

**Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement
Item 1: Cover Page
March 2016**

Rodney A. Simms CFP, ChFC

**Gradient Capital Advisors, LLC
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San Diego, CA 92107
www.gradientcapital.com**

**Firm Contact:
Timothy A. Sagawa
Chief Compliance Officer**

This brochure supplement provides information about Rodney A. Simms that supplements our brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Please contact Timothy A. Sagawa, Chief Compliance Officer if you did not receive Gradient Capital Advisors, LLC's brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Rodney A. Simms is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

Item 2: Educational Background & Business Experience

Rodney A. Simms
Year of Birth: 1966

Educational Background:

- 1994; American College; Bryn Mawr, PA; Master of Science in Financial Services
- 1988; Point Loma Nazarene University; San Diego, CA; Business Administration

Business Background:

- 01/2014 – Present Gradient Capital Advisors, LLC;
Senior Partner and Managing Principal
- 03/1989 – 01/2014 Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.; Private Wealth Advisor

Exams, Licenses & Other Professional Designations:

- 06/2003 – Series 66
- 02/1995 – Series 63
- 09/1994 – CFP® - Certified Financial Planner™
- 10/1993 – ChFC® - Chartered Financial Consultant
- 11/1989 – Series 7

CFP® - CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™:

The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP marks are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board").

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its high standard of professional education, stringent code of conduct and standards of practice and ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements: Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university, pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination, Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience and agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*.

Individuals who become certified must complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the *Standards of Professional Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial industry and renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

ChFC® - Chartered Financial Consultant:

Mr. Simms has a professional designation, Chartered Financial Consultant. The ChFC® is offered by The American College. To receive the ChFC® designation, you must successfully complete all courses in your selected program, meet experience requirements and ethics standards, and agree to comply with The American College Code of Ethics and Procedures.

Three years of full-time business experience is required for all Huebner School designations. The following activities meet the required business experience qualifications included in the ChFC® certification process.

Insurance and health care:

- Field underwriting and management, including sales and service activities, supervision and management of persons involved in sales or services, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Company management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility. Financial services and employee benefits
- Client service and related management, including direct contact with clients, supervision and management of persons involved directly in the process of providing financial services or employee benefits, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Financial institution management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility.

Other:

- University or college teaching of subjects related to the Huebner School curriculum on a full-time basis at an accredited institution of higher education.
- Government regulatory service in a responsible administrative, supervisory, or operational capacity.
- Activities directly or indirectly related to the protection, accumulation, conservation, or distribution of the economic value of human life; these include the work of actuaries, attorneys, CPAs, investment advisers, real estate investment advisers, stockbrokers, trust officers, or persons in other similar occupations.

Item 3: Disciplinary Information

There are no legal or disciplinary events material to your evaluation of Mr. Simms.

Item 4: Other Business Activities

Mr. Simms serves as an Adjunct Professor for Point Loma Nazarene University's Fermanian School of Business. Mr. Simms spends approximately 18 hours per month from January to May of each year, during non-trading hours. Such outside business activity has been reviewed and approved by Timothy A. Sagawa, Chief Compliance Officer.

Item 5: Additional Compensation

Mr. Simms does not receive any other economic benefit for providing advisory services in addition to advisory fees.

Item 6: Supervision

Timothy A. Sagawa, Chief Compliance Officer of Gradient Capital Advisors, LLC, supervises and monitors Mr. Simms' activities on a regular basis. Mr. Sagawa reviews all outgoing correspondence for written financial advice that Mr. Simms provides to his clients. Please contact Mr. Sagawa if you have any questions about Mr. Simms' brochure supplement at (619) 255-0700.