earned income from the DIDV Bank Sweep and distribution from DGUXX deposits is used to reduce the cost of custodial services provided by Pershing. This conflict gives us an incentive to recommend a Sweep Program option based on the compensation we receive instead of your needs. As a result, if you are invested in a Sweep Program option that pays PAS a fee, the cost to you will be more than if you are invested in a Sweep Program that does not pay PAS a fee or if you opt out of the Sweep Program altogether. You may**

**choose to opt out of the Sweep program by contacting your IAR.**

**For additional information regarding payments received by PAS regarding the DIDV Bank Sweep and Money Market alternative option, please review Item 14, Client Referrals and Other Compensation, specifically Other Compensation (PAS Proprietary Programs).**

For more information on the Bank Sweep and Money Market overflow options as well as current yields and available bank lists please go to the following pages: <https://www.parkavenuesecurities.com/cash-management> and <http://www.pershing.com/rates>. Please note that PAS does not offer all of the sweep options listed on the Pershing website.

Assets held in any of the Sweep Programs will be included in the calculation of the client's Total Client Fee, (i.e., they are considered "billable assets"). Your Account may require a certain amount of cash to remain in the Sweep Program to cover for certain costs associated with your Account. Different Sweep Program vehicles may have different rates of return, may pay PAS a distribution fee, have different costs, and have different terms and conditions, such as FDIC insurance or SIPC protection, depending on the sweep vehicle. The sweep vehicle is reflected on your account opening documents and on your statements. The selection of a more expensive share class of a Money Market Fund will negatively impact your overall investment returns.

Sweep Program vehicles are not intended for use as a long-term investment option and are best used for short periods of time. You may be able to earn a higher yield through a different investment, and you should consult with your IAR about the available sweep options.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured bank deposits are not protected by Securities Investor Protection Corporation. Although a money market mutual fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1 per share, it may be possible to lose money by investing in a money market mutual fund. Shares of a money market mutual fund or the balance of a bank deposit product held in your account may be liquidated upon request with the proceeds credited to your account. Please see the money market fund's prospectus or the bank deposit product's disclosure document or contact your financial professional for additional information. Pursuant to SEC Rule 10b-10b(1) confirmations are not sent for purchases into money market mutual funds processed on the Sweep Program. Over any given period, the interest rates on cash balances in the Bank Sweep product may be lower than the rate of return on money market vehicles which are not FDIC insured or on bank account deposits offered outside the Sweep Program.

If any sweep vehicles designated within the Sweep Program becomes unavailable at any time for any reason, PAS will select an alternative in its discretion provided PAS gives you 30 days advance written notice of such change and you do not object. In this event, the free credit balances in your Account will be placed into the alternative Sweep Program option.

**As noted earlier, all accounts will be automatically invested in a Bank Sweep vehicle. However, PAS realizes an economic benefit from the DIDV Bank Sweep by sharing in the earned income based on the amount of assets placed within the Bank Sweep. For Accounts which hold a sweep vehicle charging a distribution fee retained by PAS, PAS does not share the distribution fee with your IAR. Therefore, your IAR does not have a financial incentive to recommend a Sweep Program option based on whether it pays a distribution fee or not.**

For additional information on money market funds and FDIC-Insured Deposit Sweeps, including applicable distribution fees, please see the fund prospectuses which are available on the following pages: <https://www.parkavenuesecurities.com/cash-management> and <http://www.pershing.com/rates>.

#### **Retirement Plan Consulting Services (Investment Advisory)**

The fee range for this program ranges from 0.10% to 1.00% of plan assets. Alternatively, PAS may charge a

fixed dollar amount that will equal no more than 1.00% of plan assets.

### **Retirement Plan Services (Non-Investment Advisory)**

The fee range for this program ranges from 0.10% to 1.00% of plan assets. Alternatively, PAS may charge a fixed dollar amount that will equal no more than 1.00% of plan assets.

### **Investment Advice to Retirement Plan Participants**

The fee range for this program ranges from 0% to .50% of plan assets. Alternatively, PAS may charge a fixed dollar amount that will equal no more than .50% of plan assets.

### **Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs:**

PAS receives fees with respect to Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs for advisory, solicitation or other services. Unless otherwise restricted by the Third-Party Adviser, PAS IARs negotiate a fee for their services ranging from .50%-1.75% for assets under management. The specific paperwork for each Third- Party Investment Advisory Program will state the negotiated fee.

Each Third-Party Adviser program has its own Wrap Fee Brochure or ADV Part 2A which describes in detail the investment options, services, and fees for each program. Your IAR is required to give you this brochure at or before the time you open your account with the Third-Party Adviser. To obtain a Wrap Fee Brochure or Form ADV Part 2A for a Third-Party Adviser program, please request the brochure from your IAR.

### **Financial Planning/Subscription-Based Financial Planning/Financial Consulting/Business Exit Consulting/Corporate Financial Education Services/Fiscalyze**

Prospective clients have the opportunity to meet with an IAR for an initial consultation at no cost. If you decide to retain PAS for financial planning/consulting or business exit consulting services, you must sign a client agreement and will pay for such services either by hourly or flat fees as you and your IAR may mutually agree. Financial planning/consulting fees are negotiable. Hourly fees will generally range from \$100/hour to \$500/hour, and flat fees will generally range from \$500 to \$25,000 per agreement.

- Subscription-Based Financial Planning will generally have a maximum annual fee of \$25,000 per agreement.
- For Corporate Financial Education Services or business exit consulting services, the maximum fee is generally \$30,000 per agreement.
- For consulting services utilizing Fiscalyze, the maximum fee is generally \$30,000 per engagement or on an annual basis.
- In the case of termination of your relationship with PAS with respect to consulting or business exit consulting services, you will only be charged for services rendered prior to the termination of the engagement.

### **ERISA Section 408(b)(2) Disclosure to Responsible Fiduciaries of ERISA-Covered Qualified Retirement Plans**

The federal law that regulates the administration and operation of retirement and other benefit plans, known as the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or ERISA, requires “fiduciaries” of ERISA-covered plans (“Plans”) to act solely in the interest, and for the exclusive benefit of, plan participants and beneficiaries.

As part of this obligation, the “administrator” of each plan or another responsible fiduciary named by the plan document must make informed decisions in selecting plan services and investments. Regulations adopted by the U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”), called the “section 408(b)(2) regulations,” require service providers to ERISA-covered retirement plans to describe in writing information about their services and compensation (“Disclosure”).



This Disclosure is provided in connection with the section 408(b)(2) regulations and is intended to assist you, as the responsible fiduciary of your Plan ("you"), in reviewing the services and compensation of PAS and your IAR.

### **Services we provide to your Plan Advisory Services:**

*Proprietary Advisory Program* – Together with your IAR, PAS provides advisory services to you and to your Plan as described in our Statement of Investment Selection, Terms and Conditions, Advisory Account Application, and this Firm Brochure (together, the "Investment Advisory Agreement") relating to your Plan. Please review those documents. Pershing LLC ("Pershing") provides custody and clearing services in connection with your advisory account and therefore acts as a subcontractor for PAS. Please review the Pershing Subcontractor Compensation Disclosure provided at account opening for information related to Pershing's compensation for providing these subcontracted clearing and custody services. If you do not have copies of any of the documents mentioned in this paragraph, please contact your IAR or PAS directly at 888-600-4667.

*Third-Party Advisory Program* – Together with your IAR and PAS, the third-party advisory program sponsor provides advisory services to you and to your Plan as described in the third-party program's investment management agreement, account application, this Firm Brochure as well as the third-party advisory program sponsor's Firm Brochure (together, the "Third-Party Investment Advisory Agreement") relating to your Plan. Please review those documents. If you do not have copies, please contact your IAR, PAS directly at 888- 600-4667 or the applicable third-party advisory program sponsor.

PAS acknowledges and agrees that, to the extent the advisory services provided to your Plan may include recommendations made by PAS or your PAS IAR with respect to investments that involve "investment advice" as defined under regulations issued under ERISA, we will be a "fiduciary" for ERISA purposes.

Please note that PAS does not and cannot provide legal, accounting or tax advice to you or to the Plan. You are responsible to maintain the Plan in compliance with requirements applicable to tax-qualified plans under the Internal Revenue Code, including, where applicable, receipt of a favorable determination letter, and PAS does not have any responsibility for such matters. PAS does not accept any responsibility for the administration of your Plan, including (without limitation) the timely transmission of required contributions, filing required governmental reports, preparing, or providing notices and communications to your Plan's participants as required by applicable law and regulation, or notifying you that any such notices or communications are required. You should seek the advice of your legal and other advisors with respect to these and other matters that might arise relating to the operation and administration of the Plan.

### **Our Compensation for Services**

The fees charged to your Plan for providing services are as described by either the Investment Advisory Agreement or the Third-Party Investment Advisory Agreement, whichever is applicable, relating to your Plan. PAS may pay between 35% and 85.5% of the Adviser Fee component received in connection with the services provided for your account to your IAR. If you have questions about the compensation that is paid to PAS and the IAR, please ask your IAR or contact PAS at 888-600-4667.

### **Other Matters**

If your Plan is a participant-directed Plan, your Plan's record-keeper and/or the investment provider that offers the investment platform through which your Plan's investments are processed is required to provide to you, information to comply with DOL regulations that require the delivery of information to your Plan's participants about the Plan's designated investment alternatives. If requested, your IAR may assist you in coordinating with the record keeper and/or investment provider to obtain these materials. Your investment providers are responsible for ensuring that these materials are complete and accurate, and PAS does not make any representation as to the completeness and accuracy of these materials.

In providing services to your Plan, PAS relies on information provided by you and, if there is any material change in information pertaining to the Plan, you must promptly notify PAS in writing and provide relevant updated

information. You are responsible for the exercise of proxy voting and other shareholder rights pertaining to investments held by the Plan. In addition, neither PAS nor your IAR may provide any investment or other advice with respect to assets of the Plan that may be invested in stock issued by the plan sponsor and/or a self-directed brokerage option that permits participants the opportunity to allocate some or all of their participant accounts to other investments, or with respect to continuing such investments as a part of the Plan.

All investments fluctuate in value and the value of the investments, when sold, may be greater or lesser than the original cost. PAS does not and cannot warrant or guarantee any level of performance by any of the investments or that any investment will be profitable over time. The Plan and its participants are assuming the market risk involved in the investment of Plan assets. Past investment performance does not guarantee any level of future investment performance.

PAS provides advisory services for other clients and may give advice and take action in the performance of duties for such other clients (including those who may have similar retirement plan arrangements), which may differ from advice given, or in the timing and nature of action taken, with respect to your Plan. PAS has no obligation to advise you or the Plan in the same manner as we may advise any other clients of PAS. In addition, if PAS learns confidential information in providing services to another client, PAS cannot divulge any confidential information to you or act upon such confidential information in providing services to you and your Plan.

Some IARs engage in outside business activities that PAS does not supervise, such as (without limitation) providing retirement plan consulting, administration, recordkeeping, or similar services with respect to retirement plans. PAS does not endorse or recommend any IAR or any other person to provide services to you or to the Plan that are not within the scope of services described by this Disclosure and the Investment Advisory Agreement with you relating to your Plan, and PAS will not supervise any IAR with respect to any such outside business activities. Therefore, if you engage your IAR to provide services other than the services described by this Disclosure and the Investment Advisory Agreement, it will be your responsibility to determine whether the services are appropriate for your Plan and to monitor the services. If you have any questions relating to this Disclosure, please contact your IAR or PAS directly at 888-600-4667.

## **6. Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

PAS does not use a performance-based fee structure (fees based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of the assets of a client).

## **7. Types of Clients and Account Requirements**

PAS provides investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit-sharing plans, charitable organizations, and corporations.

### **Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup>**

This program has a minimum initial investment requirement of \$10,000. Client accounts will maintain a cash balance as prescribed by the account's asset allocation.

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

### **Methods of Analysis**

PAS Proprietary Programs offer several investment strategies that involve investing in a wide range of securities and other financial instruments, including:

- Equity securities
- Exchange Traded Funds
- Mutual Funds
- Exchange-listed securities

- Over-the-counter securities
- Securities of foreign issuers (including ADRs, EDRs and GDRs)
- Corporate debt
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- United States government securities
- Municipal securities

## Investment Strategies

PAS Proprietary Programs include Foundations<sup>SM</sup>, Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Separately Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Unified Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> and VestWise<sup>TM</sup>.

Clients utilizing the Park Avenue Portfolio Select<sup>SM</sup> or Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> programs receive asset allocation and securities recommendations from the IAR(s) associated with their account.

Clients utilizing the Foundations<sup>SM</sup>, Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup> and Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup> programs receive asset allocation and securities solutions via portfolios created and maintained by the selected Investment Manager or Strategist.

Clients utilizing the Park Avenue Separately Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup> shall receive recommendations from their IAR on the Investment Manager(s) to manage the risk/return strategy. Clients will receive asset allocation and securities solutions via portfolios created and maintained by the Investment Manager.

Clients utilizing the Vestwise<sup>TM</sup> program shall receive a model portfolio recommendation from PAS. Franklin Advisers, Inc., an investment adviser registered with the SEC, provides PAS with the Model Portfolios for the VestWise program, which are periodically updated by Franklin Advisers, Inc. acting in the role of a “model provider.” Based upon model changes made by Franklin Advisers Inc., PAS will execute changes to the model portfolios to align to the asset allocation.

Clients using Park Avenue Unified Managed Account Select<sup>SM</sup> receive recommendations from their IAR on the Investment Manager(s), mutual funds and/or ETFs to manage the risk/return strategy. Clients will receive asset allocation and securities solutions via portfolios created and maintained by the Investment Manager.

Asset allocation, often referred to as “tactical” or “strategic” asset allocation, is a strategy that seeks to diversify assets across various types of asset classes which may include broad asset classes (such as equity or fixed income), or sub-asset classes (such as large cap, small cap, or international). The weights assigned to each asset class are expected to result in an overall portfolio with risk and return characteristics that meet the client’s investment objectives. Asset allocation does not account for individual security risk.

“Strategic asset allocation” assumes that the mix of asset classes will remain fairly consistent over a long period of time. The client’s asset allocation targets typically are not changed unless the client’s circumstances or objectives change. There are risks associated with asset allocation. One such risk is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry, or market sector. Clients with a strategic asset allocation strategy may not achieve their investment objectives and may lose money.

“Tactical asset allocation” is a strategy that actively adjusts a portfolio’s asset allocation based upon short-term trends that could include financial market trends, economic cycles, and asset class valuations. Based upon short-term assumptions, the portfolio allocations to certain asset classes are increased, while the portfolio allocations to other asset classes are decreased. There are risks associated with tactical asset allocation. Clients with a tactical asset allocation may not achieve their investment objectives and may lose money.

Tactical asset allocation does not account for individual security risk. At different points in time, the tactical asset allocation and structure of the client’s portfolio vary significantly. There is no guarantee that a tactical asset

allocation will correctly predict or track market movements or that it will provide comparable returns or decreased volatility relative to traditional strategic asset allocation programs. Clients in tactical asset allocations are relying significantly on the skills and experience of the manager's ability to correctly judge changes in market behavior and construct a portfolio that predicts market behavior. In addition, even if the portfolio is correctly positioned, there is no guarantee that the client will not experience substantial losses. The tactical asset allocation strategy may result in a portfolio that experiences more frequent trading to take advantage of anticipated changes in market conditions. A high level of portfolio turnover may negatively impact performance by generating greater tax liabilities and brokerage and other transaction costs.

PAS and IARs may also offer what are commonly known as focused/completion strategies. Focused/completion strategies are portfolios that are concentrated in a certain asset class or deploy a narrow strategy. Generally, focused/completion strategies are used to complement other holdings. There are unique risks associated with focused and completion strategies, such as increased volatility since portfolios are often concentrated in a particular asset class.

PAS recommends mutual funds and, in some cases, ETFs, individual equities, individual fixed income securities and managed accounts to fulfill the recommended client asset allocation strategy.

### **Tax Harvesting**

Subject to meeting minimum balance requirements, you may direct PAS to employ a tax harvesting strategy in managing taxable accounts. This means that, once the tax harvesting threshold is met, PAS will sell securities in your account at a gain or loss to offset potential capital gains, although the type and amount of capital gains will not be monitored by PAS for this purpose. By authorizing tax harvesting, PAS will sell one or more securities in the account and will hold proceeds in cash to avoid the 30-day wash rule. Once 30 days have passed, the funds will be reinvested in the model. Within PAS Proprietary Programs, the Investment Manager or PAS may select another ETF not substantially comparable to the security harvested to replace the securities that have been purchased or sold in your account.

You should consult with your professional tax advisors or review the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) regarding the consequences of tax harvesting in light of your particular circumstances and its impact on your tax return. If your IAR recommends a tax harvesting strategy for your account, that advice is not intended as tax advice. Neither PAS nor your IAR represent that any particular tax results will be obtained. You are responsible for monitoring any accounts in your household, or accounts for which you maintain control (at PAS or with another firm) to ensure that transactions in the same security or a substantially similar security do not create a "wash sale." A wash sale is the sale at a loss and repurchase of the same security, or substantially similar security, within 30 days. If a wash-sale transaction occurs, the IRS may disallow or defer the loss for current tax reporting purposes. More specifically, the wash-sale period for any sale at a loss consists of 61 days: the day of the sale, the 30 days before the sale, and the 30 days after the sale (these are calendar days, not trading days). The wash-sale rule postpones losses on a sale if replacement shares are bought around the same time. The effectiveness of the tax harvesting strategy to reduce your tax liability will depend on your entire tax and investment profile, investments (e.g., taxable, or non-taxable) or holding period (e.g., short-term, or long-term).

### **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Clients may experience loss in the value of their account due to market fluctuations. There is no guarantee that a client's investment objectives will be achieved by participating in any of the programs described in this Brochure. Prior to investing, clients should carefully read a copy of the current prospectus for each security, where a prospectus is available, or other offering documents associated with the particular investment. The prospectus or offering documents contains information regarding the fees, expenses, investment objectives, investment techniques, and risks of each particular investment. The investment returns on a client account will vary and there is no guarantee of positive results or protection against loss. No warranties or representations are made by PAS or IARs concerning the benefits of participating in the programs described in this Brochure.

PAS and IARs do not provide legal or tax advice. Clients with tax or legal questions should seek a qualified independent expert.

Depending on the types of securities you invest in, you may be subject to the following investment risks including, but not limited to:

**Interest-rate Risk:** Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.

**Market Risk:** The price of a security, bond or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic, and social conditions may trigger market risks.

**Credit Risk:** also known as default risk, is the possibility that a bond issuer will not pay interest as scheduled or repay the principal at maturity. Credit risk may also be a problem with insurance companies that sell annuity contracts, where your ability to collect the interest and income you expect is dependent on the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

**Sociopolitical Risk:** The possibility that instability or unrest in one or more regions of the world will affect investment markets. Terrorist attacks, war and pandemics are examples of events, whether actual or anticipated, that impact investor attitudes toward the market in general and result in system wide fluctuations in stock prices.

**Inflation Risk:** When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will not buy as much as a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.

**Currency Risk:** Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.

**Reinvestment Risk:** This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e., interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.

**Business Risk:** These risks are associated with a particular industry or a particular company within an industry. For example, oil-drilling companies depend on discoveries of oil and then refining it, a lengthy process, before they can generate a profit. These companies carry a higher risk of profitability than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter what the economic environment is like.

**Financial Risk:** Excessive borrowing to finance business operations increases the risk of loss if the company is unable to meet the terms of its loan obligations. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value.

**Liquidity Risk:** When consistent with a client's investment objectives, guidelines, restrictions and risk tolerances, client portfolios may be invested in illiquid securities, subject to applicable investment standards. Investing in an illiquid (i.e., difficult to trade) security may restrict the ability to dispose of investments in a timely fashion or at an advantageous price, which may limit the ability to take full advantage of market opportunities. Accounts may hold securities which are partnerships. Some partnerships are relatively liquid and may be either exchange listed or traded over the counter. However, most partnership securities are often illiquid and are subject to significantly less regulation than public investments.

**Fixed Income Risks:** Portfolios that invest in bonds and other fixed income securities are subject to certain risks, including but not limited to, interest rate risk, credit risk, prepayment risk and market risk, which could reduce the yield that an investor receives from his or her portfolio.

**Foreign and Emerging Markets Risk:** Investments in securities of foreign and emerging markets issuers involve different investment risks than those affecting obligations of U.S. issuers. Public information may be limited with

respect to foreign and emerging markets issuers, and they may not be subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. Additional risks include future political and economic developments, the possibility that a foreign jurisdiction might impose or charge withholding taxes on income payable with respect to foreign and emerging markets securities, and the possible adoption of foreign governmental restrictions such as exchange controls. Also, foreign currency exchange rates may affect the value of securities in the portfolio.

*High-Yield Bond Risk:* Investments in high-yielding, non-investment grade bonds involve higher risk than investment grade bonds. Adverse conditions may affect the issuer's ability to make timely interest and principal payments on these securities.

*Structured Products Risk:* These products often involve a significant amount of risk and should only be offered to clients who have carefully read and considered the product's offering documents, as their structure may be based on derivatives or other types of securities, which may be volatile. Structured products are intended to be "buy and hold" investments and are not liquid instruments.

*Derivatives Risk:* Derivatives are securities whose price is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. The derivative itself is a contract between two or more parties. Its value is determined by fluctuations in the underlying asset. Derivatives may involve significant risks and are not suitable for everyone. Derivatives trading can be speculative in nature and carry substantial risk of loss, including the loss of principal.

*Small/Mid Cap Risk:* Stocks of small or mid-sized, emerging companies may have less liquidity than those of larger, established companies and may be subject to greater price volatility and risk than the overall stock market.

*Diversification Risk:* Investments that are concentrated in one or few industries or sectors may involve more risk than more diversified investments, including the potential for greater volatility.

*Security Selection and Asset Allocation Risk:* Securities selected from a particular asset class (e.g., stocks, bonds, money market instruments) may experience unusual market volatility or may not perform as expected. An asset allocation program does not guarantee achievement of a client's investment objective nor protect against loss.

*ETF Risk:* Exchange Traded Funds are subject to the following risks: (i) the market price of an ETF's shares may trade above or below the net asset value; (ii) there may be an inactive trading market for an ETF; (iii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; (iv) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted, delisted, or suspended on the listing exchange; and (v) the ETF may fail to achieve close correlation with the index that it tracks.

*Real Estate Risk:* Investment in real estate and real estate related assets is subject to the risk of adverse changes in national, state, or local real estate conditions (resulting from, for example, oversupply of or reduced demand for space and changes in market rental rates); obsolescence of properties; changes in the availability, cost, and terms of mortgage funds; and the impact of tax, environmental and other laws.

## **9. Disciplinary Information**

The following is a chronological summary of material disciplinary events relating to PAS and its management personnel over the past 10 years.

6/10/2009 – In an Order to Show Cause (the "Order"), the Alabama Securities Commission alleged that PAS failed to reasonably supervise one of its registered representatives in Alabama in that the business activity performed under his "doing business as" (DBA) license, which was listed as a branch office of PAS, required proper registration of the representative in Alabama as an investment adviser representative and investment advisor. At an informal meeting with the staff of the Alabama Securities Commission on September 30, 2009, the Commission staff indicated that it would consider revising the Order in light of information provided by PAS showing that it did not fail to supervise the representative. The matter is still pending.

10/20/2015 – FINRA censured and fined PAS \$300,000 in its capacity as a broker-dealer and ordered restitution of clients in the amount of \$443,255, for failing to: (1) apply rollover sales charge discounts to certain customers' eligible purchases of unit investment trusts ("UITs") in violation of FINRA Rule 2010; and (2) establish, maintain and enforce a supervisory system and written supervisory procedures reasonably designed to ensure that customers received rollover sales charge discounts on all eligible UIT purchases in violation of NASD Conduct Rule 3010 and FINRA Rule 2010.

11/18/2016 – In connection with the misappropriation of funds from two customers by an unregistered sales assistant, FINRA censured and fined PAS \$195,000 in its capacity as a broker-dealer for failing to enforce its written supervisory procedures regarding the monitoring of customer trades and for failing to establish and maintain a supervisory system reasonably designed to follow up on the performance of its supervisors with regard to monitoring trade executions, in violation of NASD Rules 3010(a), 3010(b) and FINRA Rule 2010. FINRA noted that PAS also failed to establish, maintain, and enforce a supervisory system reasonably designed to review and monitor the transmittal of funds from the accounts of its customers to third-party accounts and outside entities, in violation of NASD Rules 3010, 3012(a)(2)(B)(i) and FINRA Rule 2010.

4/11/2018 – FINRA censured and fined PAS \$300,000 in its capacity as a broker-dealer for failing to implement a supervisory system and written supervisory procedures reasonably designed to train and supervise Registered Representatives' recommendations regarding the sale of multi-share class variable annuities, including L-Share contracts, to ensure their suitability. FINRA also found that PAS had no surveillance procedures to determine rates of variable annuity exchanges. FINRA found the foregoing to be in violation of NASD Rule 3010 and FINRA Rules 2330, 3110 and 2010.

3/11/2019 – PAS without admitting or denying the findings, consented to the entry of an Order Instituting Administrative and Cease and-Desist Proceedings ("Order") by the SEC. Pursuant to the Order, the SEC found that from January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2018 certain PAS clients participating in proprietary advisory programs were invested in mutual fund share classes with higher costs (in the form of Rule 12b-1 fees) without adequately disclosing that lower-cost share classes (without Rule 12b-1 fees) of those funds were available. Specifically, PAS did not adequately disclose conflicts of interest related to its receipt of Rule 12b-1 fees, and the availability of mutual fund share classes that did not pay such fees. PAS consented to the entry of the Order that it violated Sections 206(2) and 207 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and agreed to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Sections 206(2) and 207. PAS agreed to pay disgorgement of \$508,083 and prejudgment interest of \$56,184 to affected clients. Additionally, as part of the Order, PAS has enhanced its disclosure regarding mutual fund share class selection, considered whether existing clients should be moved to a lower-cost share class, and updated its policies and procedures regarding mutual fund share class selection.

7/16/2019 – PAS without admitting or denying the findings, was censured by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") in its capacity as a broker-dealer for failing to reasonably supervise the application of sales charge waivers for mutual fund purchases made by certain retirement plan and charitable organization customers. By failing to reasonably supervise such mutual fund sales to ensure that eligible purchasers received the benefit of applicable sales charge waivers, FINRA found that PAS violated NASD Conduct Rule 3010 (for misconduct before December 1, 2014), FINRA Rule 3110 (for misconduct on or after December 1, 2014 and FINRA Rule 2010. As part of this settlement, PAS agreed to pay restitution to eligible customers on the terms specified below, which totaled \$640,552 (i.e., the amount eligible customers were overcharged, inclusive of interest). PAS also agreed to ensure that waivers are appropriately applied to all future purchase transactions made by retirement plan and charitable organization customers. FINRA recognized the extraordinary cooperation of PAS for initiating an investigation prior to detection or intervention by FINRA to identify whether applicable customers received sales charge waivers, for promptly establishing a plan of remediation to customers and taking action to correct the violative conduct.

5/31/2023 – In connection with an undisclosed outside business activity of a PAS Registered Representative, PAS, without admitting or denying the findings, agreed to a Letter of Acceptance, Waiver, and Consent with FINRA for the purpose of settling alleged FINRA rule violations. PAS was censured and fined \$30,000 by FINRA for violating FINRA Rule 3110 by failing to investigate red flags that the Representative was engaged in an

undisclosed outside business activity, unapproved private securities transactions and FINRA Rule 2010.

## 10. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

PAS is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (“GLIC”), a New York mutual life insurance company. GLIC and its affiliates sell their products through a system of insurance agents, most of whom are also registered representatives and IARs of PAS.

PAS is an affiliate of The Guardian Insurance & Annuity Company, Inc. (“GIAC”), a Delaware insurance company and Park Avenue Investment Advisory, LLC, doing business as Park Avenue Investment Advisory, an SEC registered investment adviser. Park Avenue Investment Advisory is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of GLIC and directly owned by Guardian Investor Services LLC.

**PAS or its IARs may recommend mutual funds whose investment adviser is a PAS affiliate, such as Park Avenue Institutional Advisers LLC (“PAIA”), a Delaware limited liability company which is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of GLIC. PAIA is the sub-adviser to certain mutual funds offered by Victory Capital. Therefore, we have an incentive and conflict to recommend certain products which are managed by PAIA due to the additional compensation earned by such affiliate. In addition, PAS makes available alternative investment funds issued by HPS Investment Partners, LLC (“HPS”). PAS’ parent company, GLIC, owns a minority stake in HPS. While not considered a proprietary investment, this minority ownership creates a similar conflict.** GLIC also wholly owns Guardian LEIM, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company that owns 85% of Broadshore Capital Partners, LLC (“Broadshore”), a Delaware limited liability company. PAIA and Broadshore are registered investment advisers. PAIA may earn mutual fund management fees.

Many IARs of PAS are also agents of GLIC and GIAC and may sell a wide range of products issued by those entities, such as life insurance and variable annuities. IARs receive no additional compensation for recommending insurance products issued by affiliates or mutual funds managed by affiliates than they would if they recommend insurance products or mutual funds issued by or managed by non-affiliates.

**An IAR has an incentive to recommend a particular PAS Proprietary Investment Advisory Program or Third-Party Investment Advisory Program in favor of another because of the receipt of higher fees or non-cash benefits such as additional services which include marketing support and training provided by the sponsor of the Third-Party Advisory Program. A description of these arrangements can be found in Item 14 of this brochure.**

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

PAS has adopted a code of ethics (“Code of Ethics”) for all supervised persons of the firm, which governs the ethical standards of conduct and securities trading by supervised persons. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to, among other things, a prohibition on trading on the basis of material non-public information or confidential information, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures. All supervised persons of PAS must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually. PAS will provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

It is PAS policy that the firm generally will not affect any principal or agency cross transactions for client accounts. Principal transactions are generally defined as transactions where an adviser, acting as principal for its own account or the account of an affiliated broker-dealer, buys from or sells any security to an advisory client. PAS may engage in principal transactions only in limited circumstances where it elects to buy “worthless securities” out of client accounts in order to facilitate the liquidation of such positions.

PAS also will not permit agency cross transactions between client accounts. An agency cross transaction is defined as a transaction where a person acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which the



investment adviser, or any person controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser, acts as broker for both the advisory client and for another person on the other side of the transaction. Agency cross transactions may arise where an adviser is dually registered as a broker-dealer or has an affiliated broker-dealer.

PAS may recommend to clients' mutual funds that are managed or sub-advised by investment adviser affiliates of PAS. For more information, see "Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations."

## **12. Brokerage Practices**

### **Directed Brokerage**

Clients in a PAS Proprietary Program must establish an account through PAS with Pershing, which clears trades and acts as custodian for clients' assets under the PAS Proprietary Programs. Accordingly, all trading activity in connection with the PAS Proprietary Programs will be processed through clients' accounts with Pershing. Pershing acts in the capacity of a clearing firm and performs centralized custody, bookkeeping and execution functions. Pershing handles the delivery and receipt of securities purchased or sold on behalf of PAS' clients who are part of a PAS Proprietary Program, receives and distributes dividends and other distributions, and processes exchange offers, rights offerings, warrants, tender offers and redemptions. Not all investment advisory firms will require their clients to direct brokerage. By directing brokerage, PAS may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of your transactions, and this practice may cost you more money.

### **Best Execution**

Investment advisers are obligated to provide "best execution" of customer orders where the adviser has the responsibility to select broker-dealers to execute client trades. "Best execution" refers to using reasonable diligence to seek to obtain the best price to buy or sell a security under prevailing market conditions. PAS does not select other broker-dealers for processing of client transactions. PAS must transmit all trades to Pershing for execution. PAS's objective in executing client trades is to obtain the most favorable execution and to aggregate and allocate trades fairly and equitably across all its clients. PAS has adopted policies and procedures that are designed so that trading practices do not unfairly or systematically favor one client, group, or strategy over another. PAS regularly receives reports from Pershing which contain information regarding the trade order execution experience of Pershing for all of its customers. PAS undertakes an on-going review of its relationship with Pershing, including a quarterly review of trade order flows. Investment Managers in the SMA and UMA Select programs may not utilize Envestnet to facilitate certain trades within their strategies and consequently the use of these strategies may result in the additional trade-away fees that are not included in the Program fee, or that may be in addition to the PAS wrap fee. Clients should consult with their IARs and review the Investment Manager's Form ADV Part 2A for information related to any additional fees. Clients should carefully consider any additional trading costs the Client may incur before selecting an Investment Manager.

Client understands that if trades are not executed by Pershing, which may occur if Envestnet or an executing Investment Manager where applicable reasonably believes in good faith, and consistent with applicable fiduciary standards that another broker dealer will provide better execution considering all factors including but not limited to net price, client may be subject to fees and charges that are in addition to the Total Client Fee. These additional costs are reflected in the net purchase or sale price shown on the trade confirmation clients receive for the particular trade but are not disclosed separately in the trade confirmation. In certain instances, PAS may engage in riskless principal transactions for fixed income securities in the Portfolio Select program. For more information regarding trade away practices, please go to [www.parkavenuesecurities.com](http://www.parkavenuesecurities.com).

### **Soft Dollars**

Soft dollars are defined as arrangements under which products or services other than the execution of securities transactions are obtained by an adviser from or through a broker-dealer in exchange for the direction of securities trades to the broker-dealer. PAS does not maintain any soft dollar arrangements.

## Order Aggregation

PAS IARs generally manage their client's accounts independently of one another based on each client's specific needs and objectives, and transactions for each client account are often executed independently. Although each account is individually managed, PAS may buy and sell the same securities for many advisory accounts simultaneously when it is appropriate or beneficial to do so. IARs will often aggregate the purchase or sale of multiple clients' securities together to help facilitate best execution and provide each client with the same execution price. Aggregating multiple client orders together is particularly useful when PAS or your IAR is utilizing model portfolio management strategies (multiple client accounts in the same model).

Your IAR may determine not to aggregate transactions, for example, based on the size of the trades, the number of client accounts, the timing of the trades, and the liquidity of the securities purchased or sold. If IARs do not aggregate orders, some clients purchasing securities around the same time may receive a less favorable price than other clients. This means that this practice of not aggregating may cost clients more money. PAS may aggregate transactions in the same security for many clients for whom PAS has discretion to trade.

If different prices are paid for securities in an aggregated transaction, each client in the transaction will receive the average price paid for the block of securities in the same aggregated transaction. If the client trade is aggregated with other client accounts and are executed at the same price, the client will receive the same price per unit. If we are not able to completely fill an aggregated transaction, we will normally allocate the filled portion of the transaction to our clients on a pro-rata basis.

## Park Avenue SMA and UMA Select Trade Allocations

Some Investment Managers will not place Envestnet strategies in the same trade rotation as their non- Envestnet models or proprietary accounts. If Envestnet determines that such trade rotation policy does not provide equitable investment performance between the models and is creating a disadvantage to the client, Envestnet may restrict the availability of the Investment Manager or impose additional requirements, as necessary.

Certain trade orders are created by the Investment Manager and sent directly to the appropriate custodian according to their own trade rotation policies. If the Investment Manager directs Envestnet to allocate orders within each custodian, the partial fill will be allocated pro-rata among the individual Client accounts. Investment Managers may aggregate Client trades with their own directed trades or trades for other Clients. Please refer to each Investment Manager's Form ADV and Envestnet's ADV for any policies they may have regarding aggregation of trades.

## 13. Review of Accounts

PAS, through its IARs, gathers information from a client about that client's financial situation, risk tolerance, investment objectives and any reasonable restrictions that the client wishes to impose upon the management of the account. Each IAR periodically reviews reports and otherwise consults with the client and contacts the client at least annually to review the client's financial situation and investment objectives. Clients should notify their IARs of any changes in their financial situation, risk tolerance, investment objectives or account restrictions.

PAS employs individuals who are registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") as principals (the "Registered Principals"), who review all accounts for suitability. Accounts are reviewed by the Registered Principals prior to being opened. PAS Proprietary Program Accounts are monitored on an ongoing basis by Registered Principals.

PAS monitors and tracks all financial planning and consulting agreements. All financial plans and consultations must be submitted to PAS for review and approval prior to presentation to a client. If the plan or consultation is approved, the plan or consultation may be presented to the client.

PAS provides each client with a quarterly written performance report. Performance information is calculated for

all portfolios custodied at Pershing. The quarterly analysis measures performance of the account by comparing such performance against relevant market indices.

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

### **Client Referrals**

PAS and/or its IARs may receive compensation pursuant to solicitation agreements for introducing clients to Third-Party Investment Advisers and for providing certain ongoing services. This compensation is typically equal to a percentage of the investment advisory fee charged by that investment adviser. Because IARs receive compensation from these investment advisers for referring clients and because such compensation may differ depending on the individual agreement with each investment adviser, the IAR has an incentive to recommend one of these Third-Party Investment Advisers over another with which PAS has a less favorable compensation arrangement or alternative investment advisory programs. Full disclosure of all referral arrangements, including Part 2 of Form ADV and a solicitor's disclosure statement, will be given to the client at the time of referral in accordance with Rule 206(4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

PAS has arrangements with several individuals ("Promoters") under which the Promoters introduce potential advisory clients to PAS in exchange for a referral fee. All such arrangements comply with the provisions of Rule 206(4)-1 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Whenever PAS pays a referral fee, we require the prospective client to receive a copy of this Brochure and a separate disclosure statement that includes the following information: (1) the Promoter's name and relationship with PAS; (2) the fact that the Promoter is being paid a fee; (3) the amount of the fee; and (4) whether the fee paid to PAS by the client will be increased above our normal fees in order to compensate the Promoter. In general, the advisory fees paid to PAS by clients referred by Promoters are not increased as a result of a referral.

### **Other Compensation and Conflicts**

#### **How PAS Addresses Certain Compensation Related Conflicts of Interest**

- PAS discloses potential conflicts of interest to clients through documents such as this disclosure document, disclosures on the PAS website and other materials discussing the products and services offered.
- PAS credits 12b-1 fees and service fees from mutual funds and all FundVest® program fee payments to client accounts within PAS Proprietary Programs.
- PAS IARs do not receive any portion of the payments PAS receives under the agreement between PAS and Pershing.
- PAS IARs do not receive any portion of the revenue received from mutual fund compensation arrangements, or mutual 12b-1 fees/service fees. PAS does not include within these revenue sharing arrangements assets held within plans covered by Title I of ERISA, or a plan described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Listed below are additional payments that PAS receives and the conflicts of interest they create. You should consider these conflicts of interest prior to investing as the receipt of such payments provides a financial incentive for PAS to recommend PAS Proprietary Programs over Third-Party Advisory Programs.**

### **Pershing Additional Payments**

Through an agreement with Pershing, PAS earns the following payments from Pershing. These payments are not applicable to clients of Third-Party Advisory programs.

- 1) PAS receives a recurring fixed payment from Pershing annually on the total dollar value of legacy assets transferred from PAS' previous custodian.
- 2) PAS receives payments from Pershing on the total amount of assets in client accounts placed on the Pershing

custodial platform annually, and for asset growth year over year, which shall also include assets of PAS' affiliate, Park Avenue Investment Advisory. This payment excludes the total dollar value of legacy assets transferred from PAS' previous custodian. The receipt of such payments from Pershing provides a financial incentive for PAS to recommend PAS Proprietary Programs over Third- Party Advisory Programs.

- 3) PAS earns interest payments on non-purpose loans that have interest rates above the Federal Funds Rate
- 4) +1.75%. For example, if the interest rate on a non-purpose loan is 5% and the Federal Funds is 3%, PAS will earn .25% of what a client pays (5%-4.5%). The receipt of such payments provides a financial incentive for PAS to recommend and approve non-purpose loans.
- 5) Pershing agrees to share certain service fees received by Pershing from mutual funds that participate in the FundVest® program. The FundVest® program is an open architecture platform of mutual funds and no-transaction fee mutual funds offered by Pershing. These mutual funds are offered within PAS Proprietary programs. The percentage of service fees Pershing shares with PAS is based on the level of assets held by PAS clients within the FundVest® program and generally ranges between 50- 55% of such services fees received by Pershing from participating mutual funds Furthermore, PAS addresses this conflict by crediting back all FundVest® program fee payments that it receives to clients invested in the PAS Proprietary Programs. For additional details about Pershing's mutual fund no-transaction-fee program, or a listing of funds that pay Pershing networking or omnibus fees, please refer to [www.pershing.com/mutual\\_fund.htm](http://www.pershing.com/mutual_fund.htm).
- 6) PAS has an incentive to have IARs recruited to us transfer their client accounts to PAS because Pershing provides us with rebates for such account transfers. Pershing will reimburse us for out-of- pocket expenses associated with transfer and termination fees upon the successful onboarding of a newly hired IAR who transitions their client accounts from a financial services firm that does not clear through our clearing firm.

### **Dreyfus Insured Deposits Program**

For the DIDV Bank Sweep each month, depository institutions pay a fee equal to a percentage of the average daily deposit balance in your deposit account(s) at the banks participating in the program ("Program Banks"). PAS, Pershing, and the third-party administrator will receive a portion of this fee, which may be as much as 6%, or 600 basis points, on the average daily balances held in these deposit accounts over a 12 month rolling period. PAS has discretion in determining the size of the portion of the fee it receives. This directly negatively impacts the interest rate yield client deposits will receive. PAS may waive any portion or the entirety of its share of the fee received from Program Banks. Your IAR will not receive any portion of the fees paid to Program Banks. The amount of fee received by Pershing, PAS, and any other service provider, will affect the interest rate paid in your deposit account(s). Other than applicable fee imposed by PAS on your account (including fees charged on your Pershing, LLC IRAs) there will be no additional charges, fees, or commissions imposed on your account with respect to the DIDV Bank Deposit Sweep.

In order to illustrate the effect of the interest retained by Pershing, PAS and the administrator of the program please consider the following example. If the DIDV sweep is earning a gross interest rate yield of 2% and PAS, Pershing, and the administrator retains 1.65% for administration, then the client rate would be .35%.

**The receipt of this fee creates an incentive for PAS to select DIDV as the default cash sweep vehicle for the clients who do not select a Money Market Sweep vehicle or have an account which is automatically defaulted to DIDV, as it will result in additional compensation to PAS. In addition, PAS' discretionary authority in determining its share of the fee creates a conflict of interest due to PAS' receipt of the fee, which in turn, negatively impacts the interest rate yield client deposits will receive.**

As disclosed in the Cash Management Sweep Program section, the overflow Money Market Sweep products pay a distribution to PAS which will not be credited to your account. PAS IARs do not receive any portion of the distribution fee and therefore do not have a conflict in recommending a Cash Management Sweep product which pays a distribution. You are encouraged to speak to your IAR regarding the Cash Management Sweep Program vehicle used for your account.

## **Payments from Mutual Funds**

- PAS receives Rule 12b-1 fees based on client investments in certain mutual funds. Rule 12b-1 fees are annual marketing or distribution fees on a mutual fund. The 12b-1 fee is considered an operational expense and, as such, is included in a fund's expense ratio.
- PAS has revenue sharing arrangements with American Funds. This arrangement is based on PAS' total assets placed with this organization. In 2024, PAS will receive annual compensation of up to \$90,000. Accepting this type of compensation presents a conflict of interest because PAS has an incentive to recommend this investment company based on the compensation it receives, rather than client needs.
- PAS has entered into a marketing and sponsorship agreement with Fidelity and will receive a flat payment of \$50,000 per quarter for providing Fidelity marketing and educational opportunities and a level of access to PAS Financial Professionals.
- PAS has entered into a marketing and sponsorship agreement with First Trust Advisors, L.P. ("First Trust"), a Strategist in the Strategist Select and Strategist Select Plus programs and PAS approved mutual fund and ETF sponsor in the Park Avenue Signature Portfolio and Portfolio Select programs. PAS will receive a flat payment of \$50,000 per quarter for providing First Trust with opportunities to attend conferences with its IARs for training and education, marketing opportunities, and attendance at seminars involving PAS IARs and clients.

## **Guardian Club Credits**

Certain IARs may receive "Club Credits" for the recommendation of PAS Proprietary Programs, Third-Party Investment Advisory Programs or Financial Planning/Consulting. These "Club Credits" are based upon sales production and count towards the attainment of various GLIC club memberships. Attainment of various club memberships may entitle IARs to attend GLIC-sponsored conferences.

## **Park Avenue Securities VIP Program**

Certain IARs will qualify to receive service and financial support, as described in more detail below, based upon their overall sales production. The top 100 PAS sales agents qualify for the VIP program. The qualifications to achieve VIP status are based upon total sales production or Gross Dealer Concession ("GDC"). GDC is the revenue generated via agent sales of brokerage products (i.e., stocks, bonds, mutual funds) and advisory services (i.e., Proprietary Programs, Third Party Investment Advisory Programs and Financial Planning/Consulting). The attainment of this VIP status entitles an IAR to receive a dedicated support person called a Relationship Manager, full or partial waiver of state registration fees and PAS affiliation fees, and "Select Rewards Points." The "Select Rewards Points" can be used to cover the cost of client account maintenance fees, termination fees, and/or service fees such as fed wire or overnight check fee. The decision to cover certain client costs is at the discretion of your PAS IAR and not all clients will receive this benefit.

## **Park Avenue Securities Pinnacle Council**

IARs are also eligible to qualify for a club award program called Pinnacle Council. To qualify for Pinnacle Council, an agent must be in the top 20 for total sales production based on the prior year GDC. The benefits of this club award include attendance at an annual recognition conference with paid travel accommodations (i.e., flight and hotel) and meals for the PAS Pinnacle Council qualifier and one guest.

## **Park Avenue Securities Peak Council**

IARs are also eligible to qualify for a club award program called Peak Council. To qualify for Peak Council, an agent must be in the top 40 (21-40) for total sales production based on the prior year GDC. The benefits of this club award include attendance at an annual recognition conference with paid travel accommodations (i.e., flight and hotel) and meals for the PAS Peak Council qualifier and one guest.

**These programs create a conflict of interest by incentivizing an IAR to recommend certain products in**

**attempting to qualify for these additional clubs and awards.**

### **Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)**

PAS may offer some recruits the opportunity to obtain bonuses and loans that are dependent upon meeting sales targets. These transition assistance loans may also be forgiven based on years of service with PAS, or its affiliates, assets under management, the amount of production with PAS or its affiliates or the number of clients brought over to PAS. This practice creates a conflict of interest as it provides a financial incentive for an RR or IAR to recommend that a client engage PAS for advisory or brokerage services, and to recommend additional products from PAS or its affiliates.

Moreover, some recruits may obtain “early asset bonuses” if they transfer certain percentages of assets to our Firm within a specific timeframe from becoming registered with our Firm.

If an RR or IAR has received a transition loan, they are incentivized to encourage the transfer of your account to our Firm so that bonuses can be earned. This conflict is especially acute as your IAR approaches his or her milestone date.

The Park Avenue Transition Team will work with an RR or IAR to ensure a successful transition by providing everything from a customized transition plan, tailored training, account opening and account transfer support. The level of support and service received is dependent upon the RR or IARs trailing twelve-month GDC with their prior firm. In addition, if the prior firm does not clear through Pershing, Pershing will reimburse transfer and termination fees up to \$125.00 to each client account.

**Transitional assistance presents a conflict of interest because of the incentive to affiliate with and recommend PAS to clients.**

### **Payments Related to PAS Educational/Practice Management Conferences**

Certain product sponsors and vendors pay PAS a fee ranging from \$10,000 to \$115,000 to participate in PAS sponsored educational/practice management conferences for PAS IARs. In 2024, PAS anticipates it will receive fees from the following:

- BlackRock
- BNY Mellon
- Orion
- Envestnet
- iCM
- PIMCO
- SEI
- State Street Global Advisors
- Clark Capital
- City National Rochdale
- Halo
- iCapital
- Tri-State Capital Bank
- Redbrick

### **Other Compensation (PAS Proprietary & Third-Party Advisory Programs )**

#### Third-Party Advisor Payment Arrangements

PAS receives payments from SEI, Orion, and AssetMark as compensation for marketing and administrative services as follows:

- SEI pays PAS a flat annual fee. The fee for 2024 is \$600,000.

- Orion pays PAS a flat annual fee for training and educating PAS IARs. The fee for 2024 is \$320,000.
- AssetMark pays PAS a flat annual fee. The fee for 2024 is \$750,000.

**You should also be aware that marketing, administrative or educational activities paid for with these payments by these sponsors and vendors lead to greater exposure of their products and services with PAS IARs. Therefore, these payments create an incentive, or lead to a greater likelihood, for PAS or its IARs to recommend a product of these sponsors and vendors over the products or services of a firm which does not pay PAS a fee.**

#### SEI Advisor Benefits Program

This program offers eligible IARs additional levels of service, fee discounts, discounted pricing, invitations to SEI conferences, and an annual marketing budget as the client assets placed in SEI investment solutions increase. Receipt by a PAS IAR of program payments results in a conflict of interest. Clients are encouraged to speak with their IARs if they have any questions regarding the SEI Advisor Benefits Program. Not all PAS IARs qualify to receive benefits pursuant to this program.

#### SEI BusinessWise Program

SEI has designed a two-part program that provides technology, integration, and coaching to help PAS IARs who use SEI to build more competitive and sustainable businesses. PAS IARs who participate in this program will have their subscriptions to certain client relationship management software, financial planning software and practice management webinars paid in full.

Clients considering an investment in an SEI program should consider whether PAS IAR participation in this program results in a conflict of interest. Clients are encouraged to speak with their IARs if they have any questions regarding the SEI BusinessWise Program. Not all PAS IARs may qualify to receive such benefits pursuant to this program.

Although a discontinued program, PAS IARs enrolled in the program may continue to participate in the program.

#### Advisor Benefits Program for Financial Advisors

Under AssetMark's Advisor Benefits Program, PAS IARs are encouraged to utilize AssetMark's advisor- directed tools, templates and best practices, or to engage with AssetMark to provide education and guidance in implementing a growth plan for their businesses. Certain PAS IARs can receive an allowance or "growth support" for reimbursement of qualified expenses incurred by the PAS IAR based on their participation in AssetMark sponsored events, marketing initiatives, or use of technology resources and tools. This program creates a financial incentive for PAS IARs to recommend that you invest assets through AssetMark.

Receipt of these expense reimbursements results in a conflict of interest. Clients are encouraged to speak with their IARs if they have any questions regarding the Advisor Benefits Program for Financial Advisors.

#### AssetMark Community Inspiration Award

To promote community involvement, AssetMark created the Community Inspiration Award to honor selected Financial Advisors. AssetMark will make a cash donation, subject to the published rules governing the program, to the PAS IAR's nominated charity. There is no direct compensation paid to the honored PAS IAR. However, the existence of this program means that a PAS IAR will be inclined to place or retain client assets on the platform because of AssetMark's contribution to their supported charitable organization.

#### AssetMark Discounted Fee Program

AssetMark may grant discounted fee schedules for client accounts associated with PAS offices that have



attained certain assets levels with AssetMark. Clients considering an investment in an AssetMark program should ask their IAR whether their office has been granted such fee reduction, which creates conflict of interest. Clients are encouraged to speak with their IARs if they have any questions regarding the AssetMark Discounted Fee Program.

#### Morningstar Managed Portfolio Loyalty Program

IARs are eligible to participate in Morningstar's Managed Portfolio Loyalty Program in which qualifying IARs receive a one-year license for a Morningstar software product at no cost. IARs must meet thresholds for the number of client accounts at Morningstar each year to qualify.

#### Efficient Advisors, LLC

Efficient Advisors, at its discretion, may cover certain marketing and administrative costs which would normally be borne by your IAR. Such payments will increase the net revenue to your IAR and therefore gives your IAR an incentive to refer clients to Efficient Advisors instead of an alternative portfolio manager.

Efficient Advisors may also offer your IAR a reduced subscription rate to our affiliate, The Advisor Lab's, suite of products. The Advisor Lab is a sales and marketing company that markets its services to financial professionals. This discount is generally scaled based on the total amount of assets referred by your IAR to Efficient Advisors and may result in your IAR receiving the subscription at no cost.

#### Matson Money ("Matson") Discounted Marketing Program

Matson sells educational and client coaching products to PAS IARs who wish to offer its programs. These products include pamphlets, books, audio compact discs, DVDs, and audio and/or video files of Matson or McGriff Productions, an affiliate of Matson, films or other media outlets that can be downloaded.

The initial cost for educational and client coaching products is \$10,000. This fee is paid for by your IAR and includes training courses for IARs, some of which are required by Matson prior to permitting participation as a solicitor. Payment for entry which permits IARs to use Matson Money portfolios incentivizes IARs to recommend clients participate in Matson programs to recoup the cost of entry.

As the amount of assets referred to Matson by your IAR increases, the amount of marketing assistance provided to your IAR also increases, at no additional cost. Matson generally requires that an IAR solicit at least \$100,000 of client assets within the first year. If the IAR does not meet this minimum, Matson will provide no marketing support to the IAR and reserves the right to terminate its relationship with the IAR. However, exceptions have been made at the sole discretion of Matson.

From time to time, Matson or a related party may make a charitable contribution to charitable organizations that are related to or supported by a solicitor or co-advisor, which is viewed as a form of indirect compensation. As a result, Matson maintains records of charitable contributions and requires that all contributions be made directly to the charitable organization, a 501(c) (3) organization. No contribution will be made if the contribution implies that continued or future business with PAS or an IAR depends on making such contribution.

**Clients considering an investment in any of the advisory programs identified above should ask their IAR if they have received any additional benefits via these programs, including but not limited to, free marketing and/or educational materials based on assets solicited or charitable contributions to an organization they support, as these instances result in a conflict of interest. Clients are also encouraged to speak with their IAR if they have any questions regarding any of the aforementioned marketing programs or charitable contributions and how they benefit PAS or your IAR.**

#### Third Party Payments

For some investments you purchase based on our recommendation, we receive payments from a third-party that



are in addition to the advisory fee payments described in this document. For example, certain mutual fund issuers make ongoing payments based on invested assets (and not just new investments), such as 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fees or trail compensation. These third-party payments are described in further detail in the prospectus or offering materials for the investment, which will be made available to you in connection with any purchase. **Third-party payments incentivize us and your IAR to sell you or recommend you hold investments that bring about such payments rather than investments that do not or result in comparatively lower payments. To mitigate this conflict and as discussed more within this Brochure, PAS credits back to clients 12b-1 and other service fees it would otherwise receive from mutual fund products.**

There may be instances where the portfolio managers our IARs recommend periodically pay us based on the total amount of customer assets we direct to them. These payments are sometimes called “revenue sharing” payments and incentivize us to recommend you hold investments that bring about such payments rather than investments that do not or result in comparatively lower payments. Some third-party portfolio managers may also make payments to us to cover the costs associated with certain educational conferences or training seminars we host for our IARs and to be allowed to present their products during such conferences and seminars. These payments are typically for fixed amounts and are not tied to total sales or customer assets.

**Even so, these payments incentivize us to recommend you hold investments by these managers that make these flat payments rather than managers that do not make these payments or make comparatively lower payments.**

### **Other IAR Conflicts**

The individual office managers/supervisors are paid based on the performance of the branches or regions they supervise. Our managers and supervisors oversee the sales and marketing activities of our Firm. The compensation of our managers and supervisors is tied to the production levels of branches or regions over which they have managerial or supervisory responsibility. The tying of managers’ and supervisors’ compensation to the production of the branches or regions they supervise incentivizes them to spend more time on increasing production levels in a given branch or region than on their supervisory responsibilities.

Some of our IARs receive additional training and support from certain Strategist and Third Party Investment Advisers (“Managers”). Certain Managers and their affiliates provide some of our IARs or their branches with more training and administrative support services than others. If your IAR receives this additional training and support, his or her use of these Managers’ higher level of training and administrative support services incentivizes your IAR to recommend Managers that provide such training and services over issuers that do not.

Some of our IARs receive compensation in the form of cash compensation or other gifts from vendors or product sponsors to assist with, and defray the expenses associated with educational seminars and client events held by the IAR or a branch office. At times, the amount of compensation provided to a IAR or branch may be dependent on volume of business that individual or branch has attained. IARs may also receive business entertainment from vendors or product sponsors with whom they interact or are authorized to do business. Entertainment engagement may be based on the amount of business placed with the vendors or product sponsors and may incentivize the IAR to place business with that vendor or product sponsor.

IARs who are also representatives of the PAS’ parent company, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, receive employee benefits (i.e., health and pension benefits) that are subsidized by Guardian if the IAR reaches certain sales targets. This subsidization program creates a conflict of interest as it encourages more sales that result in your Financial Professional meeting these sales targets to obtain additional subsidies.

We have an incentive to recommend the product or account type that results in additional fees and revenues for us. We can recommend that you invest through different account type arrangements, such as through a brokerage account, an account directly held with the issuer of the investment (or its transfer agent), or an advisory account. Depending on factors such as the type and level of services you require as well as the frequency of trading in your account, one of these account types may be more cost-effective for you than the

others. In addition, we receive miscellaneous account and service fees and other compensation (which are in addition to advisory fees) in connection with brokerage accounts or advisory accounts that we do not receive with a directly held account. We can also recommend that you invest in products that have higher up-front compensation along with ongoing trail payments. The availability of different products and account types incentivizes us and our IARs to recommend the product or account type that results in additional fees and revenues for us and your IAR even though another type of account may be more cost-effective for you.

## 15. Custody

PAS itself does not have actual custody of client assets. However, through systems access provided by the custodian Pershing, Pershing, PAS may execute authorized transactions (such as debiting fees from client accounts, wire transfers, and check disbursements, etc.) on behalf of clients. To the extent that PAS is deemed to have “custody of client funds or securities” within the meaning of Rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, PAS will comply with the requirements of such rule, including the rule’s provision for a surprise annual audit to be conducted by an independent public accountant.

PAS provides quarterly performance reports to clients. Clients also receive at least quarterly statements from Pershing. PAS urges you to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the quarterly performance reports that we provide to you. Our statements may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

Clients should be aware that the performance reports are not official account statements. It should be used only for informational purposes and should not be relied upon for making investment decisions or for tax purposes. Clients should promptly notify the Firm or his/her IAR upon discovery of any errors, discrepancies, or irregularities.

## 16. Investment Discretion

Foundations<sup>SM</sup>, Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue UMA Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue SMA Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Signature Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> and VestWise<sup>TM</sup> are discretionary advisory programs.

Foundations<sup>SM</sup>, Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup> and VestWise<sup>TM</sup> use model portfolios that invest in selected mutual funds, ETFs, or other securities. In these programs, a client directs the applicable investment manager (PAS or a Platform-Manager or Strategist, depending on the program selected) to invest the client’s program assets in accordance with the client’s investment objectives and the model portfolio chosen by the client. The client further directs and authorizes the applicable investment manager at its discretion to reallocate or rebalance the client’s investments in the account in accordance with adjustments made by the applicable investment manager to the model portfolio underlying the client’s investment objectives. By executing the investment advisory agreement, the client appoints the applicable investment manager as the client’s agent and attorney-in-fact with full discretion to execute the transactions within the client’s account without first seeking approval from or discussing these investment decisions with the client. For all PAS Proprietary Programs, Envestnet is granted the authority to buy and sell securities and investments to perform rebalancing or other such discretionary authorities you agree upon. Envestnet shall be authorized to delegate the investment discretion described above to the Investment Manager. Each Investment Manager is responsible for selecting the securities for your investment in the investment strategy of such Investment Manager, including the share class if the investment strategy contains mutual funds. You also grant PAS authority to open multiple custodial accounts based upon one account application for each Investment Manager strategy you choose.

PAS and/or the applicable Platform Manager or Strategist receives discretionary authority from the client at the outset of a discretionary advisory relationship to make all investment decisions with respect to the client’s account, consistent with the client’s investment objectives. As permitted in the client’s investment advisory agreement, a Platform-Manager or Strategist may act in the role of a model portfolio provider for Foundations<sup>SM</sup>,

Quantitative Innovations<sup>SM</sup>, Park Avenue Strategist Select<sup>SM</sup> or Park Avenue Strategist Select Plus<sup>SM</sup>. PAS may also periodically provide investment advice to the client, including recommendations related to the management of program assets by one or more Platform-Managers or Strategists, subject to the approval of the client. When selecting securities and determining amounts, PAS observes the investment policies, limitations and any reasonable restrictions placed by the client relating to the client's account.

For the UMA Select program you grant Envestnet the authority to buy and sell securities and investments for the account pursuant to the direction of the Investment Manager and perform rebalancing or other such discretionary authorities you agree upon. In certain cases, the Investment Manager may directly trade client assets within the UMA Select Program instead of providing an Investment Model. In those instances, Envestnet shall be authorized to delegate the investment discretion described above to the Investment Manager. The discretionary Investment Manager is responsible for selecting the securities for client investment, including the share class if the investment is in mutual funds. PAS may periodically provide investment advice to you on a non-discretionary basis only, subject to your approval, in a manner consistent with your investment objectives and Investor Risk Rating.

## **17. Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy and practice, PAS does not have any authority to vote and does not vote proxies on behalf of advisory clients. Clients retain the responsibility for receiving and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in client portfolios. Each PAS wrap fee program and Third-Party Adviser has its own Wrap Fee Brochure which describes voting client securities for each program. Please refer to the applicable Wrap Fee Brochure for additional information.

PAS clients will receive proxies directly from the custodian, Pershing. For questions regarding proxies, clients may contact PAS at (888) 600-4667.

## **18. Financial Information**

A copy of PAS's most recent financial statement is attached. PAS does not have any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments to clients. PAS has never been the subject of a bankruptcy.

**Park Avenue Securities LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2023**

**19. Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**



**Report of Independent Registered Public Account Firm**

To the Board of Managers and Member of Park Avenue Securities LLC

***Opinion on the Financial Statement – Statement of Financial Condition***

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Financial Condition of Park Avenue Securities LLC (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2023, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statement”). In our opinion, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinion***

The financial statement is the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s financial statement based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit of this financial statement in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP".

New York, NY  
February 26, 2024

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1999.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 300 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017 T: 646 471 3000; F: (646) 471 8320, [www.pwc.com/us](http://www.pwc.com/us)*

**Park Avenue Securities LLC**  
**Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**  
**December 31, 2023**

**20. Statement of Financial Condition**

**Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 87,536,006
Cash Segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations	1,100
Deposits with clearing organizations	250,000
Receivable from clearing broker-dealer, less allowance for credit losses of \$27,029	14,623,302
Receivable from registered representatives, less allowance for credit losses of \$332,114	2,845,811
Commissions receivable, less allowance for credit losses of \$47,795	9,511,251
Amounts due from Guardian Life (Tax Recoverable)	440,099
Other assets, less allowance for credit losses of \$1,868,304	2,424,372
Deferred tax assets, net	512,599
Total assets	<u>\$ 118,144,540</u>

**Liabilities and Member's Equity**

Due to Guardian Life, net	\$ 9,399,172
Commissions payable	17,015,058
Other liabilities	1,156,054
Total liabilities	<u>27,570,284</u>
Member's equity	<u>90,574,256</u>
Total liabilities and member's equity	<u>\$ 118,144,540</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statement below.

## 21. Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

### 1. Organization and Nature of Business

Park Avenue Securities LLC (the “Company”) is a registered broker-dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”). The Company is also a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and a Delaware Limited Liability company. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (“Guardian Life”).

The Company, through its affiliate, The Guardian Insurance and Annuity Company Inc (“GIAC”), employs agencies as its distribution system through which all securities transactions are conducted. All agencies are subject to an Agency Agreement with GIAC that outlines the rights and responsibilities of GIAC and its affiliates. Registered representatives and investment advisors are agency employees whose rights and responsibilities are governed by a Registered Representative Agreement or Investment Advisor Representative Agreement, respectively, by and between the Company and the representative.

The Company’s business as a securities broker-dealer consists of selling products currently offered by GIAC as well as third party sponsors to retail customers. Such products include mutual funds, variable annuities, variable life insurance, 401(k) plan and investment advisory services. Brokerage transactions are executed by the Company on behalf of its customers and are conducted on an agency or riskless principal basis and are introduced on a fully disclosed basis to Pershing LLC (the “Clearing Broker”). The Company does not carry customer accounts or perform custodial functions related to customer securities. Direct customer transactions are executed by third party sponsors, or GIAC on behalf of the customers. The Company also acts as a broker in the purchase and sale of securities which are conducted on a give-up basis.

### 2. Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

The Company’s financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (“GAAP”).

#### Use of Estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the accounting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash

Cash and cash equivalents include amounts on deposit with banks and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less. They are reported at cost, which approximates fair value because of the relatively short period of time between their origination and expected maturity.

Cash segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations represents restricted cash segregated for the exclusive benefit of customers of the Company.

#### Receivable from clearing Broker-Dealer

The Company clears certain customer transactions through the clearing broker. The Receivable from

broker-dealer includes advisory fees, annual account fees and non-proprietary trail commission receivable. Receivables from clearing broker-dealer are stated net of a provision for credit losses, which is estimated based upon the evaluation of historical loss experience and management's forecasts. The opening balance in this account as of January 1, 2023, was \$11,028,314, less allowance for credit losses of \$6,239. During 2023, there were no write-offs related to this account. The increase in allowance for credit losses of \$20,790 was included in Other Expenses.

#### **Receivable from Registered Representatives**

Receivable from registered representatives relates to annual fees (registered representative fees) charged for support functions, such as technology tools, licensing, compliance and regulatory oversight, and administrative services. Receivables are stated net of a provision for credit losses, which is estimated based upon the evaluation of aging, specific exposures, historical loss experience and management's forecasts. The opening balance in this account as of January 1, 2023, was \$3,097,978, less allowance for credit losses of \$270,695. During 2023, there were write offs of \$144,153. The increase in allowance for credit losses of \$61,419 was included in Other Expenses.

#### **Commissions Receivable**

All transactions, other than those cleared through the clearing broker, represent activity conducted directly between the client and third-party sponsors. Commissions receivable include investment advisory service fees receivable from turnkey asset management programs (TAMPs), direct sponsor trailing commissions from mutual funds and revenue sharing receipts. Commissions receivable are stated net of a provision for credit losses, which is estimated based upon the evaluation of historical loss experience and management's forecasts. The opening balance in this account as of January 1, 2023, was \$7,985,984, less allowance for credit losses of \$40,131. During 2023, there were no write offs or recoveries related to this account. The increase in allowance for credit losses of \$7,664 was included in Other Expenses.

#### **Other Assets**

Other Assets include loans from the Company to registered representatives and prepaid licensing fees. Other assets are stated net of a provision for credit losses for amounts due from registered representatives, which is estimated based upon the evaluation of historical loss experience, guarantees in place and management's forecasts. The opening balance in this account as of January 1, 2023, was \$6,741,302 less allowance for credit losses of \$986,285. During 2023, there was a write off of \$167,487. The increase in allowance for credit losses of \$882,019 was included in Other Expenses.

#### **Due to Guardian Life**

Amounts payable consist of general operating expenses payable to Guardian Life under an intercompany agreement.

#### **Commissions payable**

The Company remits commissions payments to the registered representatives on behalf of the general agents. Commissions payable represents balances owed to the registered representatives.

#### **Other Liabilities**

Other liabilities include reserves for loss contingencies and unpaid operating expenses.

There was no accrual made for loss contingencies at year end. See Note 8 for further discussion of Contingencies.

## **Income Taxes**

The Company is organized as a limited liability company and is treated as a disregarded entity for federal and state income tax purposes. The Company's results are included in Guardian Life's proforma federal income tax return, which is ultimately included in the consolidated federal income tax return of Guardian Life. The Internal Revenue Code ("the Code") limits the amount of non-life insurance losses that may offset life insurance company taxable income. The consolidated income tax liability is allocated among the members of the group in accordance with a tax allocation agreement. The tax allocation agreement provides that each member of the group is allocated its share of the consolidated tax provision or benefit, determined generally on a separate company basis, but may, where applicable, recognize the tax benefits of net operating losses or capital losses utilizable in the consolidated group. For state tax purposes, since Guardian Life is an insurance company, it is generally subject to tax on gross premium rather than tax on income. However, in those years where Guardian Life is subject to a state income tax, such income will be subject to the group's tax allocation agreement. Intercompany tax balances are settled quarterly on an estimated basis with a final settlement within 30 days of the filing of the consolidated return.

Current Federal income taxes are charged or credited to operations based upon amounts estimated to be payable or recoverable as a result of taxable operations for the current year and any adjustments to such estimates from prior years. Deferred Federal income tax assets ("DTA's") and liabilities ("DTL's") are recognized for expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between GAAP and taxable income. Temporary differences are identified and measured using a balance sheet approach whereby GAAP and tax balance sheets are compared. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequence of temporary differences between financial statement carrying amounts and income tax basis of assets and liabilities.

The Company determines whether it is more-likely-than-not that a tax position will be sustained upon examination by the appropriate taxing authorities before any part of the benefit can be recorded in the financial statements. The amount of tax benefit recognized for an uncertain tax position is the largest amount of benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement. Unrecognized tax benefits are included within the Statement of Financial Condition and are charged to earnings in the period that such determination is made. The Company classifies interest and penalties related to tax uncertainties as "income tax expense" in the accompanying Statement of Operations.

### **3. Related Party Transactions**

A significant portion of the Company's revenues and expenses relate to transactions with Guardian Life and its affiliates.

Pursuant to an expense sharing agreement, Guardian Life charges the Company on a monthly basis for the services of certain employees of Guardian Life engaged in the Company's business and for the Company's use of Guardian Life's centralized services. The Company settles those transactions with Guardian Life on a monthly basis. During 2023, the amounts charged for these services amounted to \$58,869,732 which is comprised of general and administrative expenses, as defined in Note 2 of \$56,829,505 and payroll and sales taxes of \$2,040,227. The Due to Guardian Life under this agreement was \$8,959,073.

Refer to Note 5 for Income Tax related party transactions.

During the year, the Company earned revenues of \$14,473,451 from GIAC for sales of GIAC's variable annuity and variable life insurance products, which is included in Commissions. The receivable for such



revenues was \$134,311 and is included in Commissions receivable.

#### 4. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value measurements are based on observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect the Company's view of market assumptions based on internally developed data in the absence of observable market information. The guidance requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when determining the fair value of an asset or liability. The statement classifies all assets and liabilities carried or disclosed at fair value in one of the following three categories:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted market prices available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities on the reporting date.

Level 2 – inputs are quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active and model derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.

Level 3 – significant inputs are unobservable where there is little or no market activity for the asset or liability and the Company makes estimates and assumptions based on internally derived information and other analytical techniques.

In determining fair value, the carrying value of Cash and cash equivalents, Cash segregated in compliance with federal and other regulations, receivable from broker-dealer, commissions receivable and payables arising in the ordinary course of business approximate fair value because of the relatively short period of time between their origination and expected maturity or because we expect the assets and liabilities to be settled within a period of one year. There were no level 3 assets or liabilities carried at fair value as of December 31, 2023.

#### 5. Income Taxes

A summary of the net income tax expense included in the accompanying Statement of Operations is as follows:

<b>Income Tax Expense</b>	<b>2023</b>
Current federal income tax expense	\$ 14,608,691
Current state income tax expense	75,259
Total current income tax expense	14,683,950
Deferred federal income tax benefit	(200,689)
<b>Total income tax expense</b>	<b>\$ 14,483,261</b>

The Company's Income Tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2023, differs from the amount

computed by applying the expected federal income tax rate of 21% to income before income taxes for the following reasons:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>Effective Rate</u>
Income tax expense at the statutory rate	\$ 14,383,549	21.00%
Permanent differences:		
Other	\$ 99,712	0.15%
<b>Total income tax expense</b>	<b><u>\$ 14,483,261</u></b>	<b><u>21.15%</u></b>

As of December 31, 2023, the Company had no unrecognized tax benefits or related interest expenses.

The components of the net deferred tax asset as of December 31, 2023, were as follows:

<b>Deferred Tax Assets</b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
Reserve for Litigation	\$ 525
Allowance for Bad Debt	477,801
Deferred Revenue	40,950
<b>Total Deferred Tax Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 519,276</u></b>
 <b>Deferred Tax Liabilities</b>	
Unrealized Gains	\$ 6,677
<b>Total Deferred Tax Liabilities</b>	<b><u>\$ 6,677</u></b>
 <b>Net Deferred Tax Assets</b>	 <b><u>\$ 512,599</u></b>

Deferred income taxes are generally recognized, based on enacted tax rates, when assets and liabilities have different values for financial statement and tax purposes.

A valuation allowance is recorded if it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax asset will not be realized. The Company's management has concluded that the deferred tax assets are more likely than not to be realized. Therefore, no valuation allowance has been provided.

At December 31, 2023, the Company recorded a current income tax recoverable of \$440,099 due from Guardian Life in the accompanying Statement of Financial Condition and is included in Amounts due from Guardian Life.

The Inflation Reduction Act was enacted into law on August 16, 2022. This provision imposes a 15% Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax ("CAMT") on adjusted financial statement income ("AFSI") for applicable corporation with average annual AFSI over a three-year period in excess of \$1 billion effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022. As of December 31, 2023 management has determined that Guardian Life and its subsidiaries does not expect to be subject to CAMT in 2023.

Guardian Life files U.S. federal income tax returns along with various state and local income tax returns. The Company's federal income tax returns are routinely examined by the Internal Revenue service ("IRS") and provisions are made in the financial statements in anticipation of the results of these audits. Tax years 2015

through 2022 are subject to examination by the IRS. The Company believes that it has established adequate tax liabilities for uncertain tax positions for all open years.

## **6. Regulatory Requirements**

The Company is subject to the Uniform Net Capital requirements of the SEC under Rule 15c3-1, which requires that the Company maintain net capital equal to the greater of \$250,000 or 6 2/3% of aggregate indebtedness. The Company had net capital of \$73,547,573 which was \$71,709,554 above the \$1,838,019 required to be maintained. The ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital was 0.37 to 1. The Company claims an exemption from Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 under paragraphs (k)(2)(i) and (k)(2)(ii) of that rule. The Company is also subject to Footnote 74 of the SEC Release No. 34-70073 adopting amendments to 17 C.F.R. § 240.17a-5 because the Company limits its business activities exclusively to: (1) proprietary trading; (2) effecting securities transactions via subscriptions on a subscription way basis where the funds are payable to the issuer or its agent and not to the Company.

## **7. Off-Balance Sheet Risk**

In the normal course of business, securities transactions of customers are introduced and cleared through a third-party clearing broker. Pursuant to an agreement between the Company and the clearing broker, the clearing broker has the right to charge the Company for certain losses that result from transactions with such customers.

Direct customer transactions executed by third party sponsors on behalf of the customers may expose the Company to off-balance-sheet risk in the event the customer is unable to fulfill its contractual obligations and the Company has to sell the investment product at a loss.

The Company's policy is to monitor its customer and counterparty risk through the use of a variety of credit exposure reporting and control procedures, including reviewing, as considered necessary, the credit standing of each counterparty and customer with which it conducts business.

The Company, in its normal course of business, may enter into other legal contracts that contain several of these representations and warranties which provide general indemnifications. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be against the Company that have not yet occurred. However, based on its experience, the Company expects the risk of loss to be remote.

## **8. Contingencies**

The Company may be engaged in various disputes, litigations, governmental regulatory inquiries and other proceedings arising out of its business operations. These matters could result in losses, monetary damages, fines penalties or changes in the business operations of the Company. Due to the uncertainties inherent in these disputes, it is difficult to determine the ultimate loss the Company will experience. The Company evaluates each matter and establishes an accrual where a loss is probable, and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

The Company also evaluates these matters for a reasonably possible range of loss. Due to the uncertainties inherent in these matters, such as timing of discovery and court decisions, the Company is not able to ascertain a reasonably possible range of loss for each matter. In the opinion of Management, as of December 31, 2023, the aggregate range of reasonably possible loss for those matters it is able to provide

an estimate for is not material to the Company's financial position.

## **9. Subsequent Events**

The Company considers events occurring after the Statement of Financial Condition date but prior to February 23, 2024 the issuance date of the financial statements, to be subsequent events. There were no subsequent events through February 23, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued that affect the Company's financial statement or require additional disclosure.

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## **Park Avenue Securities**

Park Avenue Securities LLC (PAS) is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (Guardian). PAS is a registered broker-dealer offering competitive investment products, as well as a registered investment adviser offering financial planning and investment advisory services. PAS is a member of FINRA and SIPC.

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