

# Republic Wealth Advisors

SEC File Number: 801 – 61611

## **ADV Part 2A, Firm Brochure**

**Dated: August 16, 2017**

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This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Republic Wealth Advisors. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (512) 506-9395 or [discovery@republicwealthadvisors.com](mailto:discovery@republicwealthadvisors.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 Republic Wealth Advisors also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

References herein to Republic Wealth Advisors 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 this ADV Part 2A, Firm Brochure since the March 22, 2016 or February 14, 2017 Annual Amendment filings. While Republic Wealth Advisors does not believe the following constitutes a material change, Item 5.C. has been amended since the February 14, 2017 Annual Amendment filing with respect to reporting fees that may be incurred if a client chooses to receive quarterly reports from Republic Wealth Advisors in hard copy sent via mail, as opposed to electronically. Please refer to Item 5.C. for more detail in this respect.

**ANY QUESTIONS: Republic Wealth Advisors' Chief Compliance Officer, David Levy, remains available to address any questions that an existing or prospective client may have regarding this Brochure.**

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

- A. Republic Wealth Advisors (the “Registrant”) is a limited liability company formed on January 9, 2001 in the State of Texas. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in November 2002. From 2001 through 2015, Republic Wealth Advisors was exclusively known as Kenjol Capital Management, under which it conducted all of its business. The Registrant is principally owned by Frederick Hanish, Kenneth Landgraf, and David Levy.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (generally: individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, corporations and other business entities, trusts, estates and other registered investment advisers, etc.) discretionary investment advisory services. The Registrant **does not** hold itself out as providing financial planning, estate planning, or insurance planning services.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services on a fee-only 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 asset allocation programs. The Registrant allocates assets through internally and externally managed equity, fixed income, and balanced programs.

To the extent specifically requested by the client, the Registrant may provide limited consultation services to its investment management clients on investment and non-investment related matters that are generally ancillary to the investment management process. Any such consultation services, to the extent rendered, shall be rendered exclusively on an unsolicited basis, for which the Registrant shall usually not receive any separate or additional fee.

#### **RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

The Registrant also provides non-discretionary retirement plan consulting services, pursuant to which it assists sponsors of self-directed retirement plans with the selection and/or monitoring of investment alternatives from which plan participants shall choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. In addition, to the extent requested by the plan sponsor, the Registrant shall also provide participant education designed to assist participants in identifying the appropriate investment strategy for their retirement plan accounts. The terms and conditions of the engagement shall generally be set forth in a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement between the Registrant and the plan sponsor.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Limitations Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.** As indicated above, to the extent specifically requested by the client, the Registrant may provide limited consultation services to its investment management clients on investment and non-investment related matters that are generally ancillary to the investment management process. Registrant **does not** serve as an attorney or accountant, and no portion of its services should be construed as legal or accounting services. Accordingly, Registrant

**does not** prepare estate planning documents or tax returns. To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purpose (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.). 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 Registrant and/or its representatives. **Please Note:** If the client engages any recommended unaffiliated professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

**Independent Managers.** The Registrant may also recommend that certain clients authorize the active discretionary management of a portion or all of their assets by and/or among certain independent investment manager(s), usually in accordance with the terms and conditions of the platform sponsored by Envestnet Financial Services Company (“Envestnet”), Fidelity Investments (“Fidelity”), Charles Schwab & Co. (“Schwab”) and/or TD Ameritrade (“Ameritrade”). The Registrant shall continue to render investment advisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. The Registrant considers the following factors when recommending independent investment manager(s): the client’s designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research. **The investment management fee charged by the Independent Manager(s) is separate from, and in addition to Registrant’s investment advisory fee as set forth in Item 5.**

**Sub-Advisory Engagements.** The Registrant may serve as a sub-advisor to unaffiliated registered investment advisors according to the terms and conditions of a written Sub-Advisory Agreement. With respect to its sub-advisory services, the unaffiliated investment advisors that engage the Firm’s sub-advisory services maintain both the initial and ongoing day-to-day relationship with the underlying client, including initial and ongoing determination of client suitability for the Registrant’s designated investment strategies and/or programs. If the custodian/broker-dealer is determined by the unaffiliated investment adviser, Registrant will be unable to negotiate commissions and/or transaction costs, and/or seek better execution. As a result, clients 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 through alternative clearing arrangements recommended by Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. **The Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, David Levy, remains available to address any questions concerning the Registrant’s sub-advisory arrangements.**

**Variable Investment Products.** The Registrant allocates client investment assets on a discretionary basis among the investment sub accounts of variable annuity products previously purchased by the client. The Registrant includes the variable product assets as part of “assets under management” for the purposes of calculating its annual advisory fee. No client is under any obligation to purchase a variable product from the Registrant’s representatives. (See Item 10.C. below).

**Non-Discretionary Service Limitations.** Clients that determine to engage Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event that Registrant would like to make a

transaction for a client's account (including in the event of an individual holding or general market correction), and the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect the account transaction(s) (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's consent.

**Unaffiliated Private Investment Funds.** Registrant may also provide investment advice regarding unaffiliated private investment funds. Registrant, on a non-discretionary basis, may recommend that certain qualified clients consider an investment in unaffiliated private investment funds. Registrant's role relative to the private investment funds shall be limited to its initial and ongoing due diligence and investment monitoring services. If a client determines to become a private fund investor, the amount of assets invested in the fund(s) shall be included as part of "assets under management" for purposes of Registrant calculating its investment advisory fee. Registrant's clients are under absolutely no obligation to consider or make an investment in a private investment fund(s).

**Please Note:** Private investment funds generally involve various risk factors, including, but not limited to, potential for complete loss of principal, liquidity constraints and lack of transparency, a complete discussion of which is set forth in each fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration. Unlike liquid investments that a client may own, private investment funds do not provide daily liquidity or pricing. Each prospective client investor will be required to complete a Subscription Agreement, pursuant to which the client shall establish that he/she is qualified for investment in the fund, and acknowledges and accepts the various risk factors that are associated with such an investment.

**Please Also Note: Valuation.** In the event that Registrant references private investment funds owned by the client on any supplemental account reports prepared by Registrant, the value(s) for all private investment funds owned by the client shall reflect the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor. If no subsequent valuation post-purchase is provided by the Fund Sponsor, then the valuation shall reflect the initial purchase price (and/or a value as of a previous date), or the current value(s) (either the initial purchase price and/or the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor). If the valuation reflects initial purchase price (and/or a value as of a previous date), the current value(s) (to the extent ascertainable) could be **significantly more or less** than original purchase price. The client's advisory fee shall be based upon reflected fund value(s).

**Retirement Plan Rollovers – No Obligation / Potential for Conflict of Interest:** A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If the Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by the Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Registrant will earn a new (or increase its current) advisory fee as a result of the rollover. To the extent that Registrant recommends that clients roll over assets from their retirement plan to an IRA managed by Registrant, then Registrant represents that it and its investment adviser representatives are fiduciaries under the Employment Retirement

Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), or the Internal Revenue Code, or both. **No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant. The Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, David Levy, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding its prospective engagement and the corresponding conflict of interest presented by such engagement.**

**ERISA / IRC Fiduciary Acknowledgment.** If the client is: (i) a retirement plan (“Plan”) organized under ERISA; (ii) a participant or beneficiary of a Plan subject to Title I of ERISA or described in section 4975(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, with authority to direct the investment of assets in his or her Plan account or to take a distribution; (iii) the beneficial owner of an IRA acting on behalf of the IRA; or (iv) a Retail Fiduciary with respect to a plan subject to Title I of ERISA or described in section 4975(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code: then the Registrant represents that it and its representatives are fiduciaries under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code, or both, with respect to any investment advice provided by the Registrant or its representatives or with respect to any investment recommendations regarding an ERISA Plan or participant or beneficiary account.

**Morningstar ByAllAccounts.** Registrant, in conjunction with the services provided by “Morningstar ByAllAccounts” may also provide periodic comprehensive reporting services which can incorporate all of the client’s investment assets, including those investment assets that are not part of the assets managed by Registrant (the “Excluded Assets”). **The client and/or his/her/its other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets.** Registrant’s service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting and non-discretionary consulting services only, which does not include investment implementation. Registrant does not have trading authority for the Excluded Assets. As such, to the extent applicable to the nature of the Excluded Assets (assets over which the client maintains trading authority vs. trading authority designated to another investment professional), the client (and/or the other investment professional) shall be exclusively responsible for directly implementing any recommendations relative to the Excluded Assets. Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. In the event the client desires that Registrant provide discretionary investment management services (whereby Registrant would have trading authority) with respect to the Excluded Assets, the client may engage the Registrant to do so pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Investment Advisory Agreement between Registrant and the client.

**Inverse/Enhanced Market Strategies.** The Registrant may utilize long and short mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds that are designed to perform in either an: (1) inverse relationship to certain market indices (at a rate of 1 or more times the inverse [opposite] result of the corresponding index) as an investment strategy and/or for the purpose of hedging against downside market risk; and (2) enhanced relationship to certain market indices (at a rate of 1 or more times the actual result of the corresponding index) as an investment strategy and/or for the purpose of increasing gains in an advancing market. There can be **no assurance** that any such strategy will prove profitable or successful. In light of these enhanced risks/rewards, a client may direct the Registrant, in writing, not to employ any or all such strategies for his/her/their/its accounts.

**Structured Notes.** The Registrant may purchase structured notes for client accounts. A structured note is a financial instrument that combines two elements, a debt security and exposure to an underlying asset or assets. It is essentially a note, carrying counter party risk of the issuer. However, the return on the note is linked to the return of an underlying asset or assets (such as the S&P 500 Index or commodities). It is this latter feature that makes structured products unique, as the payout can be used to provide some degree of principal protection, leveraged returns (but usually with some cap on the maximum return), and be tailored to a specific market or economic view. In addition, investors may receive long-term capital gains tax treatment if certain underlying conditions are met and the note is held for more than one year. Finally, structured notes may also have liquidity constraints, such that the sale thereof prior to maturity may be limited. **In the event that a client has any questions regarding the purchase of structured notes for his/her/its account, the Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, David Levy, remains available to address them**

**Cross Transactions.** In limited circumstances, Registrant may arrange for cross-transactions pursuant to which the Registrant may cross transactions between two of its managed client accounts (i.e., arranging for the clients' securities trades by "crossing" these trades when the Registrant believes that such transactions are beneficial to its clients). For all such transactions, neither the Registrant nor any related person will be acting as a broker or receive any commission or transaction-based compensation. The client may revoke Registrant's cross-transaction authority at any time upon written notice to the Registrant.

**Trade Error Policy.** Registrant shall reimburse accounts for losses resulting from the Registrant's trade errors, but shall not credit accounts for such errors resulting in market gains. The gains and losses are reconciled within the Registrant's custodian firm account. Registrant is responsible for net losses for errors at Fidelity but net gains will be sent to a charity of the Registrant's choosing. For errors at Schwab, the custodian retains the net gains and losses, except for losses exceeding \$100 which are retained by the Registrant. For errors at Ameritrade that result in a net gain, the custodian will automatically sweep the credit balance to a designated Ameritrade account and donate the balance to a charity. Registrant is responsible for all losses.

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

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

**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 Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

- 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 any time, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As December 31, 2016, the Registrant had \$130,130,433 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$13,772,418 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

A.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services on a negotiable fee-only basis, generally according to the following fee schedule, which is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant's asset allocation programs as follows:

<u>Assets Under Management</u>	<u>Annual Fee (%)</u>
First \$1,000,000	1.20%
Next \$4,000,000	1.00%
Next \$5,000,000	0.80%
Over \$10,000,000	0.60%

### **RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide retirement plan consulting services, the terms and conditions of the engagement shall be set forth in a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement between the Registrant and the plan sponsor. The Registrant charges a non-negotiable annual fee for retirement plan consulting services of 0.50%, of plan assets, subject to a minimum annual fee of \$500 and an initial hourly "set up fee" payable upon execution of the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Registrant's Investment Advisory Agreement, Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement, and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fees and to directly remit those fees 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 Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management



assets. Broker-dealers such as Fidelity, Schwab and Ameritrade 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.

**Asset-Based Fees versus Transaction-Based Fees:** Custodians such as Fidelity, Schwab and Ameritrade are compensated for their services which include, but are not limited to execution, custody and reporting. Fidelity, Schwab or Ameritrade can charge a fixed percentage fee for their services based upon the dollar amount of the assets placed in their custody and/or on their platform. This is referred to as an "Asset-Based Fee." In the alternative, rather than a fixed percentage fee based upon the market value of the assets in its custody, Fidelity, Schwab or Ameritrade could charge a separate fee for the execution of each transaction. This is referred to as a "Transaction-Based Fee." Under a Transaction Based fee, the amount of total fees charged to the client account for trade execution will vary depending upon the number of transactions that are placed for the account. To the extent that clients elect to engage a custodian on an Asset-Based Fee basis, Registrant will conduct a routine sampling to confirm that Asset-Based pricing continues to be beneficial for these clients. Prior to engaging a custodian regardless of pricing (Asset-Based versus Transaction-Based), the client will be required to execute a separate agreement with the custodian agreeing to such pricing/fees. The fees charged by Fidelity, Schwab and Ameritrade are separate and in addition to the advisory fee payable by the client to Registrant. **Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, David Levy, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding Asset-Based versus Transaction-Based pricing.**

**Reporting Fees.** As part of its advisory services, Registrant provides quarterly account reports to its investment advisory clients. Effective October 1, 2017, investment advisory clients who choose to receive such reports in hard copy delivered by mail (and not through electronic delivery such as email, the Registrant's designated online portal, or its website) will incur a charge of \$25 per quarterly report, but only to the extent that such client maintains less than \$1,000,000 under Registrant's management as reflected on the applicable quarterly report.

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fees 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 applicable form of Agreement between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party in accordance with the terms such 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 currently generally include: individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, corporations and other business entities, trusts, estates and other registered investment advisers. For investment advisory services, the Registrant does not typically require an annual minimum fee, but generally prefers a minimum asset level of \$1,000,000. The Registrant may charge a lesser investment advisory fee and/or waive or reduce its minimum fee preference in its sole discretion, 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 Registrant also imposes a minimum annual fee of \$500 for retirement plan consulting services. Therefore retirement plans valued at less than \$100,000 will pay a higher percentage annual fee than the 0.50% referenced in Item 5 above to receive Registrant's retirement plan consulting services.

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

- A. The Registrant shall utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Charting - (analysis performed using patterns to identify current trends and trend reversals to forecast the direction of prices)
  - Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)
  - Cyclical – (analysis performed on historical relationships between price and market trends, to forecast the direction of prices)
  - Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)

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)
- Trading (securities sold within thirty (30) days)

**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). 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, severely 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, Short Term Purchases, and Trading - 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. Trading, an investment strategy that requires the purchase and sale of securities within a thirty (30) day investment time period, involves a very short investment time period but will incur higher transaction costs when compared to a short term investment strategy and substantially higher transaction costs than a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant allocates client investment assets on a discretionary basis (in either cash and/or margin [to the extent specially authorized by the client] accounts that invest in various types of investments and/or tactical strategies, including the purchase and sale of individual mutual funds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), equity and/or fixed income securities, options, including inverse ETFs and/or mutual funds that are designed to perform in an inverse relationship to certain market indices, in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s), as described below:

Registrant employs the use of both internally managed programs and outside managers to meet each client's individual objectives and risk tolerance. Internally managed equity programs include:

- Dow Rotation
- Dynamic Sector Rotation
- Fidelity ETF Rotation
- High Quality Equity
- Strategic Equity
- Tactical

Internally managed fixed income programs include:

- Core Fixed Income
- High Yield Tactical Bond
- High Yield Tactical Municipal Bond
- Income
- Individual Bond

Internally managed balanced programs include:

- Bond Alternative
- Seasonal Rotation

The above investment programs can be invested in individually or blended by the Registrant to meet individual client's risk tolerance and objectives. Registrant may hold positions in blended programs including but not limited to the above listed programs. Registrant reviews the above programs on a periodic basis and may develop new programs on a one-off basis which may later be offered to or implemented in client portfolios. Registrant may, on request, build a customized portfolio of individual equity and/or fixed income securities.

Registrant's proprietary programs have been designed to comply with the requirements of Rule 3a-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Rule 3a-4 provides similarly managed investment programs, with a non-exclusive safe harbor from the definition of an investment company. In accordance with Rule 3a-4, the following disclosure is specifically applicable to Registrant's management of client assets:

1. **Initial Interview** – at the opening of the account, the Registrant, through its designated representatives, shall obtain from the client information sufficient to determine the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
2. **Individual Treatment** – the client's account is managed on the basis of the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
3. **Quarterly Notice** – at least quarterly the Registrant shall notify the client to advise the Registrant whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of his/her/its account;
4. **Annual Contact** – at least annually, the Registrant shall contact the client to determine whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of his/her/its account.
5. **Consultation Available** – the Registrant shall be reasonably available to consult with the client relative to the status of the client's account;
6. **Quarterly Statement** – the client shall be provided with a quarterly report for the account for the preceding period;
7. **Ability to Impose Restrictions** – the client shall have the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of the account, including the ability to instruct the Registrant not to purchase certain mutual funds;
8. **No Pooling** – the client's beneficial interest in a security does not represent an undivided interest in all the securities held by the custodian, but rather represents a direct and beneficial interest in the securities which comprise the client's account;
9. **Separate Account** - a separate account is maintained for the client with the Custodian; and
10. **Ownership** – each client retains indicia of ownership of the account (e. g. right to withdraw securities or cash, exercise or delegate proxy voting, and receive transaction confirmations).

As disclosed above, the Registrant may utilize long and short mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds that are designed to perform in either an: (1) inverse relationship to certain market indices (at a rate of 1 or more times the inverse [opposite] result of the corresponding index) as an investment strategy and/or for the purpose of hedging against

downside market risk; and (2) enhanced relationship to certain market indices (at a rate of 1 or more times the actual result of the corresponding index) as an investment strategy and/or for the purpose of increasing gains in an advancing market. There can be no assurance that any such strategy will prove profitable or successful. In light of these enhanced risks/rewards, a client may direct the Registrant, in writing, not to employ any or all such strategies for his/her/their/its accounts. (See Item 4 B).

## **Item 9            Disciplinary Information**

The Registrant has not been the subject of any disciplinary actions.

## **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. The Registrant has no other relationship or arrangement with a related person that is material to its advisory business.
- 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 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), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade. Prior to engaging 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 Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade (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 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 broker-dealer 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. Non-Soft Dollar Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may receive from Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment manager, platform, vendor or fund/product sponsor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis travel and attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

In addition to the above, Registrant anticipates that it may receive certain additional economic benefits from various mutual fund sponsors and/or variable annuity companies for marketing purposes ("Additional Benefits"). Specifically, Registrant anticipates that such companies may pay typically between \$500 and \$1,500 directly to restaurants/banquet halls to sponsor marketing events attended by Registrant's representatives, Registrant's clients, and representatives of the respective mutual fund sponsors and/or variable annuity companies. Registrant anticipates that each such payment will be non-recurring and individually negotiated. The Registrant has no expectation that these Additional Benefits will be offered on an ongoing basis; however, the Registrant reserves the right to negotiate for these Additional Benefits in the future. The mutual fund sponsors/variable annuity companies will offer these Additional Benefits in their respective sole discretion and at their respective sole expense. Neither the Registrant nor its clients will pay any fees to the mutual fund sponsors and/or variable annuity companies for the Additional Benefits. Registrant has not entered into any written agreement to govern the Additional Benefits.

As indicated above, certain of the support services and/or products that may be received may assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, David H. Levy, 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 such arrangement may create.**

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. **Directed Brokerage.** 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. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. **Please Also Note:** Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, David H. Levy, 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 and/or representatives. 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 with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services may also receive a periodic report from the Registrant summarizing account activity and performance. Please refer to Item 5.C. with respect to charges that may be incurred as a result.

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

- A. As referenced in Item 12.1 above, the Registrant may receive economic benefits from Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade including support services and/or products from without cost or at a discount. Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to Fidelity, Schwab and/or Ameritrade or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, David H. Levy, 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. If a client is introduced to the Registrant by either an unaffiliated or an affiliated solicitor, Registrant may pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee shall be paid solely from the Registrant's investment management fee, and shall not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to the Registrant by an unaffiliated solicitor, the solicitor, at the time of the solicitation, shall disclose the nature of his/her/its solicitor relationship, and shall provide each prospective client with a copy of the Registrant's written Brochure with a copy of the written disclosure statement from the solicitor to the client disclosing the terms of the solicitation arrangement between the Registrant and the solicitor, including the compensation to be received by the solicitor from the Registrant.

#### **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 with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides

investment supervisory services may also receive a periodic report from the Registrant 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:** that 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, client shall be required to execute Investment Advisory Agreement, naming the Registrant as 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 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.
- 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, David H. Levy, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements**