

## **GARRETT WEALTH ADVISORY GROUP, LLC**

*a Registered Investment Adviser*

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Garrett Wealth Advisory Group, LLC (hereinafter “GWAG” or the “Firm”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact the Firm at the telephone number listed above. 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). The Firm is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply any level of skill or training.

## **Item 2. Material Changes**

In this Item, GWAG is required to discuss any material changes that have been made to the brochure since the last annual amendment. As this brochure has been prepared in connection with the Firm's initial application for investment adviser registration, there are no such material changes to disclose.

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## Item 4. Advisory Business

Garrett Wealth Advisory Group (“GWAG”) also uses the business names Parker Gelineau Associates and Snow Garrett Wealth Management. GWAG offers a variety of advisory services, which include financial planning, consulting, and investment management services. Prior to GWAG rendering any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with GWAG setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the “Advisory Agreement”).

GWAG was formed in 2014 and is principally owned by David Wayne Garrett. As of March 2015 the firm has \$137,285,7641.41 in discretionary and \$14,319,864.34 in non-discretionary assets under management.

While this brochure generally describes the business of GWAG, 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 GWAG’s behalf and is subject to the Firm’s supervision or control.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Services

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

- Business Planning
- Cash Flow Forecasting
- Trust and Estate Planning
- Financial Reporting
- Investment Consulting
- Insurance Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Risk Management
- Charitable Giving
- Distribution Planning
- Tax Planning
- Manager Due Diligence

While each of these services is 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 (described in more detail below).

In performing these services, GWAG 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. GWAG may recommend clients engage the Firm for additional related services, 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 a conflict of interest exists if clients engage GWAG or its affiliates to provide additional services for compensation. Clients retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding implementation and are under

no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations made by GWAG under a financial planning or consulting engagement. 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 GWAG's recommendations and/or services.

## **Investment and Wealth Management Services**

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GWAG manages client investment portfolios on a fully discretionary basis. In addition, GWAG may provide clients with wealth management services which generally includes a broad range of comprehensive financial planning and consulting services as well as discretionary management of investment portfolios.

GWAG primarily allocates client assets among various mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), individual debt and equity securities, and independent investment managers ("Independent Managers") in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

Where appropriate, the Firm may also provide advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios. Clients may engage GWAG to manage and/or 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, GWAG 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.

GWAG tailors its advisory services to meet the needs of its individual clients and seeks to ensure, on a continuous basis, that client portfolios are managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. GWAG consults with clients on an initial and ongoing basis to assess their specific risk tolerance, time horizon, liquidity constraints and other related factors relevant to the management of their portfolios. Clients are advised to promptly notify GWAG 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 GWAG 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**

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As mentioned above, GWAG may select 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 may be set forth in a separate written agreement with the designated Independent Manager. In addition to this brochure, clients may also receive the written disclosure documents of the respective Independent Managers engaged to manage their assets.

GWAG evaluates a variety of information about Independent Managers, 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. GWAG also takes into consideration each Independent Manager's management style, returns, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing and research capabilities, among other factors.

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

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

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

### **Financial Planning and Consulting Fees**

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GWAG may charge a fixed and/or hourly fee for providing financial planning and consulting services under a stand-alone engagement. These fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$500 to \$20,000 on a fixed fee basis and/or from \$50 to \$300 on an hourly basis, depending upon the scope and complexity of the services and the professional rendering the financial planning and/or the consulting services. If the client engages the Firm for additional investment advisory services, GWAG may offset all or a portion of its fees for those services based upon the amount paid for the financial planning and/or consulting services.

The terms and conditions of the financial planning and/or consulting engagement are set forth in the Advisory Agreement and GWAG generally requires one-half of the fee (estimated hourly or fixed) payable upon execution of the Advisory Agreement. The outstanding balance is generally due upon delivery of the financial plan or completion of the agreed upon services. The Firm does not, however, take receipt of \$1,200 or more in prepaid fees in excess of six months in advance of services rendered.

### **Investment and Wealth Management Fees**

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GWAG offers investment management services for an annual fee based on the amount of total household assets under the Firm's management. This management fee generally varies in accordance with the following fee schedule:

<b><u>TOTAL ADVISORY ACCOUNT(S) BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>ADVISORY FEE</u></b>
Less than \$100,000	1.65%
\$100,001 - \$250,000	1.50%
\$250,001 - \$500,000	1.35%
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	1.25%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	1.15%
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	1.00%
\$3,000,001 - \$4,500,000	0.90%
\$4,500,001 - \$6,000,000	0.85%
\$6,000,001 - \$7,500,000	0.75%
Over \$7,500,000	Negotiable

The annual fee is prorated and charged quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets being managed by GWAG on the last day of the previous billing period.

If assets in excess of \$100,000 are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a billing period, the fee payable with respect to such assets is adjusted to reflect the interim change in portfolio value. For the initial period of an engagement, the fee is calculated on a *pro rata* basis. In the event the advisory agreement is terminated, the fee for the final billing period is prorated through the effective date of the termination and the outstanding or unearned portion of the fee is charged or refunded to the client, as appropriate.

Additionally, for asset management services the Firm provides with respect to certain client holdings (e.g., held-away assets, accommodation accounts, alternative investments, etc.), GWAG may negotiate a fee rate that differs from the range set forth above.

### **Fee Discretion**

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GWAG may, in its sole discretion, 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/legacy client relationship, account retention and pro bono activities.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

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In addition to the advisory fees paid to GWAG, clients may also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges may include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the Independent Managers, 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.

### **Direct Fee Debit**

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Clients generally provide GWAG and/or certain Independent Managers with the authority to directly debit their accounts for payment of the investment advisory fees. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to GWAG.

### **Account Additions and Withdrawals**

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Clients may make additions to and withdrawals from their account at any time, subject to GWAG’s right to terminate an account. Additions may be in cash or securities provided that the Firm reserves the right to liquidate any transferred securities or declines to accept particular securities into a client’s account. Clients may withdraw account assets on notice to GWAG, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, the Firm generally designs its portfolios as long-term investments and the withdrawal of assets may impair the achievement of a client’s investment objectives. GWAG 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, short-term redemption fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (*e.g.*, contingent deferred sales charges) and/or tax ramifications.

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

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Clients can engage certain persons associated with GWAG (but not the Firm directly) 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 affiliated with GWAG.



Under this arrangement, the Firm's Supervised Persons, in their individual capacities as registered representatives of LPL Financial LLC ("LPL Financial"), 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 LPL Financial, as well as a share of any ongoing distribution or service (trail) fees from the sale of mutual funds. GWAG 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 LPL Financial.

A conflict of interest exists to the extent that GWAG recommends the purchase or sale of securities where its Supervised Persons receive commissions or other additional compensation as a result of the Firm's recommendation. The Firm 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 of 1974 ("ERISA") and such others that GWAG, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate, GWAG may provide its investment advisory services on a fee-offset basis. In this scenario, GWAG may offset its fees by an amount equal to the aggregate commissions and 12b-1 fees earned by the Firm's Supervised Persons in their individual capacities as registered representatives of LPL Financial.

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

GWAG 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**

GWAG offers services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and business entities.

### **Minimum Account Requirements**

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GWAG does not impose a stated minimum fee or minimum portfolio value for starting and maintaining an investment management relationship. Certain Independent Managers may, however, impose more restrictive account requirements and billing practices from the Firm. In these instances, GWAG 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**

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GWAG utilizes a combination of fundamental, technical, and cyclical methods of analysis.

Fundamental analysis involves an evaluation of the fundamental financial condition and competitive position of a particular fund or issuer. For GWAG, this process typically involves an analysis of an issuer's 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. A substantial risk in relying upon fundamental analysis is that while the overall health and position of a company may be good, evolving market conditions may negatively impact the security.

Technical analysis involves the examination of past market data rather than specific issuer information in determining the recommendations made to clients. Technical analysis may involve the use of mathematical based indicators and charts, such as moving averages and price correlations, to identify market patterns and trends which may be based on investor sentiment rather than the fundamentals of the company. A substantial risk in relying upon technical analysis is that spotting historical trends may not help to predict such trends in the future. Even if the trend will eventually reoccur, there is no guarantee that GWAG will be able to accurately predict such a reoccurrence.

Cyclical analysis is similar to technical analysis in that it involves the assessment of market conditions at a macro (entire market or economy) or micro (company specific) level, rather than focusing on the overall fundamental analysis of the health of the particular company that GWAG is recommending. The risks with cyclical analysis are similar to those of technical analysis.

### **Investment Strategies**

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Prior to developing an investment strategy tailored to each client, GWAG gathers and analyzes detailed information about the client, including goals, existing investments, insurance coverage, sources of income and other assets and liabilities. The Firm then seeks to define the client's investment objectives and risk profile, which together form the basis for the selection and diversification of investments. Once an initial investment strategy is established, GWAG's portfolio managers continually monitor its clients' portfolios, making changes as needed.

## **Risk of Loss**

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### *Market Risks*

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and all investors should be guided accordingly. The profitability of a significant portion of GWAG's recommendations and/or investment decisions may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks, bonds and other asset classes. There can be no assurance that GWAG will be able to predict those price movements accurately or capitalize on any such assumptions.

### *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 potentially 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.

### *Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)*

SGWM may recommend an investment in, or allocate assets among, various real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), the shares of which exist in the form of either publicly traded or privately placed securities. REITs are collective investment vehicles with portfolios comprised primarily of real estate and mortgage related holdings. Many REITs hold heavy concentrations of investments tied to commercial and/or

residential developments, which inherently subject REIT investors to the risks associated with a downturn in the real estate market. Investments linked to certain regions that experience greater volatility in the local real estate market may give rise to large fluctuations in the value of the vehicle's shares. Mortgage related holdings may give rise to additional concerns pertaining to interest rates, inflation, liquidity and counterparty risk.

#### *Business Development Companies (BDCs)*

SGWM may recommend an investment in, or allocate assets among, various business development companies ("BDCs"), the shares of which exist in the form of publicly traded securities. BDCs make equity and debt investments in small companies that are in the "start up" phase of development. Many BDCs invest in debt and equity securities of smaller companies that are privately held and lack publicly available information, which inherently subject BDC investors to the risks associated with a speculative market. BDC investors are subject to the risk that a company may default when unable to meet its obligations. The market price of securities issued by a BDC may fluctuate significantly, and BDCs investments may give rise to additional concerns pertaining to interest rates, inflation, and liquidity.

#### *Variable Annuities*

SGWM may recommend an investment in various annuities. Variable annuities are contracts between an insurer and the insured under which the insurer agrees to make periodic payments to the insured after a specified period of time. The payments are variable based upon the performance of a subaccount in the insured's policy. Variable annuities are long-term retirement investments and are tax-deferred until money is withdrawn from the annuity account. Since variable annuities offer a range of investment options in the subaccounts, including stocks, bonds, and money market instruments, they subject variable annuity investors to the risks associated with market volatility.

#### *Use of Independent Managers*

As stated above, GWAG may select certain Independent Managers to manage a portion of its clients' assets. In these situations, GWAG continues to conduct 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, GWAG generally may not have the ability to supervise the Independent Managers on a day-to-day basis.

## **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

GWAG 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 a Broker/Dealer

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Certain of the Firm's Supervised Persons are registered representatives of LPL Financial and may provide clients with securities brokerage services under a separate commission-based arrangement. This arrangement is described at length in Item 5.

### Licensed Insurance Agents

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A number of the Firm's Supervised Persons are licensed insurance agents and may offer certain insurance products on a fully-disclosed commissionable basis. A conflict of interest exists to the extent that GWAG recommends the purchase of insurance products where its Supervised Persons may be entitled to insurance commissions or other additional compensation. The Firm has procedures in place whereby it seeks to ensure that all recommendations are made in its clients' best interest regardless of any such affiliations.

### Related Certified Public Accounting Firm

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GWAG does not render accounting services to clients. In the event a client requires accounting services, the firm may recommend a certified public accountant. At times, the Firm may recommend the services of the certified public accounting firm of Snow Garrett Williams Certified Public Accountants ("SGW CPAs"). These services are rendered independent of GWAG and pursuant to a separate agreement between the client and the accounting firm. The Firm does not receive any portion of the fees paid by the client to SGW CPAs and does not receive a referral fee in connection with the accounting services that SGW CPAs renders to its clients. However, one or more of the Firm's Supervised Persons is a principal of SGW CPAs and is entitled to receive distributions relative to his ownership interest. There exists a conflict of interest to the extent that the Firm recommends the accounting services of SGW CPAs and its Supervised Persons receive compensation by virtue of their affiliation therewith.

## Item 11. Code of Ethics

GWAG 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. GWAG'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 GWAG's personnel to report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments (*e.g.*, initial public offerings, limited

offerings). However, the Firm's Supervised Persons are permitted to buy or sell securities that it also recommends to clients if done in a fair and equitable manner that is 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 certain personnel to be completed without any appreciable impact on the markets of such securities. Therefore, under 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 Supervised Person with access to this information may knowingly effect for themselves or for their immediate family (i.e., spouse, minor children and adults living in the same household) a transaction in that security unless:

- the transaction has been completed;
- the transaction for the Supervised Person is completed as part of a batch trade 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 GWAG to request a copy of its Code of Ethics.

## **Item 12. Brokerage Practices**

### **Recommendation of Broker/Dealers for Client Transactions**

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GWAG generally recommends that clients utilize the custody, brokerage and clearing services of LPL Financial for investment management accounts.

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

The commissions paid by GWAG's clients to LPL Financial 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 GWAG 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. GWAG seeks competitive rates but may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client transactions.

Consistent with obtaining best execution, brokerage transactions may be directed to certain broker/dealers in return for investment research products and/or services which assist GWAG in its investment decision-making process. Such research generally will be used to service all of the Firm's clients, but brokerage commissions paid by one client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that client's portfolio. The receipt of investment research products and/or services as well as the allocation of the benefit of such investment research products and/or services poses a conflict of interest because GWAG does not have to produce or pay for the products or services.

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

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

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GWAG may receive without cost from LPL Financial computer software and related systems support, which allow GWAG to better monitor client accounts maintained at LPL Financial. GWAG may receive the software and related support without cost because the Firm renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at LPL Financial. 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 GWAG, but not its clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, GWAG endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that GWAG's receipt of economic benefits from a broker/dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Firm's choice of broker/dealer over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services.

Specifically, GWAG may receive the following benefits from LPL Financial:

- Receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements;
- Access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional traders;
- 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.

**Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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GWAG does not consider, in selecting or recommending broker/dealers, whether the Firm receives client referrals from the Financial Institutions or other third party.

**Directed Brokerage**

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The client may direct GWAG 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 GWAG (as described above). 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, GWAG 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).

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

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

**Trade Aggregation**

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Transactions for each client can be effected independently, unless GWAG decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. GWAG 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 the Firm’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 GWAG’s clients pro rata to the



purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that the Firm determines to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which GWAG's Supervised Persons may invest, the Firm generally 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. GWAG 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, the Firm 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.

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

### **Account Reviews**

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GWAG monitors client portfolios on a continuous and ongoing basis while regular account reviews are conducted on at least a quarterly basis. Such reviews are conducted by the Firm's investment adviser representatives. All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals and objectives with GWAG and to keep the Firm informed of any changes thereto. The Firm contacts ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review its previous services and/or recommendations.

### **Account Statements and Reports**

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Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied. From time-to-time or as otherwise requested, clients may also receive written or electronic reports from GWAG 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 any documents or reports they receive from GWAG or an outside service provider.

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

### **Client Referrals**

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The Firm does not currently provide compensation to any third-party solicitors for client referrals.

## **Item 15. Custody**

The Advisory Agreement and/or the separate agreement with any Financial Institution generally authorize GWAG and/or the Independent Managers to debit client accounts for payment of the Firm's fees and to directly remit that those funds to the Firm in accordance with applicable custody rules. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to GWAG.

In addition, as discussed in Item 13, GWAG 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 GWAG.

## **Item 16. Investment Discretion**

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

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

## Item 17. Voting Client Securities

### Declination of Proxy Voting Authority

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GWAG generally does not accept the authority to vote a client's securities (i.e., proxies) on their behalf. Clients receive proxies directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied and may contact the Firm at the contact information on the cover of this brochure with questions about any such issuer solicitations.

## Item 18. Financial Information

GWAG is not required to disclose any financial information 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.