

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

**First Western Investment Management, Inc.**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of First Western Investment Management, Inc.. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 303-531-8100 or [Karen.Garcia@myfw.com](mailto:Karen.Garcia@myfw.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 First Western Investment Management, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 128013.

## **Item 2    Material Changes**

This Firm Brochure, dated May 21, 2012, provides you with a summary of First Western Investment Management, Inc.'s advisory services and fees, certain business practices and policies, as well as actual or potential conflicts of interest, among other things. This Item is used to provide our clients with a summary of new and/or updated information; we will inform of the revision(s) based on the nature of the information as follows.

1. Annual Update: We are required to update certain information at least annually, within 90 days of our firm's fiscal year end (FYE) of December 31. We will provide you with either a summary of the revised information with an offer to deliver the full revised Brochure within 120 days of our FYE or we will provide you with our revised Brochure that will include a summary of those changes in this Item.
2. Material Changes: Should a material change in our operations occur, depending on its nature we will promptly communicate this change to clients (and it will be summarized in this Item). "Material changes" requiring prompt notification will include changes of ownership or control; location; disciplinary proceedings; significant changes to our advisory services or advisory affiliates – any information that is critical to a client's full understanding of who we are, how to find us, and how we do business.

The following summarizes new or revised disclosures based on information previously provided in our Firm Brochure dated March 30, 2012

**Investment Services:** First Western Investment Management is no longer an investment advisor to the GKM Growth Fund.

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## **Item 4    Advisory Business**

First Western Investment Management, Inc. ("FWIM") is a SEC-registered investment adviser with its principal places of business located in California and Colorado. First Western Investment Management, Inc. began conducting business in 2003.

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

- First Western Financial, Inc., 100% Owner. FWIM is a wholly owned subsidiary of First Western Financial, Inc.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. offers the following advisory services to our clients:

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

FWIM is engaged in the business of providing discretionary advice to high-net-worth clients. FWIM's advice is tailored to client specific investment guidelines, policies, objectives and restrictions.

FWIM provides investment advice for multi-asset class, equity, balanced, and fixed income accounts.

Our firm provides regular continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances, objectives and risk tolerances are established, we work with the client to develop an individual investment policy and create and manage a portfolio according to that policy. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, liquidity, and funding needs,. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

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

Our investment recommendations will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)

- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities

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

## **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of 12/31/2011, we were actively managing \$453,673,117 of clients' assets on a discretionary basis plus \$46,472,300 of clients' assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

The Advisory Fee is charged to the client's account either monthly or quarterly, or portion thereof, in arrears, based on a percentage of the average daily market value of the client's managed assets during the calendar quarter, or it can also be based on period end value, dependent on the timing of when the client entered into an advisory agreement. Fees are calculated based on a 365-day year. Fees charged to the client are for the above-listed investment management services. The fee is based on a percentage of the client's total assets under Applicant's management. Fees range from .10% - 1.50%, based on either a tiered market-value fee schedule or flat percentage and the type of investment advisory services provided. Fees are negotiable dependent upon the client relationship and circumstances. Client-specific fees are more fully described in the client's advisory agreement.

A minimum of \$1,000,000 of assets under management per relationship is required for this service. This relationship size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. First Western Investment Management, Inc. may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

**Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees:** Although First Western Investment Management, Inc. has established the aforementioned fee schedule(s), we retain the discretion to negotiate

alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs are considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client; assets to be placed under management; anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style; account composition; and client reporting requirements; among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule is identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

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

## GENERAL INFORMATION

***Termination of the Advisory Relationship:*** A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt of written notice. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded.

***Mutual Fund Fees:*** All fees paid to First Western Investment Management, Inc. for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by the Mutual Fund to its shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in the fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

***Additional Fees and Expenses:*** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

***Grandfathering of Minimum Account Requirements:*** Pre-existing advisory clients are subject to First Western Investment Management, Inc.'s minimum account requirements and advisory fees in effect at the time the client entered into the advisory relationship. Therefore, our firm's minimum account requirements will differ among clients.

***ERISA Accounts:*** First Western Investment Management, Inc. is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act ("ERISA"), and regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), respectively. As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation. To avoid engaging in prohibited transactions, First Western Investment Management, Inc. may only

charge fees for investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons do not receive any commissions or 12b-1 fees.

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

**Limited Prepayment of Fees:** Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 more than six months in advance of services rendered.

**Other Compensation:** Clients may authorize FWIM to buy securities for their accounts on margin. The decision to engage in margin is typically made as part of an investment and cash management strategy for taxable accounts. Our use of margin is not used as a means to speculate in the securities markets. When FWIM buys securities on margin for clients, the margin lender will charge interest on any outstanding margin loan. FWIM does not share in the margin interest charged to those clients. In addition, when FWIM calculates its advisory fee, the fee is applied to the total market value of all assets in client accounts, not net account value. (Net account value equals total market value of all assets in account less margin balance)

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

First Western Investment Management, Inc. does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

First Western Investment Management, Inc. provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)
- High net worth individuals
- Pension and profit sharing plans (other than plan participants)
- Charitable organizations
- Corporations or other businesses not listed above

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain initial minimum account requirements, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

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

### METHODS OF ANALYSIS

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

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

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

***Quantitative Analysis.*** We use mathematical models in an attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a company's quantifiable data, such as the value of a share price or earnings per share, and predict changes to that data.

A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

***Qualitative Analysis.*** We subjectively evaluate non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management, labor relations, and strength of research and development factors not readily subject to measurement, and predict changes to share price based on that data.

A risk in using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

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

### INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

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

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



- we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or
- we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

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

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

**Margin transactions.** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed against securities from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.

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

Clients should understand that investing in any securities, including mutual funds, involves a risk of loss of both income and principal.

## Item 9 Disciplinary Information

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. Our supervised persons are required to report certain other legal and disciplinary matters in their ADV Part 2B Supplement.

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

## Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

### **Other pooled investment vehicle(s):**

Management personnel of First Western Investment Management, Inc. may also be managing member(s) of limited liability companies (LLCs) and/or general partner(s) to limited partnerships (LPs) formed for investment purposes. As appropriate, our advisory clients may be solicited to invest in such LLCs and/or LPs. These related persons of our firm do not receive investment advisory compensation in relation to these investments, but do have a

conflict of interest in soliciting client investments.

Because investment in these types of entities may involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

Related persons of our firm may spend as much as 5% of their time on these related activities.

Clients interested in investing in the partnership/company should refer to the partnership's/ company's private placement memorandum for more information specific to the partnership/ company.

### ***Affiliated Registered Investment Advisors, State Chartered Bank***

FWIM is an affiliate of a registered investment adviser, First Western Capital Management; a FDIC and State Chartered Bank, First Western Trust Bank; and an Insurance Agency, First Western Insurance Advisors, all of whose advisory services are distinct from those provided by our firm and are provided for separate compensation. FWIM's investment management may be recommended to their clients for whom it is appropriate. There are no referral fee arrangements between our firms. No affiliate investment advisory firm is obligated to use First Western Investment Management or its services. Clients choosing to implement First Western Investment Management's recommendations through an affiliate's advisory services should refer to their Firm's Brochure or other disclosure document for details regarding that firm's services and fees.

A list of these affiliated entities is specifically disclosed on Schedule D of Form ADV, Part 1 at Item 7.B. Part 1 of our Form ADV can be accessed by following the directions provided on the Cover Page of this Firm Brochure.

As required, any affiliated investment advisers are specifically disclosed in Section 7.A. on Schedule D of Form ADV, Part 1. (Part 1 of our Form ADV can be accessed by following the directions provided on the Cover Page of this Firm Brochure.)

First Western Investment Management, Inc. endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps to address conflicts:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for our firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to our firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they are not obligated to purchase recommended investment products from our employees or affiliated companies;
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;

- our firm's management conducts regular reviews of each client account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are suitable to the client's needs and circumstances;
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by our firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

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

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

First Western Investment Management, Inc. and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

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

First Western Investment Management, Inc.'s Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information to assure that we don't trade on the basis of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, all employees are reminded that such information may not be used in a personal or professional capacity.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [dkahn@fwtb.com](mailto:dkahn@fwtb.com), or by calling us at 310-268-2606.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in principal transactions with our clients.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. and individuals associated with our firm are

prohibited from engaging in agency cross transactions.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. is also the Managing Member of First Western TALF, LLC (the Fund). First Western Investment Management, Inc. as the Managing Member, is designated as having primary responsibility for investment management and administrative matters, such as accounting tax and periodic reporting, pertaining to the Fund. First Western Investment Management, Inc. and our members, officers and employees will devote to the Fund as much time as we deem necessary and appropriate to manage the Fund's business. First Western Investment Management, Inc. and our affiliates are not restricted from forming additional investment funds, entering into other investment advisory relationships or engaging in other business activities, even though such activities may be in competition with the Fund and/or may involve substantial time and resources of our firm and our affiliates. Potentially, such activities could be viewed as creating a conflict of interest in that the time and effort of our management personnel and employees will not be devoted exclusively to the business of the Fund, but could be allocated between the business of the Fund and other of our business activities and those of our affiliates.

Investments in the Fund may be recommended to advisory clients for whom a LLC investment may be more suitable than would a separate advisory account managed by our firm. Clients who invest in the Fund are not charged any additional advisory fees other than the advisory fee allocated to the limited partners of the Fund, which is zero.

The Fund is not required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 in reliance upon an exemption available to funds whose securities are not publicly offered. First Western Investment Management, Inc. manages the Fund on a discretionary basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Fund's offering and organizational documents.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

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

These clients must include any limitations on this discretionary authority in this written authority statement. Clients may change/amend these limitations as required. Such amendments must be provided to us in writing.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. does not have any soft-dollar arrangements and does not receive any soft-dollar benefits.

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

However, transaction costs are driven by the custodians as described below.

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

- 1) Transactions for any client account may not be aggregated for execution if the practice is prohibited by or inconsistent with the client's advisory agreement with First Western Investment Management, Inc., or our firm's order allocation policy.
- 2) The trading desk in concert with the portfolio manager must determine that the purchase or sale of the particular security involved is appropriate for the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives and with any investment guidelines or restrictions applicable to the client's account.
- 3) The portfolio manager must reasonably believe that the order aggregation will benefit, and will enable First Western Investment Management, Inc. to seek best execution for each client participating in the aggregated order. This requires a good faith judgment at the time the order is placed for the execution. It does not mean that the determination made in advance of the transaction must always prove to have been correct in the light of a "20-20 hindsight" perspective. Best execution includes the duty to seek the best quality of execution, as well as the best net price.
- 4) Prior to entry of an aggregated order, a written order ticket must be completed which identifies each client account participating in the order and the proposed allocation of the order, upon completion, to those clients.
- 5) If the order cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated pro rata among the participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. However, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. Furthermore, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to avoid having odd amounts of shares held in any client account, or to avoid excessive ticket charges in smaller accounts.
- 6) Generally, each client that participates in the aggregated order must do so at the average price for all separate transactions made to fill the order, and must share in the commissions on a pro rata basis in proportion to the client's participation. Under the client's agreement with the custodian/broker, transaction costs may be based on the number of shares traded for each client.
- 7) If the order will be allocated in a manner other than that stated in the initial statement of allocation, a written explanation of the change must be provided to and approved by the Chief Compliance Officer no later than the morning following the execution of the aggregate trade.

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

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

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

## **Item 13    Review of Accounts**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

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

These accounts are reviewed by the respective Portfolio Manager: **Steven Steinberg and Karen Post.**

**REPORTS:** In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we may provide additional reports to clients based on the specific client situation.

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

### **CLIENT REFERRALS**

Our firm may pay referral fees to independent persons or firms ("Solicitors") for introducing clients to us. Whenever we pay a referral fee, we require the Solicitor to provide the prospective client with a copy of this document (our *Firm Brochure*) and a separate disclosure statement that includes the following information:

- the Solicitor's name and relationship with our firm;

- the fact that the Solicitor is being paid a referral fee;
- the amount of the fee; and
- whether the fee paid to us by the client will be increased above our normal fees in order to compensate the Solicitor.

As a matter of firm practice, the advisory fees paid to us by clients referred by solicitors are not increased as a result of any referral.

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

## **Item 15 Custody**

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

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

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

In addition to the periodic statements that clients receive directly from their custodians, we may also send account statements to certain of our clients based on the client's specific situation. We urge our clients to carefully compare the information provided on these statements to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

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

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

- determine the security to buy or sell; and/or

- determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

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

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

We vote proxies for client accounts upon written request.

We will vote proxies in the best interests of its clients and in accordance with our established policies and procedures. Our firm will retain all proxy voting books and records for the requisite period of time, including a copy of each proxy statement received, a record of each vote cast, a copy of any document created by us that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, and a copy of each written client request for information on how the adviser voted proxies. If our firm has a conflict of interest in voting a particular action, we will notify the client of the conflict and retain an independent third-party to cast a vote.

Clients may obtain a copy of our complete proxy voting policies and procedures by contacting us by telephone, email, or in writing. Clients may request, in writing, information on how proxies for his/her shares were voted. If any client requests a copy of our complete proxy policies and procedures or how we voted proxies for his/her account(s), we will promptly provide such information to the client.

With respect to ERISA accounts, we may vote proxies unless the plan documents specifically reserve the plan sponsor's right to vote proxies. To direct us to vote a proxy in a particular manner, clients should contact us by telephone, email, or in writing.

We will neither advise nor act on behalf of the client in legal proceedings involving companies whose securities are held in the client's account(s), including, but not limited to, the filing of "Proofs of Claim" in class action settlements. If desired, clients may direct us to transmit copies of class action notices to the client or a third party. Upon such direction, we will make commercially reasonable efforts to forward such notices in a timely manner.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

As an advisory firm that maintains discretionary authority for client accounts and may be deemed to have custody, we are also required to disclose any financial condition that is reasonable likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations. First Western Investment Management, Inc. has no additional financial circumstances to report.

Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1200 per client more than six months in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

First Western Investment Management, Inc. has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition



at any time during the past ten years.