

**Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure  
Item 1: Cover Page  
March 2015**

**Chequers Financial Management LLC**

**201 Mission Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-529-4880**

**410 Broadway, Suite 150  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
949-529-2744**

**[www.ChequersFinancial.com](http://www.ChequersFinancial.com)**

**Firm Contact:  
Mark Powell  
Chief Compliance Officer**

**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Chequers Financial Management LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at 949-529-2744. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority. Additional information about Chequers Financial Management LLC also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

**Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of Chequers Financial Management LLC and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise you for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.**

## **Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure**

Chequers Financial Management LLC is required to advise you of any material changes to the Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update. Since we are a new firm, we have no material changes to disclose at this time.

### Item 3: Table of Contents

Item 1: Cover Page .....	1
Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure .....	2
Item 3: Table of Contents .....	3
Item 4: Advisory Business.....	4
Item 5: Fees & Compensation.....	5
Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management.....	7
Item 7: Types of Clients.....	7
Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss .....	7
Item 9: Disciplinary Information.....	8
Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations.....	8
Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading.....	8
Item 12: Brokerage Practices .....	9
Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans.....	12
Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation.....	12
Item 15: Custody.....	12
Item 16: Investment Discretion.....	12
Item 17: Voting Client Securities.....	13
Item 18: Financial Information.....	13

## **Item 4: Advisory Business**

We are dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed in the State of California. Our firm has been in business as an investment adviser since 2015 and is wholly owned by Mark Powell.

### **Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer**

---

#### **Portfolio Management:**

We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be initially designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least quarterly and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

We will allocate the client's assets among various investments taking into consideration the overall management style selected by the client. If suitable for the client we recommend portfolios consisting of passively managed asset class and index mutual funds. We recommend mutual funds offered by Dimensional Fund Advisors ("DFA"). DFA sponsored mutual funds follow a passive asset class investment philosophy with low holdings turnover. Consequently, the DFA fund fees are generally lower than fees and expenses charged by other types of funds.

#### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

We provide a variety of financial planning and consultation services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning and consulting services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: investment planning, retirement planning, estate planning, charitable planning, education planning, personal tax planning, cost segregation study, real estate analysis, mortgage/debt analysis, insurance analysis, lines of credit evaluation, and personal financial planning.

Our financial consultations rendered to the clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we may refer clients to an accountant, attorney, or other specialist as necessary for non-advisory related services. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client.

### **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:**

We provide clients with a list of investment advisory services of third party professional Portfolio Management firms for the individual management of client accounts. As part of this process, we assist clients in identifying an appropriate third party money manager. We provide initial due diligence on third party money managers and ongoing reviews of their management of your account.

In order to assist clients in the selection of a third party money manager, we typically gather information from the client about their financial situation, investment objectives, and reasonable restrictions they can impose on the management of the account, which are often very limited. It is important to note that we do not offer advice on any specific securities or other investments in connection with this service. Investment advice and trading of securities is only offered by or through the third party money managers to clients.

We periodically review third party money managers' reports provided to the client, but no less often than on an annual basis. Our associates contact the clients from time to time, as agreed to with the client, in order to review their financial situation and objectives; communicate information to third party money managers as warranted; and, assist the client in understanding and evaluating the services provided by the third party money manager. The client will be expected to notify us of any changes in his/her financial situation, investment objectives, or account restrictions that could affect their account. The client may also directly contact the third party money manager managing the account or sponsoring the program.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

---

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Portfolio Management service. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing our Financial Planning & Consulting and Referrals to Third Party Money Management services. Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account. Restrictions would be limited to our Portfolio Management service. We do not manage assets through our other services.

### **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

---

We do not offer wrap fee programs.

### **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

---

We are a newly registered adviser and as such do not have initial assets to report.

## **Item 5: Fees & Compensation**

### **How We Are Compensated for Our Advisory Services**

---

#### **Portfolio Management:**

The maximum annual fee to be charged will not exceed 1.50%. The fee assessed your account(s) will be outlined in a separately advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Our firm's annualized

fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the time weighted daily average of your account on the last day of the quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from your account. As part of this process, the client is made aware of the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing the market values for each security included in the Assets and all disbursements in your account including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms. We send our invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If we send a copy of our invoice to you, it will include a legend urging you to compare information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian.

### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

We charge on a flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee that we charge you, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. Our firm's flat fee will not exceed \$100,000. The fee to be charged and the client's billing cycle will be outlined in a separate agreement. We will not charge a fee exceeding \$1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 (six) months.

### **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:**

We are paid by third party money managers when we refer you to them and you decide to open a managed account. Third party money managers pay us a portion of the investment advisory fee that they charge you for managing your account. Fees paid to us by third party money manager are generally ongoing. All fees we receive from third party money managers and the written separate disclosures made to you regarding these fees comply with applicable state statutes and rules. The separate written disclosures you need to be provided include: a copy of the third party money manager's Form ADV Part 2, all relevant Brochures, a Solicitation Disclosure Statement detailing the exact fees we are paid and a copy of the third party money manager's privacy policy. The third party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them. Third party money managers establish and maintain their own separate billing processes over which we have no control. In general, they will directly bill you and describe how this works in their separate written disclosure documents.

### **Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

---

Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees and will be disclosed by the firm that the trades are executed through. Also, clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, which we do not receive any part of: charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses).

### **Termination & Refunds**

---

Advisory fees for our Portfolio Management service are charged quarterly in arrears. Either party may terminate the signed advisory agreement in writing at any time. Upon receipt of a letter of termination, clients will be charged or directly invoiced for pro-rata advisory fee(s) for services rendered up to the point of termination.

Either party may terminate our Financial Planning & Consulting Agreement at any time by providing written notice. For purposes of calculating refunds, clients will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned fees based on the number of days remaining in the client's billing cycle specified in the client's signed agreement.

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

---

We do not sell securities for a commission in our advisory accounts.

### **Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management**

We do not accept performance-based fees.

### **Item 7: Types of Clients**

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types.

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

#### **Methods of Analysis**

---

We use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

- Charting;
- Cyclical;
- Fundamental;
- Technical.

#### **Investment Strategies We Use**

---

We use the following strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

- Long Term Purchases (Securities Held At Least a Year);
- Short Term Purchases (Securities Sold Within a Year);
- Trading (Securities Sold Within 30 Days);
- Short Sales;
- Margin Transactions;
- Option Writing, including Covered Options, Uncovered Options or Spreading Strategies.

#### **Risk of Loss**

---

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that you understand

the risks associated with investing in the stock market, are appropriately diversified in your investments, and ask us any questions you may have.

### **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

### **Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations**

Representatives of our firm may be licensed or non-practicing attorneys in the States of California, New York and/or New Jersey. Should a client of our firm require legal services, they will be referred to a separate attorney. Our firm will not receive any additional compensation for these referrals.

The compensation paid to us by third party managers may vary, and thus, there may be a conflict of interest in recommending a manager who shares a larger portion of its advisory fees over another manager. Our firm's fees are not higher than they would have been had our client obtained services directly from the third party money manager. Prior to referring clients to third party advisors, we will ensure that third party advisors are licensed or notice filed with the respective authorities. A potential conflict of interest in utilizing third party advisors may be an incentive to us in selecting a particular advisor over another in the form of fees or services. In order to minimize this conflict our firm will make our selections in the best interest of our clients.

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

An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary and our firm has a fiduciary duty to all clients. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided upon request.

We recognize that the personal investment transactions of members and employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and for members and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics.

---

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.



Neither our firm nor a related person recommends to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest. Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons' accounts will be traded in the same manner every time.

Our firm and supervised persons must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

We do not maintain custody of client assets that we manage, although we may be deemed to have constructive custody of client assets if our firm is given the authority to withdraw assets from client account(s) (see "Item 15: Custody"). Client assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker/dealer or bank. We recommend Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), member FINRA/SIPC/NFA, as the qualified custodian from whom we are independently owned and operated. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to. While we recommend that clients use Schwab as custodian/broker, clients will decide whether to do so and will open an account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for clients, although we may assist in doing so. If clients do not wish to place their assets with Schwab, we will not be able to manage the account(s).

Not all advisors require their clients to use a particular broker-dealer or other custodian selected by our firm. Even though a client account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for that account as described below (see "Client Brokerage & Custody Costs").

### **How We Select Brokers/Custodians**

We seek to use a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are, overall, most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client account(s))
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, etc.)
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
- Reputation, financial strength, and stability
- Prior service to us and our other clients
- Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see "Products & Services Available to Us From Schwab")

## **Client Brokerage & Custody Costs**

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge clients separately for custody services but is compensated by charging clients commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into the client's Schwab account. Schwab's commission rates applicable to our client accounts were negotiated based on the condition that our firm collectively maintains a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. This commitment benefits the client because the overall commission rates paid are often lower than they would be otherwise. In addition to commissions, Schwab charges the account a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that we have executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into the Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation paid to the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize trading costs, we have Schwab execute most trades for client account(s). We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see "How We Select Brokers/Custodians").

## **Products & Services Available to Us**

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide us and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage—trading, custody, reporting, and related services—many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us as long as our clients collectively maintain a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. If our clients collectively have less than \$10 million in assets at Schwab, Schwab may charge us quarterly service fees of \$1,200. Following is a more detailed description of the provided support services:

### **Services That Benefit Clients**

Schwab's brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients.

### **Services That May Not Directly Benefit Clients**

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit clients or client account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- Provide pricing and other market data

- Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

### **Services That Generally Benefit Us**

Schwab may also offer other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
- Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

Other than using custodial services and trade execution from Schwab, ACA uses its own proprietary analytics and third party research in making investment decisions for clients.

### **Our Interest in Schwab's Services**

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. We don't have to pay for Schwab's services so long as our clients collectively keep a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. Beyond that, these services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody. The \$10 million minimum may give us an incentive to require that clients maintain their account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on client interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "How We Select Brokers/Custodians") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us. We do not believe that requiring our clients to collectively maintain at least \$10 million of those assets at Schwab in order to avoid paying Schwab quarterly service fees presents a material conflict of interest.

### **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

We perform investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when we believe that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, we attempt to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

### **Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

Portfolio Management and Third Party Money Management client accounts are reviewed on at least an annual basis. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Performance reports will be provided to clients annually. Financial Planning and Consulting clients will be contacted at least annually to discuss their consultations.

Our Financial Advisors or Portfolio Managers will conduct reviews. Client accounts reviews may be conducted more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

### **Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation**

We receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (*see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices*). The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

We do not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

### **Item 15: Custody**

We do not have custody of client funds or securities. All of our clients receive at least quarterly account statements directly from their custodians. Upon opening an account with a qualified custodian on a client's behalf, we promptly notify the client in writing of the qualified custodian's contact information. If we decide to also send account statements to clients, such notice and account statements include a legend that recommends that the client compare the account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm.

We encourage our clients to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets. The custodians we do business with will send you independent account statements listing your account balance(s), transaction history and any fee debits or other fees taken out of your account.

### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed investment advisory client agreement. By granting investment discretion, we are authorized to execute securities transactions, which securities are bought and sold, and the total amount to be bought and sold. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgement.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

We do not accept proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes proxies, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

### **Item 18: Financial Information**

We are not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because we do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, we do not take custody of client funds or securities, and we do not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.