

# Disclosure Brochure

March 29, 2016

## **Schechter Investment Advisors, LLC**

*A Registered Investment Adviser*

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Schechter Investment Advisors, LLC (hereinafter "SIA" or the "Firm"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact the Firm at the telephone number listed below. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority. Additional information about the Firm is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). SIA is an SEC registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply any level of skill or training.

**Item 2. Material Changes**

In this Item, SIA is required to discuss any material changes that have been made to the brochure since the last annual update as of March 26, 2015. There have been no material changes made to this brochure since the last annual update.

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## Item 4. Advisory Business

SIA offers financial planning, and investment management services. Prior to the rendering of any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with SIA setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the “*Agreement*”).

SIA has been operating as an independent registered investment adviser since October, 2013 and is owned by Marc Schechter and Jason Zimmerman. As of February 28, 2015, SIA had \$606,777,209 assets under management, \$332,901,320 of which was managed on a discretionary basis and \$273,875,889 was managed on a non-discretionary basis.

While this brochure generally describes the business of SIA, certain sections also discuss the activities of its *Supervised Persons*, which refer to the Firm’s officers, partners, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), employees or any other person who provides investment advice on SIA’s behalf and is subject to the Firm’s supervision or control.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Services

SIA offers clients a range of financial planning and consulting services, which may include any or all of the following functions:

- Asset Allocation
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning
- Investment Consulting
- Insurance Needs Analysis
- Retirement Plan Analysis
- Charitable Giving

While some of these services are available on a stand-alone basis, certain of them may also be rendered in conjunction with investment portfolio management as part of a comprehensive wealth management engagement (as described below). In performing these services, SIA is not required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals (e.g., attorneys, accountants, etc.) and is expressly authorized to rely on such information.

SIA may recommend the services of itself, its *Supervised Persons* in their individual capacities as insurance agents or registered representatives of a broker-dealer and/or other professionals to implement its recommendations. Clients are advised that if they clients engage SIA to provide additional fee-based services, they may retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding implementation and are under no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations made by SIA under a financial planning or consulting engagement or to engage the services of any such recommended professionals, including SIA itself. Clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Firm of any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising SIA's previous recommendations and/or services.

#### **Investment Management and Wealth Management Services**

SIA manages client investment portfolios on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. In addition, SIA may provide clients with wealth management services which generally include a broad range of comprehensive financial planning and/or consulting services as well as the management of investment portfolios.

SIA primarily allocates client assets among various independent investment managers ("*Independent Managers*"), mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), and individual debt and equity securities in accordance with the investment objectives of its individual clients. In addition, SIA may also recommend that clients who qualify as accredited investors, as defined by Rule 501 of the Securities Act of 1933, invest in privately placed securities, which may include debt, equity and/or interests in pooled investment vehicles (e.g., hedge funds). Where appropriate, the Firm may also provide advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios.

Clients may also engage SIA to advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance and annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans). In these situations, SIA directs or recommends the allocation of client assets among the various investment options available with the product. These assets are generally maintained at the underwriting insurance company or the custodian designated by the product's provider.

SIA tailors its advisory services to meet the needs of its individual clients and continuously seeks to ensure that client portfolios are managed in a manner consistent with their specific investment profiles. SIA consults with clients on an initial and ongoing basis to determine their specific risk tolerance, time horizon, liquidity constraints and other qualitative factors relevant to the management of their portfolios. Clients are

advised to promptly notify SIA if there are changes in their financial situation or if they wish to place any limitations on the management of their portfolios. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions or mandates on the management of their accounts if SIA determines, in its sole discretion, the conditions would not materially impact the performance of a management strategy or prove overly burdensome to the Firm's management efforts.

### **Use of Independent Managers**

As mentioned above, SIA may select or recommend certain Independent Managers to actively manage a portion of its clients' assets. The specific terms and conditions under which a client engages an Independent Manager are set forth in a separate written agreement between the designated Independent Manager and either SIA or the client. In addition to this brochure, clients may also receive the written disclosure documents of the designated Independent Managers engaged to manage their assets. SIA does not receive compensation from any such Independent Managers.

SIA evaluates various information about the *Independent Managers* it chooses to manage client portfolios, which may include the *Independent Managers'* public disclosure documents, materials supplied by the *Independent Managers* themselves and other third-party analyses it believes are reputable. To the extent possible, the Firm seeks to assess the *Independent Managers'* investment strategies, past performance and risk results in relation to its clients' individual portfolio allocations and risk exposure. SIA also takes into consideration each *Independent Manager's* management style, returns, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing and research capabilities, among other factors.

On an ongoing basis, the Firm monitors the performance of those accounts being managed by *Independent Managers*. SIA seeks to ensure the *Independent Managers'* strategies and target allocations remain aligned with its clients' investment objectives and overall best interests.

SIA primarily works with Callan Associates (Callan) to determine which independent money managers to use in our client relationships. Callan evaluates independent money managers across multiple assets classes. Using qualitative and quantitative screens, Callan develops and provides SIA with a list of vetted and approved money managers. In addition, Callan also negotiates lower investment minimums and fees with these independent money managers for our clients. Finally, Callan provides ongoing due diligence on these managers to determine if they should remain on the approved list. SIA selects money managers from this Callan approved list for use in our client portfolios.

SIA works with Callan using two different investment platforms. The first is the Callan Unified Managed Account platform (UMA). The Callan UMA platform is an integrated investment platform in which a client's assets can be invested in a single custodial account across multiple asset classes. On the UMA platform, Callan provides a list of approved independent managers whose portfolios are implemented by an independent overlay manager, Managed Portfolio Advisors (MPA) a division of Natixis Global Asset Management. After portfolio implementation, MPA is responsible for the ongoing trading, tax loss harvesting and portfolio rebalancing on our clients' accounts. There are several fee components on the UMA platform. These include the SIA fee, which is provided in this document, the fees for the various independent investment managers, the Callan fee, the MPA fee and a custodial fee. The fees for the

independent money managers range from 18 basis points (0.18%) to 50 basis points (0.50%). The Callan fee is a sliding fee calculated based on assets under management ranging from 20 basis points (0.20%) on the first \$10 million of client assets invested on the UMA platform to 9 basis points (0.09%) for investable assets in excess of \$20 million. The MPA fee is also a sliding asset based fee ranging from 17 basis points (0.17%) on the first \$3 million of investable assets to 6 basis points (0.06%) on assets in excess of \$100 million. The custodial fee at Pershing, where all of our clients invested on the UMA platform are currently custodied, is 6 basis points (0.06%) of investable assets. A client's specific fee will be dependent on several factors, including assets under advisement, portfolio allocation and the independent managers used to implement the portfolio. Client assets on the UMA platform are invested on a discretionary basis by Natixis Global Asset Management/ NGAM Advisors, L.P.

In addition to the UMA platform, SIA works with Callan through a separately managed account platform (SMA). On the SMA platform, client assets are invested in a number of different accounts with each account being managed by an individual money manager that is responsible for doing their own trading on the account. Callan provides us with a list of approved managers. The fees on this investment platform include the SIA fee, the fees paid to the independent money managers and the custodian. On the SMA platform, the independent manager fees range from 19 basis points (0.19%) to 100 basis points (1.00%). The typical manager account minimum investment is \$1 million of assets. The assets on SMA platform are custodied at BNY Mellon. The BNY Mellon custodial fee is based on the value of assets custodied and ranges from 4 basis points (0.04%) to 9 basis points (0.09%) of assets. The assets on the SMA platform are invested on a non-discretionary basis.

In addition to using Callan, for manager selection, SIA has several clients invested through the Schwab Managed Account Select Platform. On this platform, Schwab does the money manager due diligence and provides us with a list of approved managers to use to implement our client portfolios. On the Schwab platform, the typical manager minimum account size is \$100,000. The fees on the Schwab Managed Account Select Platform include the SIA fee and the Schwab fee. The Schwab fee is an asset based fee which incorporates the fee to Schwab, the independent managers and the custodial fee. The fee for equity portfolios ranges from 100 basis points (1.00%) on the first \$250,000 invested in equities to 65 basis points (0.65%) for equity investments in excess of \$5 million. On fixed income portfolios, the fee ranges from 65 basis points (0.65%) on the first \$250,000 of assets invested to 45 basis points (0.45%) for assets in excess of \$5 million. The assets of the Schwab Managed Account Select platform are invested on a non-discretionary basis.

## **MUTUAL FUNDS**

SIA also uses mutual funds to implement client portfolios. In addition to screening independent money managers, Callan also screens mutual funds for SIA and provides an approved list of mutual funds. When client portfolios are implemented using mutual funds, SIA generally looks to use mutual funds from the Callan approved list.

## Item 5. Fees and Compensation

SIA offers its services on a fee basis, which may include fixed fees as well as fees based upon assets under management or advisement. Additionally, certain of SIA's *Supervised Persons*, in their individual capacities, may offer securities brokerage services and insurance products under a separate commission arrangement.

### Investment Management and Wealth Management Fees

SIA provides investment management services for an annual fee based on the amount of assets under the Firm's management. The fee varies between 10 and 110 basis points (0.10% – 1.10%), depending upon the size of a client's portfolio and the type of services rendered and based on the following tiered fee schedule:

PORTFOLIO VALUE	ANNUAL FEE
First \$1,000,000	1.10%
\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.70%
\$3,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.50%
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	0.40%
\$10,000,001 - \$20,000,000	0.30%
\$20,000,001 - \$30,000,000	0.20%
More than \$30,000,000	0.10%

The annual fee is prorated and generally charged quarterly in advance but may also be charged quarterly in arrears, based upon the market value of the assets being managed by SIA on the last day of the previous billing period. All Assets are subject to a minimum annual Wealth Management Fee of \$11,000.

If assets are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a billing period, the fee payable with respect to such assets is not adjusted or prorated to reflect the change in portfolio value. For the initial period of an engagement, the fee is calculated on a *pro rata* basis. In the event the *Agreement* is terminated, the fee for the final billing period is prorated through the effective date of the termination and the outstanding balance is charged to the client or unearned portion is refunded to the client, as appropriate.

### Fee Discretion

SIA, in its sole discretion, may negotiate to charge a lesser fee based upon certain criteria, such as anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing client relationship, account retention and *pro bono* activities.



**Use of Margin**

SIA may be authorized to use margin in the management of the client's investment portfolio. In these cases the fee payable will be assessed on the long security value plus cash.

**Additional Fees and Expenses**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to SIA, clients will also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively "*Financial Institutions*"), including Callan Associates and Managed Portfolio Advisors. These additional charges may include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the *Independent Managers*, Callan Associates and Managed Portfolio Advisors; charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client's account, as disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. The Firm's brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

**Fee Debit**

Clients generally provide SIA with the authority to directly debit their accounts for payment of the Firm's investment advisory fees. The *Financial Institutions* that act as qualified custodian for client accounts have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to SIA. Though generally unacceptable, certain legacy clients have elected to have SIA send them an invoice for direct payment.

**Account Additions and Withdrawals**

Clients may make additions to and withdrawals from their account at any time. Additions may be in cash or securities provided that the Firm reserves the right to liquidate any transferred securities or decline to accept particular securities into a client's account. Clients may withdraw account assets on notice to SIA, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, SIA designs its portfolios as long-term investments and the withdrawal of assets may impair the achievement of a client's investment objectives. SIA may consult with its clients about the options and implications of transferring securities. Clients are advised that when transferred securities are liquidated, they may be subject to transaction fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (i.e., contingent deferred sales charge) and/or tax ramifications.

**Commissions or Sales Charges for Recommendations of Securities**

Clients can engage certain persons associated with SIA (but not SIA) to render securities brokerage services under a separate commission-based arrangement. Clients are under no obligation to engage such persons and may choose brokers or agents not associated with SIA.

Under this arrangement, the Firm's *Supervised Persons*, in their individual capacities as registered representatives of Niagara International Capital Limited. ("*Niagara*"), may provide securities brokerage services and implement securities transactions under a separate commission based arrangement. *Supervised Persons* may be entitled to a portion of the brokerage commissions paid to *Niagara*, as well as a share of any ongoing distribution or service (trail) fees from the sale of mutual funds. SIA may also recommend no-load or load- waived funds, where no sales charges are assessed. Prior to effecting any transactions, clients are required to enter into a separate account agreement with *Niagara*. SIA does not receive any portion of the commissions or transactional fees charged by *Niagara*.

A conflict of interest exists to the extent that SIA recommends the purchase of securities where SIA's *Supervised Persons* receive commissions or other additional compensation as a result of SIA's recommendations. SIA has procedures in place to ensure that any recommendations made by such *Supervised Persons* are in the best interest of clients. For certain accounts covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") and such others that SIA, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate, SIA may provide its investment advisory services on a fee-offset basis. In this scenario, SIA may offset its fees by an amount equal to the aggregate commissions and 12b-1 fees earned by SIA's *Supervised Persons* in their individual capacities as registered representatives of *Niagara*.

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

SIA does not provide any services for a performance-based fee (i.e., a fee based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's assets).

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

SIA provides its services to individuals, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and other business entities.

### **Minimum Annual Fee**

As a condition for starting and maintaining an investment management relationship, SIA generally imposes a minimum annual fee of \$11,000.

This minimum fee may have the effect of making SIA's services cost prohibitive for certain clients, particularly those with less than \$1,000,000 in assets under SIA's management. SIA, in its sole discretion, may waive its minimum annual fee based upon certain criteria, such as anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing client relationships, account retention and *pro bono* activities.

Additionally, certain *Independent Managers* may impose more restrictive account requirements and varying billing practices than SIA. In such instances, SIA may alter its corresponding account requirements and/or billing practices to accommodate those of the *Independent Managers*.

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

### **Methods of Analysis**

SIA generally utilizes Callan's method of analysis. This typically involves an analysis of a fund or managers, management team, investment strategies, style drift, past performance, reputation and financial strength in relation to the asset class concentrations and risk exposures of the Firm's model asset allocations.

### **Investment Strategies**

SIA uses various investment strategies in managing clients' assets. The investment strategy for each client is based upon the objectives identified during consultations with the client. The client may change these objectives at any time. Each client executes an Investment Policy Statement ("IPS") that documents the client's objectives and desired investment strategy. Investment strategies used by SIA include long-term purchases, short-term purchases, trading and margin transactions. SIA also offers advice to clients on investing in alternative investments, where appropriate.

In executing its investment management process, SIA utilizes a five-step methodology. Each step is important to the overall process:

1. Analyze Client Time Horizon and Risk Tolerance
2. Design the Asset Allocation Model Based on Client Profile
3. Formalize the Investment Process through the IPS
4. Implement the IPS through *Independent Managers, Mutual Funds, ETFs and Alternative Investments*
5. Monitor *Independent Managers, Mutual Funds, ETFs and Alternative Investments*

### **Risks of Loss**

#### *General Risk of Loss*

Investing in securities involves the risk of loss. Clients should be prepared to bear potential losses, including loss of principal amounts invested.

### *Market Risks*

The profitability of a significant portion of SIA's recommendations may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks and bonds. There can be no assurance that SIA will be able to predict those price movements accurately.

### *Mutual Funds and ETFs*

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as mutual funds and ETFs are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss.

Shares of mutual funds are generally distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (e.g., sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual NAV fluctuates with intraday changes to the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares may differ significantly from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to actual NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for indexed based ETFs and more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies may cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their *pro rata* NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. Generally, an ETF only redeems shares when aggregated as creation units (usually 20,000 shares or more). Therefore, if a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

### *Use of Independent Managers*

SIA may recommend the use of *Independent Managers*. In these situations, SIA continues to do ongoing due diligence of such managers, but such recommendations rely to a great extent on the *Independent Managers'* ability to successfully implement their investment strategies. In addition, SIA does not have the ability to supervise the *Independent Managers* on a day-to-day basis.

### *Management Through Similarly Managed "Model" Accounts*

SIA manages certain accounts through the use of similarly managed "model" portfolios, whereby the Firm allocates all or a portion of its clients' assets among various mutual funds and/or securities on a

discretionary basis using one or more of its proprietary investment strategies.

The strategy used to manage a model portfolio may involve an above average portfolio turnover that could negatively impact clients' net after tax gains. While the Firm seeks to ensure that clients' assets are managed in a manner consistent with their individual financial situations and investment objectives, securities transactions affected pursuant to a model investment strategy are usually done without regard to a client's individual tax ramifications. Clients should contact SIA if they experience a change in their financial situation or if they want to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of their accounts.

#### *Use of Private Collective Investment Vehicles*

SIA recommends that certain clients invest in privately placed collective investment vehicles (e.g., hedge funds, private equity funds, etc.). The managers of these vehicles have broad discretion in selecting the investments. There are few limitations on the types of securities or other financial instruments which may be traded and no requirement to diversify. Hedge funds may trade on margin or otherwise leverage positions, thereby potentially increasing the risk to the vehicle. Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds are typically not liquid investments, and investors may lose their principal investment. In addition, because the vehicles are not registered as investment companies, there is an absence of regulation. There are numerous other risks in investing in these securities. Clients should consult each fund's private placement memorandum and other offering documents explaining such risks prior to investing.

#### *Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs)*

Master Limited Partnerships ("MLPs") are collective investment vehicles, the partnership interests of which are publicly traded on national securities exchanges. MLPs invest primarily in companies within the energy sector that engage in qualifying lines of business, such as natural resource production and mineral refinement. MLPs are therefore subject to the underlying volatility of the energy industry and may be adversely affected by changes to supply and demand, regional instability, currency spreads, inflation and interest rate fluctuations, among other such factors. In addition, MLPs operate as pass-through tax entities, meaning that investors are liable for their *pro rata* share of the partnership taxes, regardless of the types of accounts where the interests are held.

#### *Use of Margin*

The value of the client's account will be determined based on the gross portfolio value. The corresponding fee payable by the client will be based on the long security value plus cash.

While the use of margin borrowing can substantially improve returns, it may also increase overall portfolio risk. Margin transactions are generally affected using capital borrowed from a *Financial Institution*, which is secured by a client's holdings. Under certain circumstances, a lending *Financial Institution* may demand an increase in the underlying collateral. If the client is unable to provide the additional collateral, the

*Financial Institution* may liquidate account assets to satisfy the client's outstanding obligations, which could have extremely adverse consequences. In addition, fluctuations in the amount of a client's borrowings and the corresponding interest rates may have a significant effect on the profitability and stability of a client's portfolio.

## **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

SIA has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

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

### **Registered Representatives of Broker Dealer**

Certain of the Firm's *Supervised Persons* are registered representatives of *Niagara (an un-affiliated broker dealer)* and may provide clients with securities brokerage services under a separate commission-based arrangement. SIA does not receive any compensation from this activity and the registered representative typically does not execute trades on behalf of SIA clients. If trades are executed on behalf of any SIA client, the client is informed of the registered representative capacity in which the Supervised Person is acting, and that the Supervised Person is not acting as an investment advisor representative of SIA.

### **Receipt of Insurance Commission**

SIA is under common control with Robert Schechter & Associates, a licensed insurance agency. Certain of SIA's *Supervised Persons*, in their individual capacities, are also licensed insurance agents with Robert Schechter & Associates and in such capacity, may recommend, on a fully-disclosed commission basis, the purchase of certain insurance products. While SIA does not sell such insurance products to its investment advisory clients, SIA does permit its *Supervised Persons*, in their individual capacities as licensed insurance agents, to sell insurance products to its investment advisory clients. A conflict of interest exists to the extent that SIA recommends the purchase of insurance products where SIA's *Supervised Persons* receive insurance commissions or other additional compensation.

## **Item 11. Code of Ethics**

SIA has adopted a code of ethics in compliance with applicable securities laws ("*Code of Ethics*") that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of its *Supervised Persons*. SIA's *Code of Ethics* contains written policies reasonably designed to prevent certain unlawful practices such as the use of material non-public

information by the Firm or any of its *Supervised Persons* and the trading by the same of securities ahead of clients in order to take advantage of pending orders.

The *Code of Ethics* also requires certain of SIA's personnel (called "*Access Persons*") to report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments (e.g., initial public offerings, limited offerings). However, SIA *Supervised Persons* are permitted to buy or sell securities that it also recommends to clients if done in a manner consistent with the Firm's policies and procedures. This *Code of Ethics* has been established recognizing that some securities trade in sufficiently broad markets to permit transactions by *Access Persons* to be completed without any appreciable impact on the markets of such securities. Therefore, under certain limited circumstances, exceptions may be made to the policies stated below.

When the Firm is engaging in or considering a transaction in any security on behalf of a client, no *Access Person* may knowingly effect for themselves or for their immediate family (i.e., spouse, minor children and adults living in the same household as the *Access Person*) a transaction in that security unless:

- the transaction has been completed;
- the transaction for the *Access Person* is completed as part of a batch trade (as defined below in Item 12) with clients; or
- a decision has been made not to engage in the transaction for the client.

These requirements are not applicable to: (i) direct obligations of the Government of the United States; (ii) money market instruments, bankers' acceptances, bank certificates of deposit, commercial paper, repurchase agreements and other high quality short-term debt instruments, including repurchase agreements; (iii) shares issued by mutual funds or money market funds; and (iv) shares issued by unit investment trusts that are invested exclusively in one or more mutual funds.

Clients and prospective clients may contact SIA to request a copy of its *Code of Ethics*.

## Item 12. Brokerage Practices

SIA generally recommends that clients utilize the brokerage and clearing services of Pershing, LLC through Pershing Advisor Solutions ("*Pershing*"), Schwab Advisor Services™ ("*Schwab*"), and BNY Mellon ("*BNY*") for investment management accounts.

Factors which SIA considers in recommending *Pershing*, *Schwab* and/or BNY or any other broker-dealer to clients include their respective financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, research and service. *Pershing*, *Schwab* and/or BNY enable SIA to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other securities at nominal transaction charges. The commissions and/or transaction fees charged by *Pershing*, *Schwab* and/or BNY Mellon may be higher or lower than those charged by other *Financial Institutions*.



The commissions paid by SIA's clients comply with the Firm's duty to obtain "best execution." Clients may pay commissions that are higher than another qualified *Financial Institution* might charge to effect the same transaction where SIA determines that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a Financial Institution's services, including among others, the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates and responsiveness. SIA seeks competitive rates but may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client transactions.

SIA periodically and systematically reviews its policies and procedures regarding its recommendation of *Financial Institutions* in light of its duty to obtain best execution.

The client may direct SIA in writing to use a particular Financial Institution to execute some or all transactions for the client. In that case, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for the account with that Financial Institution and the Firm will not seek better execution services or prices from other Financial Institutions or be able to "batch" client transactions for execution through other Financial Institutions with orders for other accounts managed by SIA (as described below). As a result, the client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs, greater spreads or may receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case. Subject to its duty of best execution, SIA may decline a client's request to direct brokerage if, in the Firm's sole discretion, such directed brokerage arrangements would result in additional operational difficulties or violate restrictions imposed by other broker-dealers (as further discussed below).

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless SIA decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. SIA may (but is not obligated to) combine or "batch" such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among SIA's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might not have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will generally be averaged as to price and allocated among SIA's clients pro rata to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that SIA determines to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which SIA's *Supervised Persons* may invest, the Firm does so in accordance with applicable rules promulgated under the Advisers Act and no-action guidance provided by the staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. SIA does not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of the aggregation. In the event that the Firm determines that a prorated allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, the allocation will be made based upon other relevant factors, which may include:

(i) when only a small percentage of the order is executed, shares may be allocated to the account with the smallest order or the smallest position or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings relative to other portfolios, with similar mandates; (ii) allocations may be given to one account



when one account has limitations in its investment guidelines which prohibit it from purchasing other securities which are expected to produce similar investment results and can be purchased by other accounts; (iii) if an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, shares may be reallocated to other accounts (this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account's assets after an order is placed); (iv) with respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash; (v) in cases when a pro rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a *de minimis* allocation in one or more accounts, SIA may exclude the account(s) from the allocation; the transactions may be executed on a pro rata basis among the remaining accounts; or (vi) in cases where a small proportion of an order is executed in all accounts, shares may be allocated to one or more accounts on a random basis.

### **Commissions or Sales Charges for Recommendations of Securities**

As discussed above, certain *Supervised Persons* in their respective individual capacities are registered representatives of *Niagara*. These *Supervised Persons* are subject to FINRA Rule 3040 which restricts registered representatives from conducting securities transactions away from their broker-dealer unless *Niagara* provides written consent. Therefore, clients are advised that certain *Supervised Persons* may be restricted to conducting securities transactions through *Niagara* if they have not secured written consent from *Niagara* to execute securities transactions through a different broker-dealer. Absent such written consent or separation from *Niagara*, these *Supervised Persons* are prohibited from executing securities transactions through any broker-dealer other than *Niagara* under *Niagara* internal supervisory policies. SIA is cognizant of its duty to obtain best execution and has implemented policies and procedures reasonably designed in such pursuit.

### **Software and Support Provided by Financial Institutions**

SIA may receive from *Schwab*, *Pershing*, and/or *BNY Mellon*, without cost to SIA, computer software and related systems support, which allow SIA to better monitor client accounts maintained at *Pershing*, *Schwab* and/or *BNY*. SIA may receive the software and related support without cost because SIA renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at *Schwab*, *Pershing*, and/or *BNY Mellon*. The software and support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e., not "soft dollars"). The software and related systems support may benefit SIA, but not its clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, SIA endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware; however, that SIA's receipt of economic benefits from a broker-dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence SIA's choice of broker-dealer over another broker-dealer that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services.

SIA may receive the following benefits from *Schwab* through its Schwab Institutional division: receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk that exclusively services the Schwab Institutional participants; access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

Additionally, SIA may receive the following benefits from *Pershing* through its Pershing Advisor Solutions

division: receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk that exclusively services its Pershing Advisor Solutions participants; access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

Finally, SIA may receive the following benefits from BNY Mellon: receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk that exclusively services its BNY Mellon participants; access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

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

### **Account Reviews**

For those clients to whom SIA provides investment management services, SIA monitors those portfolios as part of an ongoing process while regular account reviews are conducted on at least an annual basis. For those clients to whom SIA provides financial planning and/or consulting services, reviews are conducted on an “as needed” basis. Such reviews are conducted by one of SIA’s investment adviser representatives. All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals and objectives with SIA and to keep SIA informed of any changes thereto. The Firm contacts ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review its previous services and/or recommendations and to discuss the impact resulting from any changes in the client’s financial situation and/or investment objectives.

### **Account Statements and Reports**

Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the *Financial Institutions* where their assets are custodied. On a quarterly basis or as otherwise requested, clients may also receive written or electronic reports from SIA and/or an outside service provider, which contain certain account and/or market-related information, such as an inventory of account holdings or account performance. Clients should compare the account statements they receive from their custodian with those they receive from SIA or an outside service provider.

Those clients to whom SIA provides financial planning and/or consulting services will receive reports from SIA summarizing its analysis and conclusions as requested by the client or as otherwise agreed to in writing by SIA.

## Item 14. Client Referrals and Other Compensation

### Client Referrals

If a client is introduced to SIA by either an unaffiliated or an affiliated solicitor, SIA may pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Advisers Act and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee is paid solely from SIA's investment management fee and does not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to SIA by an unaffiliated solicitor, the solicitor provides the client with a copy of SIA's written disclosure brochure which meets the requirements of Rule 204-3 of the Advisers Act and a copy of the solicitor's disclosure statement containing the terms and conditions of the solicitation arrangement including compensation. Any affiliated

solicitor of SIA discloses the nature of his/her relationship to prospective clients at the time of the solicitation and will provide all prospective clients with a copy of SIA's written disclosure brochure at the time of the solicitation.

### Other Economic Benefits

In addition, SIA is required to disclose any relationship or arrangement where it receives an economic benefit from a third party (non-client) for providing advisory services. Some SIA representatives may also be licensed insurance agents. SIA does not receive an economic benefit; however the individual investment advisor representatives may receive compensation for acting as insurance agents or making insurance related referrals to Schechter Wealth.

## Item 15. Custody

SIA's *Agreement* and/or the separate agreement with any *Financial Institution* may authorize SIA through such *Financial Institution* to debit the client's account for the amount of SIA's fee and to directly remit that management fee to SIA in accordance with applicable custody rules.

The *Financial Institutions* recommended by SIA have agreed to send a statement to the client, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts disbursed from the account including the amount of management fees paid directly to SIA. In addition, as discussed in Item 13, SIA may also send periodic supplemental reports to clients. Clients should carefully review the statements sent directly by the *Financial Institutions* and compare them to those received from SIA.

## Item 16. Investment Discretion

SIA may be given the authority to exercise discretion on behalf of clients. SIA is considered to exercise investment discretion over a client's account if it can effect transactions for the client without first having to seek the client's consent. SIA is given this authority through a power-of-attorney included in the agreement between SIA and the client. Clients may request a limitation on this authority (such as certain securities not to be bought or sold). SIA takes discretion over the following activities:

- The securities to be purchased or sold;
- The amount of securities to be purchased or sold; and
- When transactions are made.

## Item 17. Voting Client Securities

SIA is required to disclose if it accepts authority to vote client securities. SIA does not vote client securities on behalf of its clients. Clients receive proxies directly from the *Financial Institutions*, or the proxies are voted by the *Independent Managers*.

## Item 18. Financial Information

SIA is not required to disclose any financial information pursuant to this Item due to the following:

- The Firm does not require or solicit the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six months or more in advance of services rendered;
- The Firm does not have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients; and
- The Firm has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.