

# MPC Advisers, LLC

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## MPC Advisers, LLC

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Contact: Lori L. Baneck, Chief Compliance Officer  
16655 Bluemound Road, Suite 150  
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005  
[www.mpcfin.com](http://www.mpcfin.com)

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of MPC Advisers, LLC (the “Registrant”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (262) 787-3234 or [lbaneck@mpcfin.com](mailto:lbaneck@mpcfin.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 MPC Advisers, LLC also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov)**

**References herein to MPC Advisers, 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**

**Not Applicable**

**Item 3            Table of Contents**

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## Item 4            Advisory Business

- A. MPC Advisers, LLC (the “Registrant”) is a limited liability company formed in December 2010 in the state of Wisconsin. The Registrant became registered as an investment adviser firm in January 2011. The Registrant is principally owned by Michael Matrise and Thomas G. Polzin. Messrs. Matrise and Polzin are also the Registrant’s Managing Members.
- 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 wrap or non-wrap *fee* basis. (*See* discussion below). If a client determines to engage the Registrant on a wrap fee basis the client will pay a single fee for bundled services (i.e. investment advisory, brokerage, custody). The services included in a wrap fee agreement will depend upon each client’s particular need. If the client determines to engage the Registrant on a non-wrap fee basis the client will select individual services on an unbundled basis, paying for each service separately (i.e. investment advisory, brokerage, custody).

### NON-WRAP FEE BASIS

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 shall vary (up to 1.50% of the total assets placed under the Registrant’s management/advisement) and shall be based upon **various objective and subjective factors**, including, but not limited to, the amount of the assets placed under the Registrant’s direct management, the amount of the assets placed under the Registrant’s advisement (assets that are generally managed directly by the client or by other investment professionals engaged by the client) for which the Registrant provides review/monitoring services, but does not have trading authority, the complexity of the engagement, and the level and scope of the overall investment advisory services to be rendered. *See also Fee Differential* discussion below.

Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the **extent specifically requested** by the client, financial planning and consulting services. In the event that the client requires extraordinary planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of the Registrant), the Registrant may determine to charge for such additional services, the dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written notice to the client.

## **MPC ADVISERS WRAP PROGRAM**

The Registrant provides investment management services on a wrap fee basis in accordance with the Registrant's investment management wrap fee program (the "Program"). The services offered under and the corresponding terms and conditions pertaining to the Program are discussed in the Wrap Fee Program Brochure a copy of which is presented to all prospective Program participants. Under the Program, the Registrant is able to offer participants discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment management services, for a single specified annual Program fee, inclusive of trade execution, custody, reporting, and investment management fees. The current annual Program fee ranges from negotiable to 1.50%, depending upon the amount and type of the Program assets. The terms and conditions for client participation in the Program are set forth in detail in the Wrap Fee Program Brochure, which is presented to all prospective Program participants in accordance with the disclosure requirements of Part 2A Appendix 1 of Form ADV. The Wrap Fee Program Brochure is incorporated into this Brochure by reference. All prospective Program participants should read both the Registrant's Brochure and the Wrap Fee Program Brochure, and ask any corresponding questions that they may have, prior to participation in the Program. Pershing LLC ("*Pershing*") shall serve as the custodian for Program accounts.

**Please Note:** As indicated in the Wrap Fee Program Brochure, participation in the Program may cost more or less than purchasing such services separately. As also indicated in the Wrap Fee Program Brochure, the Program fee charged by Registrant for participation in the Program may be higher or lower than those charged by other sponsors of comparable wrap fee programs.

## **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 fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$500 to \$5,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$100 to \$300 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). 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 registered representatives of Girard Securities, Inc. and as licensed insurance agents. (*See* disclosure at Item 10 C.1 and 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. 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.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.** If 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, insurance, etc.), including representatives of the Registrant in their separate registered/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 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.**

**Fee Differentials.** As indicated above, the Registrant shall price its services based upon various objective and subjective factors. As a result, Registrant's clients could pay diverse fees based upon the market value of their assets, the complexity of the engagement, and the level and scope of the overall investment advisory and/or consulting services to be rendered. As a result of these factors, the services to be provided by the Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees. All clients and prospective clients should be guided accordingly.

**Trade Error Policy.** Registrant shall reimburse accounts for losses resulting from the Registrant's trade errors, but shall not credit accounts for such errors resulting in market gains. The gains and losses are reconciled within the Registrant's custodian firm account and Registrant retains the net gains and losses.

**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*.

- 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. There is no significant difference between how the Registrant manages wrap fee accounts and non-wrap fee accounts. However, as stated above, if a client determines to engage the Registrant on a wrap fee basis the client will pay a single fee for bundled services (i.e. investment advisory, brokerage, custody) (*See* Item 4.B). The services included in a wrap fee agreement will depend upon each client's particular need. If the client determines to engage the Registrant on a non-wrap fee basis the client will select individual services on an unbundled basis, paying for each service separately (i.e. investment advisory, brokerage, custody). **Please note:** When managing a client's account on a wrap fee basis, the Registrant shall receive as payment for its investment advisory services, the balance of the wrap fee after all other costs incorporated into the wrap fee have been deducted.
- E. As of December 31, 2016, the Registrant had \$417,000,000 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$0 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

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

### **NON-WRAP FEE BASIS**

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 vary (up to 1.50% of the total assets placed under the Registrant's management/advisement) and shall be based upon **various objective and subjective factors**, including, but not limited to, the amount of the assets placed under the Registrant's direct management, the amount of the assets placed under the Registrant's advisement (assets that are generally managed directly by the client or by other investment professionals engaged by the client), for which the Registrant provides review/monitoring services, but does not have trading authority, the complexity of the engagement, and the level and scope of the overall investment advisory services to be rendered. *See also Fee Differential* discussion above.

### **MPC ADVISERS WRAP PROGRAM FEES**

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide investment management services on a wrap fee basis in accordance with the Registrant's Program, the services offered under, and the corresponding terms and conditions pertaining to, the Program are discussed in the Wrap Fee Program Brochure, a copy of which is presented to all prospective Program participants. Under the Program, the Registrant is able to offer participants discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment management services, for a single specified annual Program fee, inclusive of trade execution, custody, reporting,

and investment management fees. The current annual Program fee ranges from negotiable to 1.50%, depending upon the amount and type of the Program assets.

Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the **extent specifically requested** by the client, financial planning and consulting services. In the event that the client requires extraordinary planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of the Registrant), the Registrant may determine to charge for such additional services, the dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written notice to the client.

#### **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 fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$500 to \$5,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$100 to \$300 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

- 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 Pershing Advisor Solutions ("*Pershing*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *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). Clients will incur, in addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, and, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses). However, in the event that the client engages the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a wrap fee basis under the Registrant's Program, as described above, transaction fees and commissions shall be included in the wrap fee paid by the client.
- 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 does not generally require an annual minimum fee or asset level for investment advisory services. However, Registrant, in its sole discretion, may reduce and/or 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.).

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. **Commission Transactions.** In the event that the client desires, the client can engage certain of the Registrant's representatives, in their individual capacities as registered representatives of Girard Securities, Inc., ("*Girard*") a FINRA member broker-dealer, to implement investment recommendations on a commission basis. In the event the client chooses to purchase investment products through *Girard*, *Girard* will charge brokerage commissions to effect securities transactions, a portion of which commissions *Girard* shall pay to Registrant's representatives, as applicable. The brokerage commissions charged by *Girard* may be higher or lower than those charged by other broker-dealers. In addition, *Girard*, as well as Registrant's representatives, relative to commission mutual fund purchases, may also receive additional ongoing 12b-1 trailing commission compensation directly from the mutual fund company during the period that the client maintains the mutual fund investment.
1. **Conflict of Interest:** The recommendation that a client purchase a commission product from *Girard* presents a *conflict of interest*, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from *Girard*. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Lori L. Baneck, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above conflict of interest.**
  2. **Please note:** Clients may purchase investment products recommended by Registrant through other, non-affiliated broker dealers or agents.
  3. The Registrant does not receive more than 50% of its revenue from advisory clients as a result of commissions or other compensation for the sale of investment products the Registrant recommends to its clients.
  4. When Registrant's representatives sell an investment product on a commission basis, the Registrant does not charge an advisory fee in addition to the commissions paid by the client for such product. When providing services on an advisory fee basis, the Registrant's representatives do not also receive commission compensation for such advisory services (except for any ongoing 12b-1 trailing commission compensation that may be received as previously discussed). **However,** a client may engage the Registrant to provide investment management services on an advisory fee basis and separate from such advisory services purchase an investment product from Registrant's representatives on a separate commission basis.



## **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 does not generally require an annual minimum fee or asset level for investment advisory services.

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

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

- Charting - (analysis performed using patterns to identify current trends and trend reversals to forecast the direction of prices)
- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
- Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)
- Cyclical – (analysis performed on historical relationships between price and market trends, to forecast the direction of prices)

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

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)
- Trading (securities sold within thirty (30) days)

**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, and Trading - are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy. Trading, an investment strategy that requires the purchase and sale of securities within a thirty (30) day investment time period, involves a very short investment time period but will incur higher transaction costs when compared to a short term investment strategy and substantially higher transaction costs than a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets primarily among various individual equity and fixed income securities, mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

**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 supervisory 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.

## **Item 9            Disciplinary Information**

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

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

- A. As disclosed above in Item 5.E, certain of Registrant's representatives are also registered representatives of Girard Securities, Inc., ("*Girard*"), a FINRA member broker-dealer.
- B. 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.
- C.
1. **Registered Representatives of Girard.** As disclosed above in Item 5.E, certain of Registrant's representatives, are registered representatives of *Girard*, a FINRA member broker-dealer. Clients may choose to engage, Thomas Polzin, Michael Matrise, Lori Baneck, Dave Berka, Tom Gaertner, Charles Hurtgen, Amy Ley, Bart Lia, Bryan Marshall, Joseph Matrise, Dominic Rice, Melissa Sanchez, Rebecca Schuster, Craig Thompson, Eric Tweeden, Derek Winn or Marc Wojcik in their individual capacities as registered

representatives of *Girard*, to implement investment recommendations on a commission basis.

8. **Licensed Insurance Agents.** Thomas Polzin, Michael Matrise, Lori Baneck, Dave Berka, Tom Gaertner, Charles Hurtgen, Amy Ley, Bart Lia, Bryan Marshall, Joseph Matrise, Dominic Rice, Melissa Sanchez, Rebecca Schuster, Craig Thompson, Eric Tweeden, Derek Winn or Marc Wojcik, 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 effect insurance transactions on a commission basis.

- **Conflict of Interest:** The recommendation by either Thomas Polzin, Michael Matrise, Lori Baneck, Dave Berka, Tom Gaertner, Charles Hurtgen, Amy Ley, Bart Lia, Bryan Marshall, Joseph Matrise, Dominic Rice, Melissa Sanchez, Rebecca Schuster, Craig Thompson, Eric Tweeden, Derek Winn or Marc Wojcik that a client purchase a securities or insurance commission product presents a *conflict of interest*, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from Thomas Polzin, Michael Matrise, Lori Baneck, Dave Berka, Tom Gaertner, Charles Hurtgen, Amy Ley, Bart Lia, Bryan Marshall, Joseph Matrise, Dominic Rice, Melissa Sanchez, Rebecca Schuster, Craig Thompson, Eric Tweeden, Derek Winn or Marc Wojcik. Clients are reminded that they may purchase investment products recommended by Registrant through other, non-affiliated broker dealers or insurance agents. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Lori L. Baneck, 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 Associated Persons 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 firm 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 truncation policy requires that Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person’s current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the *Firm* 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 firm 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 *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 *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 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 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 *Pershing*, 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 *Pershing* as result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *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, Lori L. Baneck, 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.**

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, Lori L. Baneck, 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. 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 12.1 above, the Registrant may receive an indirect economic benefit from *Pershing*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Pershing*.

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

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

- B. Neither the Registrant nor its representatives compensate any unsupervised person for client referrals.

## Item 15 Custody

- A. 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.

Clients who have their advisory fees debited directly from their custodial accounts are urged to compare any written statement provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian to ensure that the proper advisory fee has been deducted from their custodial account. **Please also note** that the account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the advisory fee calculation.

## Item 16 Investment Discretion

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

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

## **Item 18          Financial Information**

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

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