

**Item 1. Cover Page**

**CASTANEA PARTNERS, INC.**

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Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
March 2, 2016

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Castanea Partners, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at [clove@castaneapartners.com](mailto:clove@castaneapartners.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or by any state securities authority.**

**Additional information about Castanea Partners, Inc. also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). An investment adviser’s registration with the SEC does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

**Item 2. Material Changes**

This brochure contains the following material changes from the last firm brochure dated as of March 13, 2015:

- More information on fees and compensation
- More information regarding conflicts of interest

### **Item 3. Table of Contents**

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Cover Page	1
2	Material Changes	2
3	Table of Contents	3
4	Advisory Business	4
5	Fees and Compensation	5
6	Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management	6
7	Types of Clients	7
8	Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss	7
9	Disciplinary Information	13
10	Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations	13
11	Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading	13
12	Brokerage Practices	24
13	Review of Accounts	25
14	Client Referrals and Other Compensation	26
15	Custody	26
16	Investment Discretion	26
17	Voting Client Securities	27
18	Financial Information	28
19	Requirements for State-Registered Advisers	28

#### **Item 4. Advisory Business**

For purposes of this brochure, the “Adviser” means Castanea Partners, Inc., a Delaware corporation, together (where the context permits) with its affiliated general partners of the Funds (as defined below) and other affiliates that provide advisory services to and/or receive advisory fees from the Funds. Such affiliates are under common control with Castanea Partners, Inc. These affiliates were formed to serve as general partners and/or managing members of the Funds (in such capacities, the “General Partners”).

The Adviser provides investment supervisory services to investment vehicles (the “Funds”) that are exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) and whose securities are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”).

The Funds make primarily long-term private equity and equity-related investments, as well as investments in debt instruments. In accordance with the Funds’ respective investment objectives, investments are generally made in companies doing business primarily in industry sectors primarily focused on publishing and information content, branded consumer products, education, human resource services, specialty retail and marketing information services. The Adviser’s advisory services consist of investigating, identifying and evaluating investment opportunities, structuring, negotiating and making investments on behalf of the Funds, managing and monitoring the performance of such investments and disposing of such investments. The Adviser serves as the investment adviser or General Partner to the Funds in order to provide such services.

The Adviser provides investment supervisory services to each Fund in accordance with the limited partnership agreement (or analogous organizational document) of such Fund or separate investment and advisory, investment management or portfolio management agreements (each, an “Advisory Agreement”).

Investment advice is provided directly to the Funds, subject to the discretion and control of the applicable General Partner, and not individually to the investors in the Funds. Services are provided to the Funds in accordance with the Advisory Agreements with the Funds and/or organizational documents of the applicable Fund. Investment restrictions for the Funds, if any, are generally established in the organizational or offering documents of the applicable Fund, Advisory Agreements and/or side letter agreements negotiated with investors in the applicable Fund (such documents collectively, a Fund’s “Organizational Documents”).

The principal owners of Castanea Partners, Inc. are Brian J. Knez and Robert A. Smith. The Adviser has been in business since 2001. As of December 31, 2015, the Adviser manages a total of \$1,086,000,000 of client assets, all of which is managed on a discretionary basis.

#### **Item 5. Fees and Compensation**

The Adviser or its affiliates generally receive Advisory Fees and Carried Interest (each as defined below) or similar performance-based remuneration from a Fund. A Fund, and/or its portfolio companies may also make other payments to the Adviser or its affiliates for services

provided to the portfolio companies which, in certain circumstances, may reduce the Advisory Fees payable to the Adviser. Additionally, consistent with the Organizational Documents of a Fund, the Fund typically bears certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Adviser in connection with the services provided to the Fund and/or the portfolio companies. Further details about certain common fees and expenses are set forth below.

### **Advisory Fees**

As compensation for investment supervisory services rendered to the Funds, the Adviser receives from each such Fund an advisory fee (each, an “Advisory Fee”). Advisory Fees paid by a Fund may also be reduced by other fees or compensation received by the Adviser or its affiliates that relate to such Fund’s activities and investments, as described in more detail below. Advisory Fees paid by a Fund are indirectly borne by investors in such Fund.

Advisory Fees are payable quarterly in advance.

The precise amount of, and the manner and calculation of, the Advisory Fees for each Fund are established by the Adviser, as modified by negotiations with investors in the applicable Fund, and are set forth in such Fund’s Organizational Documents. The Advisory Fees generally are paid based on a budget of expenses established by the General Partner and are subject to a fee cap. The Advisory Fees described above are subject to waiver or reduction by the Adviser in its sole discretion. Fees differ from one Fund to another.

Certain investors in the Funds that are employees, former employees and operating partners of the Adviser or its personnel (“Adviser Investors”) will not typically pay Advisory Fees in connection with their investment in a Fund. Notwithstanding that Adviser Investors will generally not pay Advisory Fees, Adviser Investors will pay for their pro rata share of certain Fund expenses or the pro rata portion of such Adviser Investors’ expenses will be allocated to the Adviser or the general partner of the applicable Fund.

The Advisory Fees paid by a Fund will be reduced by a percentage of: (1) the amount of fees paid by such Fund to persons acting as a placement agent in connection with the offer and sale of interests in such Fund to certain potential investors and/or (2) certain Other Fees (as defined below) received by the Adviser or its affiliates. The amount and manner of such reduction, if any, is set forth in the Advisory Agreement and/or Organizational Documents of the applicable Fund. As some Funds do not pay Advisory Fees, any such reduction will not benefit such Funds.

In addition, the Adviser may waive or reduce all or a portion of the Advisory Fee paid by a Fund in full or partial satisfaction of any obligation of the Adviser and certain employees and affiliates of the Adviser to invest in and alongside such Fund, which could result in acceleration of investor capital contributions. Waived or reduced Advisory Fees are not subject to various offsets or the reductions described above.

### **Other Fees**

*Fees Payable by the Portfolio Companies*

The Adviser and its affiliates perform transaction-related, financial advisory and other services for, and may receive fees from, actual or prospective portfolio companies of the Funds, including fees in connection with structuring investments in such portfolio companies, as well as mergers, acquisitions, add-on acquisitions, refinancings, public offerings, sales or other dispositions and similar transactions with respect to portfolio companies (“Transaction Fees”). To date, the Adviser has not charged Transaction Fees.

The Adviser and its affiliates may also receive “monitoring fees” pursuant to monitoring agreements with portfolio companies of the Funds governing the advice, consultation and other similar ongoing services provided by the Adviser to such portfolio companies. The terms of a monitoring agreement may include (among other things) annual automatic renewals, the payment of Monitoring Fees (which may be fixed fees or calculated as a percentage of EBIDTA or similar performance metric).

In addition, the Adviser and its affiliates may receive fees in connection with serving on the board of directors of a portfolio company (“Director Fees”) and in connection with an unconsummated transaction (“Break-Up Fees” and, together with Transaction Fees, Monitoring Fees and Director Fees the “Other Fees”). The amount and timing of Break-Up Fees received by the Adviser are generally specified in the agreement or other documentation governing the transaction.

Generally under the terms of the applicable Organizational Documents, for purposes of calculating any Advisory Fee offset, Other Fees are net of out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by the Adviser in connection with consummated or unconsummated transactions or in connection with generating any such fees. If charged, these Other Fees may be substantial and are permitted to be paid in cash, in securities of the portfolio companies or investment vehicles (or rights thereto) or otherwise. Although Other Fees are in addition to the Advisory Fees, the Adviser will in some circumstances reduce the amount of Advisory Fees paid by the applicable Fund in connection with the receipt of such Other Fees in accordance with the Advisory Agreement and/or other Organizational Documents of the applicable Fund. As some Funds do not pay Advisory Fees, any such reduction will not benefit such Funds.

The payment of Other Fees by portfolio companies creates a conflict of interest between the Adviser and its affiliates and the Funds and their investors because the amounts of these Other Fees and reimbursements (see “*Expense Reimbursement*” below) are often substantial and the Funds and their investors generally do not have a direct interest in these fees and reimbursements. The Adviser determines the amount of these fees for services provided and reimbursements in its own discretion, subject to agreements with sellers, buyers, and management teams, the board of directors of or lenders to portfolio companies, and/or third party co-investors in its transactions, and the amount of such fees and reimbursements may not (except in connection with the reductions described below) be disclosed to investors in the Funds.

From time to time, the Adviser will, in its discretion, disclose to an investor the amount of Other Fees allocated to the Fund in which such investor has invested in account statements or other similar periodic reports delivered to investors.



In many cases with respect to the implementation of the arrangements described above, there is not an independent third-party involved on behalf of the relevant portfolio company. Therefore, a conflict of interest exists in the determination of any such fees and other related terms in the applicable agreement with the portfolio company.

#### *Payments Made to Third Parties*

The Adviser and its affiliates are permitted to engage and retain senior advisors, advisers, consultants, and other similar professionals who are not employees or affiliates of the Adviser and who may, from time to time, receive payments from, or allocations with respect to, portfolio companies and/or other entities. In such circumstances, the amounts of such fees or other compensation received by such persons may be retained by such persons and will not be deemed paid to or received by the Adviser and its affiliates and such amounts will not be subject to the sharing arrangements described above and will not benefit the Fund or its investors.

#### *Expense Reimbursement*

Additionally, a portfolio company will typically reimburse the Adviser for expenses (including without limitation travel expenses, which may include expenses for chartered or first class travel, and meals and entertainment expenses, indemnification expenses, certain legal expenses and similar out-of-pocket expenses) incurred by the Adviser in connection with its performance of services for such portfolio company; such reimbursed expenses are generally not included in the definition of “Other Fees” under the terms of the applicable Organizational Documents, and such reimbursements are not subject to the sharing arrangements described above. For a discussion of material conflicts of interest created by the receipt of such fees and reimbursements, please see Item 11 below.

### **Expenses**

#### *Adviser Expenses*

To the extent provided in the Organizational Documents of the Funds, the Adviser will pay out of Advisory Fees rent, utilities, insurance, office supplies, office equipment and compensation and expenses of the Adviser’s officers, directors and employees and other normal operating expenses that relate to the services provided by the Adviser to the Funds.

#### *Fund Expenses*

Consistent with the Organizational Documents of the Funds, each Fund will bear all other expenses relating to it to the extent not borne by its portfolio companies, including legal, accounting, audit, investment banking, consulting (including, but not limited to, consulting fees incurred by the applicable Fund for the benefit of its portfolio company), fees paid to third-party valuation agents, research, brokerage, finders’, custody, transfer, registration, advisory board, interest, taxes, extraordinary expenses, such Fund’s allocable share of expenses and fees generated in the course of evaluating potential investments, including investments which are not consummated, such Fund’s allocable share of expenses and fees incurred in the course of making



investments, and other similar fees and expenses, as well as any other fees or expenses incurred by the Adviser or such Fund in connection with such Fund's operations that are not specifically set forth above as being paid by the Adviser.

From time to time, the general partner of a Fund may create certain "special purpose vehicles" or similar structuring vehicles for purposes of accommodating certain tax, legal and regulatory considerations of investors ("SPVs"). In the event the general partner creates an SPV, consistent with the Organizational Documents of the Fund, the SPV, and indirectly, the investors thereof, will typically bear all expenses related to its organization and formation and other expenses incurred solely for the benefit of the SPV.

#### *Co-Investment Vehicle Expenses*

In certain cases, a co-investment vehicle, or other similar vehicle established to facilitate the investment by investors to invest alongside the Fund may be formed in connection with the consummation of a transaction. In the event a co-investment vehicle is created, the investors in such co-investment vehicle will typically bear all expenses related to its organization and formation and other expenses incurred solely for the benefit of the co-investment vehicle. The co-investment vehicle will generally bear its pro rata portion of expenses incurred in the making an investment.

If a proposed transaction is not consummated, no such co-investment vehicle generally will have been formed, and the full amount of any expenses relating to such proposed but not consummated transaction ("Dead Deal Costs") would therefore be borne by the Fund or Funds selected by the Adviser as proposed investors for such proposed transaction. Similarly, co-investment vehicles are not typically allocated any share of Break-Up Fees paid or received in connection with such an unconsummated transaction. As a general matter, no co-investor will bear Dead Deal Costs or Break-Up Fees until they are contractually committed to invest in the prospective investment.

#### *Allocation of Expenses*

In exercising its discretion to allocate investment opportunities and fees and expenses, the Adviser will be faced with a variety of potential conflicts of interest. For example, in allocating an investment opportunity among Funds with differing fee, expense and compensation structures, the Adviser may have an incentive to allocate investment opportunities to the Funds from which the Adviser or its related persons derive, directly or indirectly, a higher fee, compensation or other benefit.

To the extent not allocated to a portfolio company, the Adviser will allocate fees and expenses incurred in the course of evaluating and making investments that are consummated between Funds in accordance with each Fund's Organizational Documents or, to the extent not addressed in such Organizational Documents, pro rata based on the respective total capital commitments of such Funds.

The appropriate allocation between Funds, Adviser Investors and Third Parties of expenses and fees generated in the course of evaluating potential investments which are not consummated,

such as out-of-pocket fees associated with due diligence, attorney fees and the fees of other professionals, will be made in proportion to capital commitments of each such entity, consistent with the Organizational Documents of the Funds, as applicable. If multiple Funds evaluate a potential investment that is not consummated, the Adviser generally allocates fees and expenses generated in the course of evaluating such investment among such Funds based on the anticipated investment of each Fund. Such expenses typically are not allocated to co-investment vehicles.

With respect to allocating other expenses among Fund(s), co-investment vehicles, Adviser Investors and/or Third Parties, as appropriate, to the extent not addressed in the Organizational Documents of a Fund, the Adviser will make any such allocation determination in a fair and reasonable manner using its good faith judgment, notwithstanding its interest (if any) in the allocation. The Adviser will make any corrective allocations and take any mitigating steps if it determines such corrections are necessary or advisable.

### **Carried Interest Payments**

Please see Item 6 below regarding “Carried Interest” that Funds may pay.

### **Brokerage Fees**

Although the Adviser does not generally utilize the services of broker-dealers to effect portfolio transactions for the Funds, in the event that it chooses to use a broker-dealer for limited purposes relating to a particular Fund, such Fund will incur brokerage and other transaction costs. For additional information regarding brokerage practices, please see Item 12 below.

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

With respect to each Fund, a portion of the profits of each such Fund is distributed to its General Partner, if any, as “carried interest” (the “Carried Interest”). Each General Partner of a Fund is a related person of the Adviser. Carried Interest paid by a Fund is indirectly borne by investors in such Fund. Certain Funds and investors in such Funds may incur lower or no Carried Interest.

The payment by the Funds of Carried Interest at varying rates may create an incentive for the Adviser to disproportionately allocate time, services or functions to Funds paying Carried Interest at a higher rate, or allocate investment opportunities to such Funds. Generally, and except as otherwise set forth in the Organizational Documents of the Funds, this conflict is mitigated by (i) certain limitations on the ability of the Adviser to establish new investment funds, (ii) contractual provisions requiring certain Funds to purchase and sell investments contemporaneously and/or (iii) contractual provisions and procedures setting forth investment allocation requirements. Please also see Item 11 below regarding allocation for additional information relating to how conflicts of interests are generally addressed by the Adviser.

## **Item 7. Types of Clients**

The Adviser currently provides investment supervisory services to the Funds. Investment advice is provided directly to the Funds (subject to the direction and control of the General Partner of each such Fund, if applicable) and not individually to investors in such Fund.

Interests in the Funds are offered pursuant to applicable exemptions from registration under the Securities Act and the 1940 Act. Investors in the Funds are generally “qualified purchasers” as defined in the 1940 Act, and include, among others, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, university endowments, corporations, limited partnerships and limited liability companies or other entities.

The Adviser does not have a minimum size for a Fund, but minimum investment commitments are established for investors in the Funds. The General Partner of each Fund may in its sole discretion permit investments below the minimum amounts set forth in the Organizational Documents of such Fund.

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

### **Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

#### *Small to Mid-market Investments*

The Adviser primarily targets companies with enterprise values under \$100 million. Companies of this size are generally sufficiently developed that business model risk has been somewhat reduced relative to earlier stage ventures. However, because sellers are more likely to be owner/operators, purchase price is often only one of several important criteria for the seller. In addition, investment exit prospects are enhanced by the increased competition among strategic and financial buyers for slightly larger companies.

#### *Established Businesses*

The Adviser targets strong growth companies, traditional leveraged buyouts, and troubled situations where the Adviser can identify opportunities for positive cash flow; and strong competitive position that is defensible and sustainable.

#### *Value-added Opportunity*

The Adviser’s collective operating experience and active portfolio management capabilities are valuable assets typically unavailable to the small companies in which the Funds invest. Central to the assessment of any investment opportunity is a determination of how well the Adviser’s collective strengths match the development needs of the company.

#### *Significant Involvement*

Performance improvement requires significant involvement and influence, alongside management, in all key strategic decisions. In addition to being the sole private equity investor in

a transaction, the Funds invest alongside established private equity funds if the Adviser's team can bring differential insight or expertise to the investment.

### *Industry Focus*

The Adviser's team is able to apply its skills and capital to a variety of industries. However, the Adviser's collective experience leads to greater emphasis on areas where its industry knowledge base and access to a network of resources are strongest.

### *Sourcing*

The Adviser continues to expand and strengthen contacts with deal sources active in the lower end of the private equity market. Sourcing efforts include mailings, telephone calls, face-to-face meetings, and conference attendance. The Adviser's differentiated story helps build awareness and has led to instances where the Adviser is approached as the preferred investor for a proprietary situation. Sourcing efforts also include proactive attempts to identify and contact attractive investment targets in specific industry sectors.

### *Diligence*

The Adviser follows a highly structured process to ensure thorough assessment of every opportunity and firm-wide involvement in decisions. The initial screen focuses on the opportunity's fit with industry, size, and transaction parameters. Once an opportunity passes the initial screen it is presented at the weekly firm-wide business review meeting. If the opportunity warrants further exploration, the diligence process is championed by a deal leader and a team is assembled. As long as the opportunity continues to be considered, the team prepares frequent updates and diligence packages which are discussed by the entire firm. The process culminates in a final, firm-wide discussion and investment decision.

Throughout the process, the Adviser leverages its operating expertise and industry contacts to apply differential insight. Operating experience is particularly helpful in assessing management capabilities, company strengths and weaknesses, and management strategy and projections.

### *Financing & Closing*

The Adviser has developed relationships with numerous senior and subordinated financing sources. If debt financing is warranted, the Adviser typically approaches multiple sources for a particular opportunity before ultimately selecting one or more sources to move forward. During the financing process attention is given to optimizing equity contribution, maximizing liquidity, and maximizing covenant flexibility.

### *Industry Consultants and Experts*

The Adviser uses industry consultants and experts as warranted.

### **Risks**

Investing in securities involves a substantial degree of risk. A Fund may lose all or a substantial portion of its investments, and investors in the Funds must be prepared to bear the risk of a complete loss of their investments.

In addition, material risks relating to the investment strategies and methods of analysis described above, and to the types of securities typically purchased by or for the Funds, include the following:

### **Recent Financial Market Fluctuations.**

General fluctuations in the market prices of securities and economic conditions generally, particularly of the type experienced since 2008, may reduce the availability of attractive investment opportunities for the Funds and may affect the Funds' ability to make investments and the value of the investments held by the Funds. Instability in the securities markets and economic conditions generally increases the risks inherent in the Funds' investments. The public securities markets have seen increased volatility and the ability of companies to obtain financing for ongoing operations or expansions may be severely hampered by the tightening of the credit markets and the ongoing financial turmoil. It is unclear what the repercussions of this market turmoil may be. Moreover, it remains unknown whether governmental measures undertaken in response to such turmoil (whether regulatory or financial in nature) will have a positive or negative effect on market conditions. There can be no assurance that the market will, in the future, become more liquid than it is at present and it could continue to be volatile for the foreseeable future. The ability to realize investments depends not only on portfolio companies and their historical results and prospects, but also on political, market and economic conditions at the time of such realizations. In the past, many private equity funds have looked to the public securities markets as a potential exit strategy and there can be no assurance, particularly given the recent volatility in the financial markets and a potential lack of investor appetite for new issues in the public securities markets, that Funds will be able to exit from their investments in portfolio companies by listing their shares on securities exchanges. The trading market, if any, for the securities of any portfolio company may not be sufficiently liquid to enable a Fund to sell these securities when the Adviser believes it is most advantageous to do so, or without adversely affecting the stock price. Continued or renewed volatility in the financial sector may have an adverse material effect on the ability of the Funds to buy, sell and partially dispose of their portfolio company investments. The Funds may be adversely affected to the extent that they seek to dispose of any of their portfolio investments into an illiquid or volatile market, and a Fund may find itself unable to dispose of investments at prices that the Adviser believes reflect the fair value of such investments. The duration and ultimate effect of current market conditions and whether such conditions may worsen cannot be predicted. The ability of portfolio companies to refinance debt securities may depend on their ability to sell new securities in the public high yield debt market or otherwise.

### **Valuation of Assets**

There is no actively traded market for most of the securities owned by the Funds. When estimating fair value, the Adviser will apply a methodology based on its best judgment that is

appropriate in light of the nature, facts and circumstance of the investments. Valuations are subject to multiple levels of review for approval and ensuring that portfolio investments are fairly valued is an important focus of the Adviser. However, the process of valuing securities for which reliable market quotations are not available is based on inherent uncertainties and the resulting values may differ from values that would have been determined had an active market existed for such securities and may differ from the prices at which such securities are ultimately sold. Third-party pricing information is generally not available regarding certain of a Fund's assets. With respect to the Funds, the exercise of discretion in valuation by the Adviser may give rise to conflicts of interest, as the performance allocation in certain Funds is calculated based, in part, on these valuations and such valuations affect performance calculations.

### **Cybersecurity Risk**

The Adviser, the Funds' service providers and other market participants increasingly depend on complex information technology and communications systems to conduct business functions. These systems are subject to a number of different threats or risks that could adversely affect the Funds and their investors, despite the efforts of the Adviser and the Funds' service providers to adopt technologies, processes and practices intended to mitigate these risks and protect the security of their computer systems, software, networks and other technology assets, as well as the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information belonging to the Fund and its investors. For example, unauthorized third parties may attempt to improperly access, modify, disrupt the operations of, or prevent access to these systems of the Adviser, the Funds' service providers, counterparties or data within these systems. Third parties may also attempt to fraudulently induce employees, customers, third-party service providers or other users of the Adviser's systems to disclose sensitive information in order to gain access to the Adviser's data or that of the Funds' investors. A successful penetration or circumvention of the security of the Adviser's systems could result in the loss or theft of an investor's data or funds, the inability to access electronic systems, loss or theft of proprietary information or corporate data, physical damage to a computer or network system or costs associated with system repairs. Such incidents could cause the Funds, the Adviser or their service providers to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs or financial loss.

Similar types of operational and technology risks are also present for the companies in which the Funds invests, which could have material adverse consequences for such companies, and may cause the Funds' investments to lose value.

### **Leveraged Nature of Investments**

While investments in leveraged companies offer the opportunity for capital appreciation, such investments also involve a high degree of risk. Certain of the Funds' investments involve significant leverage, as a result of which operating problems and other general business and economic risks may have a pronounced effect on the profitability or survival of the Funds' portfolio companies. Also, increased interest rates generally increase portfolio company interest expenses. In the event any portfolio company cannot generate adequate cash flow to meet debt service, the Funds may suffer a partial or total loss of capital invested in the portfolio company.

### **Long-Term Nature of Portfolio Investments**

It is anticipated there will be a significant period of time (generally up to five years) before a Fund has completed its investment program. Investments typically take from three to seven years from the date of initial investment to reach a state of maturity when realization of the investment can be achieved. Transaction structures generally do not provide liquidity for a Fund's investment prior to that time. In light of the foregoing, it is likely that no significant return from the disposition of a Fund's investments will occur for a significant period of time after the first closing of such Fund.

### **Improvement in Portfolio Company Operations Critical to Investment Success**

The success of a Fund's investment strategy depends on the effectiveness of efforts to improve the operating performance of portfolio companies following investment. Initiatives that need to be taken in an effort to achieve improvements in operating performance include, among other, introduction of new products, changes in sales, marketing and distribution methods, implementation of new sourcing arrangements, reductions in manufacturing, overhead and other costs, enhancements and changes in the management team and identification, consummation and integration of add-on acquisitions. The proper identification and implementation of initiatives important to the achievement of improved operating performance is difficult and often requires substantial resources. The capabilities and resources of a portfolio company, even with the assistance of the General Partner and the management company, may be insufficient to effect such proper identification and implementation, and there can be no assurance that portfolio companies will be successful in achieving improvements in operating performance. The failure to achieve improved operating results following investment is likely to lead to losses or poor returns on investments.

### **Illiquidity of Fund's Portfolio Investments**

It is anticipated that all or a substantial portion of a Fund's investments will consist of securities that are subject to restrictions on sale by a Fund because they were acquired from the issuer in "private placement" transactions or because the Fund will be deemed to be an affiliate of the issuer. Generally, a Fund will not be able to sell these securities publicly in the U.S. without the expense and, time and other burdens required to register the securities under the Securities Act, or will be able to sell the securities only under Rule 144 or other rules under the Securities Act which permit limited sales under specified conditions. When restricted securities are sold to the public, the Fund may be deemed an "underwriter", or possibly a controlling person, with respect thereto for the purpose of the Securities Act and be subject to liability as such under that Act.

In addition, practical limitations inhibit a Fund's ability to liquidate certain of its investments in portfolio companies since the issuer will be privately held and the Fund will own a relatively large percentage of the issuer's equity securities. Sales are also limited by market conditions, which may be unfavorable for sales of securities of particular issuers or issuers in particular industries. The above limitations on liquidity of the Fund's investments could prevent a successful sale thereof, result in delay of any sale, or reduce the amount of proceeds that might otherwise be realized.

### **Contingent Liabilities on Disposition of Portfolio Investments**

In connection with the disposition of an investment in a portfolio company, a Fund is usually required to make representations about the business and financial affairs of such company, and to indemnify the purchasers of such investment if those representations are inaccurate. The General Partner will establish reserves as appropriate to provide for such contingent liabilities. In the event that the amount of such contingent liabilities exceeds the reserves and other assets of a Fund, the limited partners of such Fund may be required to repay to such Fund or to pay to creditors of such Fund distributions previously received by them.

### **Adverse Consequences of Ownership of Controlling Interest in Portfolio Companies**

It is expected that a Fund will often own a controlling percentage of the common equity of portfolio companies which, depending upon the amount of equity owned by such Fund, contractual arrangements between the company and such Fund, and other relevant factual circumstances, could result in an extension to one year of the 90-day bankruptcy preference period with respect to payments made to such Fund. In addition, because of its equity ownership, representation on the board of directors and/or contractual rights, a Fund is often thought to control, participate in the management of or influence the conduct of portfolio companies. These factors could expose the assets of such Fund to claims by a portfolio company, its other security holders, its creditors or governmental agencies.

### **Special Risks Associated with Offshore Investments**

A Fund is permitted to invest a portion of its capital commitments in portfolio companies that are headquartered and that have their principal operations outside the United States and Canada. These investments involve special risks not typically associated with investments in the securities of U.S. issuers, including (a) economic and political factors, such as the risk of expropriation, restrictions on repatriation of profits, and political and social instability, (b) differences between U.S. and foreign securities markets, including the absence of uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards in foreign markets, and the relatively greater price volatility and illiquidity of foreign securities markets, (c) currency exchange risks, including the cost of converting investment cash flows from one currency into another and the possibility of fluctuations in exchange rates, (d) tax-related issues, including the possibility of withholding or other taxes (including on dividends, interest payments or capital gains), confiscatory foreign taxes, and the possibility of double taxation of income earned overseas and (e) increased exposure to liabilities arising from a portfolio company's breach of applicable anti-corruption or other foreign laws or regulations.

### **Lack of Control in Minority Investments**

A Fund's investments sometimes represent a minority position in portfolio companies, without power individually to exert significant control over such portfolio companies' boards of directors and management. In such cases, the Fund will rely significantly on the existing management and boards of directors of such companies, which may include representatives of other investors with



whom the Fund is not affiliated and whose interests or views may conflict with the interest of the Fund.

### **Third Party Involvement**

A Fund may co-invest with third-parties through partnerships, joint ventures or other entities. Such investments involve risks not present in investments where a third-party is not involved, including the possibility that a third-party co-venturer or partner may at any time have economic or business interests or goals which are inconsistent with those of the Fund, or may be in a position to take action contrary to the investment objective of the Fund. In addition, the Fund may in certain circumstances be liable for actions of its third-party co-venturer or partner.

### **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

Item 9 is not applicable to the Adviser.

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

#### **Related General Partners**

Various limited liabilities companies serve as General Partners of the Funds, and the Adviser and the General Partners have partial commonality of ownership. For a description of material conflicts of interest created by the relationship among the Adviser and the General Partners, as well as a description of how such conflicts are addressed, please see Item 11 below.

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

#### **Code of Ethics**

The Adviser has adopted a written Code of Ethics that is applicable to all of its shareholders, officers and employees, as well as officers and employees of its affiliates and certain independent contractors (collectively, “Adviser Personnel”). The Code of Ethics, which is designed to comply with Rule 204A-1 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (as amended, the “Advisers Act”), establishes guidelines for professional conduct and personal trading procedures, including certain pre-clearance and reporting obligations. Adviser Personnel and their families and households may purchase investments for their own accounts, including the same investments as may be purchased or sold for a Fund, subject to the terms of the Code of Ethics. Under the Code of Ethics, Adviser Personnel are also required to file certain periodic reports with the Adviser’s Chief Compliance Officer as required by Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act. The Code of Ethics helps the Adviser detect and prevent potential conflicts of interest.

Adviser Personnel who violate the Code of Ethics are subject to remedial actions, including, but not limited to, profit disgorgement, fines, censure, demotion, suspension or dismissal. Adviser Personnel are also required to promptly report any violation of the Code of Ethics of which they

become aware. Adviser Personnel are required to annually certify compliance with the Code of Ethics.

A copy of the Code of Ethics is available to any client or prospective client upon written request to the Chief Compliance Officer, c/o Castanea Partners, Three Newton Executive Park, Suite 304, Newton, MA 02462.

### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Certain employees and affiliates of the Adviser may invest in and alongside the Funds, either through the General Partners, as direct investors in the Funds or otherwise. A Fund or its General Partner, as applicable, may reduce all or a portion of the Advisory Fee and Carried Interest related to investments held by such persons. For further details regarding these arrangements, as well as conflicts of interest presented by them, please see “Conflicts of Interest” immediately below.

Due in part to the fact that potential investors in a Fund (including purchasers of a limited partner’s interests in a secondary transaction) or a co-investment opportunity (see below) may ask different questions and request different information, the Adviser may provide certain information to one or more prospective investors that it does not provide to all of the prospective investors or limited partners.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Adviser and its related entities engage in a broad range of activities, including investment activities for their own account and for the account of other investment funds, and providing transaction-related, investment advisory, management and other services to funds and operating companies. In the ordinary course of conducting its activities, the interests of a Fund will, from time to time conflict with the interests of the Adviser, other Funds or their respective affiliates. Certain of these conflicts of interest, as well a description of how the Adviser addresses such conflicts of interest, can be found below.

The Adviser has in the past and may, from time to time in the future establish certain investment vehicles through which certain employees of the Adviser or its affiliates, former employees, operating partners or other persons may invest alongside one or more Funds in one or more investment opportunities. Such vehicles, referred to herein as “co-investment vehicles,” may be contractually required, as a condition of investment, to purchase and sell each investment opportunity at substantially the same time and substantially the same terms as the applicable Fund that is invested in that investment opportunity. Such co-investment vehicles may not pay Advisory Fees or Carried Interest.

### ***Resolution of Conflicts***

In the case of all conflicts of interest, the Adviser’s determination as to which factors are relevant, and the resolution of such conflicts, will be made using the Adviser’s best judgment, but in its sole discretion. In resolving conflicts, the Adviser considers various factors, including

the interests of the applicable Funds with respect to the immediate issue and/or with respect to their longer term courses of dealing. Certain procedures for resolving specific conflicts of interest are set forth below. When conflicts arise, the following factors are intended to mitigate, but will not eliminate, conflicts of interest:

- A Fund will not make an investment unless the Adviser believes that such investment is an appropriate investment considered solely from the viewpoint of such Fund;
- Many important conflicts of interest will generally be resolved by set procedures, restrictions or other provisions contained in the relevant Organizational Documents for the Funds;
- Certain of the Funds have established an advisory committee, consisting of representatives of investors not affiliated with the Adviser. The advisory committees meet as required to consult with the Adviser as to certain potential conflicts of interest. On any issue involving actual conflicts of interest, the Adviser will be guided by its good faith discretion;
- Where the Adviser deems appropriate, unaffiliated third parties will be used to help resolve conflicts, such as the use of an investment banker to opine as to the fairness of a purchase or sale price; and
- Prior to subscribing for interests in a Fund, each investor receives information relating to significant potential conflicts of interest arising from the proposed activities of the Fund.

### *Conflicts*

The material conflicts of interest encountered by a Fund include those discussed below, although the discussion below does not necessarily describe all of the conflicts that will be faced by a Fund. Other conflicts are disclosed throughout this brochure and the brochure should be read in its entirety for other conflicts.

### *Allocation of Investment Opportunities Among Clients*

In connection with its investment activities, the Adviser may encounter situations in which it must determine how to allocate investment opportunities among various clients and other persons, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Funds; and
- Any co-investment vehicles that have been formed to invest side-by-side with one or more Funds in all or particular transactions entered into by such Fund(s) (the investors in such co-investment vehicles may include Adviser Investors and/or individuals and entities that are not investors in any Funds (“Third Parties”));

- Adviser Investors and/or Third Parties that wish to make direct investments (i.e., not through an investment vehicle) side-by-side with one or more Funds in particular transactions entered into by such Fund(s).

The Adviser has adopted written policies and procedures relating to the allocation of investment opportunities, and will make allocation determinations consistently therewith.

The Funds are generally subject to investment allocation requirements (collectively, “Investment Allocation Requirements”) which will also apply directly or indirectly to certain co-investment vehicles with investments contractually tied to the Funds. Investment Allocation Requirements are set forth in the Organizational Documents of the Fund. To the extent the Investment Allocation Requirements of a Fund do not include specific allocation procedures and/or allow the Adviser discretion in making allocation decisions among the Funds, the Adviser will make allocations in good faith in its sole discretion.

The Adviser will not allocate investment opportunities based, in whole or in part, on (i) the relative fee structure or amount of fees paid by any Fund or (ii) the profitability of any Fund.

#### *Allocation of Co-Investment Opportunities and Secondary Transactions*

The Adviser will determine if the amount of an investment opportunity exceeds the amount the Adviser determines would be appropriate for the Funds (after taking into account any portion of the opportunity allocated by contract to certain participants in the applicable deal, such as co-sponsors, consultants and advisers to the Adviser and/or the Funds or management teams of the applicable portfolio company, certain strategic investors and other investors whose allocation is determined by the Adviser to be in the best interest of the applicable Fund), and any such excess may be offered to one or more co-investors pursuant to the procedures included in such Funds’ Organizational Documents and as set forth in the following paragraphs.

Subject to any Investment Allocation Requirements, in general, (i) no investor in a Fund has a right to participate in any co-investment opportunity, (ii) decisions regarding whether and to whom to offer co-investment opportunities are made in the sole discretion of the Adviser or its related persons or other participants in the applicable transactions, such as co-sponsors, (iii) co-investment opportunities may, and typically will, be offered to some and not other investors in the Funds, in the sole discretion of the Adviser or its related persons and investors may be offered a smaller amount of co-investment opportunities than originally requested, (iv) certain persons other than investors in the Funds (e.g., Third Parties) may be offered co-investment opportunities, in the sole discretion of the Adviser or its related persons and (v) co-investors may purchase their interests in a portfolio company at the same time as the Funds or may purchase their interests from the applicable Funds after such Funds have consummated their investment in the portfolio company (also known as a post-closing sell down or transfer). Additionally, non-binding acknowledgements of interest in co-investment opportunities are not Investment Allocation Requirements and do not require the Adviser to notify the recipients of such acknowledgements if there is a co-investment opportunity.

In exercising its discretion to allocate co-investment opportunities with respect to a particular investment among potential co-investors, the Adviser will consider some or all of a wide range of factors, which include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- The Adviser's evaluation of the size and financial resources of the potential co-investment party and the Adviser's perception of the ability of that potential co-investment party (in terms of, for example, staffing, expertise and other resources) to efficiently and expeditiously participate in the investment opportunity with the relevant Fund(s) without harming or otherwise prejudicing such Fund(s), in particular when the investment opportunity is time-sensitive in nature, as is typically the case;
- Any confidentiality concerns the Adviser has that arise in connection with providing the other account or person with specific information relating to the investment opportunity in order to permit such potential co-investment party to evaluate the investment opportunity;
- The Adviser's perception of its past experiences and relationships with the potential co-investment party, such as the willingness or ability of the potential co-investment party to respond promptly and/or affirmatively to potential investment opportunities previously offered by the Adviser;
- The Adviser's perception of whether the investment opportunity may subject the potential co-investment party to legal, regulatory, reporting, public relations, media or other burdens that make it less likely that the other account or person would act upon the investment opportunity if offered;
- The Adviser's evaluation of whether the profile or characteristics of the potential co-investment party may have an impact on the viability or terms of the proposed investment opportunity and the ability of the Funds to take advantage of such opportunity (for example, if the potential co-investment party is involved in the same industry as a target company in which a Fund wishes to invest, or if the identity of the potential co-investment party, or the jurisdiction in which the potential co-investment party is based, may affect the likelihood of a Fund being able to capitalize on a potential investment opportunity); and
- Whether the Adviser believes, in its sole discretion, that allocating investment opportunities to a potential co-investment party will help establish, recognize, strengthen and/or cultivate relationships that may provide indirectly longer-term benefits to current or future Funds and/or the Adviser.

The Adviser's exercise of its discretion in allocating investment opportunities with respect to a particular investment among the persons, including the Funds, potential co-investors, Adviser Investors and Third Parties, and in the manner discussed above may not, and often will not, result in proportional allocations among such persons, and such allocations may be more or less advantageous to some such persons relative to other such persons. While the Adviser will determine how to allocate investment opportunities using its best judgment, considering such factors as it deems relevant, but in its sole discretion, there can be no assurance that a Fund's actual allocation of an investment opportunity, if any, or the terms on which that allocation is

made will be as favorable as they would be if the conflicts of interest to which the Adviser may be subject, discussed herein, did not exist.

In the event the Adviser determines to offer an investment opportunity to co-investors, there can be no assurance that the Adviser will be successful in consummating such co-investment, in whole or in part, that the closing of such co-investment will be consummated in a timely manner, that the co-investment will take place on the terms and conditions that will be preferable for the Fund or that expenses incurred by the Fund with respect to the syndication of the co-investment will not be substantial. In the event that the Adviser is not successful in offering a co-investment opportunity to potential co-investors, in whole or in part, the Fund may consequently hold a greater concentration and have exposure in the related investment opportunity than was initially intended, which could make the Fund more susceptible to fluctuations in value resulting from adverse economic and/or business conditions with respect thereto. Moreover, an investment by the Fund which is not syndicated to co-investors as originally anticipated could significantly reduce the Fund's overall investment returns.

In addition, to the extent the Adviser has discretion over a secondary transfer of interests in a Fund pursuant to such Fund's Organizational Documents, or is asked to identify potential purchasers in a secondary transfer, the Adviser will do so in its sole discretion, generally taking into account the following factors:

- Requirements in such Fund's Organizational Documents;
- The Adviser's evaluation of the financial resources of the potential purchaser, including its ability to meet capital contribution obligations;
- The Adviser's perception of its past experiences and relationships with the potential purchaser, including its belief that the potential purchaser would help establish, recognize, strengthen and/or cultivate relationship that may provide indirectly longer-term benefits to current or future Funds and/or the Adviser;
- Whether the potential purchaser would subject the Adviser, the applicable Fund, or their affiliates to legal, regulatory, reporting, public relations, media or other burdens; and
- Such other facts as it deems appropriated under the circumstances in exercising such discretion.

A purchaser's potential investment into another Fund (including any commitment to a future fund) may be considered, but will not be the sole determining factor considered by the Adviser in determining whether to grant or withhold its consent to a secondary transfer of interests in a Fund.

#### *Conflicts Related to Purchases and Sales*

Conflicts arise when a Fund makes investments in conjunction with an investment being made by other Funds, or in a transaction where another Fund has already made an investment. Investment opportunities may be appropriate for Funds at the same, different or overlapping levels of a portfolio company's capital structure. Conflicts arise in determining the terms of investments, particularly where these clients invest in different types of securities in a single

portfolio company. Questions may arise as to whether payment obligations and covenants should be enforced, modified or waived, or whether debt should be refinanced. Decisions about what action should be taken in a troubled situation, including whether or not to enforce claims, whether or not to advocate or initiate a restructuring or liquidation inside or outside of bankruptcy, and the terms of any work-out or restructuring raise conflicts of interest, particularly in Funds that have invested in different securities within the same portfolio company. Certain clients of the Adviser and its affiliates may invest in bank debt and securities of companies in which other clients hold securities, including equity securities. In the event that such investments are made by a Fund, the interests of such Fund may be in conflict with the interest of such other Fund, particularly in circumstances where the underlying company is facing financial distress. The involvement of such persons at both the equity and debt levels could inhibit strategic information exchanges among fellow creditors. In certain circumstances, Funds may be prohibited from exercising voting or other rights, and may be subject to claims by other creditors with respect to the subordination of their interest. If additional capital is necessary as a result of financial or other difficulties, or to finance growth or other opportunities, the Funds may or may not provide such additional capital, and if provided each Fund will supply such additional capital in such amounts, if any, as determined by the Adviser. In addition, a conflict may arise in allocating an investment opportunity if the potential investment target could be acquired by either a Fund or a portfolio company of another Fund. Investments by more than one client of the Adviser in a portfolio company raise the risk of using assets of a client of the Adviser to support positions taken by other clients of the Adviser. Employees and related persons of the Adviser and its affiliates have made or may make capital investments in or alongside certain Funds, and therefore have additional conflicting interests in connection with these investments. There can be no assurance that the return of a Fund participating in a transaction would be equal to and not less than another Fund participating in the same transaction or that it would have been as favorable as it would have been had such conflict not existed.

From time to time the Adviser may, in its discretion, to enter into transactions with investors in one or more Funds to dispose of all or a portion of certain investments held by one or more Funds. In exercising its discretion to select the purchaser(s) of such investments, the Adviser will consider some or all of the factors listed above under "*Allocation of Investment Opportunities Among Clients and Allocation of Co-Investment Opportunities*". The sales price for such transactions will be mutually agreed to by the Adviser and such purchaser(s); however, determinations of sales prices involve a significant degree of judgment by the Adviser. Although the Adviser is not obligated to solicit competitive bids for such sales transaction or to seek the highest available price, it will first determine that such transaction is in the best interests of the applicable Fund(s), taking into account the sales price and the other terms and conditions of the transaction. There can be no assurance, in light of the performance of the investment following such a transaction, that such transaction will ultimately prove to be the most profitable or advantageous course of action for the applicable Fund(s). Any such transactions will comply with the organizational documents of the applicable Fund(s).

A Fund may sell down an interest in its portfolio companies to co-investors. Subject to the applicable Organizational Documents, the Adviser will charge (or decide not to charge) a co-investor (such as a Fund investor or Third Party) interest costs for the time period between the

closing of the applicable Fund's investment in a portfolio company to the date of the transfer of interests in such portfolio company to the applicable co-investor.

### *Cross-Transactions*

In certain cases, the Adviser may cause a Fund to purchase investments from another Fund, or may cause a Fund to sell investments to another Fund. Such transactions create conflicts of interest because, by not exposing such buy and sell transactions to market forces, a Fund may not receive the best price otherwise possible, or the Adviser might have an incentive to improve the performance of one Fund by selling underperforming assets to another Fund in order, for example, to earn fees. Additionally, in connection with such transactions, the Adviser, its affiliates and/or their professionals (i) may have significant investments, or intentions to invest, in the Fund that is selling and/or purchasing such an investment or (ii) otherwise have a direct or indirect interest in the investment (such as through certain other participations in the investment). The Adviser and its affiliates may receive management or other fees in connection with their management of the relevant Funds involved in such a transaction, and may also be entitled to share in the investment profits of the relevant Funds.

To address these conflicts of interest, in connection with effecting such transactions, the Adviser will follow the Investment Allocation Requirements of the relevant Funds (e.g., the Organizational Documents of certain Funds may provide for the rebalancing of investments at certain times and at a cost set forth in those Organizational Documents so that these Funds' resulting ownership of investments is generally proportionate to the relative capital commitments of the Fund). To the extent such matters are not addressed in the Investment Allocation Requirements, the Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer, in consultation with the Adviser's Chief Operating Officer, will be responsible for confirming that the Adviser (i) considers its respective duties to each Fund, (ii) determines whether the purchase or sale and price or other terms are comparable to what could be obtained through an arm's length transaction with a third party on commercially reasonable terms, and (iii) obtains any required approvals of the transaction's terms and conditions. The Adviser will not directly or indirectly receive any commission or other transaction-based compensation for effecting any such transaction, and the Adviser will not effect any such transaction for any Fund where the Adviser is deemed to own more than 25% of the Fund, unless such transaction complies with the requirements of the Adviser's principal transactions policy, as described below.

### *Principal Transactions*

Section 206 under the Advisers Act regulates principal transactions among an investment adviser and its affiliates, on the one hand, and the clients thereof, on the other hand. Very generally, if an investment adviser or an affiliate thereof proposes to purchase a security from, or sell a security to, a client (what is commonly referred to as a "principal transaction"), the adviser must make certain disclosures to the client of the terms of the proposed transaction and obtain the client's consent to the transaction. In connection with the Adviser's management of the Funds, the Adviser and its affiliates may engage in principal transactions. The Adviser has established certain policies and procedures to comply with the requirements of the Advisers Act as they relate to principal transactions, including that disclosures required by Section 206 of the Advisers



Act be made to the applicable Fund(s) regarding any proposed principal transactions and that any required prior consent to the transaction be received. In addition, the Organizational Documents of the Funds generally contain additional restrictions on the ability of the Funds or the Adviser to engage in principal transactions.

### *Management of the Funds*

The Adviser manages a number of Funds that have investment objectives similar to each other. The Adviser expects that it or its personnel will in the future establish one or more additional investment funds with investment objectives substantially similar to, or different from, those of the current Funds. Allocation of available investment opportunities between the Funds and any such investment fund could give rise to conflicts of interest. See “*Allocation of Investment Opportunities Among Clients and Allocation of Co-Investment Opportunities*” above. In addition, it is expected that employees of the Adviser responsible for managing a particular Fund will have responsibilities with respect to other Funds managed by the Adviser, including funds that are raised in the future or to proprietary investments made by the Adviser and/or its principals of the type made by a Fund. Conflicts of interest arise in allocating time, services or functions of these officers and employees.

### *Follow-on Investments*

Certain investments to finance follow-on acquisitions may present conflicts of interest, including determination of the equity component and other terms of the new financing as well as the allocation of the investment opportunities in the case of follow-on acquisitions by one Fund in a portfolio company in which another Fund has previously invested. In addition, a Fund may participate in leveraging and recapitalization transactions involving portfolio companies in which another Fund has already invested or will invest. In such instances, conflicts of interest often arise, including determinations of whether existing investors are being cashed out at a price that is higher or lower than market value and whether new investors are paying too high or too low a price for the company or purchasing securities with terms that are more or less favorable than the prevailing market terms.

### *Conflicts Relating to the General Partner and the Adviser*

The Adviser generally may, in its discretion, contract with any related person of the Adviser (including but not limited to a portfolio company of a Fund) to perform services for the Adviser in connection with its provision of services to the Funds. When engaging a related person to provide such services, the Adviser may have an incentive to recommend the related person even if another person is more qualified to provide the applicable services and/or can provide such services at a lesser cost.

The Adviser generally may, in its discretion, recommend to a Fund or to a portfolio company thereof (in response to a solicitation for a recommendation or otherwise) that it contract for services with (i) the Adviser or a related person of the Adviser (including but not limited to a portfolio company of a Fund) or (ii) an entity with which the Adviser or its affiliates or a member of their personnel has a relationship or from which the Adviser or its affiliates or their

personnel otherwise derives financial or other benefit. When making such a recommendation, the Adviser, because of its financial or other business interest, may have an incentive to recommend the related or other person even if another person is more qualified to provide the applicable services and/or can provide such services at a lesser cost.

The Adviser, its affiliates, and shareholders, officers, principals and employees of the Adviser and its affiliates may buy or sell securities or other instruments that the Adviser has recommended to Funds. Officers, principals and employees of the Adviser may also buy securities in transactions offered to but rejected by Funds. A conflict of interest may arise because such investing Adviser personnel will, for some investments, benefit from the evaluation, investigation, and due diligence undertaken by the Adviser on behalf of the Fund. In addition, officers and employees may also buy securities in other investment vehicles (including private equity funds, hedge funds, real estate funds and other similar investment vehicles) which may include potential competitors of the Funds. The transactions described above are subject to the policies and procedures set forth in the Adviser's Code of Ethics and investors will not benefit from any such transactions. The investment policies, fee arrangements and other circumstances of these investments often vary from those of the Funds. If officers, principals and employees of the Adviser have made large capital investments in or alongside the Funds they will have conflicting interests with respect to these investments.

Because certain expenses are paid for by a Fund and/or its portfolio companies or, if incurred by the Adviser, are reimbursed by a Fund and/or its portfolio companies, the Adviser may not necessarily seek out the lowest cost options when incurring (or causing a Fund or its portfolio companies to incur) such expenses.

#### *Fee Structure*

Because there is a fixed investment period after which capital from investors in the Funds may only be drawn down in limited circumstances and because Advisory Fees are, at certain times during the life of the Funds, based upon capital invested by the Funds, this fee structure may create an incentive to deploy capital when the Adviser may not otherwise have done so.

Additionally, as discussed above in Item 6, the General Partners of the Funds are entitled to Carried Interest under the terms of the Organizational Documents of such Funds. Such General Partners are affiliates of the Adviser. The existence of the General Partners' Carried Interest may create an incentive for the General Partners to cause such Funds to make more speculative investments than they would otherwise make in the absence of performance-based compensation.

Pursuant to the Organizational Documents, the General Partner may be required to return excess amounts of Carried Interest as a "clawback". This clawback obligation may create an incentive for the General Partner to defer disposition of one or more investments or delay the liquidation of a Fund if the disposition and/or liquidation would result in a realized loss to the Fund or would otherwise result in a clawback situation for the General Partner.

#### *Diverse Membership*

The investors in the Funds include U.S. taxable and tax-exempt entities, and institutions from jurisdictions outside of the United States. Such investors sometimes have conflicting investment, tax and other interests with respect to their investments in a Fund. The conflicting interests among the investors relate to or arise from, among other things, the nature of investments made by a Fund, the structuring of the acquisition of investments and the timing of the disposition of investments. As a consequence, conflicts of interest arise in connection with decisions made by the Adviser or its affiliates, including with respect to the nature or structuring of investments, that may be more beneficial for one investor than for another investor, especially with respect to investors' individual tax situations.

#### *Business with Portfolio Companies and Investors*

Given the collaborative nature of the Adviser's business and the portfolio companies in which the Funds have invested, there are often situations where the Adviser is in the position of recommending portfolio company services to other portfolio companies of the Funds, which may involve fees, commissions, servicing payments and/or discounts to the Adviser, an affiliate, or a portfolio company. The Adviser may have a conflict of interest in making such recommendations, in that the Adviser has an incentive to maintain goodwill between it and the existing and prospective portfolio companies for the Funds, while the products or services recommended may not necessarily be the best available to the portfolio companies held by the Funds. The benefits received by a portfolio company providing a service may be greater than those received by the Fund(s) and its portfolio companies receiving the service.

The Adviser may have an incentive to recommend the products or services of certain investors in the Funds, certain Third Parties, or their related businesses to the Funds or their portfolio companies for use or purchase, even though the products or services recommended may not necessarily be the best available to the Funds or the portfolio companies.

Portfolio companies controlled by a Fund may provide services to certain Fund investors. The Adviser may have an incentive to cause the portfolio company to favor those investors relative to other portfolio company clients or customers in terms of pricing or otherwise, which could adversely affect the portfolio company's profitability to the Fund. Additionally, the portfolio company could recommend to its clients or customers that they invest in a Fund.

The Advisers and/or its affiliates may engage in business opportunities arising from a Fund's investment in a portfolio company (for example, without limitation, entering into a joint venture with a portfolio company or making a proprietary investment in a portfolio company). This creates a conflict of interest, as such interests are a benefit arising from the Fund's investment and may vary from the applicable Fund's interest (e.g., whether to make a follow-on investment and, if so, how much should be allocated to the Fund).

In certain instances, a Fund's portfolio company may compete with another Fund's portfolio company. A conflict of interest may arise in these instances because advice and recommendations provided by the Adviser to a portfolio company may have adverse consequences to a competitor portfolio company owned by another Fund.

The Adviser and/or its affiliates may engage in business with certain service providers, including for example, investment bankers, outside legal counsel and pension consultants, who are investors in Funds and/or who provide services (including mezzanine and/or lending arrangements) to the Adviser, the Funds, the portfolio companies and/or to businesses that are competitors of the Adviser. Such engagement may be concurrent with an investor's admission to a Fund, or during the term of such investor's investment in the Fund. This creates a conflict of interest, as the Adviser may give such investor preferred economics or other terms with respect to its investment in a Fund, or may have an incentive to offer such investor co-investment opportunities that it would not otherwise offer to such investor. The Adviser may have a conflict of interest with the Funds in recommending the retention or continuation of a service provider to the Funds or a portfolio company if such recommendation, for example, is motivated by a belief that the service provider will continue to invest in Funds or will provide the Adviser information about markets and industries in which the Adviser operates or is interested or will provide other services that are beneficial to the Adviser. There is a possibility that the Adviser, because of such belief or for other reasons, may favor such retention or continuation even if a better price and/or quality of service could be obtained from another person.

Certain members of a Fund's advisory committee are, or in the future may be, officers or directors of, or otherwise affiliated with, investors in another Fund. The General Partner of a Fund may from time to time utilize the services of investors and their affiliates on an arm's length basis with commercially reasonable terms, as it deems appropriate.

#### *Positions with Portfolio Companies*

Employees of the Adviser serve as directors of portfolio companies. While conflicts of interest may arise in the event that such employee's fiduciary duties as a director conflicts with those of the Fund, it is expected that the interests will be aligned. Additionally, such employees are required to remit any remuneration they receive as directors to the applicable Funds. In addition, employees of the Adviser may leave the employment of the Adviser or its affiliates and become an officer or employee of a portfolio company.

#### *Side Letter Agreements; Advisory Committee Rights*

The Adviser may enter into certain side letter arrangements with certain investors in a Fund providing such investors with different or preferential rights or terms, including but not limited to information rights, co-investment rights or transfer rights.

#### *Other Potential Conflicts*

The Adviser and the Funds will generally engage common legal counsel and other advisers in a particular transaction, including a transaction in which there are conflicts of interest. Members of the law firms engaged to represent the Funds may be investors in a Fund, and may also represent one or more portfolio companies or investors in a Fund. In the event of a significant dispute or divergence of interest between Funds, the Adviser and/or its affiliates, the parties may engage separate counsel in the sole discretion of the Adviser and its affiliates, and in litigation and other circumstances separate representation may be required. Additionally, the Adviser and

the Funds and the portfolio companies may engage other common service providers. In such circumstances, the service provider may charge varying rates or engage in different arrangements for services provided to the Adviser, the Funds, and/or the portfolio companies. This may result in the Adviser receiving a more favorable rate on services provided to it by such a common service provider than those payable by the Funds and/or the portfolio company, or the Adviser receiving a discount on services even though the Funds and/or the portfolio companies receive a lesser, or no, discount. This creates a conflict of interest between the Adviser, on the one hand, and the Funds and/or the portfolio companies, on the other hand, in determining whether to engage such service providers, including the possibility that the Adviser will favor the engagement or continued engagement of such persons if it receives a benefit from such service providers, such as lower fees, that it would not receive absent the engagement of such service provider by the Funds and/or the portfolio companies.

The Adviser may, in its discretion, have, or cause the Funds and/or their portfolio companies to have, ongoing business dealings, arrangements or agreements with persons who are former employees or executives of the Adviser. The Funds and/or their portfolio companies may bear, directly or indirectly, the costs of such dealings, arrangements or agreements. In such circumstances, there may be a conflict of interest between the Adviser and the Funds (or their portfolio companies) in determining whether to engage in or to continue such dealings, arrangements or agreements, including the possibility that the Adviser will favor the engagement or continued engagement of such persons even if a better price and/or quality of service could be obtained from another person.

The Organizational Documents of certain Funds permit each such Fund's General Partner to withhold information from certain limited partners or investors in such Fund in certain circumstances. For instance, information may be withheld from limited partners that are subject to Freedom of Information Act or similar requirements. The General Partner may elect to withhold certain information to such limited partners for reasons relating to the General Partner's public reputation or overall business strategy, despite the potential benefits to such limited partners of receiving such information.

Please see the discussion above under the sub-heading "Resolution of Conflicts" for a description of the means by which the Adviser and its related persons will seek to alleviate conflicts of interest among the Funds or other persons.

## **Item 12. Brokerage Practices**

As Funds invest primarily in private equity ventures, the Adviser anticipates that investments in publicly traded securities will be infrequent occurrences (e.g., money market instruments pending investment in a portfolio company, securities held as a result of initial public offerings of portfolio companies, going-private transactions, etc.). However, to meet its fiduciary duties to the Funds, the Adviser has adopted written policies to address issues that might arise with respect to purchasing, holding, and selling publicly traded securities.

### **Selection of Brokers and Dealers**

For each of the Funds, the Adviser has, subject to the direction of such Fund's General Partner, if applicable, sole discretion over the purchase and sale of investments (including the size of such transactions) and the broker or dealer, if any, to be used to effect transactions. In placing each transaction for a Fund involving a broker-dealer, the Adviser will seek "best execution" of the transaction. "Best execution" means obtaining for a Fund account the lowest total cost (in purchasing a security) or highest total proceeds (in selling a security), taking into account the circumstances of the transaction and the reputability and reliability of the executing broker or dealer.

In determining whether a particular broker or dealer is likely to provide best execution in a particular transaction, the Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer (the "CCO") would take into account all factors that it deems relevant to the broker's or dealer's execution capability, including, by way of illustration, price, the size of the transaction, the nature of the market for the security, the amount of the commission, the timing of the transaction taking into account market prices and trends, the reputation, experience and financial stability of the broker or dealer, and the quality of service rendered by the broker or dealer in other transactions. In addition, the Adviser may consider the use of Electronic Communications Networks ("ECNs") when placing trades on behalf of the Funds. When purchasing or selling over-the-counter securities with market makers, the Adviser generally seeks to select market makers it believes to be actively and effectively trading the security being purchased or sold.

In order to monitor best execution, the Adviser's CCO would periodically monitor broker-dealers to assess the quality of execution of brokerage transactions effected on behalf of the Adviser and each Fund.

The Adviser does not receive "soft dollars" in connection with its use of broker-dealers.

### **Aggregation of Trades**

Although it is not anticipated that the Funds will trade in publicly traded securities, the Adviser and its affiliates may aggregate (or bunch) the orders of more than one Fund for the purchase or sale of the same publicly traded security. Portfolio managers and traders often employ this practice because larger transactions enable them to obtain better overall prices, including lower commission costs or mark-ups or mark-downs. The Adviser and its affiliates may combine orders on behalf of Funds with orders for other Funds for which it or its affiliates have trading authority, or in which it or its affiliates have an economic interest. In such cases, the Adviser and its affiliates generally aggregate trade orders for publicly traded securities so that each participating Fund will receive the average price for each execution of a transaction.

If an order for more than one Fund for a publicly traded security cannot be fully executed, allocation would be made based upon the Adviser's procedures for allocation of investment opportunities, as described in Item 11 above.

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

### **Oversight and Monitoring**

The investment portfolios of the Funds are generally private, illiquid and long-term in nature. Accordingly, the Adviser's monitoring activities are not directed toward a short-term decision to dispose of securities. However, the Adviser closely monitors the portfolio companies with regard to financial and operating performance and long-term strategic planning and often, because of its equity interests, maintains an ongoing oversight position through its representation on the boards of directors of certain portfolio companies.

Each portfolio company is monitored by an investment team, led by an investment partner. Portfolio company reports are prepared by the investment team and provided to the Adviser on a bi-monthly basis, or more frequently if warranted.

### **Reporting**

Investors in the Funds typically receive, among other things, a copy of audited financial statements of the relevant Fund within 120 days after the fiscal year end of such Fund, as well as quarterly performance reports. The Adviser and the applicable General Partner, if any, will, in their sole discretion, provide additional information relating to such Fund to one or more investors in such Fund as they deem appropriate.

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

For details regarding economic benefits provided to the Adviser by non-clients, including a description of related material conflicts of interest and how they are addressed, please see Item 11 above. In addition, the Adviser and its related persons, in certain instances, receive discounts on products and services provided by portfolio companies of Funds and/or the customers or suppliers of such portfolio companies.

While not a client solicitation arrangement, the Adviser may from time to time engage one or more persons to act as a placement agent for a Fund in connection with the offer and sale of interests to certain potential investors. Such persons generally will receive a fee for capital commitments for interests made by such potential investors to such Fund that are subsequently accepted. Such Fund may, subject to any limitations set forth in its Organizational Documents, reimburse such fees. Advisory Fees received by the Adviser are generally reduced by the amount of such fees paid by the Fund. As some Funds do not pay Advisory Fees, any such reduction will not benefit such Funds.

### **Item 15. Custody**

Item 15 is not applicable to the Adviser.

### **Item 16. Investment Discretion**

Investment advice is provided directly to the Funds, subject to the direction and control of the General Partner of each Fund, and not individually to the investors in the Funds. Services are provided to the Funds in accordance with the Advisory Agreements with the Funds and/or other

Organizational Documents of the applicable Fund. Investment restrictions for the Funds, if any, are generally established in the offering or Organizational Documents of the applicable Fund.

### **Item 17. Voting Client Securities**

The Adviser has established written policies and procedures setting forth the principles and procedures by which the Adviser votes or gives consent with respect to securities owned by the Funds (“Votes”). The guiding principle by which the Adviser votes all Votes is to vote in the best interests of each Fund by maximizing the economic value of the relevant Fund’s holdings, taking into account the relevant Fund’s investment horizon, the contractual obligations under the relevant Advisory Agreements or comparable documents, and all other relevant facts and circumstances at the time of the vote. The Adviser does not permit Voting decisions to be influenced in any manner that is contrary to, or dilutive of, this guiding principle.

It is the Adviser’s general policy to vote or give consent on all matters presented to security holders in any Vote. However, the Adviser reserves the right to abstain on any particular Vote or otherwise withhold its vote or consent on any matter if, in the judgment of the Adviser’s Chief Operating Officer (the “COO”) or the relevant Adviser investment professional, the costs associated with voting such Vote outweigh the benefits to the relevant Funds or if the circumstances make such an abstention or withholding otherwise advisable and in the best interests of the relevant Funds.

Funds generally cannot direct the Adviser’s Vote.

All Voting decisions initially are referred to the Adviser’s COO for a voting decision. In most cases, the Adviser’s COO will make the decision as to the appropriate vote for any particular Vote. In making such decision, he or she may rely on any of the information and/or research available to him or her.

The Adviser’s CCO has the responsibility to monitor Votes for any conflicts of interest, regardless of whether they are actual or perceived. All Voting decisions will require a mandatory conflicts of interest review by the Adviser’s CCO in accordance with these policies and procedures, which will include consideration of whether the Adviser or any investment professional or other person recommending how to vote has an interest in how the Vote is voted that may present a conflict of interest. In addition, all Adviser investment professionals are expected to perform their tasks relating to the voting of Votes in accordance with the principles set forth above, according the first priority to the best interest of the relevant Funds. The Adviser’s CCO will use his or her best judgment to address any such conflict of interest and ensure that it is resolved in accordance with his or her independent assessment of the best interests of the Funds.

Where the Adviser’s CCO deems appropriate in his or her sole discretion, unaffiliated third parties will be used to help resolve conflicts. In this regard, the Adviser’s CCO shall have the power to retain independent fiduciaries, consultants, or professionals to assist with Voting



decisions and/or to delegate voting or consent powers to such fiduciaries, consultants or professionals.

Copies of relevant proxy logs, identifying how proxies were voted in connection with a Fund and copies of proxy voting policies are available to any client or prospective client upon written request to: Chief Compliance Officer, c/o Castanea Partners, Three Newton Executive Park, Suite 304, Newton, MA 02462.

**Item 18. Financial Information**

Item 18 is not applicable to the Adviser.

**Item 19. Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

Item 19 is not applicable to the Adviser.