

SYMETRA INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY



BROCHURE

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This brochure (“**Brochure**”) provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Symetra Investment Management Company (“**SIM**,” “**we**” or “**us**”), an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“**SEC**”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact SIM’s Chief Compliance Officer (“**CCO**”), **Robert Herlihy**, at **+1(860) 746-7403**.

The information included in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about SIM is also available on the SEC’s website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

Registration with the SEC or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2. Material Changes

None

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Item 4. Advisory Business

Firm Ownership

Founded in 2019, SIM is an investment advisory firm with its principal place of business in Farmington, Connecticut, with additional operations in Bellevue, Washington. Symetra Financial Corporation (“SFC”), a Delaware corporation, is the sole shareholder of SIM. SFC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Life Insurance Company, a mutual company (*sougo kaisha*) organized under the laws of Japan (“**Sumitomo Life**”).

Advisory Services

SIM offers discretionary investment advisory services to institutional clients, including institutional clients that control or are under common control with SIM (each an “**Affiliate**”). SIM does not provide retail or consumer advisory services.

SIM’s advisory services generally involve investment strategies in fixed income, derivatives, and alternative asset classes. Accounts are managed in accordance with the investment objectives or guidelines agreed to with the client pursuant to an investment management agreement. Unless otherwise instructed or directed by a client, SIM has the discretionary authority generally to determine the type and amount of investments to be purchased and sold for the account of a client (subject to restrictions on advisory activities set forth in the applicable advisory agreement and any written investment guidelines of the client), and, if applicable, determine the broker-dealers and other intermediaries to be used in connection with a client’s investment transactions. Item 5 and Item 8 provide additional information concerning method(s) of analysis and investment strategy/strategies.

While SIM relies on its own resources and personnel with respect to its business operations, SIM does have shared servicing arrangements in place with certain of its Affiliates in which such Affiliates provide certain services in connection with SIM’s operations and the management of client accounts. Such services include certain back office, information technology, human resources and other support services utilizing certain property, equipment and facilities, and personnel of Affiliates. Such shared personnel are subject to the standards of SIM’s applicable compliance policies and procedures in the performance of their duties related to SIM and the administration of client accounts. SIM has shared servicing arrangements in place with certain of its Affiliates in which SIM is hired to serve as an Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) to provide advisory services as described above to such Affiliates. In addition, SIM has certain officers of its commercial mortgage lending affiliate (See Item 10 for details) who serve in an investment advisory capacity and serve as officers of some of its Affiliates through dual-hatting in order to authorize commercial mortgage lending by the Affiliates.

Assets Under Management

SIM’s regulatory assets under management as of December 31, 2023 (rounded to the nearest dollar) was as follows:

Discretionary:	\$	64,586,358,135
Non-Discretionary:	\$	10,011,843,749
Total:	\$	74,598,201,884

Item 5. Fees and Compensation

Advisory Fees

Compensation for SIM's investment management services is negotiable and typically is based upon a percentage of assets under management. SIM tailors its advisory services based on the needs of the client, and as such, the advisory fee agreed to with the client depends on the scope of services SIM is providing.

SIM generally charges its advisory fee in arrears on either a monthly or quarterly basis. SIM will prorate advisory fees based on the actual number of days for which advisory services have been provided to accommodate any off cycle fundings or liquidations, if applicable.

SIM also charges certain fees in connection with its operations services.

A client can choose to (i) direct its custodian to deduct advisory fees directly from the client's custodian account, or (ii) pay advisory fees directly to SIM outside of the client's custodian account.

Other Account Expenses

In addition to paying the above advisory fees to SIM, pursuant to each client's investment management agreement, client accounts may also be subject to other expenses that are not paid to SIM. These include (if applicable but are not limited to): (i) fees, costs and expenses of third-party service providers that provide legal, administrative, accounting, compliance, consulting, custodial, investment operations, tax, and audit services to SIM in connection with the business and affairs of the client's account (expenses including, but not limited to, research related expenses, expenses related to monitoring investments and costs incurred in carrying out due diligence regardless of whether a particular transaction is consummated (including reasonable travel and accommodation costs)); (ii) legal and tax costs incurred by SIM in connection with the business and affairs of the client's account; (iii) insurance costs and expenses, bank service fees and any electronic transfer fees; (iv) fees and taxes imposed by any federal, state, local or foreign government, governmental agency or regulatory body or self-regulatory organization, including licensing, filing, registration and exemption fees and withholding, transfer and franchise taxes; (v) costs and expenses incurred in connection with the direct investment and reinvestment of the client account's assets, including brokerage commissions, dealer mark-ups, mark-downs and spreads, and related clearing and settlement charges and any other expenses related to buying and selling securities, including any issue or transfer taxes chargeable in connection with any securities transactions and clearing and settlement charges; and (vi) litigation or other extraordinary expenses.

A client can choose to allow its assets to be invested in money market mutual funds, registered open-end and closed-end funds, unregistered private funds, and other similar pooled investment vehicles. In these cases, unless otherwise provided, the client will bear its pro rata share of the investment management and other fees imposed by the specific fund but ultimately borne by such fund's investors and are in addition to the investment management fee paid to SIM. Such fund expenses incurred, if any, will be borne by participating clients in a manner proportionate to such client's participation in a Fund (i.e., a client will not bear a disproportionate amount of transaction expenses relative to its proportion of beneficial ownership in a Fund).

Please also see Item 12 for additional information relating to SIM's brokerage practices.

Item 6. Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

SIM currently does not charge a performance-based fee with respect to its client accounts.

Item 7. Types of Clients

As noted previously in Item 4, SIM offers advisory services to institutional clients, which include certain of its Affiliates and also may include other third-party institutions or entities such as insurance companies and trusts.

Item 8. Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

SIM generally uses fundamental, qualitative, bottom-up investment research to support investment recommendations, primarily with respect to fixed income investments. Analysis of specific investments, as well as macro- and micro-economic trends and industries are generally informed by proprietary and third-party data reviewed and interpreted by SIM.

SIM is primarily focused on fixed income investments, derivatives, and commercial mortgage loan investing. Fixed income investments and debt securities include investment grade rated securities (publicly and privately traded), below investment grade rated securities, bank loans and structured credit (such as asset backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, and collateralized loan obligations).

SIM also invests in alternative asset classes such as private equity, hedge funds, unregistered private funds, and public equities (ETFs). These investments are generally used to diversify risks, advance fixed income investment strategies, allow for tax credit investments, create strategic exposure to specific industries, or to gain passive equity market exposure.

SIM utilizes derivatives primarily for the purpose of hedging exposures inherent in a client's underlying portfolios and/or liabilities, in addition to income generation and replication managed strategies. Hedging strategy applications include general asset/liability management, as well as interest rate or equity market exposure, credit risk, currency risk, and/or liquidity risk embedded in assets or liabilities. Income generation strategies are focused on yield enhancement. Replication strategies are focused on gaining synthetic exposure to otherwise permissible cash market investments, which may include entering into credit default swaps or other derivatives. Derivative instruments include, but are not limited to, options, warrants used in a hedging transaction and not attached to another financial instrument, caps, floors, collars, swaps, swaptions, forwards, futures and other agreements, options or instruments substantially similar thereto or any series or combination thereof, and can be centrally cleared through an exchange, traded bilaterally over the counter, or some combination thereof (partially customizable derivatives executed bilaterally but subject to central clearing).

Certain factors driving SIM's investment process across all affected asset classes are influenced by environmental, social and governance ("ESG") considerations. SIM incorporates certain ESG considerations into its investment process as a means to enhance sound investment decisions and as a conscientious way to conduct its business.

In certain circumstances and as permitted under the investment management agreement with the client, SIM selects and utilizes third-party investment advisers that manage an allocated portion of the client's assets held within its account.

Risk of Loss

The above methods, strategies and investments involve risk of loss to clients, and clients must be prepared

to bear the loss of their entire contribution/investment. In addition, clients must understand that past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, current, and prospective clients (including you) should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable.

Other material risks relating to the foregoing investment strategies include the following:

- *Market Risk.* All our strategies have market risk, which is the risk that the market value of a security will fluctuate, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. These fluctuations could cause a security to be worth less than it was at the time of purchase. Market risk may affect an individual security, a particular sector, or the entire market.
- *Economic Conditions.* Negative economic trends nationally, in specific geographic areas of the United States and/or outside the United States, could result in an increase in debt or loan defaults and delinquencies. Inability of borrowers to obtain refinancing (particularly as high levels of required refinancing transactions approach) could result in an economic decline that could delay or derail an economic recovery and cause deterioration in the performance of debt investments generally. Additionally, the following factors may disrupt financial markets and have a negative impact on the assets:
 - The bankruptcy or insolvency of one or more major financial institutions that results in the disruption of payments with respect to the assets or triggers additional crises in the global credit markets and overall economy;
 - Continued deterioration of the sovereign debt of certain countries, together with the risk of contagion to other, more stable, countries;
 - Rating agency downgrades of long and/or short-term debt ratings (or otherwise negative changes in their ratings outlook) of the sovereign, industry, issuer or security;
 - Reduced liquidity in the fixed income markets because of proposed or implemented changes in the laws and/or regulations applicable to financial intermediaries;
 - Issues affecting the economies of the United States and/or non-U.S. economies; and
 - The impact of (i) military operations, (ii) the possibility or actual occurrence of terrorist attacks domestically or abroad (iii) public health emergencies and pandemics, such as the recent novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), and/or (iv) political instability in some parts of the world which could have a material adverse effect on general economic conditions, world financial markets, particular business segments, world commodity prices, consumer confidence and/or market liquidity.
- *Market Disruptions; Governmental Intervention.* Client assets could incur major losses in the event of disrupted markets and other extraordinary events in which historical pricing relationships become materially distorted. The risk of loss from pricing distortions is compounded by the fact that in disrupted markets many positions become illiquid, making it difficult or impossible to close out positions against which the markets are moving. Market disruptions could from time to time cause dramatic losses for the assets, and such events can result in otherwise historically low-risk strategies performing with unprecedented volatility and risk.
- *Over the Counter/Interdealer Markets.* A portfolio may affect transactions in “over-the-counter” or “interdealer” markets. The participants in such markets are typically not subject to the same level of credit evaluation and regulatory oversight as are members of “exchange-based” markets. This exposes a client to the risk that a counterparty will not settle a transaction in accordance with its terms and conditions because of a dispute over the terms of the contract (whether bona fide) or because of a credit or liquidity problem, thus causing the assets to suffer a loss. Such “counterparty

risk” is accentuated for contracts with longer maturities where events may intervene to prevent settlement or where a client has concentrated its transactions with a single or small group of counterparties. Client may not be restricted from dealing with any counterparty or in the size of the exposure that a client may provide to a given counterparty. The inability to make complete and “foolproof” evaluations of the financial capabilities of client’s counterparties and the absence of a regulated market to facilitate settlement increases the risk to the assets.

- *Liquidity in Positions and Markets* may increase the volatility of the client portfolio as the result of investment in positions in less liquid or non-exchange traded securities, including equities and fixed income securities. These positions entail particular risks including increased transaction costs and potential difficulty in exiting the position.
- *Concentration of Positions* exposes the client to the risk of the portfolio being concentrated in a relatively small number of positions. This concentration may lead to more volatility than might be the case in a more diversified portfolio.
- *Illiquidity Risks.* A client’s investments may require a long-term commitment, with no certainty of return. There may be little or no near-term cash flow available. Certain client investments could be highly illiquid. Consequently, dispositions of such investments may require a lengthy time period, so there can be no assurance that such client will realize value on its investments in a timely manner.
- *Litigation Risk.* A client’s investment activities may subject such client to the risks of becoming involved in litigation. The expense of defending against claims against a client by third parties and paying any amounts pursuant to settlements or judgments would be borne by such client. A client may not be able to defend or prosecute legal proceedings that may be brought against it (or lenders as a group) or that client (or lenders as a group) might otherwise bring to protect its (or their) interests.
- *Inflation Risk.* Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had in the past, and could in the future have, negative effects on the economies and financial markets, which may in turn affect the markets in which a strategy or client invests. For example, wages and prices of inputs increase during periods of inflation, which can negatively impact returns on investments. Governmental efforts to curb inflation often have negative effects on the level of economic activity. There can be no assurance that inflation will not become a serious problem in the future and have an adverse impact on an investment’s returns.
- *Public Health Emergencies.* Any public health emergency, including any outbreak of COVID-19, SARS, H1N1/09 flu, avian flu, other coronavirus, Ebola or other existing or new epidemic diseases, or the threat thereof, could have a significant adverse impact on a client and its underlying investments and could adversely affect a client’s ability to fulfill its investment objectives. The extent of the impact of any public health emergency on the operational and financial performance of a client and its underlying investments will depend on many factors, including the duration and scope of such public health emergency, the extent of any related travel advisories and restrictions implemented, the impact of such public health emergency on overall supply and demand, goods and services, investor liquidity, consumer confidence and levels of economic activity and the extent of its disruption to important global, regional and local supply chains and economic markets, all of which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted. The effects of a public health emergency may materially and adversely impact the value and performance of a client’s investments as well as the ability of SIM to source, manage and divest investments and achieve a client’s investment objectives, all of which could result in significant

losses to the client. In addition, the operations of a client, its underlying investments, and SIM may be significantly impacted, or even halted, either temporarily or on a long-term basis, as a result of government quarantine and curfew measures, voluntary and precautionary restrictions on travel or meetings and other factors related to a public health emergency, including its potential adverse impact on the health of any such entity's personnel.

- *Risks Related to Force Majeure Events.* There is a risk that a client's or strategy's investments could be impacted by force majeure events (i.e., events beyond the control of the party claiming that the event has occurred, such as energy blackouts, acts of God, fire, flood, earthquakes, outbreaks of an infectious disease, pandemic or any other serious public health concern, war, terrorism, labor strikes and telecommunication failures). There is a risk that some force majeure events will adversely affect the ability of a party (including an investment, a counterparty of such investment or a counterparty of client) to perform its obligations until it is able to remedy the force majeure event. Such a party could also claim force majeure for nonperformance of its contractual obligations. Certain force majeure events (such as an outbreak of an infectious disease) could have a broader negative impact on the world economy and international business activity generally, or in any of the countries or jurisdictions in which investments are located. Additionally, a major governmental intervention into industry, including but not limited to the nationalization of an industry or the assertion of control over an investment, could result in a loss to a client. Any of the foregoing would therefore adversely affect the performance of a client's or strategy's investments.
- *Geopolitical Events and Risks.* Economies and financial markets worldwide are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the likelihood that events or conditions in one country or region will adversely impact markets or issuers in other countries or regions, including in ways that are difficult to predict or foresee. The impacts of these events can be exacerbated by failures of governments and societies to respond adequately to an emerging event or threat. For example, local or regional armed conflicts have led to significant sanctions against certain countries and persons and companies connected with certain countries by the United States, Europe, and other countries. Such armed conflicts and sanctions and other local or regional developments can exacerbate global supply and pricing issues, particularly those related to oil and gas, and result in other adverse developments and circumstances, as well as increased general uncertainty, for markets, economies, issuers, businesses, and societies globally. For example, in 2022, the global economic and geopolitical environment was characterized by persistent inflation, rising interest rates, volatility in global financial markets (leading to, among other things, a decline in equity prices), supply chain complications, recessionary fears, and geopolitical uncertainty regarding the war between Russia and Ukraine and its impact on the global markets, including the energy markets. Although these types of events have occurred and could also occur in the future, it is difficult to predict when similar events or conditions affecting the U.S. or global financial markets and economies may occur, the effects of such events or conditions, potential retaliations in response to sanctions or similar actions and the duration or ultimate impact of those events. Any such events or conditions could have a significant adverse impact on the value and risk profile of a client and their investments, with or without direct exposure to the specific geographies, markets, countries, or persons involved in an armed conflict or subject to sanctions.
- *Risks Related to Climate Change.* A client's or strategy's investments could be located in areas that could be disrupted by climate change. Further, prolonged changes in climatic conditions could have a significant impact on the revenues, expenses, and conditions of certain investments. While the precise future effects of climate change are unknown, it is possible that climate change could affect levels, intensity and distribution of precipitation, cause droughts or flooding, affect wind levels, increase the frequency of wildfires, affect annual sunshine levels, as well as sea levels, heat indices, and the severity and frequency of storms, and create or substantially contribute to other severe

weather events or changes. In the event that climate change causes sea levels to rise, certain investments might be forced to incur expenses to prevent assets from being damaged or rendered unusable by such rising sea levels. Moreover, in response to climate change evidence, various regulatory agencies may enact more restrictive environmental regulations and consumer preferences could change, which in turn could have a negative impact on the value of certain investments as well as investment strategy. More restrictive regulations could materially impact the revenues and expenses of an investment. In addition, climate driven changes could have a negative impact on the economy, as well as business and other activity in any of the locations in which a client may invest, and thereby adversely affect the performance of those investments.

- *Recent Developments in the Banking Industry.* Recent bank closures in the United States have caused uncertainty for financial services companies and fear of instability in the global financial system generally. In addition, certain financial institutions – in particular smaller and/or regional banks – have experienced volatile stock prices and significant losses in their equity value, and there is concern that depositors at these institutions have withdrawn, or may withdraw in the future, significant sums from their accounts at these institutions. Notwithstanding intervention by U.S. governmental agencies to protect the uninsured depositors of banks that have recently closed, there is no guarantee that the uninsured depositors of a financial institution that closes (which depositors could include a client and/or their underlying investments) will be made whole or, even if made whole, that such deposits will become available for withdrawal in short order. There is a risk that other banks, or other financial institutions, may be similarly impacted, and it is uncertain what steps (if any) regulators may take in such circumstances. As a consequence, for example, a client and/or their underlying investments may be delayed or prevented from accessing money, making any required payments under their own debt or other contractual obligations or pursuing key strategic initiatives. Uncertainty caused by recent bank failures – and general concern regarding the financial health and outlook for other financial institutions – could have an overall negative effect on banking systems and financial markets generally. These recent developments may also have other implications for broader economic and monetary policy, including interest rate policy. For the foregoing reasons, there can be no assurances that conditions in the banking sector and in global financial markets will not worsen and/or adversely affect a client, its underlying investments, or their financial performance.

SIM invests in various types of securities and financial instruments in connection with its investment strategies and provided below is a description of the different types of securities and certain corresponding risks to which a client may be exposed. Depending on the investment strategies employed, different risks will be more applicable. Please note that the below risks do not purport to be a complete explanation of all risks involved.

- *Fixed Income Investments.* Investments in fixed income or debt securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's ability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligation (credit risk), price volatility due to interest rate sensitivity, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer, general market liquidity (market risk) and potential inability to access additional financing due, e.g., to high leverage (leverage risk). The price of a debt instrument generally moves inversely with interest rates, such that a rise in interest rates typically causes a fall in value, while a fall in interest rates typically causes a rise in value. The risk of bonds can vary significantly depending upon factors such as the credit quality of the issuer and the maturity of the instrument. For example, the issuer of a security or the counterparty to a contract could default or otherwise become unable to honor a financial obligation, resulting in losses.
- *Leveraged Loans and High Yield Instruments.* A severe liquidity crisis in the global credit markets

has in the past resulted in, and may again result in, substantial fluctuations in prices for leveraged loans and high yield debt securities and limited liquidity for such instruments. Although certain sectors may recover in such times, the conditions giving rise to such price fluctuations and limited liquidity could continue and could become more acute. During periods of limited liquidity and higher price volatility, the Firm's ability to acquire or dispose of assets at a price and time that the Firm deems advantageous may be severely impaired. In addition, a broad credit crisis may adversely affect the primary market for a number of financial products, which may reduce opportunities for a client to purchase new issuances of investments.

- *Syndicated Debt and Secondary Market Investments.* A portfolio may acquire investments in primary transactions and buy secondary market investments. To the extent a portfolio trades in any syndicated debt, it could be subject to certain additional risks as a result of having no direct contractual relationship with the borrower of the underlying loan. In such circumstances, a client generally will be dependent on the lender to enforce its rights and obligations under the loan arrangements. Such investments will be subject to the credit risk of both the borrower and the lender because they depend on the lender to make payments of principal and interest received on the underlying loan.
- *Investment Grade Debt.* Investment grade debt obligations are obligations that have credit ratings that are intended to reflect (but will not necessarily reflect) relatively less credit and liquidity risk than those for high yield and mezzanine debt securities. A higher credit rating is not necessarily an indication or a guarantee of actual higher credit quality.
- *U.S. Government Issuers.* A portfolio may acquire debt of U.S. Government issuers. Treasury obligations may differ in their interest rates, maturities, times of issuance and other characteristics. Obligations of U.S. Government agencies and authorities are supported by varying degrees of credit but generally are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will provide financial support to its agencies and authorities if it is not obligated by law to do so.
- *Municipal Bonds Risk.* Municipal bonds are subject to interest rate, credit, and market risk. The ability of an issuer to make payments could be affected by litigation, legislation or other political events or the bankruptcy of the issuer. Lower rated municipal bonds are subject to greater credit and market risk than higher quality municipal bonds. In addition, municipal issuers could be adversely affected by rising health care costs, increasing unfunded pension liabilities, and the phasing out of federal programs that provide financial support to municipalities. Unfavorable conditions and developments relating to projects financed with municipal securities can result in lower revenues to issuers thereof. Issuers often depend on revenues from these projects to make principal and interest payments. The market prices of residual interest bonds may be highly sensitive to changes in market rates and may decrease significantly when market rates increase.
- *Infrastructure-Related Debt Securities.* An investment in ownership of infrastructure-related debt securities, is subject to certain risks associated including: local, national and international economic conditions; the supply and demand for services from and access to infrastructure; the financial condition of users and suppliers of infrastructure assets; in ownership of infrastructure-related debt securities, is subject to certain risks associated including: local, national and international economic conditions; the supply and demand for services from and access to infrastructure; the financial condition of users and suppliers of infrastructure assets; changes in interest rates and the availability of funds which may render the purchase, sale or refinancing of infrastructure assets difficult or impractical; changes in environmental and planning laws and regulations, and other governmental rules; environmental claims arising in respect of infrastructure acquired with undisclosed or

unknown environmental problems or as to which inadequate reserves have been established; changes in energy prices; changes in fiscal and monetary policies; negative economic developments that depress travel; uninsured casualties; force majeure acts, terrorist events, under insured or uninsurable losses; and other factors which are beyond the reasonable control of SIM.

- *Convertible Securities Risk.* The value of convertible securities may fluctuate in response to many factors, including, but not limited to, the activities of the issuer, general market and economic conditions, interest rates, and industry-specific changes. Generally, when the market price of the instrument underlying the convertible security exceeds the conversion price, the price of the convertible security tends to reflect the value of the underlying instrument. As the value of the underlying instrument changes, the convertible security's value tends to mirror that change but to a lesser extent. Convertible securities also may be subject to transfer restrictions and be illiquid.
- *Second-Lien Loans Risk.* Second lien loans are generally subject to the same risks associated with loans as described above. However, a second-lien loan is subordinate in right of collateral and/or payment to one or more senior secured first-lien loans, so it is subject to the additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and the collateral securing the second lien loan may be insufficient to make the scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior secured first lien loan(s). This risk is generally higher for subordinated unsecured loans or debt, which are not backed by a security interest in any specific collateral. Second-lien loans generally have greater price volatility than senior loans and may be less liquid. The subordination of second-lien loans also makes them more illiquid investments than senior secured first-lien loans.
- *Secured Loans Risk.* There can be no assurance that any collateral securing payment of a loan will have or maintain any particular value. In the event of default of a borrower in a secured loan arrangement, the source of repayment may be limited to the value of the collateral, which may be less than the outstanding amount of the investment and may be subordinate to other lienholders. Returns on an investment of this type depend on the borrower's ability to make required payments and, in the event of default, the ability to foreclose and liquidate the loan. Certain loans have limited mandatory amortization and interim repayment requirements. A low level of amortization of any loan over the life of the investment may increase the risk that a borrower will not be able to repay or refinance the debt when it comes due at its final stated maturity.
- *Covenant Lite Loan Risk.* Some of the loan investments made by SIM on behalf of its client portfolios may be in "covenant-lite" loans, which contain fewer or less restrictive constraints on the borrower than other types of loans. The impact of such covenant-lite loans may be to delay a lender's ability to take control over troubled investments, which could impose a greater risk of loss on such investments as compared to investments that provide exposure to loans with additional or more conventional covenants.
- *Risks Relating to Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities.* Mortgage-backed securities (residential and commercial) and asset-backed securities represent interests in "pools" of mortgages or other assets, including consumer loans or receivables held in trust. Although ABS and CMBS generally experience less prepayment than RMBS, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, like traditional fixed-income securities, are subject to credit, interest rate, prepayment, and extension risks. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) could quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain mortgage-backed securities. Client's investments in ABS are subject to risks like those associated with mortgage-related securities, as well as additional risks associated with the nature of the assets and the servicing of those assets. These securities also are subject to the risk of default on the underlying mortgage or assets, particularly during periods of economic downturn. Certain CMBS are issued in several classes with different levels of yield and

credit protection. Client's investments in CMBS with several classes may be in the lower classes that have greater risks than the higher classes, including greater interest rate, credit, and prepayment risks.

During the 2008 global economic crisis, the mortgage market in the U.S. experienced difficulties that adversely affected the performance and market value of certain mortgage-related investments. During the global economic crisis, delinquencies, and losses on mortgage loans (including subprime and second-lien mortgage loans) generally increased, and the decline in or flattening of real-estate values (as has been experienced and may continue to be experienced in many housing markets) exacerbated such delinquencies and losses. Also, a number of mortgage loan originators experienced serious financial difficulties or bankruptcy. Reduced investor demand for mortgage loans and mortgage-related securities and increased investor yield requirements caused limited liquidity in the secondary market for mortgage-related securities, which adversely affected the market value of certain mortgage-related securities. It is possible that such limited liquidity in such secondary markets could arise in a similar manner in the event of any downturn in the U.S. mortgage market. ABS entail certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities, including the risk that in certain states it may be difficult to perfect the liens securing the collateral backing certain asset-backed securities. In addition, certain ABS are based on loans that are unsecured, which means that there is no collateral to seize if the underlying borrower defaults.

- *Issuer-Specific Changes.* Changes in the financial condition of an issuer or counterparty, changes in specific economic or political conditions that affect a particular type of security or issuer, and changes in general economic or political conditions can increase the risk of default by an issuer or counterparty, which can affect a security's or instrument's value. The value of securities of smaller, less well-known issuers can be more volatile than that of larger issuers.
- *Default Risk.* A defaulted or otherwise distressed security may become subject to workout negotiations or restructuring, which may entail, among other things, a substantial reduction in the interest rate, a substantial write-down of principal and a substantial change in the terms, conditions, and covenants with respect to the investment. Such negotiations or restructuring may be extensive and protracted over time and could result in substantial uncertainty with respect to the ultimate recovery on such client investment. The ability of a client to influence the affairs of an issuer may be substantially less than that of other creditors in the capital structure, depending on the nature of a client's investment (for example, the seniority of its position in the capital structure and the size of a client's position relative to those of other investors). Accordingly, a client may not be able to take the steps necessary to protect its investments in the most opportunistic manner. A client could incur additional expenses if it is required to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms with a defaulting issuer.
- *Call and Prepayment Risk.* The ability of borrowers to prepay assets will vary. The assets will experience a loss if a client investment was purchased at a price greater than par and is prepaid at par or at a price lower than the purchase price. The rate of prepayments, amortization, delinquencies, and defaults may be influenced by various factors including, but not limited to:
 - Changes in borrower or property performance and requirements for capital;
 - Interest rate movements;
 - Availability of credit or a decline in credit underwriting standards; and
 - The overall economic environment.

Further, in the case of prepayment, a client bears reinvestment risk, because such client could be required to invest the proceeds at a lower forecasted rate than the original investment. The assets

may pay floating interest rates. To the extent interest rates increase, periodic interest obligations owed by the related borrower also will increase. As prevailing interest rates increase, some borrowers may not be able to make the increased interest payments on assets or refinance their loans, resulting in payment defaults.

- *Insolvency and Bankruptcy.* Various laws enacted for the protection of creditors may apply to a portfolio's investments. In a lawsuit brought by an unpaid creditor or representative of creditors of an issuer of a client investment, such as a trustee in bankruptcy, a court may find that the issuer did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for incurring the indebtedness constituting such client investment. If, after giving effect to such indebtedness, the issuer (i) is insolvent, (ii) is engaged in a business for which the remaining assets of such issuer constituted unreasonably small capital or (iii) intends to incur, or believes that it will incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they mature, such court could determine (i) to invalidate, in whole or in part, such indebtedness as a fraudulent conveyance, (ii) to subordinate such indebtedness to existing or future creditors of the issuer or (iii) to recover amounts previously paid by the issuer in satisfaction of such indebtedness. The issuer of an investment may enter bankruptcy, receivership, insolvency, or similar proceedings (collectively, "bankruptcy"). Bankruptcy could result in, among other things, a substantial reduction in the interest rate and a substantial write down of the principal of the related client investments. There are a number of risks inherent in the bankruptcy process, including:
 - Rulings in a bankruptcy case are the product of adversarial proceedings determined by a court with equitable powers and are beyond the control of specific creditors.
 - A bankruptcy filing could adversely and permanently affect the issuer making such filing. The issuer may lose its market position, key employees, relationships with important suppliers, access to the capital markets or other sources of liquidity and otherwise become incapable of restoring itself as a viable entity. If a Chapter 11 reorganization is converted to or becomes a liquidation, the liquidation value of the issuer may not equal the liquidation value that was believed to exist at the time of purchase of the Client investment.
 - A creditor's return on investment could be adversely affected by delays while a plan of reorganization is being negotiated, approved by parties in interest and confirmed by the bankruptcy court until it ultimately becomes effective. In addition, the administrative costs of the debtor and official committees in connection with the case are frequently high and will be paid out of the debtor's estate prior to any return to general unsecured creditors. Certain claims that have priority by law (for example, claims for taxes) also could be significant.
 - If an investment is purchased for less than its par amount, recovery of the discount (the difference between the purchase price and the par amount) could be disallowed or limited in whole or in part in a bankruptcy.
 - Creditors' claims against bankrupt or insolvent entities could be subject to equitable subordination or re-characterization as equity (particularly where the creditor is an insider or otherwise controls the debtor), and transfers made to creditors could be subject to avoidance and disgorgement as preferences or fraudulent conveyances.
- *Spread Widening Risk.* For various reasons, the prices of the assets may decline substantially. It may not be possible to predict, or to hedge against, such "spread widening" risk. Additionally, the perceived discount in pricing from previous environments described herein may still not reflect the true value of the assets underlying debt instruments in which a client invests.
- *Below Investment Grade Risk.* Investments in below investment grade securities which typically receive credit ratings below investment grade (below BBB) by credit rating agencies) and unrated securities of similar credit quality (commonly known as "high yield securities" or "junk bonds")

could be subject to greater levels of credit risk, call risk and liquidity risk than client accounts that do not invest in such securities. These securities are considered predominantly speculative with respect to an issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments and could be more volatile than other types of securities. An economic downturn or individual corporate developments could adversely affect the market for these securities and reduce SIM's ability to sell these securities at an advantageous time or price. An economic downturn would generally lead to a higher non-payment rate and a below investment grade security could lose significant market value before a default occurs. Below investment grade securities structured as zero-coupon bonds or pay-in-kind securities tend to be especially volatile as they are particularly sensitive to downward pricing pressures from rising interest rates or widening spreads. Issuers of below investment grade securities may have the right to "call" or redeem the issue prior to maturity, which could result in SIM having to reinvest the proceeds in other below investment grade securities or similar instruments that may pay lower interest rates. Below investment grade securities could also be subject to greater levels of liquidity risk than other securities. In addition, below investment grade securities may not be listed on any exchange and a secondary market for such securities may be comparatively illiquid relative to markets for other more liquid fixed income securities. Consequently, transactions in below investment grade securities could involve greater costs than transactions in more actively traded securities. A lack of publicly available information, irregular trading activity and wide bid/ask spreads among other factors, could, in certain circumstances, make below investment grade debt more difficult to sell at an advantageous time or price than other types of securities or instruments. These factors could result in a client account holding below investment grade securities unable to realize full value for these securities and/or could result in such account not receiving the proceeds from a sale of a below investment grade security for an extended period after such sale, each of which could result in losses to the account. In addition, adverse publicity, and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, could decrease the values and liquidity of below investment grade securities, especially in thinly traded markets. When secondary markets for below investment grade securities are less liquid than the market for other types of securities, it may be more difficult to value the securities because such valuation could require more research, and elements of judgment could play a greater role in the valuation because there is less reliable, objective data available.

- *Options.* Advisory client accounts may engage in the trading of options. Such trading involves risks substantially similar to those involved in trading margined securities in that options are speculative and highly leveraged. Specific market movements of the securities underlying an option cannot accurately be predicted. The purchaser of an option is subject to the risk of losing the entire purchase price of the option. The writer of an option is subject to the risk of loss resulting from the difference between the premium received for the option and the price of the security underlying the option which the writer must purchase or deliver upon exercise of the option.
- *Derivatives.* Derivatives are financial instruments that have a value which depends on, or is derived from, a reference asset, such as one or more underlying securities, pools of securities, options, futures, indexes, or currencies. Derivatives could result in investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest; in other words, a small investment in a derivative could have a large impact on a strategy's performance. An investment strategy may use derivatives as a substitute for taking a position in the reference asset or to gain exposure to certain asset classes; under such circumstances, the derivatives may have economic characteristics similar to those of the reference asset, and a strategy's investment in the derivatives may be applied toward meeting a requirement to invest a certain percentage of its net assets in instruments with such characteristics. A strategy may use derivatives to hedge (or reduce) its exposure to a portfolio asset or risk. A strategy may use derivatives for leverage or to manage cash. Derivatives are

subject to a number of risks described elsewhere in this section, such as liquidity risk, interest rate risk, credit risk and general market risks. A strategy's use of derivatives could entail risks greater than, or possibly different from, such risks and other principal risks to which a strategy is exposed, as described below.

- *Counterparty Risk.* SIM may transact derivatives on a collateralized basis with counterparties that it believes to be creditworthy, there is no guarantee that such counterparties will be able to perform their economic obligations under the derivatives transactions. In addition, centralized clearing of certain over the counter ("OTC") derivatives exposes a client to the risk of a default by a clearing member or clearinghouse with respect to its cleared derivative transactions. If counterparties, clearing brokers or central clearinghouses fail or refuse to honor their obligations under a client's derivatives, hedges of the related risk will be ineffective. A counterparty or central clearinghouse's insolvency, inability, or unwillingness to make payments under the terms of derivatives agreements or inability or unwillingness to return collateral will have a material adverse effect on a client's returns on investment.
- *Currency Risk.* Generally, SIM transacts in U.S. dollars and as a result it is subject to the risk of fluctuation in the exchange rate between the local currency and dollars when investing in foreign markets and is also subject to risks related to exchange controls. SIM may hedge against currency fluctuations but is not obligated to do so.
- *Funding Risk.* A client bears the risk that they or its counterparty may not have adequate cash available to fund current obligations, which might occur because of mismatches in cash flows due from or to a client's counterparties in OTC derivatives transactions or related hedging, trading, collateral, or other transactions, or delays in payment.
- *Interest Rate Risk.* The returns associated with floating-rate securities will be affected by changes in interest rates. Changes in interest rates could cause the value of such securities to decline. SIM may hedge against such fluctuations in value but is not obligated to do so. In the event that SIM does hedge against such fluctuation, there is no guarantee that such hedge will be successful.
- *Operational Risk.* A client could incur losses because of inadequacies in systems or controls for monitoring and quantifying the risks and contractual obligations associated with OTC derivatives and related transactions, for recording and valuing the transactions or for detecting human error, or from systems failure or management failure.
- *Special Risks.* There could be other significant risks that a client may be exposed to based on the terms of a specific transaction. Highly customized OTC derivatives transactions, in particular, could present heightened liquidity risk and introduce other significant risk factors of a complex character. Unusual or extreme changes in market factors could affect the value of the transaction and the risks associated with it in ways that are not considered in most available systems for modeling transaction risk.
- *Pricing.* Because the price and other terms on which a client may enter into or terminate an OTC derivatives transaction are individually negotiated, these may not represent the best price or terms available to client from other sources.
- *Increased Cost of Hedging Due to Derivatives Regulation.* The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("**Dodd-Frank**") includes a framework of

regulation of the OTC derivatives markets which requires clearing of certain types of transactions and imposes additional costs, including reporting and margin requirements. These increased margin requirements, combined with increased capital charges for OTC-bilateral counterparties and central clearinghouses with respect to non-cash collateral, (i) will likely require clients to increase holdings of cash and highly liquid securities with lower yields causing a reduction in income, (ii) could adversely affect the liquidity of a client's investments and the composition of a client's investment portfolio, and (iii) could result in less favorable pricing for OTC-cleared and OTC-bilateral transactions.

- *Hedge Effectiveness/Basis Risk.* SIM may use derivatives to hedge various business risks. A client is subject to the risk that hedging and other management procedures might prove ineffective, which could produce economic losses beyond the scope of the risk management techniques employed. Any such losses could be increased by higher costs of writing derivatives (including customized derivatives) and the reduced availability of customized derivatives that might result from the implementation of Dodd-Frank and comparable international derivatives regulations. Derivative types may include options, forwards, interest rate, credit default and currency swaps with a number of counterparties on a bilateral basis for uncleared OTC derivatives and with clearing brokers and central clearinghouses for OTC cleared derivatives. If counterparties, clearing brokers or central clearinghouses to such derivatives fail or refuse to honor their obligations under these derivatives, hedges of the related risk will be ineffective.
- *Investment Companies (including ETFs).* Investments in open-end and closed-end investment companies, including ETFs, involve substantially the same risks as investing directly in the instruments held by these entities. However, the investment may involve duplication of certain fees and expenses. By investing in an investment company or ETF, the strategy becomes a shareholder of that fund. As a result, investors in a strategy that invests in ETFs or an open-end or closed-end investment company are indirectly subject to the fees and expenses of the individual ETFs or funds. These fees and expenses are in addition to the fees and expenses that investors in the strategy directly bear in connection with the strategy's own operations. If the investment company or ETF fails to achieve its investment objective, the strategy's investment in the fund may adversely affect its performance. In addition, because ETFs are listed on national stock exchanges and are traded like stocks listed on an exchange, (1) the strategy may acquire ETF shares at a discount or premium to their NAV, and (2) the strategy may incur greater expenses since ETFs are subject to brokerage and other trading costs. Since the value of ETF shares depends on the demand in the market, SIM may not be able to liquidate the holdings at the most optimal time, adversely affecting performance.
- *Restricted Securities.* Clients may invest in securities that are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, including securities representing interests in private equity and hedge funds ("**restricted securities**"). Restricted securities may be sold in private placement transactions between issuers and their purchasers and may be neither listed on an exchange nor traded in other established markets. In many cases, privately placed securities may not be freely transferable under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction or due to contractual restrictions on resale. As a result of the absence of a public trading market, privately placed securities are less liquid and more difficult to value than publicly traded securities. To the extent that privately placed securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices realized from the sales, due to illiquidity, could be less than those originally paid by a client or less than their fair market value. In addition,

issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements that may be applicable if their securities were publicly traded. If any privately placed securities held as assets are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, a client could be required to bear the expenses of registration.

- *Private Equity and Hedge Funds.* A client may invest in securities representing limited partnership interests (or their equivalent) in private equity and hedge funds. Such investments are generally subject to the risks described above under “Restricted Securities,” including with respect to restrictions on transfer or resale, the lack of liquidity to which such investments may be subject and the effect of such illiquidity on valuations, and the loss of certain protections offered under the securities laws to holders of registered securities. In addition to the foregoing, a client’s investments in hedge funds could be subject to other risks, including, without limitation, the risk that restrictions on redemptions may prevent a client from exiting a hedge fund investment during periods of market stress. Investments in private equity and hedge funds are speculative and could subject a client to the risk that the strategy chosen by the fund’s investment manager to achieve the fund’s objective will not be successful. As a limited partner (or its equivalent), the client will have little or no control over the management of a private equity or hedge fund in which it is invested or the investment decisions of the fund’s investment manager.
- *Model and Quantitative Risks.* SIM uses proprietary models as an additional analytical data point to inform portfolio managers in their investment decision making process. However, SIM’s portfolio managers do not rely exclusively on such proprietary models to independently make investment decisions. If these models have errors or are flawed or incomplete and such issues are not identified, it could have an adverse effect on client investment performance.
- *Third-Party Investment Adviser Risk:* As permitted under the investment management agreements of certain clients, SIM may from time to time utilize and employ other third-party investment advisers (collectively, “sub-advisers”) for the purpose of managing particular investment strategies with respect to certain allocated assets held in a client’s account. While SIM conducts due diligence regarding sub-advisers and their respective investment style and process, the investment performance of client account assets managed by such sub-adviser will primarily depend upon the choice of investments and other investment and management decisions of the relevant sub-adviser, which could be adversely affected by those decisions. Similar risks apply to SIM’s management and supervision of third-party investment advisers of SFC, in that the investment performance of client account assets managed by such adviser will primarily depend upon the choice of investments and other investment and management decisions of the relevant adviser.
- *Third-Party Information Risk:* SIM uses external data sources to assist in making investment decisions or for investment research and relies on the assumption that the issuers of the securities in which it invests, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these investments, are providing accurate and unbiased data. Although SIM believes these third-party data sources to be generally reliable, there is always a risk that its analysis can be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.
- *Environmental, Social, and Governance Investing Risk.* Employment of an environmental, social, and governance (“ESG”) investing strategy, which typically selects or excludes securities of certain issuers for reasons other than financial performance, carries the risk that a client account’s performance utilizing such a strategy will differ from accounts that do not utilize an ESG investing strategy. For example, the application of this strategy could affect the account’s exposure to

certain sectors or types of investments, which could negatively impact the account's performance. SIM can choose, in its discretion, whether to consider ESG considerations in its investment decision-making, and to the extent consistent with its fiduciary obligations, applicable law and the relevant client investment management agreements (as applicable). In certain circumstances, due to ESG considerations, SIM may not make or not recommend the making of investments when it would otherwise have done so, which could adversely affect the performance of a client's portfolio. On the other hand, SIM could determine not to take such considerations into account. The extent to which SIM takes ESG considerations into account varies from client portfolio to client portfolio, based on, among other things, the portfolio's investment objective, investment strategies, investment restrictions, as outlined in the relevant client investment management agreements, and applicable law.

In determining the efficacy of an issuer's ESG practices, SIM will use its own proprietary assessments of ESG factors and will, when appropriate, reference standards as set forth by recognized global organizations such as the United Nations. There is no guarantee that the factors utilized by SIM, or any judgment exercised by SIM will reflect the opinions of any particular client, and the factors utilized by SIM may differ from the factors that any particular client considers relevant in evaluating an issuer's ESG practices. In evaluating an issuer, SIM is dependent upon information and data obtained through voluntary or third-party reporting that may be incomplete, inaccurate, or unavailable, which could cause SIM to incorrectly assess an issuer's business practices with respect to ESG practices and/or related risks and opportunities. While ESG is only one of the many factors SIM might consider in making an investment, there is no guarantee that SIM will consider such factors at all or that SIM will successfully implement and make investments that create positive ESG impact while enhancing value and achieving financial returns. ESG norms differ by region, and issuer's ESG practices may change over time. In addition, ESG initiatives may not achieve the desired financial and social results, or the market or society may not view any such changes as desirable. Any successful application of an ESG investing strategy and SIM's engagement efforts will depend, in part, on SIM's skill in properly identifying and analyzing material ESG data, factors or issues (and their potential impact on value), and there can be no assurance that any ESG strategy or techniques employed will be successful.

Reliance on Affiliates with respect to Certain Shared Services and Personnel

As previously described in Item 4, certain Affiliates provide various services and personnel to SIM, including, certain back office, information technology, human resources and other support services utilizing certain property, equipment and facilities, and personnel of Affiliates. Because of the services provided to SIM by the Affiliates, SIM's performance of certain administrative and operational duties related to the management of client accounts is dependent on such Affiliates and the talents and efforts of individuals employed by such Affiliates and provided under the shared services arrangement. If an Affiliate ceases to perform such shared services, or to do so effectively, SIM and the administration of its client accounts could be adversely affected.

Certain Risks Related to Cybersecurity

The information and technology systems of SIM and of key service providers to SIM and its clients could be subject to potential damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons or security breaches, usage errors by employees, power outages or catastrophic events such as fires or hurricanes. In the unlikely event that these systems are compromised, become inoperable for extended periods of time, or cease to function properly, there could be significant interruptions in the operations of SIM or its client accounts or a compromise of

the security, confidentiality, or privacy of sensitive data, including personal information.

SIM has in place risk management systems and business continuity plans that are designed to address risks associated with these cybersecurity attacks, although there are inherent limitations in any cybersecurity risk management system or business continuity plan, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified. Accordingly, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed especially since we do not directly control the cybersecurity systems of issuers or third-party service providers.

Risks Relating to Conflicts of Interest

Clients should be aware that there will be occasions when SIM and its Affiliates will encounter potential conflicts of interest in connection with activities relating to investments on behalf of a client.

Allocations. SIM serves as the investment adviser for third-party accounts as well as certain accounts that are managed for Affiliates. Accordingly, potential conflicting interests or duties will likely arise over time due to SIM undertaking investment management activities for another account or accounts, including Affiliate accounts, investing in the same assets or the same issuers as other clients. SIM acts as investment adviser to other accounts, including accounts directly or indirectly managed for Affiliates such as but not limited to Symetra Life Insurance Company, an Iowa insurance company (“**Symetra Life**”) and Sumitomo, and there will likely be times during which SIM will give advice and take action with respect to any of those accounts which will differ from the advice given, or the time or nature of action taken, with respect to a client’s portfolio.

In addition, investment opportunities will likely be appropriate for more than one of these client accounts. This presents a potential conflict of interest for SIM as there are competing benefits it derives depending upon which account is allocated a specific investment opportunity. Those competing benefits include but are not limited to different management fee arrangements and different levels of ownership by Affiliate accounts. Consistent with its fiduciary duties to its clients, SIM has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to address and mitigate this conflict, including its trade allocation and aggregation policy (as discussed in greater detail in response to Item 10 below).

Use of Material, Non-Public Information. From time to time, employees of SIM and its Affiliates come into possession of confidential, non-public information in connection with other activities. SIM has adopted policies establishing information barriers [and other similar processes] in an effort to minimize the likelihood that particular investment teams not intended to have such information have the ability to potentially gain access to such information. If risk is considered too great that proper information barriers cannot be maintained, SIM would be restricted from investing in certain transactions it otherwise may have initiated or from selling an investment it otherwise may have sold. Alternatively, SIM may decline to receive material non-public information in order to avoid such trading restrictions on behalf of client accounts, despite that access to such information may have been advantageous to certain client accounts.

Item 9. Disciplinary Information

As of the date of this Brochure, neither SIM nor any of its supervised persons have been involved in legal or disciplinary events (i.e., criminal or civil action in a domestic, foreign or military court, administrative proceeding before the SEC, any other federal regulatory agency, any state regulatory agency or self-regulatory organization) that SIM believes are material to evaluating its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

Item 10. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

As disclosed in response to Item 4, SIM is a wholly owned subsidiary of SFC. Through its affiliation with SFC, SIM is under common control with Symetra Securities, Inc. (“SSI”), a registered broker-dealer, and Symetra Life, in addition to all other subsidiaries of SFC. SFC’s parent company is Sumitomo Life, a mutual company (*sougo kaisha*) organized under the laws of Japan.

SSI is a limited purpose broker-dealer and acts as the underwriter for variable insurance products and index-linked annuity contracts offered by Symetra Life. As such, SIM does not utilize or place trades for execution with SSI with respect to client account transactions.

SIM currently provides investment advisory services with respect to accounts directly or indirectly managed for Symetra Life, Sumitomo Life, and other Affiliates. As noted in Item 8 (Risks Related to Conflicts of Interest) and Item 11, SIM has adopted compliance policies and procedures (including but not limited to trade allocation and aggregation policy) that seek to address and mitigate potential conflicts of interest with respect to SIM’s management of Affiliate and other client accounts.

Effective July 1, 2022, Symetra Investment Management Real Estate Investors LLC (SIMREI), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of SIM, assumed responsibility for providing commercial mortgage loan services to Affiliates. SIMREI is an Affiliate of the Adviser by common control.

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

Code of Ethics and Other Related Compliance Policies and Procedures

SIM has adopted a Code of Ethics (“Code”), which is designed to comply with applicable requirements under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended and its rules thereunder (the “Advisers Act”). The purpose of the Code is to identify the ethical and legal framework in which SIM and its personnel are required to operate and to highlight some of the guiding principles and mechanisms for upholding SIM’s standard of business conduct. In addition, the Code imposes restrictions on the personal trading activity of applicable personnel providing advisory services on behalf of SIM and certain members of their immediate family, as well as reporting requirements. These personal trading restrictions are intended to ensure that applicable personnel do not misuse client information for their own benefit. Among other things, the Code requires covered personnel and certain members of their households to “pre-clear” certain personal securities transactions (including, but not limited to, initial public offerings and private placements) prior to execution, with some limited exceptions. All such covered personnel must provide SIM periodically with information regarding certain of their personal securities holdings and trading activity with respect to their personal brokerage accounts. These restrictions and requirements of the Code apply to all accounts over which such employees have a direct or indirect beneficial ownership interest, with some limited exceptions.

Subject to satisfying the requirements imposed under the Code and SIM’s related compliance policies and procedures (e.g., those covering insider trading), such personnel are permitted to trade for their own accounts in securities that could be recommended to and/or purchased for SIM clients. Employee trading is monitored for adherence to the Code by SIM’s compliance personnel in order to help ensure that covered employees comply with its provisions and to seek to ensure that the Code reasonably prevents conflicts of interest between SIM and its clients.

Clients or prospective clients can obtain a copy of the Code by contacting the CCO, Robert Herlihy, at +1(860) 746-7403.

Within and/or in addition to the Code, SIM also has adopted related compliance policies and procedures

covering (among other things) insider trading, gifts and entertainment, political contributions, outside business activities and trade and investment allocation/aggregation to address similar potential conflicts of interest and to comply with applicable requirements under the Advisers Act. Please also see Item 8 (Risks Related to Conflicts of Interest) and Item 12 for additional information related to certain of these policies and procedures.

Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

As described above and previously in this Brochure, SIM from time to time invests and transacts in the same types of securities and instruments with respect to multiple client accounts, including Affiliate accounts. In order to address and mitigate potential conflicts of interest associated with the above, SIM has adopted certain compliance policies and procedures, including but not limited to trade allocation and aggregation policy, to seek to ensure that SIM's advisory account clients are treated fairly and equitably over time in connection with such transactions (see also Item 12 for additional information regarding these policies).

SIM can engage in principal transactions with certain client advisory accounts (i.e., transactions where SIM, acting as principal for its own account or that of an affiliate of SIM, buys from or sells any security to a client's account), if agreed to by the applicable client and in compliance with SIM's principal transaction policy, which is designed to address the requirements of Section 206(3) of the Advisers Act. Under such policy, SIM generally will provide written notification to such client of the applicable principal transaction and obtain prior client consent.

SIM also has adopted a cross transactions policy and agency cross transaction policy that will apply to cross transactions and agency cross transactions between client accounts. Under such policies, SIM is required to comply with certain requirements that are designed to address relevant requirements under applicable law with respect to such respective transactions. *Pricing and Valuation of Securities and Other Investments*

In some cases, SIM's fees are based on the value and performance of the assets held in the client account. SIM generally does not price securities or other assets for purposes of determining fees. However, from time to time, SIM will be charged with the responsibility of, or have a role in, determining in good faith asset values with respect to certain affiliated accounts and will be required to price a portfolio holding when a market price is not readily available or when SIM has reason to believe in good faith that the market price is unreliable. To the extent SIM's fees are based on the value or performance of client accounts, SIM would benefit by receiving a fee based on the impact, if any, of the increased value of assets in an account.

When pricing a security, SIM attempts, in good faith and in accordance with applicable laws, to determine the fair value of the security or other assets in question. SIM generally relies on prices provided by third-party pricing services, custodians, broker-dealers, or other external sources for valuation purposes. When market quotations are not readily available or are believed in good faith by SIM to be unreliable, the security or other asset or liability is valued by SIM in accordance with SIM's valuation procedures.

Item 12. Brokerage Practices

Brokerage Execution Policies

As an SEC registered adviser, SIM has a duty to seek best execution with respect to client accounts. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor evaluated by SIM is not necessarily the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of services provided by a broker-dealer or intermediary, including but not limited to, the broker-

dealer or intermediary's execution quality, reputation, transaction cost, and overall capabilities.

Although SIM will seek competitive execution rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible transaction cost or best price for client account transactions. The executed price or transaction cost (including markups) charged by a broker-dealer or intermediary could be higher or lower than those charged by other broker-dealers or intermediaries.

Neither SIM nor any related person is expected to receive client referrals from any broker-dealer, intermediary or third-party that provides brokerage services to SIM's clients.

At this time SIM is not a party to, and does not anticipate entering into, any formal "soft dollar" arrangements with respect to client account transactions. In the event that SIM utilizes "soft dollar" arrangements and commission dollars in the future, it will do so in a manner that is consistent with the "safe harbor" of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Directed Brokerage

Occasionally, certain client's direct SIM to place certain transaction orders in the client's account through a specific broker-dealer or counterparty selected by the client. This type of instruction is deemed a "directed brokerage arrangement." Such clients should understand that in a directed brokerage arrangement, SIM cannot necessarily obtain best execution for these transactions and that the client could receive less favorable prices and could incur (as applicable) higher commission rates, greater spreads, or other transaction costs by executing these transactions with such directed broker-dealer/counterparty. In addition, SIM may not have the ability to aggregate the client's transactions with orders for other accounts advised or managed by the firm. As a result, such clients should understand that directed brokerage arrangements may cost clients more money than may otherwise be the case if such transactions were executed with other broker-dealers or counterparties.

Trade Allocation and Aggregation

SIM has adopted a trade allocation and aggregation policy with the respect to the allocation of investment opportunities and trades among client accounts. This policy seeks to allocate investment opportunities in a manner that is consistent with its fiduciary obligations and, accordingly, to allocate investment opportunities and trade allocations fairly such that no client will be systematically disadvantaged over time. In allocating suitable investment opportunities between and among participating client accounts, the allocation policy provides that SIM could aggregate and batch orders for clients (including Affiliate accounts) and could also determine the method of allocating investment opportunities prior to trade settlement. Although not obligated or required under such policy, SIM generally strives to aggregate and batch orders for the purchase or sale of the same security for client accounts when deemed appropriate and consistent with its fiduciary obligations and the policy. SIM's portfolio managers will also consider factors such as undeployed capital and portfolio positioning relative to guidelines and targets as a key criterion in allocating orders. The effect of aggregation can work on some occasions to a client's disadvantage in relation to a particular order. If aggregated orders cannot be fulfilled, SIM has the discretion to allocate trades among client accounts in a manner believed by SIM to be fair and equitable over time. Size limits and other reasons may limit a client's participation, if any, in any given order. For the avoidance of doubt, a client might not always receive an allocation of an aggregated and batched order placed for multiple clients, including circumstances in which an aggregated order cannot be fulfilled in whole or in part due to insufficient supply (in the case of a purchase of securities) or inopportune or unfavorable price availability (in the case of a sale of securities).

Transaction execution and related costs incurred, if any, will be borne by participating clients in the same

manner as the trade was allocated (i.e., a client will not bear a disproportionate amount of transaction expenses relative to the proportion of a trade it was allocated).

Trade Errors

SIM has adopted a trade error and breakage policy designed to ensure that trade orders are entered correctly, and that trade tickets and trade allocations are documented and maintained in accordance with relevant policies and procedures. Trade errors, defined as an error in the placement, execution or settlement of a trade that results in ascertainable expense to the client, may occur from time to time, and SIM will seek to identify and correct any trade errors as promptly as possible without disadvantaging the applicable client or benefitting SIM in any way.

Item 13. Review of Accounts

SIM's portfolio management personnel review client accounts on a periodic basis, generally on a monthly or quarterly basis. Holdings are monitored in light of trading activity, significant corporate developments and other activities that may dictate a change in portfolio positions. Such personnel also conduct portfolio risk management reviews of client accounts. SIM's Compliance Department also periodically reviews client accounts in connection with adherence to its investment guidelines and to evaluate adherence with applicable SIM compliance policies and procedures. In addition, SIM also generally conducts portfolio review meetings with clients regarding its advisory account on a periodic or as reasonably requested ad hoc basis by the client.

Item 14. Client Referrals and Other Compensation

SIM does not currently receive cash or other benefits from a non-client in connection with giving advice to clients, except as otherwise disclosed herein. In addition, SIM does not currently compensate any third-party for client referrals.

Item 15. Custody

SIM does not generally accept custody of clients' securities and expects that clients' securities are held with a qualified third-party custodian. SIM may be deemed to have custody, as defined under Rule 206(4)-2 under the Advisers Act, of portfolios vehicles primarily invested by Affiliates. SIM relies on the "audit exemption" under Rule 206(4)-2(b)(4) under the Advisers Act, which generally exempts an adviser to a limited partnership, limited liability company or other pooled investment vehicle from the requirement to deliver account statements to its Clients if the adviser requires the vehicle to be audited annually by an independent public accountant that is registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and distributes the audited financial statements annually to the investors in the vehicle. To the extent SIM serves in a capacity that requires compliance with applicable custody rules, SIM seeks to ensure that any such activities are executed in accordance with applicable custody rules.

Item 16. Investment Discretion

Prior to assuming discretion in managing a client's assets, SIM enters into an investment management agreement that sets forth the scope of SIM's discretion. Unless otherwise instructed or directed by a discretionary client, SIM has the authority generally to determine the type and amount of investments to be purchased and sold for the account of a client (subject to restrictions set forth in the applicable advisory agreement and any written investment guidelines).

Item 17. Voting Client Securities

SIM generally does not provide investment advisory services on the type of investments that generate proxies. In the event that the investment strategies utilized by SIM for client accounts generates proxies that the firm is required to vote on behalf of such client accounts, SIM will adopt, as applicable, proxy voting policies and procedures with respect to the voting of such proxies.

Notwithstanding the above, certain client accounts that utilize or are managed by a sub-adviser or other third-party investment adviser may generate proxies with respect to the investment strategy implemented by such adviser. Proxies generated from those adviser mandates are voted in accordance with the proxy voting policies and procedures of the applicable adviser, which will be reviewed and retained by SIM as applicable to ensure that such adviser exercises its discretionary authority over client proxies in accordance with such policies and procedures.

Item 18. Financial Information

This Item is not applicable.