

Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure Item

1: Cover Page

March 2024



400 Continental Plaza, Suite 600

El Segundo, CA 90245

www.sharpergranite.com

Firm Contact:

Chris Casanega

Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Sharper & Granite, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at (310) 426-2909 or email (questions@sharpergranite.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority. Additional information about Sharper & Granite, LLC also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov by searching CRD# 136719.

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

Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure

Sharper & Granite, LLC ("SG") is required to advise you of any material changes to our Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update, identify those changes on the cover page of our Brochure or on the page immediately following the cover page, or in a separate communication accompanying our Brochure.

Since our last annual amendment filed on September 05, 2023, we have made material changes to the following:

This document has been updated to reflect the custodian change from TD Ameritrade to Charles Schwab & Co.

Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation has been updated to reflect that we do pay referral fees to 3rd parties.

Item 3: Table of Contents

Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure	2
Item 3: Table of Contents	3
Item 4: Advisory Business	4
Item 5: Fees & Compensation	5
Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management	6
Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements	6
Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss	7
Item 9: Disciplinary Information	9
Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations	9
Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading	9
Item 12: Brokerage Practices	10
Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans	12
Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation	13
Item 15: Custody	13
Item 16: Investment Discretion	14
Item 17: Voting Client Securities	14
Item 18: Financial Information	14

Item 4: Advisory Business

We specialize in providing Comprehensive Portfolio Management services. We provide individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed in the State of California. Our firm has been in business as an investment adviser since 2003 and is majority owned by Chris Casanega, Chief Compliance Officer.

Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer

Comprehensive Portfolio Management:

As part of our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service clients will be provided asset management. This service is designed to assist clients with various investment related challenges such as, but not limited to, determining cash flow needs, retirement option evaluations and portfolio projections. Our firm conducts client meetings to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what is learned, an investment approach is presented to the client, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, ETFs, options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives. Upon client request, our firm provides a summary of observations and recommendations for the planning aspects of this service.

Tailoring of Advisory Services

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service.

Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account. Restrictions would be limited to our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. We do not manage assets through our other services.

Participation in Wrap Fee Programs

We do not offer wrap fee programs.

Regulatory Assets under Management

As of December 31, 2023, we manage¹ \$299,855,578 on a discretionary basis.

Item 5: Fees & Compensation

How We Are Compensated for Our Advisory Services

Comprehensive Portfolio Management:

Standard fees are based on a percentage of assets under management in a given portfolio. Clients may have multiple portfolios.

Assets Under Management	Annual Percentage of Assets Charge
< \$200,000	1.8%
\$200,000 - \$400,000	1.7%
\$400,001 - \$800,000	1.6%
\$800,001 - \$1,000,000	1.5%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	1.4%
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	1.3%
\$3,000,001 - \$4,500,000	1.0%
> \$4,500,001	Negotiable Tiered

Billing is quarterly in arrears and based on assets under management at the end of each SG fiscal quarter. Following each fiscal quarter, fees are deducted automatically for clients choosing this option. Clients may also request to be billed directly. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Fees are negotiable, and fees for some clients are negotiated below standard SG rates for comparable services. “Fixed Income” or “Principal Preservation” portfolios, for example, may be offered at rates below standard SG rates. Furthermore, certain legacy client agreements may have fee schedules different from that listed above. Related client accounts may be grouped by portfolio for the purpose of determining the annualized fee. Multiple portfolios with a client may be charged different rates and will be specified if such is the case. When in the best interest of the client, where both taxable and tax-protected accounts exist, total fees may be deducted from taxable accounts first to improve tax efficiency.

SG does not generally recommend alternative assets such as private equity investments but will assist qualified clients who request particular investments. If the client prefers those assets to be tracked, priced and factored into their overall portfolio which we manage, the client may be billed on these assets as specified in their Portfolio Manager Agreement.

Fees during quarters of startup and termination are prorated on a calendar day basis, based on the day assets arrive or depart. Termination terms are described in the Termination & Refunds section below

SG recognizes that no consistent standard exists across all custodians for daily individual bond pricing. For consistency, SG will use asset prices provided by its data-reconciliation agent, Black Diamond, for reporting and billing at quarter end. The SG platform on Black Diamond uses accrued interest in its individual bond value calculations but does not use accrued interest in the calculation of any other asset classes including stocks, equity mutual funds, equity ETFs, bond mutual funds or bond ETFs.

As part of the automatic fee deduction process, the client is made aware of the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you (paper or email notification) showing the market values for each security included in the account and all disbursements in your account including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms. We send our invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, it will include a legend urging you to compare information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian.

Other Types of Fees & Expenses

Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees and will be disclosed by the custodian firm through which the trades are executed. It is important to note that Schwab does not charge commissions on domestic equity securities and exchange traded funds. Also, clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, which we do not receive any part of: charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses).

Termination & Refunds

Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for our Comprehensive Portfolio Management service in writing at any time.

Full refunds will only be made in cases where cancellation occurs within 5 business days of signing an agreement. After 5 business days from initial signing, either party must provide the other party 30 days written notice to terminate billing. Billing will terminate 30 days after receipt of termination notice. Clients will be charged on a pro-rata basis, which takes into account work completed by our firm on behalf of the client. Clients will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered up to the point of termination (determined as 30 days from receipt of said written notice) and such fees will be due and payable.

Commissionable Securities Sales

We do not sell securities for a commission in our advisory accounts.

Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management

We do not accept performance-based fees.

Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements

SG services are generally provided to: individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, pensions and profit-sharing plans.

SG generally requires a minimum account balance of \$250,000 of assets under management; however, this amount is negotiable under certain circumstances.

Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss

Parameters and constraints on the portfolio construction are set by investment objectives, tax-situation, outside investments, account type(s) (e.g., taxable, IRA, etc.), income needs, and liquidity needs. Then, time horizon and risk profiles are used to build a portfolio we estimate will have strong risk/return characteristics within the above constraints.

SG investment strategies use a top-down, asset allocation approach. To execute these strategies, we most often utilize low-cost, tax-efficient, index-based investment vehicles (e.g., index-based ETFs and no-load index mutual funds) as building blocks to construct portfolios. Our security selection process for a given sector category (e.g., U.S. consumer staples) reviews several available ETFs and mutual funds in that category, and scores them objectively based on management fees, SG internal bid/ask trading spread tests, third-party trading spread analysis, custodian trade cost, intended holding time, accuracy representing intended sector, liquidity of components, time since inception, and issuing firm's financial standing and reputation.

SG does not tout stock picking, frequent trading, or market timing and discourages these strategies.

SG emphasizes diversification, keeping costs low, tax efficiency, and sticking to the textbook portfolio theories and investment principles set forth by various Nobel Laureates in economics including Markowitz, Modigliani, Miller, Sharpe, Fama and Merton. Statistical methods are used to estimate asset allocation on the risk/return efficient frontier¹. Historical asset volatility characteristics are analyzed with particular interest in how asset classes correlate with each other. The well-established textbook Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) is used along with the asset class correlation characteristics in a linear programming² algorithm to estimate efficient frontier portfolios.

- (1) The risk/return efficient frontier may sound complex, but it is fundamental enough to be a centerpiece within business school textbooks on modern finance and portfolio theory. It represents theoretical points of maximum expected portfolio return for given levels of risk.
- (2) Linear programming is a mathematical method of determining the theoretically best outcome subject to a list of constraints. It is commonly used in several industries including energy, transportation, telecommunications, and manufacturing in addition to business and economics.

All forms of securities investing involve risk of loss for which clients should be prepared. Clients should understand that there are no guarantees or insurances of principal preservation and that market fluctuations of any level may occur and impact portfolio value. Client understands that past performance is not a good predictor of future performance.

SG uses historical volatility data to support proprietary firm models. Future volatility patterns may be very different from historical ones. Our analysis is subject to risks involving reliance on rating agencies, the accuracy of publicly available data sources, and our own interpretation and computations using that data.

SG uses primarily index-based ETFs and no-load index mutual funds. Specific risks in these products include general market risk. Furthermore, because ETFs are exchange-traded, they are subject to risk of being purchased at a premium to their net asset value (NAV). Other risks may be present as well. For example, sector-specific ETFs and mutual funds, as well as those based on small- and mid-capitalization stock indexes, may be more volatile than broadly diversified funds. International ETFs and mutual funds carry country and currency risks that do not apply to domestic funds. Index ETFs and mutual funds may be subject to index-sampling risk, which means that their actual contents (and performance) do not perfectly match their target index.

While SG generally discourages market timing, we may advise gradual movements of capital into the market, called dollar-cost averaging, for certain clients based on availability of investible capital. The timing of market entry based on client capital contributions or withdrawals may have significant positive or negative impact on returns.

Bonds may be a part of a diversified portfolio strategy, and laddered bond portfolios (or portfolio components) are common within SG accounts. Bond analysis flows from the client's financial situation and the above-stated client objectives, needs and constraints. Bonds are fundamentally subject to: interest rate risk (including inflation effects), credit risk, and liquidity risk. SG considers all of these risk factors along with its economic outlook when filtering for bonds. Bond selection criteria include credit rating and rating outlook, tenor, price, duration, yield-to-maturity, yield-to-worst, and tax status. We may advise/select either individual bonds or bond funds based on client asset level, interest rate outlook, and investment needs. Each of these options carries unique risks.

Cash or similar asset classes may form parts of portfolios and are subject to currency and inflation risk.

Alternative asset classes are rarely recommended. If a client requests a particular alternative investment (private equity, private fund, etc.), we may advise them on the best approach and will recommend only small portfolio proportions. We believe alternative assets carry unique risks and generally higher levels of risk than other portfolio components. At client request, we may build an alternative holding into the portfolio for a more holistic view and portfolio allocation management.

Our firm may allow or recommend that you pledge securities from your portfolio as collateral for a loan by using margin in brokerage account. This allows you to own more stock than you would be able to with your available cash. Margin accounts and transactions are risky and not necessarily appropriate for every client.

The potential risks associated with these transactions are (1) You can lose more funds than are deposited into the margin account; (2) the forced sale of securities or other assets in your account; (3) the sale of securities or other assets without contacting you; (4) you may not be entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your account(s) are liquidated or sold to meet a margin call; and (5) custodians charge interest on margin balances which will reduce your returns over time.

SG strives to keep costs low in part by limiting trading activity. However, clients should be aware that all trading incurs transaction costs. Trading activity is typically driven by rebalancing needs; new objectives, risk tolerance or time horizon from the client; dividend and interest deployment; adjustments for deposits or withdrawals; and adjustments to asset allocation target changes.

Item 9: Disciplinary Information

There are legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. In 2007 a California State review determined that Sharper & Granite provided advisory service a few months before it was officially licensed in February 2003.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

SG has no registrations (or pending registrations) to become a broker-dealer, registered representative of a broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, or associated person of the foregoing entities. SG has no other material relationships or arrangements.

Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading

The SG Code of Ethics (COE) presents a high level of ethical standards of business conduct. Specifically, it confirms compliance with securities laws and regulations set forth by the SEC and state regulators. It declares that the firm will maintain its fiduciary duty to always seek to act in the best interest of the client and avoid conflicts of interest wherever possible. It states that SG will strive to build client trust through integrity, competence, and reliability. It ensures continuous and ongoing review of accounts and client communication wherever appropriate in addition to SG quarterly reports and monthly or quarterly custodial reports. It promises clear and straightforward billing. Our COE requires full client review and sign-off on any private placements and specifically prohibits initial public offering participation unless directed by the client. Our COE goes on to provide for constant maintenance of the firm's books, records, and minimum capital requirement. It also provides for quarterly internal accounting reconciliation along with other key SG policies and procedures. It prohibits custody of client assets (with the exception of auto-fee deduction by the custodian).

Our COE is consistent with our Policies and Procedures document and our Security and Privacy document. All of these documents are available to clients and prospective clients upon request to SG Chief Compliance Officer, Chris Casanega.

SG personnel are permitted to hold similar securities to those bought/sold within client accounts. Records of holdings and transactions are maintained. However, our COE prohibits SG personnel from trading a security based on reason of SG employment or effects of known SG client trades. The COE also prohibits SG personnel trading a security on the same day prior to that particular security or similar security is being traded in a client account. This timing provision diminishes any potential conflict of interest. Potential for a conflict of interest is further diminished at SG in that the majority of securities held by our clients are high-volume, index-based, highly liquid fund securities. Furthermore, in most cases trading volumes by our firm are unlikely to be significant enough to impact price movements of high-volume, highly liquid securities.

SG COE prohibits client participation in securities in which SG or SG personnel serve as a general partner or have a material financial interest. Any individual not following the COE may be subject to disciplinary action or termination. If any potential conflict of interest arises, the affected client(s) will be notified.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

Clients are free to select the broker of their choice, and in fact, SG works with multiple broker-dealers as a result of client choice, all within the regulations of the SEC, state agencies and per the rules and limited power of attorney (LPOA) agreements of the various brokers.

When asked by clients, SG endeavors to recommend brokers which will provide excellent services at low cost. We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others, these:

- Commission rates
- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Compliance controls
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors
- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Expertise as it relates to specific securities
- Financial condition
- Business reputation
- Quality of services

With this in consideration, our firm has an arrangement with Charles Schwab Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC/NFA ("Schwab"), an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA member. Schwab offers services to independent investment advisers which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. However, depending on the client situation, SG will recommend different broker-dealers when appropriate or will work with the client's broker-dealer of preference.

The broker dealers through which we execute client transactions, including Schwab, as well as third-party mutual fund companies whose products we utilize, may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm all of which qualify for the safe harbor exemption defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These services may also be directly obtained from independent research companies or investment fund providers, as selected by our firm (within specific parameters). Research products and services provided may include research reports on recommendations or other information about particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities.

We make a best faith effort to determine whether transaction costs and commissions charged are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received by the different custodians, broker-dealers and mutual fund companies. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although we will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

Soft Dollars

Although the investment research products and services that may be obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account.

Our firm does not accept products or services that do not qualify for Safe Harbor outlined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, such as those services that do not aid in investment decision-making or trade execution.

Client Brokerage Commissions

We do not use client brokerage commissions to obtain research or other products or services. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which we have investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

Procedures to Direct Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars

We do not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

Brokerage for Client Referrals

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

Directed Brokerage

Neither we nor any of our firm's related persons have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are affected. Our firm recommends the use of Schwab but does not require that clients establish accounts with Schwab.

Permissibility of Client-Directed Brokerage

We allow clients to direct brokerage. If SG is directed by the client to use a specific broker-dealer other than Schwab, we disclose that our ability to negotiate commissions (where applicable), obtain volume discounts, or obtain best execution may not be as favorable as might otherwise be obtained.

Special Considerations for ERISA Clients

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, we will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

Aggregation of Purchase or Sale

We perform investment management services for various clients. Constructing portfolios and rebalancing portfolios toward a target allocation are the primary drivers of trading activity on behalf of our clients. We rank these drivers as more important than the opportunity to aggregate simultaneous trades across clients. Because all client accounts are unique, only rarely might multiple clients require the same security trade on a given day. SG maintains a “Block Account” at its primary broker-dealer to enable aggregate trading and may block client trades together when doing so is advantageous for clients or adds to the consistency of the trade. The firm’s primary broker, Schwab, offers no commission or volume discounts for aggregated trades. Thus, most often there is little advantage for clients in aggregating trades. Schwab offers a trading specialist service which may improve price execution on large trades. We will aggregate trades and utilize that service when we believe it may provide potential price improvement due to volume.

Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans

Chris Casanega, Managing Director, will continuously monitor the underlying securities in client accounts on an ongoing basis and perform reviews of account holdings at least quarterly but most often more frequently than that. Accounts are reviewed for consistency with client investment strategy, asset allocation, risk tolerance, time horizon, and tax considerations. The difference between current asset allocation and target allocation is frequently reviewed for rebalancing needs.

Unusual economic events, changes in investment objective, inflows/outflows, or changes in a client’s financial or personal situation may trigger more frequent reviews. Clients are encouraged to notify SG if changes occur to their personal financial situations.

In addition to monthly or quarterly statements and transaction confirmations that clients receive from their custodian, SG communicates to clients quarterly with a portfolio-level report which includes account value, holdings, performance relative to benchmarks, fees, buy/sell activity, and deposit/withdrawal activity. We provide this supplemental report because we believe it provides a much clearer view of asset allocation and performance relative to benchmarks at the portfolio level than custodial account statements.

Retirement Plan Consulting clients receive reviews of their retirement plans for the duration of the service. Our firm also provides ongoing services where clients are met upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc.

Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation

Referral Fees

In accordance with Rule 206 (4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, our firm does not provide cash or non-cash compensation directly or indirectly to unaffiliated persons for testimonials or endorsements (which include client referrals) without proper disclosure.

We can occasionally pay a referral fee to third-party for endorsement with proper disclosure.

Other Compensation:

As disclosed under Item 12 of this Brochure, we participate in Schwab’s institutional customer program and we may recommend Schwab to Clients for custody and brokerage services. However,

our firm works with multiple custodians, broker-dealers, and mutual fund companies, and there is no direct link between our firm's use of these services, including Schwab, and the investment advice we give to our clients. The benefits received by our firm or our personnel through the above-mentioned relationships do not depend on the number of brokerage transactions directed to them. As part of our fiduciary duties to our clients, we always endeavor to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of Schwab for custody and brokerage services.

Item 15: Custody

While our firm does not maintain physical custody of client assets (which are maintained by a qualified custodian, as discussed above), we are deemed to have custody of certain client assets if given the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts, as further described below under "Third Party Money Movement." All our clients receive account statements directly from their qualified custodian(s) at least quarterly upon opening of an account. We urge our clients to carefully review these statements. Additionally, if our firm decides to send its own account statements to clients, such statements will include a legend that recommends the client compare the account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm. Clients are encouraged to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

Standing Letters of Authorization

The SEC issued a no-action letter ("Letter") with respect to Rule 206(4)-2 ("Custody Rule") under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of instruction ("SLOA") is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with the account custodian:

- The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
- The client authorizes the investment adviser, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
- The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
- The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.
- The investment adviser has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
- The investment adviser maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of the investment adviser or located at the same address as the investment adviser.
- The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

Item 16: Investment Discretion

Clients choosing to grant discretionary authority execute an LPOA permitting SG to determine which securities (and quantity) to be bought or sold for their account(s).

Regarding this discretionary authority, clients may communicate special instructions or constraints (e.g., to avoid certain securities or asset classes, or to hold a minimum of a certain security), and SG honors those instructions. SG may also hold securities transferred in-kind that it would not typically hold for capital gains efficiency.

Item 17: Voting Client Securities

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

Item 18: Financial Information

We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- The firm bills in arrears, thus under no circumstances will SG earn fees more than six months in advance of services rendered.
- We do not take custody of client funds or securities (other than the auto-deduction of fees by custodian Schwab).
- We do not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

We have never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.