

**Form ADV Part 2A Disclosure Brochure**

**Item 1 - Cover Page**

Summit Creek Advisors  
120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2200  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Ph (612)746-8990

Date of Brochure: May 2015

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Summit Creek Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 612-746-8990 or at [jmitchell@sumcreek.com](mailto:jmitchell@sumcreek.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 Summit Creek Advisors, LLC is also available on the Internet at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can view Summit Creek Advisors' information on this website by searching for Summit Creek Advisors. You may search for information by using Summit Creek Advisors' name or by using Summit Creek Advisors' CRD number. The CRD number for Summit Creek Advisors is 135496.

\*Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## **Item 2 – Material Changes**

Since our last annual amendment dated February 2014, there has been a decrease in our firm's assets under management. Please see Item 4 – Advisory Business for a description of our firm's assets under management as of December 31, 2014.

Additionally, the firm has revised the recommendation process implemented for those clients utilizing the Model Portfolio Strategist Services ("Strategist Services"). This change could result in investment advisory decisions being implemented for similarly managed discretionary clients at/or near the same time as an update recommendation is delivered to Strategist Services clients. As a result, the firm may begin trading before or simultaneously with the Strategist Services clients. Similarly, there may be situations where the clients receiving Strategist Services begin trading at/or near the same time as similarly-managed discretionary clients are trading. Additional information regarding this process can be found under Item 12.

The firm has also clarified the procedures utilized when managing accounts established by the Principal Owners to create a performance track record for the managed strategies ("Founder Accounts"). These accounts are exempt from the personal trading blackout period under the Code of Ethics as they mimic the strategies of the Emerging Growth Strategy and Strategist Services clients. If a contribution or redemption request is submitted by a Principal Owner, a four week "cooling off" period is established immediately following the request, where no additional trading may take place in the applicable Founder Account. After the cooling off period has passed, the contribution or withdrawal may be processed.

The Founder Accounts execute transactions one business day after all discretionary client trades have been completed. This process could result in Founder Account Transactions receiving prices that are more or less favorable than discretionary client transactions. There may be times when the Founder Accounts will execute transactions prior to the recommendations being provided to clients utilizing Strategist Services. Founder Accounts will not, however, conduct any transactions for affected securities on the same day that recommendations in the same securities are provided to Strategist Services clients. Additional information regarding this process can also be found under Item 12.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of material changes, if any, to this and subsequent disclosure brochures within 120 days after our fiscal year ends. Our fiscal year ends on December 31 so you will receive the summary of material changes, if any, no later than April 30 each year. At that time we will also offer a copy of the most current disclosure brochure. We may also provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

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## **Item 4 – Advisory Business**

Summit Creek Advisors, LLC (referred to as “SCA”, or “we” throughout this document) is an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. SCA is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the state of Minnesota. SCA offers investment advisory services by providing management of equity accounts for clients through its Emerging Growth and its Small Cap Focus portfolio programs and by providing trading recommendations to certain institutional clients. SCA has been registered as an investment adviser since August 11, 2009.

### ***Our Principal Owners and Management***

SCA is owned by Joseph John Docter and Adam Nathan Benson. The major decisions of a strategic and administrative nature for the firm are made jointly by Joseph John Docter and Adam Nathan Benson, Principal Owners and Portfolio Managers. The Chief Compliance Officer, Jason Mitchell, is also involved in strategic and administrative decisions that have an impact on our firm’s compliance program.

### ***Client Assets Managed by Summit Creek Advisors***

As of December 31, 2014, SCA maintained 16 client relationships totaling 84 individual accounts. These individual accounts are comprised of corporations, investment companies, pooled investment vehicles, pension and profit sharing plans, charitable organizations, corporations, state or municipal government entities and high net worth individuals. The amount of client assets managed by SCA totaled \$966,017,585 as of December 31, 2014. All of these assets are managed on a discretionary basis.

In addition to the assets managed by SCA, SCA provides recommendations and updates to certain institutional/corporate client assets. Since for these certain assets, the institutional/corporate clients who receive recommendations and updates from SCA are responsible for evaluating the investment recommendations provided by SCA, for accepting or rejecting the investment recommendations, and for implementing trades for these institutional/corporate clients’ own account or using the trade recommendations provided by SCA as a tool to provide investment management services for their own clients, the assets receiving this service from SCA are not considered regulatory assets under management. Additionally, these assets are not considered to be managed on a non-discretionary basis. However, such assets are considered to be part of the total assets receiving advisory services from SCA. The total amount of assets receiving advisory services from SCA is \$1,020,174,667, with \$966,017,585 of those assets considered to be regulatory assets under management and the remaining \$54,157,082 not considered regulatory assets under management but are assets that receive ongoing investment recommendations from SCA.

### ***Advisory Services Offered***

#### **Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio and Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services**

SCA manages equity accounts for clients utilizing its Emerging Growth portfolio program and its Small Cap Focus portfolio program. Each portfolio is managed within the investment parameters established by the client. Each client is responsible for evaluating the risk relating to the investment parameters. All clients are required to furnish a written statement of investment guidelines to SCA prior to inception of account management. SCA has established Standard Investment Guidelines that are typically used for the Emerging Growth portfolio program and has established a different set of investment guidelines that are typically used for the Small Cap Focus portfolio program.

After a determination that SCA’s approach is appropriate for a client, the client’s account will be managed based on the portfolio’s goal (i.e., the goal of the Emerging Growth portfolio or the goal of the Small Cap Focus portfolio) rather than on each client’s individual needs. However, each client will have the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the client’s account. If a client has contracted for our management services, SCA handles all trading and investing for the client in either the Emerging Growth portfolio program or the Small Cap Focus portfolio program.

## **Summit Creek Model Portfolio Strategist Services**

SCA offers Model Portfolio Strategist Services (“Strategist Services”) to certain institutional/corporate clients. When providing Strategist Services, SCA provides recommendations and updates to institutional/corporate clients with respect to model portfolios maintained by SCA. Such recommendations and updates are provided to those clients on a weekly basis. Institutional/corporate clients which receive recommendations and updates from SCA are responsible for evaluating the investment recommendations provided by SCA and for accepting or rejecting the investment recommendations. Institutional/corporate clients are responsible for implementing trades for their own accounts or if they are using the trade recommendations provided by SCA as a tool to provide investment management services for their own clients, then those clients are responsible for implementing trades for their investment management clients. For clients who have contracted for Strategist Services, SCA is not responsible for implementing any trade recommendations. For more information on the Strategist Services, please see Item 12.

SCA does not manage the investment assets for the institutional/corporate clients who contract for Strategist Services. Except for being apprised of the total assets under management for the Strategist Services for billing purposes, SCA does not collect any information regarding or have any responsibility with respect to the institutional/corporate clients’ investment management of their own clients. The recommendations and updates provided by SCA to these clients will be within the investment parameters established by each client. Each institutional/corporate client is responsible for evaluating the risk relating to its investment parameters and, as noted above, for making its own management decisions and doing the trade implementation for any clients or accounts for which it is responsible for providing investment management services.

For both the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and the Summit Creek Strategist Services, SCA uses standard investment guidelines described below for each client account unless there is a written agreement between SCA and the client specifying that the individual client’s account guidelines make an exception to these standard investment guidelines.

## **Retirement Plan Services**

SCA offers its Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services to clients that are retirement plan sponsors. SCA acknowledges that in performing the Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services described above that SCA is acting as a “fiduciary” as such term is defined under Section 3(21)(A)(ii) of Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). SCA will act in a manner consistent with the requirements of a fiduciary under ERISA when providing such services to any client that is a retirement plan sponsor.

If SCA is providing Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services to a client that is a retirement plan sponsor, SCA acknowledges that in addition to acting as a “fiduciary” as such term is defined under Section 3(21)(A)(ii) of ERISA, that SCA also is acting as a fiduciary with “investment manager” fiduciary responsibilities as defined under Section 3(38) of ERISA to the extent SCA has agreed to provide discretionary management of designated assets of that client that are held in an ERISA qualified plan. Per the agreement with the client, SCA has no responsibility and will not (a) exercise any authority or control respecting disposition of assets of the client’s retirement plan except as authorized to provide discretionary management of assets of the client’s retirement plan, or (b) have any discretionary authority or discretionary responsibility in the administration of the client’s retirement plan or the interpretation of the client’s retirement plan documents.

SCA does not serve as administrator or trustee for any retirement plan. SCA does not act as custodian for any client account or have access to client funds or securities (with the exception of, for some accounts, having written authorization from the client to deduct management fees).

SCA will disclose, to the extent required by ERISA Regulation Section 2550.408b-2(c), to the client any change to the information that we are required to disclose under ERISA Regulation Section 2550.408b-

2(c)(1)(iv) as soon as practicable, but no later than sixty (60) days from the date on which we are informed of the change (unless such disclosure is precluded due to extraordinary circumstances beyond our control, in which case the information will be disclosed as soon as practicable).

In accordance with ERISA Regulation Section 2550.408b-2(c)(vi)(A), we will disclose within thirty (30) days following receipt of a written request from the responsible plan fiduciary or plan administrator (unless such disclosure is precluded due to extraordinary circumstances beyond our control, in which case the information will be disclosed as soon as practicable) all information related to the Qualified Retirement Plan Agreement and any compensation or fees received in connection with the agreement that is required for the plan to comply with the reporting and disclosure requirements of Title 1 of ERISA and the regulations, forms and schedules issued thereunder.

If SCA makes an unintentional error or omission in disclosing the information required under ERISA Regulation Section 2550.408b-2(c)(1)(iv) or (vi), SCA will disclose to the client the correct information as soon as practicable, but no later than thirty (30) days from the date on which SCA learns of such error or omission.

### **Founder Accounts**

SCA maintains three accounts which were established by the Principal Owners and founders of the firm to create a performance track record for the managed strategies ("Founder Accounts"). Trading within these accounts mimics the investment decisions made for the Emerging Growth Strategy clients, as well as the recommendations provided to clients utilizing Strategist Services. Each Founder's Account adheres to the Standard Investment Guidelines, as described below. These accounts are considered to be long-term investment vehicles, with minimal, or no additional contributions or redemptions occurring. If a contribution or redemption were to be requested for any of the Founder Accounts, the firm would implement a four week "cooling off" period, in which no transactions will be effected in the account following the request.

### **Investment Guidelines**

As stated above, for both the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Strategist Services, SCA uses the Standard Investment Guidelines described below for each client account unless there is a written agreement between SCA and the client specifying that the individual client's account guidelines make an exception to these Standard Investment Guidelines.

#### **Standard Investment Guidelines (for Emerging Growth Portfolio Management & Emerging Growth Portfolio Strategist Services)**

1. 5% maximum cash.
2. 45-55 holdings.
3. 5% maximum holdings at market price.
4. Less than 10% at market price in securities domiciled outside of the U.S.
5. Holdings domiciled outside of U.S. must actively trade on NYSE or NASDAQ.
6. Less than two times Russell 2000 Growth sector weight, with 40% maximum exposure to any sector.
7. Less than 20% of portfolio in stocks larger than the largest company in the Russell 2000 Growth.

#### **Small Cap Focus Investment Guidelines**

SCA uses the Small Cap Focus Investment Guidelines described below for each client account that has elected to participate in the Small Cap Focus portfolio program unless there is a written agreement between SCA and the client specifying that the individual client's account guidelines make an exception to these Small Cap Focus Investment Guidelines.

1. No maximum cash.
2. The portfolio will be concentrated in the managers favorite holdings.
3. No maximum holding size.
4. Less than 10% in securities domiciled outside of the U.S.
5. Holdings domiciled outside of U.S. must actively trade on NYSE or NASDAQ.

#### ***Non-Participation in Wrap Fee Programs***

SCA does not sponsor any wrap fee program. In traditional (non-wrap fee) management programs, advisory services are provided for a fee but transaction services are billed separately on a per-transaction basis. In wrap-fee programs, advisory services and transaction services are provided for one fee.

#### ***Specialization***

SCA specializes in managing equity accounts for clients with assets of \$1 million or more through the use of a model portfolio.

#### ***Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments.***

SCA limits its investment advice to the following types of investments:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issues

#### ***Advisory Services Tailored to Individual Needs of Clients***

For the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and the Summit Creek Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services, SCA will use discretion to supervise and direct the investments of the client's assets in accordance with the written investment objectives, policies, and restrictions that the client has furnished to SCA and according to any revisions thereto provided by the client. If stated within the Investment Management Agreement, SCA provides each client with an annual Compliance Certification verifying that SCA has structured the client's portfolio in a manner that is in compliance with the client's specified investment guidelines on file with SCA.

For the Summit Creek Strategist Services, SCA will provide investment recommendations and updates in accordance with the written investment objectives developed by SCA, as well as any restrictions that the institutional/corporate client has furnished to SCA and according to any revisions thereto provided by the client. If stated within the Investment Management Agreement, SCA provides each institutional/corporate client with an annual Compliance Certification verifying that SCA has provided recommendations and updates for the client that are in compliance with the client's specified investment guidelines with SCA.

## **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

### ***Standard Fees***

Advisory fees are paid quarterly in arrears and are calculated on the basis of a percentage of the assets under management for assets receiving Management Services. For assets receiving Strategist Services, the advisory fees are paid quarterly in arrears and are calculated based upon a percentage of assets using a calculation formula agreed upon between SCA and the client.

SCA's basic fee for non-subadvisory accounts investing in the Emerging Growth or the Small Cap Focus product is a 1% annual fee based on the value of the assets under management. Subadvisory accounts investing in the Emerging Growth or the Small Cap Focus product are typically charged an annual fee of less than 1% of the value of the sub-advised assets under management. In sub-advisory relationships, SCA may negotiate the fees set forth above based on factors such as the amount of assets under management. SCA's basic fee for assets receiving Strategist Services will not exceed a 1% annual fee based on the value of the assets receiving the Strategist Services. For Strategist Services, SCA will negotiate the actual fee based on factors including the amount of assets invested by the client based upon the investment recommendations and updates provided by SCA. The exact fee for services will be agreed upon and disclosed in the management agreement prior to services being provided.

If a client terminates their investment management services or strategist services agreement with SCA during a quarter, the client will pay a prorated fee.

### **Fees for Services to Retirement Plan Sponsor Clients**

For services to clients that are retirement plan sponsors, SCA typically will charge according to the Standard Fees information as described above. The fee is negotiable based upon the complexity of the plan, the size of the plan assets and the actual services requested.

SCA does not reasonably expect to receive any other compensation, direct or indirect, for its services provided to clients that are retirement plan sponsors. If we receive any other compensation for such services, we will (i) offset that compensation against our stated fees, and (ii) will disclose the amount of such compensation, the services rendered for such compensation and the payer of such compensation to you.

### ***General Information on Fees***

Brokerage commissions and/or transaction ticket fees charged by the custodian will be billed directly to the client. SCA will not receive any portion of such commissions or fees from the custodian or client. In addition, clients may incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than SCA in connection with investments made through the account, including but not limited to IRA and qualified retirement plan fees.

Founder Accounts managed by SCA are not subject to any investment management fees.

Clients should note that similar advisory services may be available from other registered investment advisors for similar or lower fees.

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

Item 6 is not applicable to SCA. We do not currently charge or accept performance-based fees. Performance-based fees are fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets held within a client's account.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

SCA generally provides investment advice to the following types of clients.

- High Net Worth Individuals



- Investment Companies
- Pooled Investment Vehicles
- Pension and profit sharing plans (ERISA and Non-ERISA)
- Trusts, estates, or charitable organizations (including foundations, endowments)
- State/Municipal Government Entities
- Corporations or business entities other than those listed above

All clients must enter into a written investment advisory agreement before the commencement of any investment advisory relationship with SCA.

### ***Minimum Investment Amounts Required***

SCA generally requires that client have assets of \$1 million or more. However, smaller accounts may be solicited or accepted at the discretion of SCA. There are no minimum fees.

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

### ***Methods of Analysis***

SCA uses a fundamental method of analysis in formulating investment advice. This is a method of evaluating a security by attempting to measure its intrinsic value by examining related economic, financial and other qualitative and quantitative factors. Fundamental analysts attempt to study everything that can affect the security's value, including macroeconomic factors (like the overall economy and industry conditions) and individually specific factors (like the financial condition and management of companies). The end goal of performing fundamental analysis is to produce a value that an investor can compare with the security's current price in hopes of figuring out what sort of position to take with that security (underpriced = buy, overpriced = sell or short). This method of security analysis is quite different from technical analysis. Fundamental analysis is about using real data to evaluate a security's value. Although most analysts use fundamental analysis to value stocks, this method of valuation can be used for just about any type of security.

### ***Investment Strategies***

SCA uses the following investment strategies when managing client assets and/or providing investment advice:

Long term purchases. Investments held at least a year.

Short term purchases. Investments sold within a year.

Trading. Investments sold within 30 days.

SCA's investment universe consists of stocks with market capitalizations between \$250 million and \$4.5 billion. We further refine this universe through a selection process that screens for consistent historical sales and earnings growth, projected growth of at least 15%, high return on equity, low debt-to-capital and high inside ownership. Ideal candidates meet most or all of these criteria with a particular emphasis on sustainability of growth for a multiyear period. Purchase candidates are generated through screening, investment conferences, company visits and meetings with industry analysts. In general, approximately 100 stocks are monitored that meet our investment criteria. As a team, we utilize the judgment developed over our many years of experience to identify the 45 to 55 most suitable companies to be included in the Emerging Growth portfolio and approximately the 36 most suitable companies for the Small Cap Focus portfolio.

If a stock passes our quantitative screen, an in-depth analysis is conducted to determine whether the historical growth is sustainable. This phase of the process includes detailed discussions with company management and sell-side analysts. Throughout the analytical process, questions arise as to the strength of a particular business. Each security is sponsored by an individual partner who is responsible for fundamental analysis, modeling and any follow-up. We place particular emphasis on research of bearish analysts to better understand the risks and whether

they are manageable. The ideal SCA investment has a large addressable market with clear secular growth drivers, a high degree of revenue visibility, sustainable competitive advantages and a management team that tends to under promise and over deliver. Recognizing that these traits can result in a highly valued stock, we do our best to identify good growth companies while they are still under followed by Wall Street.

The final step in the process is buying a stock at the proper valuation. Generally, a stock must have a projected 12-month return of at least 20% to qualify for purchase. Typically, securities are purchased at price to earnings ratios below company growth rates. The initial position in a security is typically 1.0-1.5% of the portfolio. As we gain confidence with a holding, the position may be increased.

Once a stock is in the portfolio, we continue to perform rigorous research. Discussions with company management and key analysts are of critical importance. In addition, an earnings model is constructed on each company to enhance our understanding of the business and sensitivity of earnings to changing growth or margin assumptions. The constant dialog with management and analysts helps determine, via our research mosaic, whether our estimates may be too conservative or aggressive. Also, we continue to consider any bear case, seeking to assure position weight reflects the current risk profile. A Valuation Model is used to augment portfolio returns by actively changing position size. Taking advantage of short term market emotions, we sell into periods of stock price excess and buy during price weakness to attempt to moderate risk and enhance returns. Day to day research updates with management teams and analysts along with continuous review of our valuation model drives portfolio construction. All accounts are managed identically allowing full focus on the investment process.

The construction process occurs from the bottom up. Position size reflects our best assessment of the risk profile of a company. The earlier stage, higher growth and more unproven business models are generally 1.0 to 1.5% positions while companies in which we have the highest level of confidence and have very stable business models tend to be larger positions (up to a maximum of 5% in the Emerging Growth strategy). We do not manage to sector/industry weights although we are aware of benchmark sector weights. We do not exclude sectors although our focus on consistent and sustainable growth typically results in most names falling into the traditional growth sectors of consumer, healthcare and technology. We do not sell a stock just because it reaches a certain market cap as long as the fundamentals and valuation remain intact. In addition, sector weights are not allowed to exceed two times the weights of the index. The weighted portfolio P/E is generally close to that of the Russell 2000 Growth Index though revenue and earnings growth, return on equity and management stock ownership far exceed index metrics.

### ***Risk of Loss***

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Therefore, no current or prospective client should assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. Investing in securities involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments there may be varying degrees of risk. Clients and prospective clients should be prepared to bear investment loss including loss of original principal.

SCA manages a portfolio of 45-55 small cap stocks. Market and liquidity risks are involved in this type of investment. Market risk is the risk that the value of an individual stock will go down, resulting in a decrease in the value of the investment portfolio. Liquidity risk is the risk that an individual stock cannot be traded quickly enough to prevent a loss or to preserve a profit.

### **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

SCA has determined there are no 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.

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

SCA and its principal executive officers are not actively engaged in any business other than giving investment advice.

SCA is **not** and does **not** have a related company that is a (1) municipal securities dealer, government securities dealer or broker, (2) investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-end investment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or “hedge fund,” and offshore fund), (3) other investment adviser or financial planner, (4) futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor, (5) banking or thrift institution, (6) accountant or accounting firm, (7) lawyer or law firm, (8) pension consultant, (9) real estate broker or dealer, or (10) sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

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

SCA has established and will maintain and enforce a Code of Ethics (“the Code”) to set forth the standards of conduct expected of employees, to require compliance with the federal securities laws, and to uphold SCA’s fiduciary duties. SCA’s reputation and success require adherence to high ethical standards. SCA’s goal is to create an environment in which ethical behavior is actively thought about and practiced.

#### ***Fiduciary Status and Conflicts of Interest***

The Code requires that SCA conduct its business consistent with its status as a fiduciary to its clients and has affirmative duties of care, loyalty, honesty and good faith in connection with all of its activities. This includes putting client interests first at all times.

The Code requires that employees avoid conflicts of interests in their personal and business activities. A conflict of interest exists when an employee has a personal interest in a matter that may be inconsistent or incompatible with the employee’s obligation to exercise his or her best judgment in pursuit of the interest of SCA and its clients or where an outside activity encroaches on the time an employee should devote to the affairs of SCA.

With respect to all employees, the Code specifically addresses and either prohibits or sets forth certain reporting and pre-approval requirements concerning (1) the receipt of gifts and entertainment; (2) the provision of gifts and entertainment; and (3) outside activities of employees. With respect to employees involved in making and executing securities recommendations for client accounts or who have access to such information (“Access Persons”), the Code contains a number of policies and procedures to address conflicts of interest based on the fundamental principle that Access Persons owe their chief duty and loyalty to SCA’s Clients. SCA considers all employees to be Access Persons. Under the policies and procedures, Access Persons, among other things, are:

- Required to provide the Chief Compliance Officer with information concerning personal securities transactions (including any mutual funds for which SCA serves as investment adviser or subadviser) such as initial and annual holdings reports, quarterly transaction reports and copies of brokerage statements and transaction confirmations;
- Prohibited from investing in initial public offerings, from short-term trading (including market timing of mutual funds), and from excessive personal trading;
- Required to obtain the Chief Compliance Officer’s approval before engaging in most personal securities transactions; and
- Limited from implementing any securities transaction for their personal accounts until seven calendar days have elapsed from the date of most recent activity in that security within client accounts
- In the event that a client trade takes place within 7 calendar days after an employee has executed a trade, the CCO sends a form asking if the employee had any knowledge of the client transaction prior to executing their own transaction to help detect front running. Once the form is completed and returned, the CCO will determine if further action is required.

Founder Accounts managed by SCA are exempt from the seven day “blackout” period as described within the SCA Code of Ethics. This exemption has been granted due to these accounts effecting the same transactions as those previously effected for Emerging Growth Strategy clients, and recommended transactions provided to Strategist Services clients. Requested contributions and redemptions within these accounts require a four week “cooling off” period where no other transactions may be executed in the account prior to the contribution or redemption. If the trading strategies within these accounts were to vary from the existing SCA strategies, the exemption would no longer be applicable.

## ***Confidentiality***

SCA and all employees have a duty to ensure the confidentiality of client information, including client holdings, transactions and securities recommendations. To ensure this duty is fulfilled, SCA has adopted the Code and certain related policies and procedures. Access Persons are specifically prohibited from divulging any client holdings, any recommendations made to a client, or any contemplated or completed securities transactions or trading strategies, except as required in the performance of his or her duties and only to the extent such other person has a need to know such information to perform his or her duties.

Employees are also required to ensure that any material non-public information (as defined in the Code) remains secure. To the extent employees become aware of material non-public information concerning the securities of an issuer, the Code prohibits trading on such information or disclosing such information to others except the Chief Compliance Officer. Upon a determination that SCA possesses material non-public information, no clients or employees are allowed to trade in the securities of the issuer.

## ***Administration and Enforcement of the Code***

With respect to administration and enforcement, the Code requires that:

- All employees receive a copy of the Code (and amendments to it) and certify initially and annually that they have received, read and understand this Code, recognize that they are subject to it and will comply with it;
- Any employee who discovers a violation or apparent violation of the Code (including his or her own) must promptly report the matter to the Chief Compliance Officer, that such reports will be treated confidentially to the extent permitted by law and will be investigated promptly and appropriately, and that retaliation against individuals who report violation or apparent violations of the Code in good faith is prohibited;
- The Chief Compliance Officer has primary responsibility for determining whether violations of the Code have occurred and if so, for recommending any sanctions with respect to violations, but that ultimate responsibility for determining sanctions rests with the SCA's Board of Directors.
- Violators may be terminated, suspended, reduced in salary or position or sanctioned in any other manner in the discretion of the person or persons enforcing the Code and that in addition to sanctions, violations may result in referral to civil or criminal authorities where appropriate.

The Code also sets forth the Chief Compliance Officer's responsibilities, which include reviewing information relating to personal securities transactions, investigating potential Code violations, distributing and updating the code as necessary, recordkeeping, and an annual review of the Code's operation to determine its adequacy and the effectiveness of its operation.

The results of such review are reported to the SCA's Principal Owners.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of the Code of Ethics by contacting SCA.

## **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

### ***Selection of Broker Dealers***

In determining the broker-dealers through whom to execute securities transaction for client accounts, and commission rates and other transaction costs to be paid, SCA seeks to obtain the best price and execution quality for its transactions. Consequently, SCA selects broker-dealers primarily on the basis of their execution capability and trading expertise. SCA also determines the overall reasonableness of the brokerage commissions or other transaction costs on client transactions on the basis of trading experience, taking into account such factors as current market conditions, size and timing of the order, depth of the market, per share price, difficulty of execution and financial responsibility. While SCA will generally seek reasonably competitive commission rates in connection with a brokerage transaction on behalf of its clients, clients will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or mark-up.

Transactions executed for clients in the NASDAQ market may be executed either on an agency or a principal basis. Client transactions effected on an agency basis are made with broker-dealers who act as intermediary between the client and the buyer or seller and who charge a commission for the service. Client transactions effected on a principal basis are made with a broker-dealer who buys securities from or sells securities to clients from their own account on a net basis after deducting the broker-dealer's premium on the transaction. Because SCA believes that agency trading of NASDAQ securities is favorable to clients under most circumstances, SCA will generally effect transactions with broker-dealers who execute NASDAQ trades on an agency basis. However, if situations arise in which a principal execution would result in better execution, SCA will seek broker-dealers to effect the transaction on a principal basis.

SCA periodically reviews its best execution policies in light of current market circumstances and published statistical studies and other available information.

### ***Aggregating Orders***

SCA will frequently aggregate multiple contemporaneous client purchase or sell orders into a block order for execution. Calculation of such an aggregated order is done via the trading software. The trading software keeps track of the allocation of the order among various accounts participating in the trade, and the executed order is then allocated according to the original calculated allocation. If the aggregated order is not filled in its entirety, the partially filled order is allocated pro rata. By aggregating orders of separate clients, SCA can ordinarily negotiate commissions that are lower than commissions would be if orders were not aggregated. Clients' accounts for which orders are aggregated receive the average share price of such transaction, which could be higher or lower than the actual price that would otherwise be paid by such client absent the aggregation of orders. Any transaction costs incurred in the aggregated transaction will be shared pro rata based on each client's participation in the transaction. Separate documentation relating to the transaction is generated and maintained for each client participating in an aggregated trade.

If, subsequent to the placing of the order, the allocation must be changed for certain reasons (for example, a client withdraws cash from an account scheduled to participate in the order), such change in allocation will be recorded in writing and approved by the Chief Compliance Officer.

As described above, SCA maintains client relationships that utilize SCA's Strategist Services. As buy or sell orders initiated for discretionary clients may take multiple days to complete, the recommendations for the Strategist Services that SCA provides to a client may reflect recommendations being made by SCA simultaneously to, or investment advisory decisions made simultaneously for, SCA's similarly managed discretionary clients. As a result, SCA may have begun trading before or at/near the same time the Strategist Services client has received or had the opportunity to evaluate or act on SCA's recommendations. In this circumstance, trades ultimately placed by the Strategist Services client may be subject to price movements, particularly with large orders or where the securities are thinly traded, that may result in the Strategist Services client receiving prices that are more or less favorable than the prices obtained by SCA for its discretionary accounts. Similarly, the Strategist Services client may initiate trading based on SCA's recommendations at/or near the same time as trading for SCA discretionary client accounts. Particularly with large orders where the securities are thinly traded and cannot be completed within the trading day, this could result in SCA's discretionary clients receiving prices that are more or less favorable than prices that might otherwise have been obtained absent the Strategist Services client's activity. Because SCA does not control the Strategist Services client's execution of transactions, SCA cannot control the market impact of such transactions to the same extent that it would for its discretionary client accounts.

### ***Client Directed Brokerage***

A client for whom SCA provides discretionary investment management services may request or instruct SCA to direct all or a portion of the securities transaction for its account to a specified broker-dealer. SCA will treat the client's direction as a decision by the client to retain, to the extent of the direction, the discretion that SCA would otherwise have in selecting broker-dealers to effect transactions and in negotiating transaction costs generally for the client's account. Although SCA will attempt to effect such transactions in a manner consistent with its policy of seeking best execution and price on each transaction, there may be occasions where it is unable to do so, in which

case SCA will continue to comply with the client's instructions on the foregoing basis. In connection with the direction, the client should also consider whether, under its direction, transaction costs, execution, clearance and settlement capabilities, and fees for custodial or other services provided to the client by the broker-dealer (if applicable) will be comparable to those otherwise obtainable. A client considering a directed brokerage arrangement should also understand that it may lose the possible advantage that other clients derive from the aggregation of orders for several clients in a single transaction for the purchase or sale of a particular security.

Clients choosing to direct all or a portion of securities transactions to a specified broker-dealer should be aware that, pursuant to SCA's directed brokerage policy, unless the broker-dealer effecting the aggregated order is willing to step out client direction commissions, directed trades will be effected after the aggregated order for other clients. In SCA's experience, the price for the subsequent directed trade may be less favorable to the client.

In the event that a client directs SCA to direct a stated percentage of brokerage for a client's account to a specified broker-dealer, SCA will use its discretion in selecting the transactions it selects to implement the client's direction. Under certain circumstances, SCA may not be able to meet client's directed brokerage targets. Further, in selecting transactions to implement the client's targeted direction, SCA will generally not direct brokerage with respect to securities that are difficult to trade or that lack liquidity. In the case of a large aggregated order for all accounts, SCA prefers not to separate an account out for client direction to a different broker-dealer if SCA is concerned about a rapid price movement.

### ***SCA Founder Accounts***

As previously explained, SCA manages Founder Accounts that were created to establish a track record of performance of investment strategies for marketing purposes. Each individual security transaction for these accounts is not included in any aggregated orders, and is only traded after all other discretionary client transactions have been executed in the security. This process could result in the Founder Accounts receiving prices that are more or less favorable than the prices that were obtained in discretionary client transactions.

If SCA becomes aware of any subsequent discretionary client transactions prior to executing trades in the Founder Accounts, Founder Account trading will be postponed until such discretionary client transactions have been completed. Activity within the Founder Accounts are monitored to verify that transactions are effected in this manner.

Based on the method utilized to communicate recommendations to clients utilizing SCA's Strategist Services, there may be times when trades in specific securities are effected in Founder Accounts prior to the recommendations being provided to these clients. This process could result in the Founder Accounts receiving prices that are more or less favorable than those obtained by clients utilizing SCA's Strategist Services. Founder Accounts will not conduct any transactions for affected securities on the same day that recommendations in the same securities are provided to Strategist Services clients.

### ***Soft Dollar Policy***

SCA's soft dollar policy is prefaced on the principle that brokerage is the property of the client. With this in mind, SCA seeks to obtain best execution, minimize transaction costs and use brokerage to benefit clients when effecting transactions.

Soft dollar arrangements, as defined in the CFA Institute Soft Dollar Standards, refer to an arrangement where an investment advisor directs transactions to a broker/dealer in exchange for brokerage and research services. These arrangements can include both proprietary and third-party research arrangements, but does not include client-directed brokerage arrangements. The commission rates paid by the investment adviser in these arrangements is typically higher than the lowest commission rate available.

The SEC has also provided guidance for the use of soft dollars under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"). Section 28(e) provides certain "safe harbor" provisions that provides that an investment advisor with investment discretion over a client account is not in violation of its fiduciary duties when paying more than the lowest commission rate available. To rely on these safe harbor provisions, the investment manager must

determine in good faith that the commission rate paid is reflective of the value of brokerage and research services provided by the broker-dealer. SCA considers research received from approved broker-dealers to be consistent with the definitions provided under Section 28(e) of the Act.

SCA may cause an account to pay a broker-dealer a commission higher than that which another broker-dealer might have charged for effecting the same transaction in recognition of the value of brokerage and research provided by the broker-dealer; provided that it has determined in good faith, that the amount of such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research provided by such broker-dealer, viewed in terms of either that particular transaction or the overall responsibilities of SCA in managing its accounts. SCA believes that it is able to negotiate costs on client transactions which are competitive and consistent with achieving best execution.

Research services furnished by brokers through whom SCA effects securities transactions are used by SCA in carrying out its investment management responsibilities with respect to all the client accounts over which it exercises investment discretion. SCA believes that most research services obtained generally benefit most or all of the accounts which it manages, although not all such services may be used by SCA in connection with the accounts which paid commissions to the broker providing such services. In addition, SCA may engage in soft dollar arrangements prior to fulfilling client requests for client-directed brokerage arrangements.

SCA may acquire research in soft dollar arrangements which is also used by SCA for purposes other than providing assistance to its investment decision-making process (a “mixed-use” product or service). In such circumstances, SCA will make a good faith allocation of the cost of the product or service between soft dollars and hard dollars.

SCA does not enter into contractual agreements or understandings with any broker regarding the placement of securities transactions because of research services they provide. SCA is not affiliated with any broker-dealer. SCA selects brokers primarily on the basis of their execution capabilities and trading expertise; however, the direction of transactions to such brokers may also be based on the quality and amount of the research and research-related services they provide to SCA and directly to our clients. SCA has determined that only trades executed on an agency basis will be utilized for soft dollar arrangements. Additionally, any security that is deemed difficult to trade or lacking liquidity will not be a candidate for soft dollar direction.

### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

SCA encourages frequent review with clients, particularly early in the relationship. Generally, formal performance reviews may be held semi-annually or more frequently. Frequent communication is required where, for example, client circumstances change or when discussion or shifts in SCA’s investments posture is appropriate.

#### ***Account Reports***

For clients who have contracted for the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services or the Summit Creek Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services, the clients or their custodial banks are regularly furnished with (i) portfolio appraisal reports, (ii) transaction reports, (iii) performance reviews, and in some instances, (iv) confirmations of each trade. Clients who have contracted for the Summit Creek Strategist Services will generally not receive reports or performance reviews from SCA. All reports, other than confirmations and account statements that are issued directly from the account custodian, are sent by SCA to clients on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis, based upon the client’s requests. Clients should compare all reports received directly from SCA against the statements received from the account custodian and any discrepancies should be immediately reported to SCA and/or the account custodian.

Portfolio appraisal reports contain the number of shares of each security in a client’s account, each securities, industry classification, cost price and cost value, market price and market value, the respective percentage of the portfolio, estimated annual income, if any, current yield and total market value.

Transaction summaries show the activity in any one account and include the security, the number of shares of each security purchased, sold or otherwise acquired or disposed of and proceeds or disbursements.

Performance reviews contain information as to the market value of the total portfolio, contributions and withdrawals, rate of return and comparisons to various published indices. These reviews reflect this information by month, by quarter and by year and rate of return since the inception of the account. SCA will work with clients individually to meet their reporting needs.

Confirmations contain the name of the executing broker-dealer, the account name, the name of the security, as well as transaction charges such as commissions, taxes, SEC fees, and the market where the order was executed as well as trade and settlement dates. Confirmations are sent by the executing broker-dealer or, in some cases, through the automated system of the Depository Trust Clearing Corporation to a client or its custodian bank after each execution of a transaction in the account.

In addition, for clients who have contracted for our Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services or the Summit Creek Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services, at the client's request, SCA will provide a monthly commissions statement which sets forth the commissions paid by the account on all transactions since the beginning of the calendar year in terms of total dollars. This statement also reflects the names of the executing broker-dealers and whether such broker-dealers were selected by SCA or at the direction of the client. Special reports, which are tailored to meet specific client requirements, may also be provided to clients upon request.

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

### ***Other Compensation***

For additional discussion on other compensation received by SCA, please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices. Other than as described at Item 12, SCA does not receive any economic benefits related to its provision of advisory services.

### ***Client Referrals***

SCA does not directly or indirectly compensate any person for client referrals.

## **Item 15 – Custody**

Custody has been defined as having access or control over client funds and/or securities, but does **not** include the ability to execute transactions in client accounts. Custody is not limited to physically holding client funds and securities. If an investment advisor has the ability to access or control client funds or securities, the investment advisor is deemed to have custody for purposes of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and must ensure proper procedures are implemented.

SCA is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities in those situations where SCA is given the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts. Clients will be required to provide written authority to allow the deduction of SCA's advisory service fees directly from a client's account. With the exception of fee deductions for advisory service fees, SCA is not granted access to any client account which would enable us to withdraw or transfer or otherwise move funds or cash from any client account to our accounts or the account of any third party.

SCA has established procedures to ensure all client funds and securities are held at a qualified custodian in a separate account for each client under that client's name. Clients or an independent representative of the client will direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address and the manner in which the funds or securities are maintained. Finally, account statements are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client, or the client's independent representative at least quarterly. Clients should carefully review those statements. When clients have questions about their account statements, they should contact SCA or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

## **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**



For clients who have contracted for the Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services or the Summit Creek Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services, upon receiving written authorization from the client, SCA will provide discretionary investment advisory services for client accounts. Any such written authorization from the client must be granted in the contract for services.

The Summit Creek Emerging Growth Portfolio Management Services and the Summit Creek Small Cap Focus Portfolio Management Services are discretionary investment management services for which SCA generally manages the client's portfolio and makes investment decisions without consultation with the client. This involves determinations regarding which securities are bought and sold for the account, the total amount of the securities to be bought and sold, the broker-dealers with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, the price per share and the commission rates at which securities transactions are effected.

In some instances, SCA's discretionary authority in making these determinations may be limited by conditions imposed by clients in their investment guidelines or objectives or in instructions otherwise provided to SCA. SCA's discretionary authority may also be limited by directions from a client to have transactions effected through specified broker-dealers that provide portfolio evaluation or other consulting services to the client deemed to be of value to the client.

#### **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

Pursuant to Rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, SCA has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy pursuant to which, if SCA has agreed to vote proxies on a client's behalf, SCA will vote such proxies or other beneficial interest in an equity security prudently and solely in the best long term economic interest of its advisory clients and their beneficiaries, considering all relevant factors and without undue influence from individuals or groups who may have an economic interest in the outcome of a proxy vote. Clients of SCA may obtain a copy of our Proxy Voting Guidelines or a record of our proxy votes free of charge by calling us at (612) 746-8980 or by submitting a written request to Summit Creek Advisors, LLC, 120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2200, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

#### **Item 18 – Financial Information**

This item is not applicable to SCA's brochure. SCA does not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, SCA is not required to include a balance sheet for its most recent fiscal year. SCA is not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, SCA has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.

#### **Item 19 – Class Action Lawsuits**

Client retains the right under applicable securities laws to initiate individually a lawsuit or join a class-action lawsuit against the issuer of a security that was held, purchased or sold by or for the Client by SCA. SCA does not initiate such a legal proceeding on behalf of any client and does not provide legal advice to clients regarding potential causes of action against such a security issuer and whether any client should join a class-action lawsuit. SCA recommends that clients seek legal counsel prior to making a decision regarding whether to participate in such a class-action lawsuit. Moreover, SCA's services do not include monitoring or informing clients of any potential or actual class-action lawsuits against the issuers of the securities that were held, purchased or sold by or for client.

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