

# Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC

SEC File Number: 801 – 69510

## Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC

**Brochure**  
**Dated 3/31/2011**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC (the “Registrant”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (303) 296-7100 or [ben.valore@syntrinsic.com](mailto:ben.valore@syntrinsic.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 Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

References herein to Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, LLC as a “registered investment adviser” or any reference to being “registered” does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## **Item 2            Material Changes**

There have been no material changes made to Syntrinsic Investment Counsel's disclosure statement since last year's Annual Amendment filing on February 9, 2011.

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## Item 4            Advisory Business

- A. Syntrinsic Investment Counsel (the “Registrant”) is a limited liability company formed on July 11, 2008 in the State of Colorado. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in August 2008. The Registrant is owned by Benjamin Valore-Caplan
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations, etc.) investment advisory services, and, to the extent specifically requested by a client, financial planning and related consulting services.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management (between 0.20% and 1.00%) as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
First \$10,000,000	1.00%
Next \$40,000,000	0.50%
Above \$50,000,000	0.20%

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)**

To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Registrant’s planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$0 to \$25,000 on a fixed fee basis depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a *Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services. If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes, including the Registrant’s representatives in their individual capacities as licensed insurance agents. (*See* disclosure at Item 10 C.8). The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. **Please Note:** If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client’s responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant’s previous recommendations and/or services.

## **SCOPE OF ADVISORY/CONSULTING SERVICES**

Registrant may provide any or all of the services indicated below per the needs and objectives of each client.

### **Investment Policy Review and Development**

Registrant assists clients in developing or refining an IPS that reflects the client's unique objectives, investment targets, restrictions, decision making process and other relevant information. The firm does not own or control these documents; they remain the sole property of the client.

### **Asset Allocation Modeling**

Registrant assists clients in determining the suitability and constraints of various asset classes, then models multiple customized asset allocation blends and evaluates their suitability given the client's spending and growth objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, and other key factors. While Registrant provides options and opinions, the client makes the ultimate selection of an asset allocation target.

### **Manager Search and Selection**

Registrant guides clients through the process of evaluating and selecting suitable investment options based on the firm's research and the research of third parties regarding multiple quantitative and qualitative factors. While Registrant provides options and opinions, the client makes the ultimate selection of investments.

### **Performance Reporting**

Registrant tailors performance reports to meet the client's needs that analyze the client's returns, risk, diversification and other factors that assist in the evaluation of the client's progress relative to the client's goals and objectives. Registrant may directly or indirectly assist in developing accounting reports related to investment portfolios.

### **Financial and Estate Planning**

Registrant guides individuals and families through an evaluation of their planning needs in consideration of specific spending objectives, tax planning, philanthropic planning, intergenerational wealth planning, the management of liquidity events and/or other planning needs. Registrant does not provide formal legal or tax advice, and works with client's legal and tax advisors to the extent desired by the client.

### **Business Strategy and Structure**

Registrant guides clients through an evaluation of their business structure as it relates to investment management in order to assist in developing or refining the structure to improve economies of scale, operational efficiencies, cost savings, or other matters.

### **Development and Fundraising**

While Registrant does not provide direct development and fundraising services, the firm can assist the client through participating in donor meetings, providing information and analysis to current or prospective donors, and assisting with the implementation of donor giving strategies.

### **Education**

While education is an informal component to most client relationships, Registrant also provides formal education to clients on matters related to investment management and strategy, fiduciary responsibility, planning and philanthropy in general.

### Values-Based Investing

Registrant assists clients who seek to invest all or a portion of their assets in investments that align with the client's values or beliefs. The ability to provide this service is impacted by a specific client's values and beliefs in light of the client's other objectives and the available investment universe.

Services may be bundled as part of Investment Advisory Services or may be provided on a separate fee and expense basis.

Insurance Planning	\$25,000
Lending/Liability Planning	\$25,000
Financial Planning	\$25,000
Estate Planning	\$25,000
Enhanced Performance	\$25,000
Education	\$25,000
Strategic Planning	\$25,000
Concentrated Stock Planning	\$25,000

### Trustee Services

Should a representative of Registrant serve as Trustee for a client **and** the Registrant also serve as the investment adviser for the underlying investment assets, the fee payable for to the Registrant shall be 1.00% of the value of the underlying assets plus any and all reasonable expenses. The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual fee of \$25,000 for Trustee services.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.** To the extent requested by the client, the Registrant *may* provide consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Neither the Registrant, nor any of its representatives, serves as an attorney or accountant and no portion of the Registrant's services should be construed as same. To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e. attorneys, accountants, etc.), including representatives of the Registrant in their separate licensed capacities as discussed below. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. **Please Note:** If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

**Please Note: Non-Discretionary Service Limitations.** Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that the Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior verbal consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event of a market correction during which the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect

any account transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's verbal consent.

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

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

**Please Also Note: Valuation.** In the event that the Registrant references private investment funds owned by the client on any supplemental account reports prepared by the Registrant, the value(s) for all such private investment funds shall reflect either the initial purchase and/or the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor. If the valuation reflects the initial purchase price (and/or a value as of a previous date), the current value(s) (to the extent ascertainable) could be **significantly more or less** than the original purchase price.

**Independent Managers.** The Registrant may allocate (and/or recommend that the client allocate) a portion of a client's investment assets among unaffiliated independent investment managers in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the *Independent Manager[s]* shall have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. The Registrant shall continue to render investment advisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. Factors which the Registrant shall consider in recommending *Independent Manager[s]* include the client's designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research.

**Client Obligations.** In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains his/her/its responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

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

the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement*. Any client who has not received a copy of Registrant's written Brochure at least 48 hours prior to executing the *Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement* shall have five business days subsequent to executing the agreement to terminate the Registrant's services without penalty.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at anytime, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of October 15, 2010, the Registrant had \$15,000,000 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$585,000,000 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

- A. The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management (between 0.20% and 1.00%) as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
First \$10,000,000	1.00%
Next \$40,000,000	0.50%
Above \$50,000,000	0.20%

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)**

To the extent specifically requested by a client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$0 to \$25,000 on a fixed fee basis depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

## SCOPE OF ADVISORY/CONSULTING SERVICES

Registrant may provide any or all of the following advisory and/or consulting services based upon the needs and objectives of each client, including investment policy review and development, asset allocation modeling, manager search and selection, performance reporting, financial and estate planning, business strategy and structure, development and fundraising, education and/or values-based investing.

Services may be bundled as part of Investment Advisory Services or may be provided on a separate fee and expense basis.

Insurance Planning	\$25,000
Lending/Liability Planning	\$25,000
Financial Planning	\$25,000
Estate Planning	\$25,000
Enhanced Performance	\$25,000
Education	\$25,000
Strategic Planning	\$25,000
Concentrated Stock Planning	\$25,000

### Trustee Services

Should a representative of Registrant serve as Trustee for a client **and** the Registrant also serve as the investment adviser for the underlying investment assets, the fee payable for to the Registrant shall be 1.00% of the value of the underlying assets plus any and all reasonable expenses. The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual fee of \$25,000 for Trustee services.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/ clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.
- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that Charles Schwab and Co., Inc. ("*Schwab*") and/or Pershing Advisor Solutions, LLC ("*Pershing*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* and/or *Pershing* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and fixed income securities transactions). In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).
- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the



previous quarter. The Registrant generally requires an aggregate annual minimum fee of \$25,000. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee and/or waive or reduce its minimum fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.

- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

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

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

## **Item 7                    Types of Clients**

The Registrant's clients shall generally include individuals, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations. The Registrant generally requires an aggregate annual minimum of \$25,000 for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc.).

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

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:

- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)

The Registrant may utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

**Please Note: Investment Risk.** Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies

recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks.

However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases, Short Term Purchases - are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various mutual funds, independent investment managers, private investment funds, structured notes, money markets and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs").

## **Item 9            Disciplinary Information**

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

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

- A. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C.
8. **Licensed Insurance Agents.** Certain representatives of the Registrant, in their individual capacities, are licensed insurance agents, and may recommend the purchase of certain insurance-related products on a commission basis. As referenced in Item 4 B above, clients can engage certain of Registrant's representatives to purchase insurance products on a commission basis.
- **Conflict of Interest:** The recommendation by representatives of the Registrant that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a *conflict of*

*interest*, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions to be received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from representatives of the Registrant. Clients are reminded that they may purchase insurance products recommended by Registrant through other, non-affiliated insurance agents. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Valore-Caplan, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above conflict of interest.**

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

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

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

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

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

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant's "Access Persons". The Registrant's securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a

date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11 C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant's Access Persons.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at *Schwab* and/or *Pershing*. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending *Schwab* and/or *Pershing* (or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients) include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

### **1. Research and Additional Benefits**

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may receive from *Schwab* and/or *Pershing* (or another broker-dealer/custodian) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the

Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

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

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

*Schwab* has provided a loan to Registrant to assist its business operations, and the loan is guaranteed by Benjamin Valore-Caplan, principal of the Registrant. The terms of the loan require that management fees to Registrant be paid to an account at *Schwab* for deduction of interest and principal payments pursuant to the loan before the Registrant may have access to that fee payment. The loan agreement contains various representations by the Registrant, including that it will maintain \$75 million in assets under management, and various events of default, including that Registrant will comply with all laws, contracts, licenses and permits. In the event of an unheeded default under the terms of the loan agreement, *Schwab* may terminate and/or accelerate the loan, which may have a material adverse effect on the Registrant's ability to perform services for you.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Valore-Caplan, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding actual or perceived conflict of interest such arrangement may create.**

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

**Please Note:** In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur

higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Valore-Caplan, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.**

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or "bunch" such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

### **Item 13      Review of Accounts**

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principal and/or representatives. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant *may* conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

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

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

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

specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Valore-Caplan, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest any such arrangement may create.**

- B. The Registrant does not compensate, directly or indirectly, any person, other than its representatives, for client referrals.

## **Item 15 Custody**

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

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

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at anytime, impose restrictions, **in writing**, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

- A. The Registrant does not vote client proxies. Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets.

- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

**Item 18      Financial Information**

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant does not provide investment management services on a discretionary basis.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

**ANY QUESTIONS: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Valore-Caplan, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.**