

Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC

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Brochure
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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (802) 660-7086 or sbeaudin@pathwayadvisors.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 Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

References herein to Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC 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

Since Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC’s last Annual Amendment filing made on March 22, 2016, the firm has entered into a “soft dollar” agreement with Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. For more information related to this agreement and the resulting conflicts of interest, please see Item 12 below. Additionally, firm is now offering its Integrated Financial Planning services on an annual flat fee basis. There have been no further material changes made to this Brochure.

ANY QUESTIONS: Pathway Financial Advisors’ Chief Compliance Officer, Scott Beaudin, 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. Pathway Financial Advisors, LLC (the “Registrant”) is a limited liability company formed on September 4th, 2002 in the State of Vermont. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in 2002 with the State of Vermont and in 2005 with the SEC. The Registrant is owned by Scott Beaudin. Scott Beaudin is the Registrant’s Managing Member.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations, etc.) various levels of advisory services and consulting services as requested by a client. The Registrant’s service offerings are:

INTEGRATED FINANCIAL PLANNING

Integrated Financial Planning (IFP) clients engage the Registrant to provide integrated financial advice and guidance on topics typically including retirement planning, educational planning, estate planning, business holdings, income tax planning, cash flow planning, budgeting, risk management/insurance, asset allocation, employee benefits, and others. Each IFP client completes a data gathering process and makes an initial data submission. These documents, along with a personal interview with Registrant, allow the Registrant to begin assessing the relevant factors of the Client’s individual situation. In most client engagements, the Registrant prepares an Initial Financial Plan. This Plan may include discussion on all evaluated matters as well as suggestions in areas that will help the Client realize their goals and objectives. Suggestions may include investment advice, including asset allocation. The Plan may include analysis showing the impact of the Plan’s suggestions.

The Initial Financial Plan is typically presented to Client in a meeting. During this meeting, the Registrant and Client may discuss the actions necessary to implement the recommendations contained within the Plan. Such items might include:

- Investment allocation implementation, including account establishment and/or transfer assistance.
- Investment selection assistance.
- Working with Client’s attorney to discuss any outstanding estate planning items.
- Working with Client’s insurance provider(s) to discuss any risk management issues.
- Working with Client’s tax advisor to implement tax planning items.

Integrated Financial Planning often includes a review process. The Registrant offers on-going support for implementation, review, and updating the Client’s Initial Financial Plan as requested by Client. Also included as requested by Client is:

- On-going support for the Client for any areas covered by the Client’s Plan.
- Annual investment reports (monthly or quarterly reports are provided by the individual custodians).
- Support for Client’s periodic financial issues (house refinancing, major purchase, employment change, etc.).
- Tax return review.
- Investment manager review (if applicable).

Note: The firm's services do not include:

- Legal counsel.
- Asset custody services.
- Sales of any recommended financial or insurance product.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may be engaged to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into an *Engagement Letter* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services, if any.

MISCELLANEOUS

As indicated above, to the extent requested by a client, we may provide financial planning and related consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Please Note: We do not serve as an attorney, accountant, or insurance agency, and no portion of our services should be construed as legal or accounting services. Accordingly, we do not prepare estate planning documents, tax returns or sell insurance products. To the extent requested by a client, we may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purpose (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance, etc). Clients are reminded that they are 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 made by Registrant or its representatives. Please Note: If the client engages any unaffiliated recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

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

Please Note: Cash Positions. At any specific point in time, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being no guarantee that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), the Registrant may maintain cash positions for defensive purposes. All cash positions (money markets, etc) shall be included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating the Registrant's advisory fee. Registrant may choose to waive the fee on cash positions depending on each Client's individual situation.

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 an advisory fee on the rolled over assets. No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant. The Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, Scott Beaudin, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the potential for conflict of interest presented by such rollover recommendation.

Account Aggregation. In conjunction with the services provided by NaviPlan or Orion, the Registrant may also provide periodic aggregated 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 the Registrant (the “Excluded Assets”). The Registrant’s service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting services only, which does not include investment implementation. Because the Registrant does not have trading authority for the Excluded Assets, 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), and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for directly implementing any recommendations relative to the Excluded Assets. Rather, the client and/or their other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Without limiting the above, the Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. In the event the client desires that the Registrant provide investment management services (whereby the 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 a Wealth Management Agreement between the Registrant and the client.

Use of Mutual Funds: While the Registrant may recommend allocating investment assets to mutual funds that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also recommend that clients allocate investment assets to publicly-available mutual funds that the client could obtain without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to allocate investment assets to publicly-available mutual funds without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser, the client or prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant’s initial and ongoing investment advisory services. Other mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors (“DFA”), are generally only available through selected registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant’s services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability and/or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply.

Please Note: 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.

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 2A of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement* or *Engagement Letter*.

- C. The Registrant shall provide advisory or consulting services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's attributes and their investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at anytime, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2016, the Registrant had \$371,669,000 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$0 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 Fees and Compensation

- A. The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. All of Registrant's fees set forth below are negotiable.

INTEGRATED FINANCIAL PLANNING

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary investment advisory services as part of Registrant's Integrated Financial Planning service on a *fee-only* basis, the Registrant's fee is paid to the Registrant monthly at the beginning of the following month, generally on a stepped basis based on the below fee schedule:

<u>Portion of Portfolio</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Equivalent Annual Rate</u>
First \$0-\$1,000,000	.2500%	1.00%
Next \$1,000,001-\$3,000,000	.2125%	0.85%
Next \$3,000,001-\$10,000,000	.1875%	0.75%
Over \$10,000,000	.0875%	0.50%

Annual Flat Fee: The Registrant may also offer its investment advisory services on an annual flat fee basis. To the extent that the client engages the Registrant on an annual flat fee basis, the terms of that arrangement, including notification requirements for subsequent year fee increases, shall be set forth in the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. The Registrant shall determine the amount of any annual flat fee based upon various objective and subjective factors such as the size of the client's account(s) and complexity of the services to be provided. (*See* Fee Differential disclosure below) At no time will the Registrant's annual flat fee exceed 3.00% of the client's assets under management.

Fee Differentials. As indicated below, the Registrant may offer its investment advisory services on an annual flat fee basis. When engaged to provide its services on an annual flat fee basis, the Registrant shall price its services based upon various objective and subjective factors. As a result, Registrant's clients could pay diverse fees based upon the market value of their assets, the complexity of the engagement, and the level and scope of the overall services to be rendered. The services to be provided by the Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees. All clients and prospective clients should be guided accordingly.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may be engaged to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but are generally between \$195 and \$300 on an hourly rate basis depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Registrant and Client may alternately agree to a flat-fee arrangement for a specified engagement, as outlined in an *Engagement Letter*.

- B. *Integrated Financial Planning* clients shall have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account(s). Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients monthly in arrears, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous month. Should a market value not be available for a particular client security, historical cost shall be used as the month ending value for fee calculation purposes. However, if the client has engaged the Registrant to provide services on a flat fee basis, the Registrant shall deduct 1/12 of the client's annual flat fee upon the completion of each calendar month. In the event that a flat fee client engages or terminates the Registrant during a calendar month, the Registrant shall calculate the initial or final month fee on a pro-rata basis.

Financial Planning and Consulting Services clients are billed either monthly or at the conclusion of their engagement. Payment is due upon receipt of invoice.

- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that Charles Schwab and Co., Inc. ("*Schwab*") or Fidelity Investments ("*Fidelity*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* or *Fidelity* 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 (*Schwab* or *Fidelity*).

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid monthly, in arrears. The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, a pro-rated portion of the earned but unpaid advisory fee shall be due.
- 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 shall generally include individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations. The Registrant does not generally require an annual minimum fee or asset level for investment advisory services, but a minimum fee arrangement may be agreed to by Registrant and Client on a negotiated case-by-case basis.

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

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)

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)
- Options (contract for the purchase or sale of a security at a predetermined price during a specific period of time)

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).

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any unusual risks. However, every method of analysis and every strategy 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.

In addition to the fundamental investment strategies discussed above, the Registrant may also implement and/or recommend – use of options transactions. Each of these strategies has a high level of inherent risk. (*See* discussion below).

Options Strategies. The use of options transactions as an investment strategy involves a high level of inherent risk. Option transactions establish a contract between two parties concerning the buying or selling of an asset at a predetermined price during a specific period of time. During the term of the option contract, the buyer of the option gains the right to demand fulfillment by the seller. Fulfillment may take the form of either selling or purchasing a security depending upon the nature of the option contract. Generally, the purchase or the recommendation to purchase an option contract by the Registrant shall be with the intent of offsetting/”hedging” a potential market risk in a client’s portfolio. Please Note: Although the intent of the options-related transactions that may be implemented by the Registrant is to hedge against principal risk, certain of the options-related strategies (i.e. straddles, short positions, etc), may, in and of themselves, produce principal volatility and/or risk. Thus, a client must be willing to accept these enhanced volatility and principal risks associated with such strategies. In light of these enhanced risks, client may direct the Registrant, in writing, not to employ any or all such strategies for their accounts

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various individual equity (stocks), debt (bonds) and fixed income securities, mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds (“ETFs”), inverse mutual funds and ETFs (*See* disclosure above), exchange traded notes, exchange traded unit investment trusts, exchange traded master limited partnerships, and independent managers on a discretionary basis in accordance with the client’s designated investment objectives (*See* Independent Managers above).

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. **Certified Public Accountant.** The Registrant's Principal, Scott Beaudin, is also a certified public accountant ("CPA"). To the extent that a client specifically requests accounting advice and/or tax preparation services, the Registrant may recommend the services of a CPA, including Registrant's Principal Mr. Beaudin in his individual capacity as a CPA. Any such accounting advice and/or tax preparation services performed for a stand-alone fee shall be rendered independent of the Registrant pursuant to a separate agreement between the client and CPA. Registrant may render accounting advice and/or tax preparation services for Comprehensive Wealth Management clients as part of the CWM service, as requested by Client and agreed to by Registrant. The Registrant shall not receive any of the fees charged by outside CPAs, referral or otherwise.

Conflict of Interest: The recommendation by Registrant's representatives that a client engage the services of Mr. Beaudin in his individual capacity as a CPA presents a conflict of interest. No client is under any obligation to engage Mr. Beaudin in his individual capacity as a CPA. The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Scott Beaudin, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above conflict of interest.

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

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

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

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

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

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant's "Access Persons". The Registrant's securities transaction policy requires that Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the 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 *Schwab or Fidelity*. 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 *Schwab or Fidelity* (another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform and/or mutual fund sponsor) 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 a 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. Soft Dollar Arrangement

In return for effecting securities transactions through a designated broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may receive certain investment research products or services which assist the Registrant in its investment decision making process for the client pursuant to Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (generally referred to as a “soft-dollar” arrangement). Investment research products or services received by Registrant may include, but are not limited to, analyses pertaining to specific securities, companies or sectors; market, financial and economic studies and forecasts; financial publications, portfolio management systems, and statistical and pricing services. Although the commissions 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 is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer 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. Although the investment research products or services that may be obtained by Registrant will generally be used to service all of Registrant’s clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client’s account. With respect to investment research products or services obtained by the Registrant that have a mixed use of both a research and non-research (i.e., administrative, etc.) function, Registrant shall make a reasonable allocation of the cost of the product or service according to its use - the percentage of the product or service that provides assistance to the Registrant’s investment decision-making process will be paid for with soft dollars while that portion which provides administrative or other non-research assistance will be paid for by the Registrant with hard dollars. 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 Chief Compliance Officer, Scott Beaudin, 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.

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 *Schwab or Fidelity* (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, vendor, unaffiliated product/fund sponsor, or vendor) 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 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.

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 *Schwab or Fidelity* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab or Fidelity* 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 result of the above arrangement.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Scott Beaudin, 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. 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

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

Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant receives an economic benefit from *Schwab or Fidelity*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Schwab or Fidelity*.

Registrant’s clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab or Fidelity* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab or Fidelity* 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 result of the above arrangement.

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

- B. Neither Registrant nor its Representatives compensate any non-supervised person for client referrals.

Item 15 Custody

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

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

Item 16 Investment Discretion

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, client shall be required to execute an *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 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, Scott Beaudin, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.