

# Rudney Associates, Inc.

## Brochure Dated 3/26/2013

Contact: Ashley Kirk, Chief Compliance Officer  
1499 Danville Blvd., Suite 250  
Alamo, CA 94507  
[www.rudneyassociates.com](http://www.rudneyassociates.com)

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Rudney Associates, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (925) 838-0696 or [Ashley@rudneyassociates.com](mailto:Ashley@rudneyassociates.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or by any state securities authority.**

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

**References herein to Rudney Associates, Inc. or any of its affiliated individuals as a “registered investment adviser” or any reference to being “registered” does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

## **Item 2           Material Changes**

There have been no material changes made to Registrant's disclosure statement since Registrant's annual filing in 2012.

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#### Item 4            **Advisory Business**

- A. The Registrant is a corporation that was formed in January 2002 in the State of California. The Registrant became registered as an investment adviser firm in March 2001. The Registrant is principally owned by Eric Rudney.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers investment advisory services to its clients, which are comprised of individuals; pension and profit sharing plans; trusts and estates; and business entities, and charitable organizations, etc. The Registrant **does not** hold itself out as providing financial planning, estate planning or accounting services.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis. The Registrant's annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant's management (between negotiable and 2.20%) as described in Item 5 below.

**Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.** To the extent requested by the client, the Registrant *may* provide consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Neither the Registrant, nor any of its representatives, serves as an attorney or accountant and no portion of the Registrant's services should be construed as same. To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.), including the Registrant's Principal in his separate licensed capacity as discussed below. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. **Please Note:** If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

**Please Note: Non-Discretionary Service Limitations.** Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that the Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior verbal consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event of a market correction during which the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect any account transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's verbal consent.

**Client Obligations.** In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains

his/her/its responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

**Disclosure Statement.** A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure as set forth on Part 2A of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the Registrant's Investment Advisory Agreement.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at anytime, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of March 20, 2013, the Registrant had \$272,997,669 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$24,618,050 on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **A. INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management (between a negotiated amount and 2.20%) as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
\$0 to \$250,000	2.20%
\$250,000 to \$750,000	\$1.75%
\$750,000 to \$1,250,000	\$1.25%
\$1,250,000 to \$2,000,000	\$1.00%
\$2,000,000 and above	Negotiated*

\*Factors used to determine the appropriate negotiated fee include the gross value of overall assets related to a single client, whether the client is a family member of larger client accounts, and other considerations.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/ clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.

- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that TD Ameritrade, Inc., an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA/SIPC/NFA member ("TD") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as TD charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and fixed income securities transactions). In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).

**Tradeaway/Prime Broker Fees.** Relative to its discretionary investment management services, when beneficial to the client, individual fixed income transactions may be effected through broker-dealers other than the account custodian, in which event, the client generally will incur both the fee (commission, mark-up/mark-down) charged by the executing broker-dealer and a separate "tradeaway" and/or prime broker fee charged by the account custodian (TD).

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. The Registrant does not generally require an annual minimum fee or asset level for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.

- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

## **Item 6            Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management**

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

## **Item 7            Types of Clients**

The Registrant's clients generally include individuals; pension and profit sharing plans; trusts and estates; and business entities, and charitable organizations. The Registrant does not generally require an annual minimum fee or asset level for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity,

anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

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

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
  - Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)

The Registrant may utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

**Please Note: Investment Risk.** Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s). **Please Also Note:** Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks.

However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases and Short Term Purchases - are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), debt (bonds) and fixed income securities and individual equity (stocks), on a discretionary and/or non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

## **Item 9            Disciplinary Information**

On December 13, 2002, the SEC initiated an action against Eric Rudney alleging that he failed to disclose a conflict of interest with TD Waterhouse, generating soft dollar credits for research, in addition to related alleged recordkeeping violations. The matter was resolved effective September 21, 2004 by Order of Offer of Settlement including the following sanctions: cease and desist; disgorgement; civil and administrative penalties in excess of \$2,500; and an undertaking to retain an independent compliance consultant until September 2006.

## **Item 10          Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

- A. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. **Licensed Insurance Agent.** The Registrant's Principal, Eric Rudney, in his individual capacity, is a licensed insurance agent. Mr. Rudney may recommend, and clients may engage Mr. Rudney to facilitate the purchase of certain insurance-related products on a commission basis.

**Conflict of Interest:** The recommendation by Eric Rudney that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a *conflict of interest*, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend insurance products based on commissions to be received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from Mr. Rudney. Clients are reminded that they may purchase insurance products recommended by the Registrant and/or Mr. Rudney through other, non-affiliated, insurance agents. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above conflict of interest.**

- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects for its clients.

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

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's Representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the

Registrant.

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. Practices such as “scalping” (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, “front-running” (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant’s clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant’s “Access Persons”. The Registrant’s securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person’s current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11 C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant’s Access Persons.

## **Item 12      Brokerage Practices**

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), the Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at TD. Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending TD (or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients) include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial



strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Registrant does not receive soft dollar benefits.

#### Institutional Advisor Program

Registrant participates in the institutional advisor program (the "Program") offered by TD Institutional, which is a division of *TD*. *TD* offers to independent investment advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. Registrant receives some benefits from *TD* through its participation in the Program.

Registrant may recommend *TD* to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between Registrant's participation in the Program and the investment advice it gives to its clients, although Registrant receives economic benefits through its participation in the Program that are typically not available to *TD* retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving Registrant participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to Registrant by third party vendors. *TD* may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by Registrant's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by *TD* through the program may benefit Registrant but may not benefit its client accounts. These products or services may assist Registrant in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at *TD*. Other services made available by *TD* are intended to help Registrant manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by Registrant or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to *TD*. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, Registrant endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Registrant or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Registrant's choice of *TD* for custody and brokerage services.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

#### Additional Services

Registrant also receives from *TD* certain additional economic benefits ("Additional Services") that may or may not be offered to any other independent investment advisors participating in the program. Specifically, the Additional Services include Schwab Performance Technologies & Up and Running Office Services, Inc.

*TD* provides the Additional Services to Registrant in its sole discretion and at its own expense, and Registrant does not pay any fees to *TD* for the Additional Services. Registrant and *TD* have entered into a separate agreement ("Additional Services Addendum") to govern the terms of the provision of the Additional Services.

Registrant's receipt of Additional Services raises potential conflicts of interest. In providing Additional Services to Registrant, *TD* most likely considers the amount and profitability to *TD* of the assets in, and trades placed for, Registrant's client accounts maintained with *TD*. *TD* has the right to terminate the Additional Services Addendum with Registrant, in its sole discretion, provided certain conditions are met. Consequently, in order to continue to obtain the Additional Services from *TD*, Registrant may have an incentive to recommend to its clients that the assets under management by Registrant be held in custody with *TD* and to place transactions for client accounts with *TD*. Registrant's receipt of Additional Services does not diminish its duty to act in the best interests of its clients, including to seek best execution of trades for Client accounts.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

#### Institutional Equity Management Program

Registrant may receive succession planning, practice valuation and Equity management services from third-party vendors through Registrant's participation in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program. In addition to meeting the minimum eligibility criteria for participation in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program, Registrant may have been selected to participate in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program based on the amount and potential profitability to *TD* of the assets in, and trades placed for, client accounts maintained with *TD*. *TD* is a discount broker-dealer independent of and unaffiliated with Registrant and there is no employee or agency relationship between *TD* and Registrant. *TD* has established the *TD* Institutional Equity Management program as a means of assisting independent unaffiliated advisors to grow and maintain their respective investment advisory business. *TD* does not supervise Registrant and has no responsibility for Registrant's management of client portfolios or Registrant's other advice or services to clients.

Registrant's participation in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program raises potential conflicts of interest. Registrant may encourage their clients to custody their assets at *TD* and whose client accounts are profitable to *TD*. Consequently, in order to participate in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program, Registrant may have an incentive to recommend to clients that the assets under management by Registrant be held in custody with *TD* and to place transactions for client accounts with *TD*. Registrant's participation in the *TD* Institutional Equity Management Program does not relieve the Registrant of the duty to seek best execution of trades for client accounts.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

**Please Note:** In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or "bunch" such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

### **Item 13      Review of Accounts**

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principal. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.

- B. The Registrant **may** conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

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

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant may receive an economic benefit from *TD*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *TD* (which may include direct monetary assistance from *TD* to obtain certain services or products).

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *TD* as a result of this arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest any such arrangement may create.**

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any of its related persons directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not a supervised person for client referrals.

#### **Item 15      Custody**

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian on a quarterly basis. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

**Please Note:** To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian. **Please Also Note:** The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

#### **Item 16      Investment Discretion**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the

Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at anytime, impose restrictions, **in writing**, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

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

- A. The Registrant does not vote client proxies. Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets.
- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

#### **Item 18      Financial Information**

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200 per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

**ANY QUESTIONS: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Ashley Kirk, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.**