

**Part 2A of Form ADV: *Firm Brochure***

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 925-277-3446 or [nimmo@fortressretirement.com](mailto:nimmo@fortressretirement.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 110279.

## **Item 2. Summary of Material Changes**

On July 28, 2010, the United State Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") published "Amendments to Form ADV" which amends the disclosure document that we provide to clients as required by SEC Rules. This Brochure is a new document prepared according to the SEC's new requirements and rules. As such, this document is materially different in structure and requires certain new information that our previous brochure did not require.

In the future, this Item will discuss specific material changes that are made to the Brochure and provide clients with a summary of such changes.

In the past we have offered or delivered information about our qualifications and business practices to clients on at least an annual basis. Pursuant to new SEC Rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any materials changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

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#### **Item 4     Advisory Business**

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. is a State of California -registered investment adviser with its principal place of business located in California. Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. began conducting business in 1994. FWM objective is to undertake and provide investment management and investment advisory services to achieve each client's objectives and goals.

Listed below are the firm's principal shareholders (i.e., those individuals and/or entities controlling 25% or more of this company).

- Thomas Lee Nimmo, President and CCO
- Arlie Wilson Green, CFO

FWM offers individual portfolio management services based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, FWM will select mutual funds and or securities for clients based upon their objectives using various methods of analysis. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations. In addition, FWM will review account composition and performance relative to these account objectives and risk considerations periodically but at least on a quarterly basis to ensure the client's objectives are being met.

Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

## **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of October 24, 2011, we were actively managing \$34,399,083 of clients' assets on a discretionary basis plus \$9,553,722 of clients' assets on a non-discretionary basis.

### **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

FWM's annual fees Portfolio Management Services are based on the market value of the client's portfolio and generally range from **0.75%** to **1.50%** as outlined below:

**Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees:** Although Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. has established the aforementioned fee schedule, we retain the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis contingent on the above fee schedule. Client facts, circumstances and needs will be considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client, assets to be placed under management, anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style, account composition, reports, among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule will be identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

We may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size requirements and determining the annualized fee.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of our firm.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Termination of the Advisory Relationship:** A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt of 30 days written notice..

**Mutual Fund Fees:** All fees paid to Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. for portfolio management services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds and/or EFTs to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. If the fund also imposes sales charges, a client may pay an initial or deferred sales charge. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

**Additional Fees and Expenses:** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer

to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

**Advisory Fees in General:** Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

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

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- Corporate Retirement Plans

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

### **METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

We use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

**Fundamental Analysis.** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell).

Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Technical Analysis.** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement.

Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Risks for all forms of analysis.** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

We use the following strategy(ies) in managing client accounts, provided that such strategy(ies) are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

**Long-term purchases.** We purchase securities with the idea of holding them in the client's account for a year or longer. Typically we employ this strategy when:

- we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or
- we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.
- We want the client to benefit from the payment of interest or dividends on the securities.

A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell.

**Short-term purchases.** When utilizing this strategy, we purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities we purchase.

**Risk of Loss.** Securities investments are not guaranteed and you may lose money on your investments. We ask that you work with us to help us understand your tolerance for risk.

### **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

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

Arlie Wilson Green acts as Chief Investment Officer for MJM401k, LLC.

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

Our firm has adopted a Code of Ethics which sets forth high ethical standards of business conduct that we require of our employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions

of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

Our Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by the firm's access persons. Among other things, our Code of Ethics also requires the prior approval of any acquisition of securities in a limited offering (e.g., private placement) or an initial public offering. Our code also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, FWM has adopted a firm wide policy statement outlining insider trading compliance by FWM and its associated persons and other employees. This statement had been distributed to all associated persons and other employees of FWM and has been signed and dated by each such person. A copy of the firm wide policy is left with such person and the original is maintained in a master file. Further, FWM has adopted a written supervisory procedures statement highlighting the steps which shall be taken to implement the firm wide policy. These materials are also distributed to all associated persons and other employees of FWM, signed, dated and filed with the insider trading compliance materials. There are provisions adopted for (1) restricting access to files, (2) providing continuing education, (3) restricting and/or monitoring trading on securities of which FWM's employees may have non-public information, (4) requiring all of FWM's employees to conduct their trading through a specified broker or reporting all transactions promptly to FWM, and (5) monitoring the securities trading of the firm and its employees and associated persons.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [nimmo@fortressretirement.com](mailto:nimmo@fortressretirement.com), or by calling us at 925-277-3446.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in principal transactions.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in agency cross transactions.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of our employees will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts.

Our firm and/or individuals associated with our firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) may have an interest or position in a certain security(ies) which may also be recommended to a client.

It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing such employee(s) from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.



## Item 12 Brokerage Practices

For discretionary clients, Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. requires these clients to provide us with written authority to determine the broker dealer to use and the commission costs that will be charged to these clients for these transactions.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. does not have any soft-dollar arrangements and does not receive any soft-dollar benefits.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. will block trades where possible and when advantageous to clients. This blocking of trades permits the trading of aggregate blocks of securities composed of assets from multiple client accounts, so long as transaction costs are shared equally and on a pro-rated basis between all accounts included in any such block.

Block trading may allow us to execute equity trades in a timelier, more equitable manner, at an average share price. Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. will typically aggregate trades among clients whose accounts can be traded at a given broker, and generally will rotate or vary the order of brokers through which it places trades for clients on any particular day. Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s block trading policy and procedures are as follows:

- 1) Transactions for any client account may not be aggregated for execution if the practice is prohibited by or inconsistent with the client's advisory agreement with Fortress Wealth Management, Inc., or our firm's order allocation policy.
- 2) The trading desk in concert with the portfolio manager must determine that the purchase or sale of the particular security involved is appropriate for the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives and with any investment guidelines or restrictions applicable to the client's account.
- 3) The portfolio manager must reasonably believe that the order aggregation will benefit, and will enable Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. to seek best execution for each client participating in the aggregated order. This requires a good faith judgment at the time the order is placed for the execution. It does not mean that the determination made in advance of the transaction must always prove to have been correct in the light of a "20-20 hindsight" perspective. Best execution includes the duty to seek the best quality of execution, as well as the best net price.
- 4) Prior to entry of an aggregated order, a written order ticket must be completed which identifies each client account participating in the order and the proposed allocation of the order, upon completion, to those clients.
- 5) If the order cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated pro rata among the participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. However, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. Furthermore, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to avoid having odd amounts of shares held in any client account, or to avoid excessive ticket charges in smaller accounts.
- 6) Generally, each client that participates in the aggregated order must do so at the average price for all separate transactions made to fill the order, and must share in the commissions on a pro rata basis in proportion to the client's participation. Under the client's agreement with

the custodian/broker, transaction costs may be based on the number of shares traded for each client.

7) If the order will be allocated in a manner other than that stated in the initial statement of allocation, a written explanation of the change must be provided to and approved by the Chief Compliance Officer no later than the morning following the execution of the aggregate trade.

8) Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s client account records separately reflect, for each account in which the aggregated transaction occurred, the securities which are held by, and bought and sold for, that account.

9) Funds and securities for aggregated orders are clearly identified on Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s records and to the broker-dealers or other intermediaries handling the transactions, by the appropriate account numbers for each participating client.

10) No client or account will be favored over another.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. may require that clients establish brokerage accounts with the Schwab Institutional division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, to maintain custody of clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. Although we require that clients establish accounts at Schwab, it is the client's decision to custody assets with Schwab. Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab.

Schwab provides Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services generally are available to independent investment advisers on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the adviser's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Schwab Institutional. These services are not contingent upon our firm committing to Schwab any specific amount of business (assets in custody or trading commissions). Schwab's brokerage services include the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For our client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions and other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Schwab Institutional also makes available to our firm other products and services that benefit Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. but may not directly benefit our clients' accounts. Many of these products and services may be used to service all or some substantial number of our client accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab.

Schwab's products and services that assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts include software and other technology that

- i. provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements);
- ii. facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- iii. provide research, pricing and other market data;

- iv. facilitate payment of our fees from clients' accounts; and
- v. assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Schwab Institutional also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services may include:

- i. compliance, legal and business consulting;
- ii. publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- iii. access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

### **Item 13    Review of Accounts**

#### **Investment Supervisory Services**

*REVIEWS:* While the underlying securities within Individual Portfolio Management Services accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least quarterly. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Thomas Nimmo and Arlie Green

*REPORTS:* In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide quarterly reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings.

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

It is Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s policy not to engage solicitors or to pay related or non-related persons for referring potential clients to our firm.

It is Fortress Wealth Management, Inc.'s policy not to accept or allow our related persons to accept any form of compensation, including cash, sales awards or other prizes, from a non-client in conjunction with the advisory services we provide to our clients.

### **Item 15    Custody**

We previously disclosed in the "Fees and Compensation" section (Item 5) of this Brochure that our firm directly debits advisory fees from client accounts.

As part of this billing process, the client's custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis, the custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the

calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

In addition to the periodic statements that clients receive directly from their custodians, we also send account statements directly to our clients on a quarterly basis. We urge our clients to carefully compare the information provided on these statements to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may hire us to provide discretionary asset management services, in which case we place trades in a client's account without contacting the client prior to each trade to obtain the client's permission.

Our discretionary authority includes the ability to do the following without contacting the client:

- Determine the security to buy or sell; and/or
- Determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

Clients give us discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may also change/amend such limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

As previously disclosed in Item 4 of this brochure, our firm does not provide discretionary asset management services.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy, we do not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Therefore, although our firm may provide investment advisory services relative to client investment assets, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially 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. Clients are responsible for instructing each custodian of the assets, to forward to the client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

If FWM inadvertently receives proxy information for a security held in a client's account, FWM will immediately forward such information to client but will not take further action.

We do not offer any consulting assistance regarding proxy issues to clients.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. has no additional no financial circumstances to report.

Under no circumstances do we ever require or solicit payment of fees in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

Fortress Wealth Management, Inc. has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.