

**Item 1: Cover Page**  
**Part 2A Appendix 1 of Form ADV: Wrap Fee Brochure**  
**February 2016**



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**Chief Compliance Officer**

This wrap fee program brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Tri-Star Financial Services LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact by telephone at 800-734-7408 or email at [mrothstein@tristaretg.com](mailto:mrothstein@tristaretg.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 Tri-Star Financial Services LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

Please note use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of Tri-Star Financial Services LLC and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise you for more information on the qualifications of our firm and its employees.

## **Item 2: Material Changes:**

Tri-Star Financial Services LLC is required to advise you of any material changes to our Wrap Fee Program Brochure ("Wrap Brochure") from our last annual update. Since our last annual amendment filing on February 2, 2015, the following changes have been made:

- Our firm will now be known as Tri-Star Financial Services LLC dba Tri-Star Financial. In addition, our firm's website can now be viewed at [www.tristarfinancialservices.net](http://www.tristarfinancialservices.net).
- Going forward, we will no longer be offering a non-wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. Please see our Wrap Fee Program Brochure for more information.
- Our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management service has been updated.

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## **Item 4: Services, Fees & Compensation**

We offer wrap fee programs as described in this Wrap Fee Program Brochure. Our wrap fee accounts are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance, etc.

A wrap fee program allows our clients to pay a specified fee for investment advisory services and the execution of transactions. The advisory services may include portfolio management and/or advice concerning selection of other advisers, and the fee is not based directly upon transactions in your account. Your fee is bundled with our costs for executing transactions in your account(s). This results in a higher advisory fee to you. We do not charge our clients higher advisory fees based on their trading activity, but you should be aware that we may have an incentive to limit our trading activities in your account(s) because we are charged for executed trades. By participating in a wrap fee program, you may end up paying more or less than you would through a non-wrap fee program where a lower advisory fee is charged, but trade execution costs are passed directly through to you by the executing broker.

### **Description of the Wrap Advisory Services We Offer**

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#### **Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management**

Our comprehensive portfolio management service encompasses asset management as well as providing financial planning/financial consulting to clients. It is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of financial investments. We conduct at least one, but sometimes more than one meeting (in person if possible, otherwise via telephone conference) with clients in order to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what we learn, we propose an investment approach to the client. We may propose an investment portfolio, consisting of exchange traded funds, mutual funds, individual stocks or bonds, or other securities. Upon the client's agreement to the proposed investment plan, we work with the client to establish or transfer investment accounts so that we can manage the client's portfolio. Once the relevant accounts are under our management, we review such accounts on a regular basis and at least quarterly. We may periodically rebalance or adjust client accounts under our management. If the client experiences any significant changes to his/her financial or personal circumstances, the client must notify us so that we can consider such information in managing the client's investments.

The maximum annual fee charged for our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management service will not exceed 2.50%. The fee assessed your account(s) will be detailed in a separate advisory agreement. Our firm's fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis quarterly in arrears based on the value of your account on the last day of the quarter. Our fees are negotiable. Fees will be deducted from your managed account and will be adjusted for deposits and withdrawals made during the quarter. As part of this process, you understand and acknowledge the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing the market values for each security included in the Assets and all disbursements in your account including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms. We send our invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, it will include a legend urging you to compare information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian.

## **Additional Fees**

You may pay custodial fees, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses), mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. These fees are not included within the wrap-fee you are charged by our firm.

We do not recommend or offer the wrap program services of other providers. Our investment advisory representatives receive a portion of the advisory fee that you pay us, either directly as a percentage of your overall fee or as their salary from our firm. In cases where our investment advisory representatives are paid a percentage of your overall advisory fee, this may create an incentive to recommend that you participate in a wrap fee program rather than a non-wrap fee program (where you would pay for trade execution costs) or brokerage account where commissions are charged. This is because, in some cases, we may stand to earn more compensation from advisory fees paid to us through a wrap fee program arrangement if your account is not actively traded.

## **Item 5: Account Requirements & Types of Clients**

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans; and
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types

We do not have requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us

## **Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection & Evaluation**

Our firm and its related persons act as portfolio manager(s) for this wrap fee program. This may create a conflict of interest in that other investment advisory firms may charge the same or lower fees than our firm for similar services. Our related person portfolio managers are not subject to the same selection and review as outside portfolio managers that participate in the wrap fee program. This is because we have chosen not to utilize outside portfolio managers.

## **Advisory Business**

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We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management service. Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account. Restrictions would be limited to our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management. We do not manage assets through our other services. Please see Item 4 for information about our wrap fee advisory program.

## **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

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We only offer wrap fee accounts to our clients, which are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance, etc. We do not manage non-wrap fee accounts.

## **Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management**

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Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss**

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### **Methods of Analysis**

Our main sources of financial information are prospectuses, research materials prepared by others, corporate rating services, annual reports and company press releases. Our firm may utilize official statements, continuing disclosures and other information available through the MSRB's Electronic Municipal Market Access system (EMMA) when analyzing municipal securities.

### **Fundamental Analysis**

Fundamental analysis involves predicting the price movement of an asset based on measures that are related to the underlying business. This method is used to judge the performance of management. (Although it is important to note that things outside of management's control can impact performance.) Comparing the margins of the company and its relative performance to that of two or three of its peers will give an idea of whether the performance is potentially outside of management's control. Our firm may recommend one or a combination of assets and investment strategies as follows:

**Mutual & Exchange Traded Funds:** We may recommend index and actively managed, mutual and exchange traded funds when designing client portfolios. The Adviser considers index funds based on how closely the funds' characteristics mirror the indices they track. We analyze actively managed funds by comparing funds that target the same market sector and have the same investment style using prospectuses and other sources of information. The Adviser reviews the following prior to recommending funds to clients:

- Rank in Category over various periods
- Return Rating
- Risk Rating
- YTD Return (Outsize swings in comparisons to peers can be a sign of risky practices such as placing large bets on certain sectors of the market.)
- 1 Yr Return
- 3 Yr Return
- 5 Yr Return (Typically over a five year period, the economy experiences a complete cycle. However, the way in which a manager operates in various economic environments reflects the manager's ability to make adjustments or stay the course.)
- Loads
- Total Expense Ratios
- Net Assets
- Turnover
- Median Market Capitalization
- Rating Agencies

We may also take the manager or management team tenure under consideration to determine who was responsible for generating the performance numbers.

**Variable Annuities:** A variable annuity ("VA") is an insurance contract with an investment component. Investments are typically managed through pooled investment vehicles called subaccounts. The Adviser analyzes VA contracts based on the contract and subaccount features. The criterion used to analyze subaccounts is similar to the processes used for mutual and exchange traded funds. Variable annuities typically offer:

- Regular stream of income or a lump sum payout at a future time
- Tax-deferred treatment of earnings
- Death benefits

Clients generally pay sales charges or commissions at the time of purchase or charges may be deferred until the VA is sold. Deferred charges typically vary based on how long the VA is held. A portion of the annual operating expenses collected from a client may be paid to a salesperson, in addition to other payments classified as trailing sales charges. Since compensation from VAs to a salesperson varies, there is a potential conflict of interest since there is an incentive to recommend a VA with a higher payout. VAs may be subject to:

- Taxes and federal penalties for early withdrawal
- Surrender charges for early withdrawal can last for several years
- Earnings taxed at ordinary income tax rates
- Mortality expense to compensate the insurance company for insurance risks
- Fees and expenses imposed for the subaccounts
- Other features with additional fees and charges
- Investment losses

**Variable Life Insurance:** Variable life insurance is an insurance policy that builds cash value by giving the owner the ability to invest the premiums. The owner also has flexibility in making premium payments due to changes in the cash value. The criterion used to analyze subaccounts is similar to the processes used for mutual and exchange traded funds. If the performances of the underlying investments are below expectations the death benefit and cash value may decrease. Maintaining the death benefit increases the cost of the policy.

**Public Equity:** A corporation may issue stock to the general public after registration. Stock represents an ownership interest in a company. The Adviser uses valuation measures and financial information, evaluates the regulatory environment, analyzes products or services that are available or under development and the factors that can impact them to predict the price movement of a company's stock. The Adviser also makes comparisons to the company's peers and to the broader market.

**Corporate Debt & Municipal Securities:** The Adviser generally analyzes the current yield, yield to maturity, yield to call, call and default risks, and interest coverage. Debt is issued by federal, state and foreign governments and corporations to finance their operations. Debt represents their promise to repay the borrowed amount with interest according to the terms and conditions of the debt instrument. Debt obligations offer limited participation in the upside of a business. In exchange holders receive interest and a position that is generally senior to equity in a bankruptcy. Municipal securities are backed by either the full faith and credit of the issuer or by revenue generated by a specific project (like a toll road or parking garage) for which the securities were issued. The latter type of securities could quickly lose value or even become virtually worthless if the expected project revenue does not meet expectations.

## **Investment Strategies:**

**Modern Portfolio Theory:** Our firm uses Modern Portfolio Theory as one of its core investment strategies. Modern Portfolio Theory ("MPT") involves a type of asset diversification that uses a mathematical formula for diversifying client investments and minimizing risk. MPT allows clients to attempt to maximize expected return on investments for a given amount of portfolio risk or minimize risk for a given level of expected return through carefully choosing the allocations of various assets in a client portfolio.

The idea is to select investments that collectively have a lower risk than any single asset. MPT describes how to select a portfolio with the highest possible expected return taking into consideration the amount of risk that a particular client is willing to bear. Expected returns are based on historical return data and the correlation among assets can converge and diverge for extended periods, therefore portfolios may not perform as anticipated.

## **Risk of Loss**

Clients are advised that investing in securities involves the risk of loss of the entire principal amount invested including any gains. Clients should not invest unless they are able to bear this risk. Any of the above investment strategies may lead to a loss on investments.

Even hedging strategies may fail if markets move against the hedged investments. In addition, investing carries with it opportunity risk it is impossible to accurately predict the sectors of the market or asset classes that will have more favorable returns for a given period.

## **Voting Client Securities**

We do not and will not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

However, third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes proxies, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially 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. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

## **Item 7: Client Information Provided to Portfolio Manager(s)**

We are required to describe the information about you that we communicate to your portfolio manager(s), and how often or under what circumstances we provide updated information. Our firm communicates with your portfolio manager(s) on a regular basis as needed (daily, weekly, monthly, etc) to ensure your most current investment goals and objectives are understood by your portfolio manager(s). In most cases, we will communicate such information as part of our regular investment



management duties. Nevertheless, we will also communicate information to your portfolio manager(s) when you ask us to, when market or economic conditions make it prudent to do so, etc.

### **Item 8: Client Contact with Portfolio Manager(s)**

Clients are always free to directly contact their portfolio manager(s) with any questions or concerns they have about their portfolios or other matters.

### **Item 9: Additional Information**

#### **Disciplinary Information**

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In May of 2008, a client complained that the percentage of benefit feature was incorrectly represented in the sale of a Variable Annuity. LPL Financial, LLC determined no wrong doing on Mr. Rothstein's part, as the client signed a full written disclosure. This complaint was settled by LPL Financial, LLC in the amount of \$10,500 to avoid litigation.

#### **Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations**

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Representatives of our firm are registered representatives of Independent Financial Group, LLC ("IFG"), member FINRA/SIPC. They may offer securities and receive normal and customary commissions as a result of securities transactions. A conflict of interest may arise as these commissionable securities sales may create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation they may earn and may not necessarily be in the best interests of the client.

Representatives of our firm are insurance agents/brokers. They may offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest may arise as these insurance sales may create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation adviser and/or our supervised persons may earn.

In addition to being a registered investment adviser, Tri-Star Financial Service may also provide tax preparation and other related services. These services are independent of our financial planning and investment advisory services, and are governed under a separate engagement agreement. Clients are under no obligation to utilize these services.

Mr. Rothstein is the owner of Mr. Money Talks LLC, a firm offering newsletters, seminars and financial organization tools. The services offered by Mr. Money Talks LLC are separate from the services offered in this Brochure and are governed by a separate engagement agreement. Clients are under no obligation to utilize these services.

#### **Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading**

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We recognize that the personal investment transactions of members and employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and for members and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees

for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates.

Furthermore, our firm has established a Code of Ethics which applies to all of our associated persons. An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. We have a fiduciary duty to all clients. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. We require all of our supervised persons to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our firm and supervised persons must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. However, if a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities within 48 hours prior to buying or selling for our clients. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

## **Review of Accounts**

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We review accounts on at least a bi-annual basis for our clients subscribing to our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Only our Financial Advisors or Portfolio Managers will conduct reviews.

We may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we meet with clients who subscribe to our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management.

### **Client Referrals & Other Compensation**

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Except for the arrangements outlined in Item 12 of our ADV Part 2A, Firm Brochure, we have no additional arrangements to disclose.

We do not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with relevant state statutes and rules.

### **Financial Information**

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We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because we do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, we do not take custody of client funds or securities and we do not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.