

**Item 1: Cover Page  
Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
March 2024**



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**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Cardinal Point Capital Management, ULC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us toll free at (866) 213-2036 or (416) 849-4842. 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 Cardinal Point Capital Management, ULC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Registration as an investment adviser, or any reference to the firm being "registered", does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

## Item 2: Material Changes

This item of the Brochure summarizes material changes that have been made to the Brochure since our annual updating amendment in March 2023. Since that annual updating amendment, our firm has the following material change(s) to disclose.

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions with the assistance of our affiliate, Focus Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC ("FTCS"). FTCS is compensated by sharing in the revenue earned by such third-party institutions for serving our clients. FTCS in turn shares up to 25% of this earned revenue with us when we are licensed to receive such revenue or when no such license is required. Further information on this conflict of interest is available in Items 4, 5, and 10 of this Brochure.

Our affiliate, Focus Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC ("FTCS") was acquired by UPTIQ, Inc. and has been renamed UPTIQ Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC (together with UPTIQ, Inc. and its affiliates, "UPTIQ"). We have revised the information concerning FTCS to describe our new arrangement with UPTIQ. Further information on this conflict of interest is available in Items 4, 5, and 10 of this Brochure.

We help our clients obtain certain insurance solutions from unaffiliated, third-party insurance brokers by introducing clients to our affiliate, Focus Risk Solutions, LLC ("FRS"). FRS is compensated by sharing in the upfront and/or ongoing commissions earned by such third-party insurance brokers. The amount of insurance commission revenue earned by FRS is considered for purposes of determining the amount of additional compensation that certain of our financial professionals are entitled to receive. Further information on this conflict of interest is available in Items 4, 5 and 10 of this Brochure.

We have begun business arrangements with affiliated firms under which certain clients of Cardinal Point invest a portion of their assets in certain of the affiliated firms' private investment vehicles. Please see Items 4, 5, 10, and 11 for details of this arrangement.

Please see item 5 of this brochure for additional information regarding the use of the Pontera® platform in order to manage held away accounts for our Portfolio Management Clients.

On August 31, 2023, funds affiliated with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC ("CD&R") and Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point") completed an acquisition of Focus Financial Partners Inc. ("Focus Inc."). This transaction resulted in funds affiliated with CD&R collectively becoming majority owners of Focus Inc. and funds affiliated with Stone Point collectively becoming owners of Focus Inc. Because Cardinal Point Capital Management, ULC is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., the CD&R and Stone Point funds are indirect owners of Cardinal Point Capital Management, ULC. Items 4 and 10 have been revised to reflect this new ownership structure.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

Cardinal Point Capital Management ULC (“Cardinal Point”) was formed in November 2002. Cardinal Point was first registered as an investment adviser with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in May 2006.

Cardinal Point is also registered as a Portfolio Manager with each of the following Canadian Securities Commissions: British Columbia Securities Commission, Alberta Securities Commission, Manitoba Securities Commission, Nova Scotia Securities Commission, Ontario Securities Commission, New Brunswick Securities Commission, Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission and the Quebec Financial Markets Authority.

Cardinal Point is part of the Focus Financial Partners, LLC (“Focus LLC”) partnership. Specifically, Cardinal Point is a wholly owned subsidiary of Focus Canada Investments Corp. (“Focus Canada”), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Focus Operating, LLC (“Focus Operating”). Focus Operating is, directly and indirectly, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus LLC. Focus Financial Partners Inc. (“Focus Inc.”) is the sole managing member of Focus LLC and has 100% of its governance rights. Accordingly, all governance is conducted through the voting rights and the Board of Directors at Focus Inc. Focus Inc. is the managing member of and owns, directly and indirectly, approximately 99% of the economic interests in Focus LLC.

Focus Inc. is majority-owned, indirectly and collectively, by funds affiliated with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC (“CD&R”). Funds affiliated with Stone Point Capital LLC (“Stone Point”) are indirect owners of Focus Inc. Because Cardinal Point is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., CD&R and Stone Point funds are indirect owners of Cardinal Point.

Focus LLC also owns other registered investment advisers, broker-dealers, pension consultants, insurance firms, business managers and other firms (the “Focus Partners”), most of which provide wealth management, benefit consulting and investment consulting services to individuals, families, employers, and institutions. Some Focus Partners also manage or advise limited partnerships, private funds, or investment companies as disclosed on their respective Form ADVs.

Cardinal Point is managed pursuant to a management agreement between 2450619 Alberta ULC and Cardinal Point. The Cardinal Point Principals serve as officers of Cardinal Point and are responsible for the management, supervision and oversight of Cardinal Point.

### **The Firm’s Services**

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As discussed below in this Disclosure Brochure, Cardinal Point offers comprehensive portfolio management services, non-discretionary investment advice and financial planning and consulting services.

#### **Portfolio Management Services:**

Our Portfolio Management service encompasses asset management as well as providing general financial planning and consulting to our clients. It is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of financial investments. We conduct at least one, but sometimes more than one

meeting (in person if possible, otherwise via telephone conference) with clients in order to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what we learn, we propose an investment approach to the client. We may propose an investment portfolio, consisting of exchange traded funds, mutual funds, individual stocks or bonds, or other securities. Upon the client's agreement to the proposed investment plan, we work with the client to establish or transfer investment accounts so that we can manage the client's portfolio. Once the relevant accounts are under our management, we review such accounts on a regular basis. We may periodically rebalance or adjust client accounts under our management. If the client experiences any significant changes to his/her financial or personal circumstances, the client must notify us so that we can consider such information in managing the client's investments.

Financial planning and consultation services are included in our Portfolio Management service. Generally, our Canada, U.S. and cross-border financial planning and consulting services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Tax Compliance, Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, Business and Personal Financial Planning.

## **Business Management**

As part of our Business Management offering, our firm provides a multitude of services to family offices and high net worth individuals with its core goal to alleviate the challenges associated with the logistics of managing complex financial situations for busy individuals. By assisting clients with these core aspects of their business or personal situation, we aim to simplify and streamline time consuming aspects of their lives giving them more time to focus on the growth of their business or financial situation. As part of this service our firm may provide all or some of the following:

Bill Payment to include utilities, auto leases, vendors, etc.	Create and maintain Financial Reports
Create and maintain a Personal Financial Statement	Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable
Pay local property taxes	Investment Planning
Maintain books and records for rental real estate	Foreign Exchange Advice
Issue W-2 and/or 1099s to office and support staff	Liaison to their U.S. CPA
Canadian Tax Compliance	Assist with an Audit
Income Tax Planning	Estate, Financial and Retirement Planning
Insurance Analysis and Planning	Business Planning
Handle auto registrations	Mortgage/Debt Analysis
Hire cleaning and maintenance staff	Pay State, Provincial and Federal quarterly taxes
Maintain Passport and Frequent Traveler Programs	Pay local and state/provincial property, sales, and other taxes

Maintain credit card information	Process payroll either in-house or with a payroll provider
Address issues such as utility interruptions, plumbing issues, electrical problems, etc.	Additional services as requested by client

### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

We provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, our Canada, U.S. and cross- border financial planning services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Our written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we refer clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialist, as necessary for non-advisory related services. For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we usually do not provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations as the process is less formal than our planning service. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client.

### **Tax Preparation:**

Our tax preparation services include preparing U.S and Canada personal, corporate and trust returns.

### **Private Wealth Services:**

Private Wealth Services provide clients with bundled comprehensive portfolio management, financial planning, tax preparation and consulting services. These services provide assistance in planning for and executing financial strategies, which may be customized to fit each client's individual needs to meet his or her goals. This service is no longer offered to new clients. Some legacy clients may still participate in this program.

### **UPTIQ Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC**

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions through UPTIQ Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC (together with UPTIQ, Inc. and its affiliates, "UPTIQ"). Please see Items 5 and 10 for a fuller discussion of these services and other important information.

## **Affiliate Private Investment Vehicles**

We have business arrangements with a subsidiary or subsidiaries of Origin Investments Group, LLC (“Origin”) as well as SCS Capital Management LLC (“SCS”), who are each an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus LLC, under which certain clients of Cardinal Point have the option of investing in certain private investment vehicles managed by Origin or SCS. Cardinal Point is an affiliate of Origin and SCS by virtue of being under common control with both entities. Please see Items 5, 10, and 11 of this Brochure for further details.

## **Focus Risk Solutions, LLC**

We help our clients obtain certain insurance solutions from unaffiliated, third-party insurance brokers by introducing clients to our affiliate, Focus Risk Solutions, LLC (“FRS”), a wholly owned subsidiary of our parent company, Focus Financial Partners, LLC. Please see Items 5 and 10 for a fuller discussion of this service and other important information.

## **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

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We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our firm’s advisory services. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to Financial Planning clients. We usually do not allow clients to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing their account. In the rare instance that we would allow restrictions, it would be limited to our firm’s asset management services. We do not manage assets through our other services.

## **Miscellaneous Information About the Firm’s Services**

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In connection with the provision of Cardinal Point’s services, (1) Cardinal Point tailors its advisory services to the client’s individual needs, (2) clients may (but typically do not) impose reasonable restrictions on Cardinal Point’s services, which may include restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities, (3) Cardinal Point is authorized to rely on any and all information that is provided to Cardinal Point by the client or any of the client’s other professionals (such as the client’s attorney or accountant), and shall not be required to independently verify any such information, and (4) each client is responsible to promptly notify Cardinal Point if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives so that Cardinal Point is positioned to review, evaluate and possibly revise its previous recommendations and/or services.

## **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

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Our firm does not offer or sponsor a wrap fee program.

## **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

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Our firm manages \$1,353,831,096 on a discretionary basis and \$86,596,170 on a non-discretionary basis. For a total of asset under management of \$1,440,427,266 as of June 30, 2023.

## Item 5: Fees & Compensation

### Compensation for Our Advisory Services

#### Portfolio Management:

Assets Under Management	Annualized Fee
First \$1,000,000	1.25%
Next \$1,000,000	0.85%
Next \$3,000,000	0.70%
Next \$5,000,000	0.50%
Next \$5,000,000	0.40%
Next \$5,000,000	0.30%
Next \$5,000,000	0.20%
Next Assets Above \$25,000,001	0.10%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Please note, CPCM charges blended rate fees when applicable. A blended rate fee schedule combines annual percentages into a cumulative fee based on a client's asset level. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the value of the account(s) on the time-weighted daily average of the quarter. Fees are generally non-negotiable, however, the firm in its sole discretion may reduce its account minimum or the fee that it charges to clients. Fees will generally be deducted from client account(s). In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

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

It is important to note that for clients who receive a comprehensive written Financial Plan as part of this services will be required to pay our minimum fee of \$12,500 if assets under management are below \$1,000,000.

#### Pontera®

Clients should note that Our firm will utilize the Pontera® platform to aid in the management of accounts held away from our primary custodian. It is important to note in exchange for the use of the Pontera® platform our firm must pay a fee of 0.25% of the managed assets. All fees due to Pontera® are paid by our firm and will not result in the client paying higher fees than if their assets were managed through our recommended Custodians.



## **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

Our firm charges on an hourly or flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$400. Flat fees range from \$12,500 to \$30,000. Our firm requires a retainer of 50% of the ultimate financial planning or consulting fee at the time of signing. The remainder of the fee will be directly billed to the client and due within 30 days of a financial plan being delivered or consultation rendered. Our firm will not require a retainer exceeding \$1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.

## **Tax Preparation:**

Our tax preparation services are billed on an hourly or flat fee basis. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee that we charge you, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. Our hourly fees are billed up to \$400 per hour. Flat fees generally range from \$750 to \$20,000.

## **Private Wealth Services**

The Private Wealth Services program charges a minimum quarterly fee of \$5,000 and a maximum annual fee of \$100,000. This service is no longer offered to new clients. Some acquisition legacy clients may still participate in this bundled program and the fee will be outlined in their respective executed advisory agreements.

## **Business Management**

<b>Monitored Assets</b>	<b>Annualized Fee</b>
First \$4,000,000	1.00%
Next \$2,000,000	0.875%
Next \$9,000,000	0.75%
Next \$5,000,000	0.60%
Next \$5,000,000	0.45%
Assets over \$25,000,001	0.30%

The Business Management Fee is calculated and billed quarterly in advance on the aggregate market value of the Client's (i) cash, (ii) securities and private investments as reported by independent third-party sources as of the close of business on the last day of the immediately preceding calendar quarter or as of the most recent date for which such report is available and (iii) investments in real estate valued at cost, less the amount of liens such as mortgage on real estate (collectively the "Monitored Assets"). The Client's principal residence and personal property are excluded from the calculation of the Business Management Fee. For the initial quarter, the Business Management Fee shall be calculated in arrears on a pro rata basis, based upon the value of the Monitored Assets. Further, it is important to note that a minimum fee ranging between \$2,500 and \$5,000 will apply for this service, as defined in the service agreement executed with the client. Please note, CPCM charges blended rate fees when applicable. A blended rate fee schedule combines annual percentages into a cumulative fee based on a client's asset level. Business Management fees are due within thirty (30) days of Client receiving the quarterly invoice and can be paid by check, wire or ACH.

### *Portfolio Management for Business Management Clients*

For a client that subscribes to our Business Management Services, our firm will charge the following additional fees if the client also opts to obtain Portfolio Management Services.

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annualized Fee</b>
First \$10,000,000	0.40%
Next \$5,000,000	0.30%
Next \$5,000,000	0.20%
Assets Above \$20,000,001	0.10%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Please note, CPCM charges blended rate fees when applicable. A blended rate fee schedule combines annual percentages into a cumulative fee based on a client's asset level. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the value of the account(s) on the time-weighted daily average of the quarter. Fees are generally non-negotiable however, the firm in its sole discretion may reduce its account minimum or the fee that it charges to clients. Fees will generally be deducted from client account(s). In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

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

### **Affiliate Private Investment Vehicles**

We do not receive any compensation from Origin or SCS in connection with assets that our clients place in Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles. Cardinal Point's clients are not advisory clients of and do not pay advisory fees to Origin or SCS. However, our clients bear the costs of Origin's and SCS's investment vehicle or vehicles in which they are invested, including any management fees and performance fees payable to Origin or SCS.

The allocation of Cardinal Point client assets to Origin's and SCS's pooled investment vehicles, rather than to an unaffiliated investment manager, increases Origin's and SCS's compensation and the revenue to Focus LLC relative to a situation in which our clients are excluded from Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles or invested in an unaffiliated third party's pooled investment vehicles. As a consequence, Focus LLC has a financial incentive to cause us to recommend that our clients invest in Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles.

### **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 firm that the trades are executed through. In addition, clients may incur additional fees and expenses, including custodial fees, transfer taxes,

withholding fees, country tax or delivery fees, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. For more information regarding our brokerage practices, see Item 12 below.

Schwab does not charge transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

Fidelity Brokerage Services ("Fidelity") eliminated transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds for clients who opt into electronic delivery of statements or maintain at least \$1 million in assets at Fidelity. Clients who do not meet either criteria will be subject to transaction fees charged by Fidelity for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

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). This may result in the layering of fees, as such fees are borne by investors in those vehicles, including our clients, in addition to management fees paid directly to us. Clients who subscribe to our Portfolio Management or Business Management Services may also pay additional fees to unaffiliated third-party investment advisers who provide advisory services to some or all of the assets that are under our advisement.

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## **Termination & Refunds**

### *Portfolio Management and Business Management Services:*

We charge our advisory fees quarterly in arrears. If you wish to terminate our services, you need to contact us in writing and state that you wish to cancel the advisory agreement. Upon receipt of your letter of termination, we will proceed to delink our firm from your account and charge you a pro-rata advisory fee(s) for services rendered up to the point of termination.

### *Financial Planning & Consulting/Tax Preparation:*

Clients may terminate their agreement at any time before the delivery of a financial plan or the completion of the tax preparation service by providing written notice. For purposes of calculating refunds, all work performed by us up to the point of termination shall be calculated at the hourly fee currently in effect. If applicable, Clients will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned fees based on the time and effort expended by our firm.

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## **Commissionable Securities Sales**

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions through UPTIQ Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC (together with UPTIQ, Inc. and its affiliates, "UPTIQ"). Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus") is a minority investor in UPTIQ, Inc. UPTIQ is compensated by sharing in the revenue earned by such third-party financial institutions for serving our clients. Although the revenue paid to UPTIQ benefits UPTIQ Inc.'s investors, including Focus, our parent company, no Focus affiliate will receive any compensation from UPTIQ that is attributable to our clients' transactions. Further information on this conflict of interest is available in Item 10 of this Brochure.

We help our clients obtain certain insurance solutions from unaffiliated, third-party insurance brokers by introducing clients to our affiliate, Focus Risk Solutions, LLC ("FRS"), a wholly owned

subsidiary of our parent company, Focus Financial Partners, LLC. FRS has arrangements with certain third-party insurance brokers (the “Brokers”) under which the Brokers assist our clients with regulated insurance sales activity. If FRS refers one of our clients to a Broker and there is a subsequent purchase of insurance through the Broker, then FRS will receive a portion of the upfront and/or ongoing commissions paid to the Broker by the insurance carrier with which the policy was placed. The amount of revenue earned by FRS for the sale of these insurance products will vary over time in response to market conditions. The amount of insurance commission revenue earned by FRS is considered for purposes of determining the amount of additional compensation that certain of our financial professionals are entitled to receive. The amount of revenue earned by FRS for a particular insurance product will also differ from the amount of revenue earned by FRS for other types of insurance products. Further information on this conflict of interest is available in Item 10 of this Brochure.

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

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements**

Our firm has the following types of clients:

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

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- Our firm requires a minimum account balance of \$1,000,000 for our Portfolio Management services. Generally, this minimum account balance requirement is not negotiable and would be required throughout the course of the client’s relationship with our firm. For clients who have assets under \$1,000,000 and are to receive a written Financial Plan, a minimum fee of \$12,500 will apply.

It is important to note that these minimum service fees and account requirements may be waived at the firm’s discretion.

Clients who opt into electronic delivery of statements or maintain at least \$1 million in assets at Fidelity will not be charged transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

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

Our investment advice is based on a long-term investment approach that incorporates globally diversified, asset allocation strategies. When formulating our investment advice and/or managing

client assets, we ensure the investment strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives and goals, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations.

## **Methods of Analysis**

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Security analysis methods may include analyzing the economic characteristics of sectors and asset classes as well as some fundamental and technical analysis. The main sources of information include financial publications, research materials provided by other investment institutions, corporate rating services, annual reports, prospectuses, and company press releases.

**Fundamental Analysis:** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the security is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Technical Analysis:** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement. Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Mutual Fund and/or Exchange Traded Fund ("ETF") Analysis:** Analysis of the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. The underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF are also reviewed in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the Client's portfolio. The funds or ETFs are monitored in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as our firm does not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the Client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the Client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the Client's portfolio.

## **Investment Strategies & Asset Classes**

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There are several types of asset allocation strategies based on investment goals, risk tolerance, time frames and diversification. We subscribe to the form of asset allocation called the Core-Satellite Asset Allocation. Core-Satellite allocation strategies generally contain a 'core' strategic element making up the most significant portion of the portfolio, while applying a tactical 'satellite' strategy that makes up a smaller part of the portfolio. In this way, core-satellite allocation strategies are a hybrid of the strategic and tactical allocation strategies.

- **Core - Strategic Asset Allocation:** The primary goal of a strategic asset allocation is to create an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Generally speaking, strategic asset allocation strategies are agnostic to economic environments, i.e., they do not change their allocation postures relative to changing market or economic conditions. Investments used within the Core include cost-effective and tax efficient index funds and exchange-traded funds. Core investments are designed to deliver asset class returns available from the markets. This investment style does not actively pick specific outperforming stocks or bonds but instead follow the principals of Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT).
- **Satellite - Tactical Asset Allocation:** Tactical asset allocation is a strategy in which an investor takes a more active approach that tries to position a portfolio into those assets, asset classes and/or sectors, or that show the most potential for perceived gains. While an original asset mix is formulated much like strategic and dynamic portfolio, tactical strategies are often traded more actively and are free to move entirely in and out of their core asset classes.

**Asset Allocation:** The implementation of an investment strategy that attempts to balance risk versus reward by adjusting the percentage of each asset in an investment portfolio according to the investor's risk tolerance, goals and investment time frame. Asset allocation is based on the principle that different assets perform differently in different market and economic conditions. A fundamental justification for asset allocation is the notion that different asset classes offer returns that are not perfectly correlated, hence diversification reduces the overall risk in terms of the variability of returns for a given level of expected return.

Although risk is reduced as long as correlations are not perfect, it is typically forecast (wholly or in part) based on statistical relationships (like correlation and variance) that existed over some past period. Expectations for return are often derived in the same way.

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

**Modern Portfolio Theory ("MPT"):** A mathematical framework for assembling a portfolio of assets such that the expected return is maximized for a given level of risk, defined as variance. Its key insight is that an asset's risk and return should not be assessed by itself, but by how it contributes to a portfolio's overall risk and return. MPT assumes that investors are risk averse, meaning that given two portfolios that offer the same expected return, investors will prefer the less risky one. Thus, an investor will take on increased risk only if compensated by higher expected returns. Conversely, an investor who wants higher expected returns must accept more risk. The exact trade-off will be the same for all investors, but different investors will evaluate the trade-off differently based on individual risk aversion characteristics. The implication is that a rational investor will not invest in



a portfolio if a second portfolio exists with a more favorable risk-expected return profile – i.e., if for that level of risk an alternative portfolio exists that has better expected returns.

**Long-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, we purchase securities with the idea of holding them for a relatively long time (typically held for at least a year). A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell.

There are a variety of investment vehicles we employ in client portfolios including:

**Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”):** An ETF is a type of Investment Company (usually, an open-end fund or unit investment trust) whose primary objective is to achieve the same return as a particular market index. The vast majority of ETFs are designed to track an index, so their performance is close to that of an index mutual fund, but they are not exact duplicates. A tracking error, or the difference between the returns of a fund and the returns of the index, can arise due to differences in composition, management fees, expenses, and handling of dividends. ETFs benefit from continuous pricing; they can be bought and sold on a stock exchange throughout the trading day. Because ETFs trade like stocks, you can place orders just like with individual stocks - such as limit orders, good-until-canceled orders, stop loss orders etc. They can also be sold short. Traditional mutual funds are bought and redeemed based on their net asset values (“NAV”) at the end of the day. ETFs are bought and sold at the market prices on the exchanges, which resemble the underlying NAV but are independent of it. However, arbitrageurs will ensure that ETF prices are kept very close to the NAV of the underlying securities.

Although an investor can buy as few as one share of an ETF, most buy in board lots. Anything bought in less than a board lot will increase the cost to the investor. Anyone can buy any ETF no matter where in the world it trades. This provides a benefit over mutual funds, which generally can only be bought in the country in which they are registered.

One of the main features of ETFs are their low annual fees, especially when compared to traditional mutual funds. The passive nature of index investing, reduced marketing, and distribution and accounting expenses all contribute to the lower fees. However, individual investors must pay a brokerage commission to purchase and sell ETF shares; for those investors who trade frequently, this can significantly increase the cost of investing in ETFs. That said, with the advent of low-cost brokerage fees, small or frequent purchases of ETFs are becoming more cost efficient.

**Mutual Funds:** A mutual fund is a company that pools money from many investors and invests the money in a variety of differing security types based the objectives of the fund. The portfolio of the fund consists of the combined holdings it owns. Each share represents an investor’s proportionate ownership of the fund’s holdings and the income those holdings generate. The price that investors pay for mutual fund shares is the fund’s per share net asset value (“NAV”) plus any shareholder fees that the fund imposes at the time of purchase (such as sales loads). Investors typically cannot ascertain the exact make-up of a fund’s portfolio at any given time, nor can they directly influence which securities the fund manager buys and sells or the timing of those trades. With an individual stock, investors can obtain real-time (or close to real-time) pricing information with relative ease by checking financial websites or by calling a broker or your investment adviser. Investors can also monitor how a stock’s price changes from hour to hour—or even second to second. By contrast, with a mutual fund, the price at which an investor purchases or redeems shares will typically depend on the fund’s NAV, which is calculated daily after market close.

The benefits of investing through mutual funds include: (a) Mutual funds are professionally managed by an investment adviser who researches, selects, and monitors the performance of the securities purchased by the fund; (b) Mutual funds typically have the benefit of diversification, which is an investing strategy that generally sums up as “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” Spreading investments across a wide range of companies and industry sectors can help lower the risk if a company or sector fails. Some investors find it easier to achieve diversification through ownership of mutual funds rather than through ownership of individual stocks or bonds.; (c) Some mutual funds accommodate investors who do not have a lot of money to invest by setting relatively low dollar amounts for initial purchases, subsequent monthly purchases, or both.; and (d) At any time, mutual fund investors can readily redeem their shares at the current NAV, less any fees and charges assessed on redemption.

Mutual funds also have features that some investors might view as disadvantages: (a) Investors must pay annual fees, and other expenses regardless of how the fund performs. Depending on the timing of their investment, investors may also have to pay taxes on any capital gains distribution they receive. This includes instances where the fund went on to perform poorly after purchasing shares.; (b) Investors typically cannot ascertain the exact make-up of a fund’s portfolio at any given time, nor can they directly influence which securities the fund manager buys and sells or the timing of those trades.; and (c) With an individual stock, investors can obtain real-time (or close to real-time) pricing information with relative ease by checking financial websites or by calling a broker or your investment adviser. Investors can also monitor how a stock’s price changes from hour to hour—or even second to second. By contrast, with a mutual fund, the price at which an investor purchases or redeems shares will typically depend on the fund’s NAV, which the fund might not calculate until many hours after the investor placed the order.

In general, mutual funds must calculate their NAV at least once every business day, typically after the major U.S. exchanges close. When investors buy and hold an individual stock or bond, the investor must pay income tax each year on the dividends or interest the investor receives. However, the investor will not have to pay any capital gains tax until the investor actually sells and makes a profit. Mutual funds are different. When an investor buys and holds mutual fund shares, the investor will owe income tax on any ordinary dividends in the year the investor receives or reinvests them. Moreover, in addition to owing taxes on any personal capital gains when the investor sells shares, the investor may have to pay taxes each year on the fund’s capital gains. That is because the law requires mutual funds to distribute capital gains to shareholders if they sell securities for a profit and cannot use losses to offset these gains.

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

Some examples of fixed-income investments include treasuries, money market instruments, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds and international bonds. The primary risk associated with fixed-income investments is the borrower defaulting on his payment. Other considerations include exchange rate risk for international bonds and interest rate risk for longer-dated securities. The most common type of fixed-income security is a bond. Bonds are issued by federal governments, local municipalities and major corporations. Fixed-income securities are



recommended for investors seeking a diverse portfolio; however, the percentage of the portfolio dedicated to fixed income depends on your own personal investment style.

There is also an opportunity to diversify the fixed-income component of a portfolio. Riskier fixed-income products, such as junk bonds and longer-dated products, should comprise a lower percentage of your overall portfolio.

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

Certain additional risk factors relating to debt securities include: (a) When interest rates are declining, investors have to reinvest their interest income and any return of principal, whether scheduled or unscheduled, at lower prevailing rates.; (b) Inflation causes tomorrow's dollar to be worth less than today's; in other words, it reduces the purchasing power of a bond investor's future interest payments and principal, collectively known as "cash flows." Inflation also leads to higher interest rates, which in turn leads to lower bond prices.; (c) Debt securities may be sensitive to economic changes, political and corporate developments, and interest rate changes. Investors can also expect periods of economic change and uncertainty, which can result in increased volatility of market prices and yields of certain debt securities. For example, prices of these securities can be affected by financial contracts held by the issuer or third parties (such as derivatives) relating to the security or other assets or indices.; (d) Debt securities may contain redemption or call provisions entitling their issuers to redeem them at a specified price on a date prior to maturity. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a lower interest rate market, the account would have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in decreased income to investors.

Usually, a bond is called at or close to par value. This subjects investors that paid a premium for their bond risk of lost principal. In reality, prices of callable bonds are unlikely to move much above the call price if lower interest rates make the bond likely to be called.; (e) If the issuer of a debt security defaults on its obligations to pay interest or principal or is the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, the account may incur losses or expenses in seeking recovery of amounts owed to it.; (f) There may be little trading in the secondary market for particular debt securities, which may affect adversely the account's ability to value accurately or dispose of such debt securities. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the value and/or liquidity of debt securities.

Our firm attempts to reduce the risks described above through diversification of the client's portfolio and by credit analysis of each issuer, as well as by monitoring broad economic trends and corporate and legislative developments, but there can be no assurance that our firm will be successful in doing so. Credit ratings for debt securities provided by rating agencies reflect an evaluation of the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. The rating of an issuer is a rating agency's view of past and future potential developments related to the issuer and may not necessarily reflect actual outcomes. There can be a lag between the time of developments relating to an issuer and the time a rating is assigned and updated.

We generally invest clients' cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, we

try to achieve the highest return on our clients' cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to comprehensive portfolio management service.

## **Risk of Loss**

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

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

**Company Risk:** When investing in stock positions, there is always a certain level of company or industry specific risk that is inherent in each investment. This is also referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that the company will perform poorly or have its value reduced based on factors specific to the company or its industry. For example, if a company's employees go on strike or the company receives unfavorable media attention for its actions, the value of the company may be reduced.

**Credit Risk:** Credit risk can be a factor in situations where an investment's performance relies on a borrower's repayment of borrowed funds. With credit risk, an investor can experience a loss or unfavorable performance if a borrower does not repay the borrowed funds as expected or required. Investment holdings that involve forms of indebtedness (i.e. borrowed funds) are subject to credit risk.

**Currency Risk:** Fluctuations in the value of the currency in which your investment is denominated may affect the value of your investment and thus, your investment may be worth more or less in the future. All currency is subject to swings in valuation and thus, regardless of the currency denomination of any particular investment you own, currency risk is a realistic risk measure. That said, currency risk is generally a much larger factor for investment instruments denominated in currencies other than the most widely used currencies (U.S. dollar, British pound, German mark, Euro, Japanese Yen, French Franc, etc.).

**Cybersecurity and Operational Risk:** The computer systems, networks and devices used by Cardinal Point and service providers to us and our clients to carry out routine business operations employ a variety of protections designed to prevent damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons and security breaches. Despite the various protections utilized, systems, networks, or devices potentially can be breached. A client could be negatively impacted as a result of a cybersecurity breach.

Cybersecurity breaches can include unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices; infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code; and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes, or website access or functionality.

Cybersecurity breaches may cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to a client; impediments to trading; the inability by us and other service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs; as well as the inadvertent release of confidential information.

Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity breaches affecting issuers of securities in which a client invests; governmental and other regulatory authorities; exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, and other financial institutions; and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred by these entities in order to prevent any cybersecurity breaches in the future.

**Economic Risk:** The prevailing economic environment is important to the health of all businesses. Some companies, however, are more sensitive to changes in the domestic or global economy than others. These types of companies are often referred to as cyclical businesses. Countries in which a large portion of businesses are in cyclical industries are thus also very economically sensitive and carry a higher amount of economic risk. If an investment is issued by a party located in a country that experiences wide swings from an economic standpoint or in situations where certain elements of an investment instrument are hinged on dealings in such countries, the investment instrument will generally be subject to a higher level of economic risk.

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

**ETF & Mutual Fund Risk:** When investing in an ETF or mutual fund, you will bear additional expenses based on your pro rata share of the ETF's or mutual fund's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. Clients will also incur brokerage costs when purchasing ETFs.

**Financial Risk:** Financial risk is represented by internal disruptions within an investment or the issuer of an investment that can lead to unfavorable performance of the investment. Examples of financial risk can be found in cases like Enron or many of the dot com companies that were caught up in a period of extraordinary market valuations that were not based on solid financial footings of the companies.

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

**Inflation Risk:** Inflation risk involves the concern that in the future, your investment or proceeds from your investment will not be worth what they are today. Throughout time, the prices of resources and end-user products generally increase and thus, the same general goods and products today will likely be more expensive in the future. The longer an investment is held, the greater the chance that the proceeds from that investment will be worth less in the future than what they are today. Said another way, a dollar tomorrow will likely get you less than what it can today.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Certain investments involve the payment of a fixed or variable rate of interest to the investment holder. Once an investor has acquired or has acquired the rights to an investment that pays a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest, changes in overall interest rates in the market will affect the value of the interest-paying investment(s) they hold. In general, changes in prevailing interest rates in the market will have an inverse relationship to the value of existing, interest paying investments. In other words, as interest rates move up, the value of an instrument paying a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest will go down. The reverse is generally true as well.

**Legal/Regulatory Risk:** Certain investments or the issuers of investments may be affected by changes in state or federal laws or in the prevailing regulatory framework under which the investment instrument or its issuer is regulated. Changes in the regulatory environment or tax laws can affect the performance of certain investments or issuers of those investments and thus, can have a negative impact on the overall performance of such investments.

**Liquidity Risk:** Certain assets may not be readily converted into cash or may have a very limited market in which they trade. Thus, you may experience the risk that your investment or assets within your investment may not be able to be liquidated quickly, thus, extending the period of time by which you may receive the proceeds from your investment. Liquidity risk can also result in unfavorable pricing when exiting (i.e. not being able to quickly get out of an investment before the price drops significantly) a particular investment and therefore, can have a negative impact on investment returns.

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

**Market Risk:** The value of your portfolio may decrease if the value of an individual company or multiple companies in the portfolio decreases or if our belief about a company's intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies perform, the value of your portfolio could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, in response to changes in the market, and you could lose money. Investment risks include price risk as may be observed by a drop in a security's price due to company specific events (e.g. earnings disappointment or downgrade in the rating of a bond) or general market risk (e.g. such as a "bear" market when stock values fall in general). For fixed-income securities, a period of rising interest rates could erode the value of a bond since bond values generally fall as bond yields go up. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Certain illnesses spread rapidly and have the potential to significantly and adversely affect the global economy. Epidemics and/or pandemics have and may further result in, among other things, closing borders, enhanced health screenings, healthcare service preparation and delivery, quarantines, cancellations, disruptions to supply chains and customer activity, as well as general concern and uncertainty. The impact of such epidemics and/or pandemics that may arise in the

future have the potential to affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the global securities and commodities markets, including liquidity, in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. The impact of infectious diseases in developing or emerging market countries may be greater due to less established health care systems. Health crises caused by the recent coronavirus outbreak may exacerbate other preexisting political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The impact of the outbreak may last for an extended period of time and may have material adverse impacts.

**Market Timing Risk:** Market timing can include high risk of loss since it looks at an aggregate market versus a specific security. Timing risk explains the potential for missing out on beneficial movements in price due to an error in timing. This could cause harm to the value of an investor's portfolio because of purchasing too high or selling too low.

### Item 9: Disciplinary Information

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

### Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

Neither our firm nor any of its management persons is registered or have an application pending to be registered with a broker-dealer.

Neither our firm nor any of its management persons is a commodity broker/futures commission merchant, a commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor or an associated person for the foregoing entities or has an application for registration pending.

#### **Focus Financial Partners**

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As noted above in response to Item 4, certain funds affiliated with CD&R collectively are indirect majority owners of Focus Inc., and certain funds affiliated with Stone Point are indirect owners of Focus Inc. Because Cardinal Point is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., CD&R and Stone Point investment vehicles are indirect owners of Cardinal Point.

#### UPTIQ Credit and Cash Management Solutions

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions through UPTIQ Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC (together with UPTIQ, Inc. and its affiliates, "UPTIQ"). These third-party financial institutions are banks and non-banks that offer credit and cash management solutions to our clients, as well as certain other unaffiliated third parties that provide administrative and settlement services to facilitate UPTIQ's cash management solutions. UPTIQ acts as an intermediary to facilitate our clients' access to these credit and cash management solutions.

We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus"). Focus is a minority investor in UPTIQ, Inc. UPTIQ is compensated by sharing in the revenue earned by such third-party financial institutions for serving our clients. Although the revenue paid to UPTIQ benefits UPTIQ Inc.'s investors, including Focus, no Focus affiliate will receive any compensation from UPTIQ that is attributable to our clients' transactions.

For services provided by UPTIQ to clients of other Focus firms and when legally permissible, UPTIQ shares a portion of this earned revenue with our affiliate, Focus Solutions Holdings, LLC ("FSH"). Such compensation to FSH is also revenue for FSH's and our common parent company, Focus. This compensation to FSH does not come from credit or cash management solutions provided to any of our clients. However, the volume generated by our clients' transactions allows Focus to negotiate better terms with UPTIQ, which benefits Focus. We mitigate this conflict by: (1) fully and fairly disclosing the material facts concerning the above arrangements to our clients, including in this Brochure; and (2) offering UPTIQ's solutions to clients on a strictly nondiscretionary and fully disclosed basis, and not as part of any discretionary investment services. Additionally, we note that clients who use UPTIQ's services will receive product-specific disclosure from the third-party financial institutions and other unaffiliated third-party intermediaries that provide services to our clients.

We have an additional conflict of interest when we recommend credit solutions to our clients because our interest in continuing to receive investment advisory fees from client accounts gives us a financial incentive to recommend that clients borrow money rather than liquidate some or all of the assets we manage.

### Credit Solutions

Clients retain the right to pledge assets in accounts generally, subject to any restrictions imposed by clients' custodians. While credit solution programs that we offer facilitate secured loans through third-party financial institutions, clients are free instead to work directly with institutions outside such programs. Because of the limited number of participating third-party financial institutions, clients may be limited in their ability to obtain as favorable loan terms as if the client were to work directly with other banks to negotiate loan terms or obtain other financial arrangements.

Clients should also understand that pledging assets in an account to secure a loan involves additional risk and restrictions. A third-party financial institution has the authority to liquidate all or part of the pledged securities at any time, without prior notice to clients and without their consent, to maintain required collateral levels. The third-party financial institution also has the right to call client loans and require repayment within a short period of time; if the client cannot repay the loan within the specified time period, the third-party financial institution will have the right to force the sale of pledged assets to repay those loans. Selling assets to maintain collateral levels or calling loans may result in asset sales and realized losses in a declining market, leading to the permanent loss of capital. These sales also may have adverse tax consequences. Interest payments and any other loan-related fees are borne by clients and are in addition to the advisory fees that clients pay us for managing assets, including assets that are pledged as collateral. The returns on pledged assets may be less than the account fees and interest paid by the account. Clients should consider carefully and skeptically any recommendation to pursue a more aggressive investment strategy in order to support the cost of borrowing, particularly the risks and costs of any such strategy. More generally, before borrowing funds, a client should carefully review the loan agreement, loan application, and other forms and determine that the loan is consistent with the client's long-term financial goals and presents risks consistent with the client's financial circumstances and risk tolerance.



We use UPTIQ to facilitate credit solutions for our clients.

### Cash Management Solutions

For cash management programs, certain third-party intermediaries provide administrative and settlement services to our clients. Engaging the third-party financial institutions and other intermediaries to provide cash management solutions does not alter the manner in which we treat cash for billing purposes. Clients should understand that in rare circumstances, depending on interest rates and other economic and market factors, the yields on cash management solutions could be lower than the aggregate fees and expenses charged by the third-party financial institutions, the intermediaries referenced above, and us. Consequently, in these rare circumstances, a client could experience a negative overall investment return with respect to those cash investments. Nonetheless, it might still be reasonable for a client to participate in a cash management program if the client prefers to hold cash at the third-party financial institutions rather than at other financial institutions (e.g., to take advantage of FDIC insurance).

We use UPTIQ to facilitate cash management solutions for our clients.

### Focus Risk Solutions

We help clients obtain certain insurance products from unaffiliated insurance companies by introducing clients to our affiliate, Focus Risk Solutions, LLC ("FRS"), a wholly owned subsidiary of our parent company, Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus"). FRS acts as an intermediary to facilitate our clients' access to insurance products. FRS has agreements with certain third-party insurance brokers (the "Brokers") under which the Brokers assist our clients with regulated insurance sales activity.

If FRS refers one of our clients to a Broker and there is a subsequent purchase of insurance through the Broker, FRS will receive a portion of the upfront and/or ongoing commissions paid to the Broker by the insurance carrier with which the policy was placed. The amount of revenue earned by FRS for the sale of these insurance products will vary over time in response to market conditions. The amount of insurance commission revenue earned by FRS is considered for purposes of determining the amount of additional compensation that certain of our financial professionals are entitled to receive. The amount of revenue earned by FRS for a particular insurance product will also differ from the amount of revenue earned by FRS for other types of insurance products. This revenue is also revenue for our and FRS's common parent company, Focus. Accordingly, we have a conflict of interest when recommending FRS's services to clients because of the compensation to certain of our financial professionals and to our affiliates, FRS and Focus. We address this conflict by: (1) fully and fairly disclosing the material facts concerning the above arrangements to our clients, including this Brochure; and (2) offering FRS solutions to clients on a strictly nondiscretionary and fully disclosed basis, and not as part of any discretionary investment services. Additionally, we note that clients who use FRS's services will receive product-specific disclosure from the Brokers and insurance carriers and other unaffiliated third-party intermediaries that provide services to our clients.

The insurance premium is ultimately dictated by the insurance carrier, although in some circumstances the Brokers or FRS may have the ability to influence an insurance carrier to lower the premium of the policy. The final rate may be higher or lower than the prevailing market rate, and may be higher than if the policy was purchased directly through the Broker without the assistance of

FRS. We can offer no assurances that the rates offered to you by the insurance carrier are the lowest possible rates available in the marketplace.

#### Affiliate Private Investment Vehicles

Cardinal Point has a business relationship with other Focus firms that is material to our advisory business or to our clients. Under certain circumstances we offer our clients the opportunity to invest in pooled investment vehicles managed by Origin or SCS. Origin and SCS provide these services to such clients pursuant to limited liability company agreement or limited partnership agreement documents and in exchange for a fund-level management fee and performance fee paid by our clients and not by us. Origin and SCS, like Cardinal Point, are indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of Focus LLC and are therefore under common control with Cardinal Point. The allocation of our clients' assets to Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles, rather than to an unaffiliated investment manager, increases Origin's or SCS's, and indirectly, Focus LLC's, compensation and revenue. As a consequence, Focus LLC has a financial incentive to cause Cardinal Point to recommend that our clients invest in Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles, which creates a conflict of interest with Cardinal Point clients who invest, or are eligible to invest, in Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles. More information about Focus LLC can be found at [www.focusfinancialpartners.com](http://www.focusfinancialpartners.com).

We believe this conflict is mitigated because of the following factors: (1) this arrangement is based on our reasonable belief that investing a portion of Cardinal Point's clients' assets in Origin's or SCS's investment vehicles is in the best interests of the clients; (2) Origin, SCS and their investment vehicles have met the due diligence and performance standards that we apply to outside, unaffiliated investment managers; (3) clients will invest in the pooled investment vehicles on a nondiscretionary basis through the completion of subscription documentation; (4) subject to redemption restrictions, we are willing and able to reallocate Cardinal Point client assets to other unaffiliated or affiliated investment vehicles, in part or in whole, if Origin's or SCS's services become unsatisfactory in our judgment and at our sole discretion; and (5) we have fully and fairly disclosed the material facts regarding this relationship to you, including in this Brochure, and Cardinal Point clients who invest in Origin's or SCS's pooled investment vehicles have given their informed consent to those investments.

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

We recognize that the personal investment transactions of employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates.



Furthermore, our firm has established a Code of Ethics which applies to all of our associated persons. The Code of Ethics sets forth certain key policies, including policies with respect to personal securities transactions and insider trading, and specifies the responsibility of all employees to act in accordance with their fiduciary duty to clients. We require all of our supervised persons to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our firm and supervised persons must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. A copy of our Code of Ethics will be provided promptly upon request.

Our employees are permitted to invest for their own accounts in the same securities, or related securities, that we invest in on behalf of or recommend to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our employees will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics. In addition, our employees are prohibited from buying or selling a security within 24 hours of buying or selling the same security for our clients unless included in a block trade with clients. If employee accounts are not included in a block trade, personal accounts will always trade last.

It is also important to note that Cardinal Point recommends that certain of our clients invest in private investment funds managed by affiliated Focus partner firms. Please refer to Items 4, 5 and 10 for additional information.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

### Selecting a Brokerage Firm

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While our firm does not maintain physical custody of client assets, we are deemed to have custody of certain client assets if given the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts (see *Item 15 Custody*, below). Furthermore, we are deemed to have custody of a subset of clients that subscribe to our Business Management services because of our ability to conduct bill paying from the assets of those clients' accounts (see *Item 15 Custody*, below). For our other clients, we do not accept custody of their assets. Regardless of whether we are deemed to have custody, client assets are maintained by a qualified custodian. Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. The factors considered, among others, are these:

- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- 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 Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC (U.S.), Fidelity Clearing Canada (Canada), National Bank Independent Network (Canada), Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. and National Advisors Trust Company (“Our Custodians”), qualified custodians from whom our firm is independently owned and operated. Our Custodians offer services to independent investment advisers which includes custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. Our Custodians enable us to obtain many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges. Our Custodians do not charge client accounts separately for custodial services. Client accounts will be charged transaction fees, commissions or other fees on trades that are executed or settle into the client’s custodial account. Transaction fees may be charged via individual transaction charges. These fees are negotiated with Our Custodians and are generally discounted from customary retail commission rates. This benefits clients because the overall fee paid is often lower than would be otherwise.

Our Custodians may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. Research products and services provided by Our Custodians 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 by Our Custodians to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. The aforementioned research and brokerage services qualify for the safe harbor exemption defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Our Custodians do not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm’s use. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which our firm has investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times 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 creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm’s choice of Our Custodians as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend Our Custodians and has determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm’s clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

Our clients may pay transaction fees or commissions to Our Custodians that are higher than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where our firm determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the client as a whole.

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. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

## **Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not receive soft dollars in excess of what is allowed by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The safe harbor research products and services obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients but not necessarily all at any one particular time.

## **Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars**

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Our firm does not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

## **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

## **Directed Brokerage**

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Neither our firm nor any of our firm's representatives have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers-dealers and/or custodians with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected. Our firm routinely recommends that clients direct us to execute through specified broker-dealers. Our firm recommends the use of Our Custodians. Each client will be required to establish their account(s) with Our Custodians if not already done. Please note that not all advisers have this requirement.

## **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

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Where Cardinal Point is able, Cardinal Point will purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time in its attempt to obtain "best execution", to negotiate more favorable commission rates, or to allocate equitably among Cardinal Point's clients. This blocking of trades permits the trading of aggregate blocks of securities composed of assets from multiple clients' accounts so long as transaction costs are shared equally and on a pro-rated basis between all accounts included in any such block. Block trading allows Cardinal Point to execute equity trades in a timelier, equitable manner and seeks to reduce overall commission charges to clients. As referenced in the section of this Disclosure Brochure that discusses directed brokerage, in the event that a client directs Cardinal Point to use a particular broker-dealer, Cardinal Point may not be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Cardinal Point.

## **Trade Error**

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On occasion, we may make an error in executing securities transactions for a client account. For example, a security may be erroneously purchased for the account instead of sold, or a trade may be entered for an incorrect number of shares. In these situations, our firm adheres to trade error policies and procedures that generally seek to rectify the error by placing the client account in a similar position as it would have been if there had been no error. Depending on the circumstances, and subject to applicable legal and contractual requirements, various corrective steps may be taken, including canceling the trade, correcting an allocation, or taking the trade into our trade error

account and reimbursing the client account. Our firm generally does not consider errors that are corrected prior to settlement, errors committed by brokers or other third parties, or errors related to reporting, model portfolios or systems implementation to be trade errors.

### **Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

We review accounts on at least a quarterly basis for our clients subscribing to our Portfolio Management services, as well as our business management services. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we meet with clients who subscribe to our Portfolio Management services.

Jeffrey Sheldon, CEO and Matthew Zienty, Chief Compliance Officer, conduct reviews of all client accounts. We may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

### **Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation**

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

Cardinal Point's parent company is Focus LLC. From time to time, Focus LLC holds partnership meetings and other industry and best-practices conferences, which typically include Cardinal Point, other Focus LLC firms and external attendees. These meetings are first and foremost intended to provide training or education to personnel of Focus LLC firms, including Cardinal Point. However, the meetings do provide sponsorship opportunities for asset managers, asset custodians, vendors and other third-party service providers. Sponsorship fees allow these companies to advertise their products and services to Focus LLC firms, including Cardinal Point. Although the participation of Focus LLC firm personnel in these meetings is not preconditioned on the achievement of a sales target for any conference sponsor, this practice could nonetheless be deemed a conflict as the marketing and education activities conducted, and the access granted, at such meetings and conferences could cause Cardinal Point to focus on those conference sponsors in the course of its duties. Focus LLC attempts to mitigate any such conflict by allocating the sponsorship fees only to defraying the cost of the meeting or future meetings and not as revenue for itself or any affiliate, including Cardinal Point. Conference sponsorship fees are not dependent on assets placed with any specific provider or revenue generated by such asset placement.

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. provided conference sponsorship to Focus LLC during the last fiscal year.

## **Client Referrals**

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Our firm provides cash or non-cash compensation directly or indirectly to unaffiliated persons for the referral of prospective clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206(4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the “Advisers Act”). Such compensation arrangements will not result in higher costs to the referred client. In this regard, our firm maintains a written agreement with each unaffiliated person that is compensated for testimonials or endorsements (which include client referrals) in an aggregate amount of \$1,000 or more (or the equivalent value in non-cash compensation) over a trailing 12-month period in compliance with Rule 206(4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and applicable state and federal laws. The following information will be disclosed clearly and prominently to referred prospective clients at the time of each referral:

- Whether or not the unaffiliated person is a current client of our firm,
- A description of the cash or non-cash compensation provided directly or indirectly by our firm to the unaffiliated person in exchange for the referral, if applicable, and
- A brief statement of any material conflicts of interest on the part of the unaffiliated person giving the referral resulting from our firm’s relationship with such unaffiliated person.

In cases where state law requires licensure of solicitors, our firm ensures that no solicitation fees are paid unless the solicitor is registered as an investment adviser representative of our firm. If our firm is paying solicitation fees to another registered investment adviser, the licensure of individuals is the other firm’s responsibility.

## **Item 15: Custody**

### **Deduction of Advisory Fees:**

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”, as well as a subset of our clients who subscribe to our business management services as described below under “Bill Paying Services”. All of 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.

### **Bill Paying Services:**

Representatives of our firm have access to certain banking information and login information for ACH or credit card billing for a subset of our clients who subscribe to our Business Management services. As such, our firm is deemed to have custody of those clients’ assets. In accordance with Rule 206(4)-2 under the Advisers Act (the “Custody Rule”), the client funds and securities of which our firm has custody over are verified by surprise examination at least once during each calendar year by an independent public accountant at a time that is chosen by the accountant without prior notice or announcement to our firm and that is irregular from year to year.

### **Third Party Money Movement:**

On February 21, 2017, the SEC issued a no-action letter (“Letter”) with respect to The Custody Rule. 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 authorization (“SLOA”) is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with our 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.

Clients are encouraged to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Cardinal Point’s portfolio management services are generally provided on a discretionary basis. Cardinal Point may also provide non-discretionary investment advice. Where Cardinal Point has discretionary management authority, Cardinal Point will be authorized to determine the securities to be bought or sold for the client’s account(s), the amount of securities to be brought or sold, and the broker or dealer to be used to execute client securities transactions. Each client may (but typically do not) request reasonable limitations on Cardinal Point’s discretionary authority, which the firm will consider on a case-by-case basis.

The Portfolio Management Agreement, and the agreement between the client and the custodian/broker-dealer for the account, grant discretionary authority to Cardinal Point. The client’s written agreement with the custodian also grants a limited power of attorney to Cardinal Point to effect transactions in the client’s custodial account.

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

Unless specified in the custodial account opening paperwork, Cardinal Point shall be responsible for directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and for making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's assets. All proxy material and corporate actions shall be sent to Cardinal Point to decide the appropriate voting strategy based upon specific guidelines. With respect to most issues, and absent mitigating circumstances and/or conflicts of interest, the firm generally votes proxies consistent with the recommendation of the senior management of the issuer.

In addition, a client may direct how the firm votes in a particular situation. Nonetheless, if a conflict arises, the firm will review and seek to resolve it in the best interests of the client.

A client may request a written copy of Cardinal Point's policies and procedures relating to proxy voting or information relating to how Cardinal Point voted any client's specific securities, by contacting Matthew Zienty in writing at Cardinal Point Capital Management, ULC., 1243 Islington Ave., Suite 903 Toronto, ON M8X 1Y9.

## **Item 18: Financial Information**

### **Inclusion of a Balance Sheet**

We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because we do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance and we do not have financial condition or commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients. We have never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.