

# Form ADV

## Part 2A

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### Allison Investment Management, LLC

March 11, 2011

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This brochure ("Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Allison Investment Management, LLC ("AIM"). You should review this Brochure in conjunction with our separate brochure supplement ("Supplement"). The Supplement(s) has been prepared for the purpose of providing information about the qualifications and background of the supervised person(s) working with you on our behalf or who may otherwise participate in the advisory services provided to you.

If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure or our Supplement(s), please contact us at 803-806-8400 or john@allinvmgt.com. Additional information about AIM or any of our supervised persons (who are registered under our firm) is also available on the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure ("IAPD") which can be found at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

The format/layout of this Brochure has been dictated by the SEC. As such, the Brochure's table of contents can be found after the "Material Changes" section of this Brochure, not at the beginning of the Brochure. The subsections appearing under each heading shall follow the mandated ordering of the items required to be addressed in this Brochure as set forth in the instructions and guidance issued by the SEC in regard to Part 2A of the Form ADV. AIM's response to each such item shall immediately follow each numbered item. We encourage any reader of this Brochure to also refer to the SEC's instructions and guidance related to Part 2A of the Form ADV. Throughout this Brochure, any references to "we," "our," "ours," "us," etc. are meant to refer to AIM.

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.

## **II. Material Changes**

Filing date of last annual ADV update: March 11, 2011.

On July 28, 2010, the SEC published Release No. IA-3060, titled, "Amendments to Form ADV" which announced the approval of the new amendments to Form ADV. This Brochure is a new document prepared according to the SEC's new requirements and rules and as set forth in the ADV and its corresponding instructions. As such, this Brochure is materially different in structure and requires certain new information that our previous client disclosure document (i.e. Part II and Schedule F) did not require. In the future, this Material Changes section will discuss only specific material changes that are made to the Brochure and will provide you with a summary of such changes.

Since the filing of our most recent annual ADV update and aside from that overall formatting/layout change described above, there have been no other material changes between our old Part II and Schedule F and this new Brochure.

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## Key Definitions

There are several terms used throughout this Brochure that are defined in the Glossary of the Form ADV. The full Form ADV and its glossary can be found on the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov/about/forms/formadv.pdf>, however, several of the more important terms that are used throughout this Brochure are provided below for your reference. The definitions appear below as they appear in the glossary of the ADV so be mindful that all references made to "you," "your," or "yours" are intended to refer to AIM. Each term is presented in alphabetical order, not necessarily its order of appearance or use in this Brochure.

**Advisory Affiliate:** Your advisory affiliates are (1) all of your officers, partners, or directors (or any person performing similar functions); (2) all persons directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by you; and (3) all of your current employees (other than employees performing only clerical, administrative, support or similar functions).

**Control:** Control means the power, directly or indirectly, to direct the management or policies of a person, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. Each of your firm's officers, partners, or directors exercising executive responsibility (or persons having similar status or functions) is presumed to control your firm. A person is presumed to control a corporation if the person: (i) directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of a class of the corporation's voting securities; or (ii) has the power to sell or direct the sale of 25 percent or more of a class of the corporation's voting securities. A person is presumed to control a partnership if the person has the right to receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, 25 percent or more of the capital of the partnership. A person is presumed to control a limited liability company ("LLC") if the person: (i) directly or indirectly has the right to vote 25 percent or more of a class of the interests of the LLC; (ii) has the right to receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, 25 percent or more of the capital of the LLC; or (iii) is an elected manager of the LLC. A person is presumed to control a trust if the person is a trustee or managing agent of the trust.

**Management Persons:** Anyone with the power to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over your firm's management or policies, or to determine the general investment advice given to the clients of your firm. Generally, all of the following are management persons: Your firm's principal executive officers, such as your chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operations officer, chief legal officer, and chief compliance officer; your directors, general partners, or trustees; and other individuals with similar status or performing similar functions; The members of your firm's investment committee or group that determines general investment advice to be given to clients; and If your firm does not have an investment committee or group, the individuals who determine general investment advice provided to clients (if there are more than five people, you may limit your firm's response to their supervisors).

**Person:** A natural person (an individual) or a company. A company includes any partnership, corporation, trust, limited liability company ("LLC"), limited liability partnership ("LLP"), sole proprietorship, or other organization.

**Related Person:** Any advisory affiliate and any person that is under common control with your firm.

**Self-Regulatory Organization or SRO:** Any national securities or commodities exchange, registered securities association, or registered clearing agency. For example, the Chicago Board of Trade ("CBOT"), FINRA and New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") are self-regulatory organizations.

**Supervised Person:** Any of your officers, partners, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), or employees, or any other person who provides investment advice on your behalf and is subject to your supervision or control.

## **IV. Advisory Business**

### **Item IV.(A). AIM at a Glance**

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#### **Firm Profile**

We are an investment management firm offering separately managed, fee-based accounts to high net worth individuals and institutions. We endeavor to create a more personalized and focused approach to investment management. The fee-based advice we offer is customized, performance oriented, transparent, and designed to be free from any conflicts of interest.

By hiring us as an investment manager you will enjoy unique benefits that make us different/better than other investment managers:

Trust and a personal relationship with your investment manager

You will always speak to an owner of our family-run firm... one who is dedicated to your account, shares a vested interest in your financial success, and is independent of sales quotas and conflicts of interest.

A powerful edge over other investors who operate under the guidance of Wall Street's fad-chasing sales force

You will work directly with a principal of our company... a portfolio manager with credentials and years of experience in successful investment management....not some financial salesperson.

Greater control over the performance of your investment portfolio

You will receive quarterly portfolio performance reports and powerful market strategy insights. You will also have the ability to have us customize your portfolio around concentrated investment holdings, tax issues, and social investing preferences.

#### **Years in Business**

Date of formation: February 19, 2004

Date of initial investment adviser registration: January 6, 2003.

#### **Direct Principal Owners**

The following party(s) maintains at least 25% direct/indirect ownership in AIM.

- John E. Allison

## IV.(B). AIM's Advisory Services

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In this section, we will describe the services we offer as well as the fees that correspond to those services. As far as investment products on which we may provide advice, those product types are identified in the grid below.

### Product Type Limitations

We generally provide investment advice in relation to the following specific types of securities/investments.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exchange listed equities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mutual funds (closed-end and open-end funds)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Over the counter equities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs")
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equities of foreign issuers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exchange traded funds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interests in privately offered securities (hedge funds, venture capital funds, private equity funds, etc.) involving any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real estate</li><li>• Oil and gas</li><li>• Mortgages or other receivables/assets</li></ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. government securities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warrants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Options on securities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Options on commodities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercial paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Options on futures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Certificates of deposit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Futures contracts (tangibles)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal securities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Futures contracts (intangibles)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Variable life insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Variable annuities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

### Specialized Services

As designated below, we specialize in the following services. As applicable, a description of each such service is also included below.

- ☐ 1. Financial planning.
- ☐ 2. Quantitative analysis.
- ☐ 3. Market timing services.
- ☒ 4. None of the above. In the following grid(s), we will describe both the services we offer as well as other key issues related to those services.



## Our Services

Service:	<b><i>Wrap Programs</i></b>
Service description:	<p>On occasion, we may recommend certain wrap programs to you. A “wrap fee program” is a program that offers participants a suite of services such as asset allocation; portfolio management; trade execution; and certain administrative activities, all for a single fee – typically an annual, asset-based fee. A wrap fee program is designed to assist clients in obtaining professional asset management, brokerage, custodial, and administrative services for a convenient, "wrapped" fee.</p> <p>There are several main roles that can be served in relation to a wrap program.</p> <p><b>Lead Sponsor</b> – The lead sponsor is the investment adviser firm that principally organizes the wrap program and determines which program managers will be made available in the wrap program; which broker-dealers and/or custodians will be used in the wrap program; as well as the overall fee structure for the wrap program. The lead sponsor would also generally coordinate the engagement of other investment advisers (referring parties, or solicitors) who may refer clients of their own to participate in the wrap program. The lead sponsor in some cases may and in some cases may not provide the hands on management of a wrap client’s assets within the wrap program. In some cases, the lead sponsor may be responsible for selecting the specific program manager that will be responsible for providing the hands on management of a wrap client’s assets within the wrap program.</p> <p><b>Solicitor</b> – A solicitor generally does not serve as the lead sponsor and does not serve as a program manager within the wrap program. The solicitor simply recommends that its clients participate in the wrap program and in some cases, the solicitor may recommend one or more program managers made available within the wrap program. In certain circumstances, a solicitor may also be considered a sponsor but generally not the lead sponsor.</p> <p><b>Program Manager</b> – The program manager(s) are generally investment adviser firms that are responsible for the hands on management of a wrap client’s assets within the wrap program. The program managers generally are selected by the lead sponsor as investment advisers available within the wrap program.</p> <p>In relation to wrap programs, we participate in the following manner.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Program Manager (within a wrap program sponsored by another investment adviser)</u></b>. As Program Manager, we provide the hands on management (discretionary) of a wrap client’s program assets.</p> <p>We will offer a wrap fee brochure or other appropriate disclosure document to any advisory clients who are recommended to participate in a wrap program; whether ours or another investment adviser’s wrap program. The wrap fee brochure provides wrap program participants with important information about the wrap fee program itself. We will also provide a copy of current wrap brochure and/or other disclosure document for the specific investment manager(s) selected to manage a client's assets in a wrap program. A wrap program participant should consider all of the information within the wrap fee brochure and the selected investment manager's disclosure document(s) before participating in a wrap fee program. We receive a portion of the wrap fees paid by you.</p>

	The wrap fee program that we recommend is the Pinnacle Account, which is principally sponsored by Triad Advisors, Inc. ("Triad"). We are not an affiliated entity of Triad's.																		
Use of discretion:	<p>Depending on your individual needs and the services you request of us, we may exercise full discretion as to the following elements.</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Securities to be bought or sold;  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amount of the securities to be bought or sold;  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timing as to when such securities are to be bought or sold;  <input type="checkbox"/> None. </p>																		
Service fees:	<p>The basic asset based fee schedule for the Pinnacle Account is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Portfolio Value</th><th>Maximum Fee</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>\$ 250,000 - \$ 500,000</td><td>1.50%</td></tr> <tr> <td>\$ 500,001 - \$ 1,000,000</td><td>1.25%</td></tr> <tr> <td>\$ 1,000,001 - \$ 2,500,000</td><td>1.00%</td></tr> <tr> <td>\$ 2,500,001 and up</td><td>0.75%</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other fee/account maintenance conditions...</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum account/portfolio balance (initial):</td><td>\$250,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum account/portfolio balance (ongoing):</td><td>None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum, ongoing account balance. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum annual fee:</td><td>None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum fee. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For more detail on the Pinnacle Account please reference Triad's Wrap Brochure.</p> <p>All fees are negotiable at our sole discretion. Specific fee arrangements will be set forth in your Investment Management Agreement ("IMA").</p>	Portfolio Value	Maximum Fee	\$ 250,000 - \$ 500,000	1.50%	\$ 500,001 - \$ 1,000,000	1.25%	\$ 1,000,001 - \$ 2,500,000	1.00%	\$ 2,500,001 and up	0.75%	Other fee/account maintenance conditions...		Minimum account/portfolio balance (initial):	\$250,000	Minimum account/portfolio balance (ongoing):	None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum, ongoing account balance. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.	Minimum annual fee:	None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum fee. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.
Portfolio Value	Maximum Fee																		
\$ 250,000 - \$ 500,000	1.50%																		
\$ 500,001 - \$ 1,000,000	1.25%																		
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\$ 2,500,001 and up	0.75%																		
Other fee/account maintenance conditions...																			
Minimum account/portfolio balance (initial):	\$250,000																		
Minimum account/portfolio balance (ongoing):	None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum, ongoing account balance. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.																		
Minimum annual fee:	None imposed by AIM, however, Triad may impose a minimum fee. Refer to the other adviser's Part 2A and/or Appendix 1 of Part 2A.																		
Other fees:	Aside from the fees described in the previous section, there are no other fees or expenses that are charged to wrap program clients of AIM.																		
Fee collection:	<p>For the service described above, we receive our service fees by the following method(s):</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> automatic fee deduction via the custodian; and/or  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> direct invoice to you. </p> <p><i>Billing Via Custodian.</i></p> <p>Contemporaneously with the execution of the IMA, you will be asked to sign an authorization that will allow the custodian of any of your account(s) to debit the account(s) the amount of our service fees and remit the fee to us. The authorization will remain valid unless and until we receive a written revocation of such authorization from you. In connection with this fee deduction process, the custodian will send you a statement, at least quarterly, indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all amounts disbursed from the account, and</li> <li>• the amount of advisory fees deducted from your account.</li> </ul>																		

	<p><i>Direct billing.</i></p> <p>If so desired, you may choose to be billed directly by us for our service fees. If so chosen, you will be invoiced by the fifth business day of the month subsequent to the most recently ended billing period. Payments are due on or by the final business day of the month in which the invoice is generated.</p>
Fee frequency/timing:	<p>For the service described above, the frequency and timing of our fee collection process occurs as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> quarterly, <input type="checkbox"/> monthly, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> advance, or <input type="checkbox"/> arrears.</p>
Advanced billing and refunds:	<p>As described above, our advisory fees may be charged in advance. Fees paid in advance will be considered earned and non-refundable to you up to the effective termination of your investment management agreement as the termination process is described in your investment management agreement. Upon receipt of a proper notice of termination (“Termination Notice”) as described in your investment management agreement, we will calculate a prorata refund of any fees not yet earned by us after the effective termination date of your investment management agreement. The prorata refund will equal the total number of calendar days remaining in the billing period after the date of the termination of the Agreement to the end of that billing period divided by the total number of calendar days in that billing period. The result of that calculation will be multiplied by the total fee already paid for that billing period. The result of that calculation will represent the refund owed to you. Refunds of advance payments owed back to you shall be paid as soon as reasonably possible but not sooner than ten (10) business days after our receipt of a proper Termination Notice.</p>

#### **IV.(C). Customization of Advisory Services**

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To the fullest extent possible, we will endeavor to tailor our advisory services to meet the specific needs of each and every client. In order to determine a suitable course of action for an individual client, we will perform a review of our clients’ financial circumstances. Such review may include, but would not necessarily be limited to, investment objectives, consideration of a client’s overall financial condition, income and tax status, personal and business assets, risk profile, and other factors unique to a client’s particular circumstances.

In making investment recommendations on behalf of a client, we will rely on a data gathering document, which would be completed based on information provided by a client.

Our clients are free to impose any restrictions or other conditions with regard to how we provide our advisory services. If we agree to such restrictions and/or conditions, please be advised that restrictions and guidelines imposed by a client may affect the composition and performance of custom portfolios (as a result, performance of custom portfolios within the same investment objective may differ and a client should not expect that the performance of a custom portfolio will be identical to any other individual’s portfolio performance) as well as any recommendations provided to the client.

#### **IV.(D). Wrap Fee Program Participation**

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Refer to item IV.(B). above for details as to our participation/involvement with wrap programs.

## **IV. (E). Assets Under Management<sup>1</sup> (“AUM”)**

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AUM (discretionary):	\$ 36,800,000
AUM (non-discretionary):	\$ 18,300,000
Total AUM <sup>2</sup> :	\$ 55,100,000
Date of AUM calculation:	December 31, 2010

## **V. Fees and Compensation**

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### **V.(A). AIM Advisory Fees**

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Refer above to Item IV.(B).

### **V.(B). Fee Collection Process**

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Refer above to Item IV.(B).

### **V.(C). Other Fee/Expenses.**

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Refer above to Item IV.(B).

### **V.(D). Fees Charged in Advance**

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Refer above to Item IV.(B).

### **V.(E). Additional Compensation**

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Certain individuals who are associated with us, if properly registered and licensed to do so, may also receive compensation (i.e. commissions) related to the sale of securities or other investment products. Transaction-based compensation (“Additional Compensation”) such as this is separate and distinct from the other fees we may receive in connection with our investment advisory services as described above in Item V.(A).

#### **V.(E).(1). Conflicts of Interest**

The instructions in the Form ADV require us to tell you that the receipt or potential for the receipt of Additional Compensation gives our supervised persons an incentive to recommend investment products based on the Additional Compensation received, rather than on your specific needs. Although we are obligated to tell you this, our objective as a firm, which is shared by our supervised persons, is to place nothing before your best interests.

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<sup>1</sup> The term, “assets under management” shall carry the same meaning as that term is defined by Form ADV.

<sup>2</sup> Rounded to the nearest \$100,000

*How we address these conflicts.* First and foremost, we address the conflicts described above in relation to Additional Compensation by disclosing them to you in this Brochure as well as your representative's Brochure Supplement. As a matter of general policy, we aggressively discourage activities that put your interests anywhere but first. Additionally, we have instituted a comprehensive supervisory process, detailed in our Written Supervisory Procedures ("WSPs") that was designed to address, among other things, conflicts of interest such as Additional Compensation. In addition, we have designated a Chief Compliance Officer, as set forth on Schedule A of our Form ADV, to be the party responsible for the overall application and oversight of our supervisory process and our WSPs. Our Chief Compliance Officer has the authority to delegate certain supervisory responsibilities to other supervised persons within our firm in order to ensure that our overall system of supervision is being adequately carried out and in a timely manner.

The potential conflict of interest resulting from the Additional Compensation described above is commonplace in the investment industry and we believe that such arrangements are not only appropriate but that they are proper in light of the added examination, licensing, registration, and other regulatory oversight that also takes place in the brokerage area of the investment industry. Our supervised persons have satisfied various regulatory examination and registration requirements that allow not only for the offering of the types of products and services described in the information related to the Additional Compensation described above but also the receipt of the normal and customary compensation that any similarly registered, licensed, and qualified person could receive in the form of sales compensation for those same products/services.

Bear in mind that even if our supervised persons were not registered/licensed to sell the types of products/services addressed in the preceding section, the majority of your investments or transactions involving such products would still result in you paying some sort of commission for those products. In the case of our supervised persons, their active registration/licensing may allow them to be able to receive such Additional Compensation as opposed to the executing financial institution keeping that compensation for themselves.

Any Additional Compensation received by our supervised persons in connection with the products/services described in the preceding section is deemed routine and customary compensation for such activities and is not believed to be inappropriate.

*Procedures for disclosing these conflicts.* In an effort to inform you of these conflicts of interest, we have prepared this Brochure and have provided it to you, in part, for the purpose of disclosing these conflicts. You are always welcome to request a current copy of our Brochure. We are obligated to provide you a copy of this Brochure no later than the time you sign our IMA and on an annual basis, we are required to provide you either (1) a copy of our current Brochure or (2) a set of instructions as to how you can request a copy of our current Brochure.

If we recommend mutual funds to our clients, we may often or occasionally recommend no-load funds.

## **V.(E).(2). Client-Directed Brokerage**

You have the ability to purchase investment products that we recommend through any broker-dealer or other financial institution you choose. If you choose to use a firm other than the broker-dealer(s) we may normally recommend, we may not be able to properly monitor your assets and therefore we cannot be held responsible for the success or failure of any investment products or strategies that you implement at firms other than those we recommend. In other words, our services and responsibilities will not apply to transactions you effect on your own whether through firms you choose on your own or through any broker-dealer we may recommend.

## **V.(E).(3). Brokerage Compensation**

AIM is not registered as a broker-dealer and thus, it does not receive transaction-based compensation for securities-related activities.

#### **V.(E).(4). Advisory Fee Offset**

In the event that we or our supervised persons receive compensation other than our advisory fees as described above in Item IV.(B), we will not adjust our advisory fees to offset those other fees.

### **VI. Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

We do not charge performance-based fees.

### **VII. Types of Clients**

We will generally provide our services to the following types of clients.

- Individuals
- High net worth individuals
- Pension plans / profit sharing plans
- Foundations / charitable organizations
- Trusts
- Estates
- Business or corporate entities

For information on any minimum fees, minimum initial/ongoing account balances, or other conditions we may impose, please refer to Item IV.(B).

### **VIII. Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

#### **VIII.(A). Methods of Analysis**

In the course of our management process and as appropriate on a case by case basis, we will employ some or all of the following methods of analysis. For a description of the risks related to each particular method of analysis, see the information following each analysis method description. A description of each key risk appears later in this section.

##### **Charting / Technical –**

The terms “charting” and “technical” analysis are generally used synonymously and therefore, for the purpose of this document, we will use the term, “technical analysis.” In most cases, technical analysis involves the evaluation of historical market data such as price and volume of a particular security or investment instrument. Technical analysis often times involves the use of charts, graphs, and other tools to evaluate historical factors relating to the investment instrument and perhaps the market as a whole. The goal of technical analysis is to try to identify historical trading patterns that suggest future trading activity or price targets.

Key risk(s): Economic Risk, Financial Risk, Inflation Risk, Interest Rate Risk, Legal/Regulatory Risk, Market Risk, Operational Risk, and Strategy Risk.

## **Fundamental**

Fundamental analysis is generally the considered the opposite approach to technical analysis. Fundamental analysis involves the attempt to identify the intrinsic value (i.e. the actual, true/real value) of an investment instrument by examining any related economic, financial, and other quantitative/qualitative factors relevant to that instrument. Fundamental analysis can take into account anything that may impact the underlying value of the instrument. Examples of such things may include large-scale economic issues such as the overall condition or current cycle of the economy, industry-specific or sector-specific conditions, etc. Other company/issuer-specific factors may also be taken into consideration such as the company's/issuer's current financial condition, management experience and capabilities, legal/regulatory matters, the overall type and volume of current and expected business, etc.

One of the goals of fundamental analysis is to attempt to derive a value that can be compared to the current market price for a particular financial instrument in hopes of determining whether the instrument is overpriced (time to sell) or underpriced (time to buy).

Key risk(s): Economic Risk, Financial Risk, Inflation Risk, and Interest Rate Risk.

## **Cyclical**

Cyclical analysis involves the evaluation of an investment instrument or perhaps its issuer for the purpose of identifying whether (and if so, to what extent) it/they may be impacted by fluctuations in the overall economic conditions throughout time. As an example, as more and more people lose their jobs, broad industries like housing or the automotive industries can be negatively impacted because consumers are less able to purchase things like homes and automobiles.

Key risk(s): Capital Risk, Economic Risk, Financial Risk, and Inflation Risk.

Investing in securities or other investment products involves the risk of loss and you should be prepared to bear such losses.

## **VIII.(A). (cont.) Investment Strategies**

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In the course of our management process and as appropriate on a case by case basis, we will employ any of the following investment strategies. For a description of the risks related to each particular investment strategy, see the information following each strategy description. The codes used below relate to risks described further below in this section.

### **Long-Term Purchases**

Long-term purchases generally involve the acquisition of an investment instrument and holding it for a period of at least one year.

Key risk(s): Capital Risk, Economic Risk, Financial Risk, and Inflation Risk.

### **Short-Term Purchases**

Short-term purchases generally involve the acquisition of an investment instrument and holding it for a period of not more than one year.

Key risk(s): Capital Risk, Economic Risk, Financial Risk, and Inflation Risk.

Investing in securities or other investment products involves the risk of loss and you should be prepared to bear such losses.

## **VIII.(B). Risk Disclosures**

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### **Capital Risk**

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

### **Credit Risk**

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

### **Currency Risk**

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

### **Economic Risk**

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

### **Financial Risk**

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

### **Higher Trading Costs**

For any investment instrument or strategy that involves active or frequent trading, you may experience larger than usual transaction-related costs. Higher transaction-related costs can negatively affect overall investment performance.

### **Inflation Risk**

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

### **Interest Rate Risk**

Certain investments involve the payment of a fixed or variable rate of interest to the investment holder. Once an investor has acquired or has acquired the rights to an investment that pays a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest, changes in overall interest rates in the market will affect the value of the interest-paying investment(s) they hold. In general, changes in prevailing interest rates in the market will have an inverse relationship to the value of



existing, interest paying investments. In other words, as interest rates move up, the value of an instrument paying a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest will go down. The reverse is generally true as well.

**Legal/Regulatory Risk**

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

**Liquidity Risk**

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

**Market Risk**

The market value of an investment will fluctuate as a result of the occurrence of the natural economic forces of supply and demand on that investment, its particular industry or sector, or the market as a whole. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry or sector of the economy or may affect the market as a whole. Market risk can affect any investment instrument or the underlying assets or other instruments held by or traded within that investment instrument.

**Operational Risk**

Operational risk can be experienced when an issuer of an investment product is unable to carry out the business it has planned to execute. Operational risk can be experienced as a result of human failure, operational inefficiencies, system failures, or the failure of other processes critical to the business operations of the issuer or counter party to the investment.

**Past Performance**

Charting and technical analysis are often used interchangeably. Technical analysis generally attempts to forecast an investment's future potential by analyzing its past performance and other related statistics. In particular, technical analysis often times involves an evaluation of historical pricing and volume of a particular security for the purpose of forecasting where future price and volume figures may go. As with any investment analysis method, technical analysis runs the risk of not knowing the future and thus, investors should realize that even the most diligent and thorough technical analysis cannot predict or guarantee the future performance of any particular investment instrument or issuer thereof.

**Strategy Risk**

There is no guarantee that the investment strategies discussed herein will work under all market conditions and each investor should evaluate his/her ability to maintain any investment he/she is considering in light of his/her own investment time horizon. Investments are subject to risk, including possible loss of principal.

## **VIII.(C). Investment-Specific Risks**

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There is no single type of investment instrument that we predominantly recommend, however, please be mindful that all investments carry some form and degree of risk. Certain types of investments carry greater types and levels of risk than others and you should make sure that you fully understand not only the investment product itself but also the attendant risk factors associated with such products.

## IX. Disciplinary Information

The purpose of this section is for us to disclose to you any legal, disciplinary, or other events that you may consider material in your evaluation of our firm or the integrity of our management. Following each of the numbered items below, we shall provide details as to each applicable matter or we will answer “No” or “N/A.” This information is presented in a question and answer format. The time period required to be covered by our answers in this section is ten years from the date of the events requiring disclosure.

### IX.(A). Criminal or Civil Action

In any domestic, foreign, or military court of competent jurisdiction, has AIM or any of its management persons...		
Been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere (“no contest”) to (a) any felony; (b) a misdemeanor that involved investments or an investment-related business, fraud, false statements or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or (c) a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been identified as the named subject of a pending criminal proceeding that involves an investment-related business, fraud, false statements or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, or a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation; or	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been the subject of any order, judgment, or decree permanently or temporarily enjoining, or otherwise limiting, your firm or a management person from engaging in any investment-related activity, or from violating any investment-related statute, rule, or order?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### IX.(B). Administrative Proceedings

Has AIM or any of its management persons been the subject of an administrative proceeding before the SEC, any other federal regulatory agency, any state regulatory agency, or any foreign financial regulatory authority in which AIM or any of its management persons...		
Was found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Was found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation and was the subject of an order by the agency or authority...		
denying, suspending, or revoking the authorization of AIM or one of its management persons to act in an investment-related business;	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
barring or suspending AIM or one of its management person’s association with an investment-related business;	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
otherwise significantly limiting AIM or one of its management person’s investment-related activities; or	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
imposing a civil money penalty of more than \$2,500 on AIM or one of its management persons?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### **IX.(C). SRO Proceedings**

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Has AIM or any of its management persons been involved in a SRO proceeding in which AIM or any of its management persons ...		
Was found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Was found to have been involved in a violation of the SRO's rules and was: (i) barred or suspended from membership or from association with other members, or was expelled from membership; (ii) otherwise significantly limited from investment-related activities; or (iii) fined more than \$2,500?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **X. Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

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The following information will address any active or pending financial industry affiliations that you need to know about for the purpose of identifying any related conflicts of interest that you might consider material in regard to letting us handle your investment advisory needs.

### **X.(A). Broker-Dealers**

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Neither AIM nor any of its management persons is registered as a broker-dealer nor do either parties have an application pending or otherwise in process for the purpose of seeking registration as a broker-dealer, however, certain of our management persons are currently or may become registered as registered representatives of a broker-dealer.

### **X.(B). Futures Commission Merchants, Introducing Brokers, Commodity Trading Advisors, Commodity Pool Operators**

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Neither AIM nor any of its management persons is registered as a futures commission merchant, an introducing broker, a commodity trading adviser, or a commodity pool operator, nor do either parties have an application pending or otherwise in process for the purpose of seeking registration as any of these types of firms. Further, none of our management persons are registered as or currently seeking registration as associated persons of any of these types of firms.

### **X.(C). Related Persons**

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The following information will address any relationship or arrangement that is material to our advisory business or our clients that we or any of our management persons have with any of our related persons. In any such case, the related person is identified below and we have also addressed the nature of any conflict(s) arising out of this relationship/arrangement and how we address such conflict(s).

No such relationships exist.

### **X.D Use of Other Investment Advisers**

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We do not use other investment advisers in the course of the services described above in Item IV.(B).

## **XI. Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

### **XI.A Code of Ethics**

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We take great pride in our commitment to serving our clients' needs and the integrity with which we conduct our business. In our recent history, the financial services industry has come under significant scrutiny, especially in the area of the inherent responsibility of financial professionals to behave in the best interests of their clients.

We have developed a Code of Ethics ("Code") as a means of memorializing our vision of appropriate and professional conduct in carrying out the business of providing investment advisory services. Our Code addresses issues such as the following:

- Standards of conduct and compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations
- Protection of material non-public information
- The addressing of conflicts of interest
- Employee disclosure and reporting of personal securities holdings and transactions
- The firm's IPO and private placement policy
- The reporting of violations of the Code
- Educating employees about the Code
- Enforcement of the Code

Each of our representatives has been furnished with a copy of our Code and has signed their names to a written acknowledgement attesting to their understanding of the Code and acceptance of its terms. A copy of our Code is available to all current and/or prospective clients upon request.

### **XI.(B) Participation in Client Trading**

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The information in this item is intended to address situations in which we or one of our related persons may have a material financial interest in the investment instruments we may recommend to you.

No such arrangements exist.

### **XI.(C) Trading Alongside Our Clients**

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On occasion, we may invest for our own accounts or have a financial interest in the same securities or other investments that we recommend or acquire for the accounts of our clients. Further, we may also engage in transactions that are the same as or different than transactions recommended to or made for our client's accounts. Such transactions are permitted if effected, pre-cleared and reported in compliance with our policy on personal securities transactions. Generally, personal securities transactions will not be pre-cleared when an order for the same or a related security is pending for the account of a client. Our Designated Supervisor reviews reports of personal transactions in securities by all of our associated persons quarterly or more frequently if required.

#### Investment Policy

None of our associated persons may effect for himself/herself or for accounts in which he/she holds a beneficial interest, any transactions in a security which is being actively recommended to any of our clients, unless in accordance with the following procedures.

### Firm Procedures

In order to implement our Investment Policy, the following procedures have been put into place.

- 1) If we are recommending that any of our clients buy any security, no associated person may purchase that security prior to a client's purchase of that security; and
- 2) If we are recommending that any of our clients sell any security, no associated person may sell that security prior to a client's sale of that security.

As an alternative to the procedures described in the preceding points, we may include our own order(s) in a batch order with other client orders that would involve average pricing for the entire batch such that we would receive the same pricing as all other clients participating in the batch.

It is the primary intent of these procedures to ensure that the best interests of our clients are always served over that of our own. Trading on our own behalf that results in our own interests being served over that of our clients could be considered a breach of our fiduciary duty and thus, is aggressively discouraged.

## **XI.(D) Trading Around the Same Time as Clients**

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Transactions for the client's account generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at the same or approximately the same time. We may (but are not obligated to) combine or "batch" such orders in order to obtain best execution or to negotiate more favorable transaction rates. To the extent that we elect to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which our associated persons may invest, we will generally do so in accordance with the parameters set forth in SEC No-Action Letter, *SMC Capital, Inc.* We will not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of a batched order.

## **XII. Brokerage Practices**

The purpose of this Item is to present to you the factors that we take into consideration when (1) selecting or recommending broker-dealers to you for the purpose of effecting transactions on your behalf and (2) for determining the reasonableness of such broker-dealers' compensation related to such transactions.

AIM is not a broker-dealer. Unless the client directs otherwise, AIM shall generally recommend that all the client's accounts be maintained at, by, or through certain other firms that are unaffiliated with AIM. Such firms shall generally be broker-dealers that may also maintain registrations that allow such firms to engage in other types of businesses outside of their broker-dealer activities.

Any such other firm may act in the capacity of "broker of record" for the client's accounts, in which case, another firm may serve as the custodian for the Client account(s). Alternatively, any such other firm may serve as both the "broker of record" and "custodian" for the client's accounts. In no case shall AIM act or attempt to act in the capacity of "broker of record" or "custodian" of the client's account, funds, or other assets.

Although not all-inclusive, AIM may recommend the following broker of record and its corresponding custodian:

<b>Broker of Record</b>	<b>Custodian</b>
Triad Advisors, Inc.	National Financial Services, LLC

Factors that AIM considers in recommending certain broker-dealers or custodians to clients may include such entity's financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, and service. In return for effecting securities transactions

through certain broker-dealers/custodians, AIM or certain of its representatives may receive certain support services that may assist AIM in its investment decision-making process for all of AIM's clients.

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not always the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a brokerage services, including factors such as execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although AIM will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for the client's account transactions.

## **XII.(A).(1). Research and Soft Dollar Benefits**

Soft dollar benefits are items such as research or other products or services (other than the typical execution and other brokerage services available to all other investment advisers) that we may receive from a broker-dealer or other party in connection with the client securities transactions we direct to that/a broker-dealer(s).

We do not participate in any soft dollar arrangements.

## **XII.(A).(2). Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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In certain circumstances, firms like ours may receive client referrals as a result of recommending particular broker-dealers or other service providers. We, however, do not participate in any formal arrangements wherein we receive client referrals from any particular broker-dealer in return for selecting or recommending such broker-dealer.

## **XII.(A).(3). Directed Brokerage**

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This item is intended to address situations where we may recommend, request, or require you to provide us instructions as to how to direct brokerage activity on your behalf.

### ***XII.(A).(3)(a). Directed Brokerage – Recommended, Requested, or Required***

Not all investment advisers require their clients to direct brokerage activity through any particular broker-dealer. We do not routinely recommend, request, or require that you direct us as to how to execute brokerage transactions on your behalf (i.e. using a particular broker-dealer for execution purposes).

### ***XII.(A).(3)(b). Directed Brokerage – Permitted***

Not all investment advisers require their clients to direct brokerage activity through any particular broker-dealer, however, you may direct us to use a particular broker-dealer (subject to our right to decline such a request) to execute some or all transactions for your account or otherwise on your behalf. In such an event, we will not negotiate terms and arrangements for the account with the other broker-dealer, and we will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts we manage. As a result, you 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.

## **XII.(B). Order Batching**

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Transactions for the client's account generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at the same or approximately the same time. We may (but are not obligated to)

combine or “batch” such orders in order to obtain best execution or to negotiate more favorable transaction rates. Reasoning for attempting to effect a batch order is that we may need to trade in the same security for multiple accounts at or around the same time and batching may allow us to achieve a more favorable price on average for all clients. Batching, however, doesn’t guarantee the lowest possible price for execution, however, it is intended to reduce the overall volatility in execution price for a large # of orders that if not batched together, may experience significantly different execution prices. Conversely, in the event that we do not batch a group of orders that otherwise may be a prime candidate for a batched order, the resulting cost for some clients may be higher or lower than what we might be able to achieve by processing a batched order for the benefit of those same clients.

To the extent that we elect to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which our associated persons may invest, we will generally do so in accordance with the parameters set forth in SEC No-Action Letter, *SMC Capital, Inc.* We will not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of a batched order.

## **XIII. Review of Accounts**

### **XIII.(A). Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

#### **Review of client accounts.**

We will review your accounts on a monthly basis. The Designated Supervisor (i.e. the person named in our written supervisory procedures as the responsible party for this function) will review your accounts for best execution, suitability, and service. The Designated Supervisor will review the performance and cost basis for your transactions. Your investment objectives are used to review for suitability. Quarterly, transactions are reviewed referencing your investment objectives for any transaction that may not fit your stated objectives, or our understanding of your investment objectives will be flagged and reviewed with the investment adviser representative placing the trade.

Name and title of Designated Supervisor: John E. Allison, President, Chief Compliance Officer, and Chief Investment Officer.

Mr. Allison will employ the procedures noted above for the client’s accounts subject to AIM’s investment advisory services.

#### **Review of Financial Plans.**

Not applicable; we do not offer financial planning services.

### **XIII.(B). Non-Periodic Account Reviews**

Events that may trigger further client account reviews in addition to the standard quarterly review process may include, but would not be limited to, a notable increase in the volume of requests by the client to effect transactions in his/her accounts, where such transactions may appear to be inconsistent with the client’s previously stated investment objectives. Other factors may include requests by the client to liquidate certain securities positions/contracts where such transactions may appear to be inconsistent with the client’s previously stated investment objectives. Additional triggering factors could be the performance on an individual account being an outlier to the performance of accounts with similar investment objectives, and a very important trigger would be customer complaints. This last trigger would be a prime example of a trigger for an intermittent review of a client account.

### **XIII.(C). Reports to Clients**

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Account statements will be provided no less frequently than quarterly by the custodian, not by us. Account statements will identify account positions, balances, and transaction details. Upon your request, a quarterly account appraisal (written or electronic) may be created for you as well as an annual year-end statement.

Additionally, you will receive a quarterly performance accounting from us showing performance relative to an agreed upon benchmark for the previous quarter, year-to-date, and since inception. Accompanying this report, we will send you a market analysis, including a description of our current investment strategy. You are encouraged to phone or write us as often as you like to receive information regarding investment tactics being followed.

## **XIV. Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

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### **XIV.(A). Compensation we Receive**

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Other than the compensation arrangements described above in Item V, neither AIM nor any of its supervised persons receive any other compensation in connection with the investment advisory services provided to AIM's clients.

### **XIV.(B). Compensation we Pay**

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Under certain circumstances, firms like ours may compensate other parties for having referred clients or potential investment advisory clients them. These sorts of arrangements are generally referred to as "solicitor" arrangements. We do not participate in any solicitor arrangements.

## **XV. Custody**

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We engage in certain activities that result in us being deemed to have custody of certain of our client's funds and/or securities.

- ☒ Automatic fee deduction from your brokerage or other trading accounts
- ☐ Physical possession or control (even temporary) of client funds or securities
- ☐ The ability to gain access to any client funds and/or securities
- ☐ One of our related persons has custody of funds and/or securities subject to our investment advisory services
- ☐ We or one of our related persons serves as the general partner, managing member, or other similar type of control person to an investment fund to which we provide investment advisory services.

As stated previously in Item XIII.(C)., your account statements will be provided by the qualified custodian that maintains physical possession of your accounts/assets. In the event that we also provide you information related to your accounts, you are urged to review that information to the information contained on the account statements or other statements received from the qualified custodian.



## **XVI. Investment Discretion**

As part of our investment advisory services, we will generally seek and obtain your authorization to carry out part of our services on a purely discretionary basis. We will memorialize your authorization of our discretionary authority in our Investment Management Agreement.

If you have authorized us to do so, we will exercise discretion over the following areas.

- 1) Securities to be bought or sold;
- 2) Amount of the securities to be bought or sold; and
- 3) Timing as to when such securities are to be bought or sold.

We will have authority to exercise complete discretion with regard to the above named factors without restriction. If done so on a non-discretionary basis, we will make certain recommendations that must be authorized by you prior to our facilitation of any such transactions. As may be separately agreed to in writing, we will observe any other specific limitations that may be imposed by you in relation to this discretionary authority.

## **XVII. Voting Client Securities**

### **XVII.(A). Proxy Voting**

#### **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures and Client Instruction**

We do not vote proxies on behalf of any securities you own.

## **XVIII. Financial Information**

### **XVIII.(A). Balance Sheet**

We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. As a result, we are not required to provide our clients with a copy of our balance sheet from our most recently completed fiscal year.

### **XVIII.(B). Adverse Financial condition**

In the event that we have discretionary authority or custody of any of our clients' assets or if we require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, we are required to disclose any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments with our clients. No such conditions exist.

### **XVIII.(C). Bankruptcy-Related Matters**

During the past ten years, AIM has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

## **XIX. Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

As a federally-registered investment adviser, this section of our Brochure is not applicable to us.