

# The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada

SEC File Number: 801-32353

## **ADV Part 2A, Firm Brochure** **Dated: March 29, 2016**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 702.871.8510 or [michelle@iccnv.com](mailto:michelle@iccnv.com). 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 The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

References herein to The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada as a "registered investment adviser" or any reference to being "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## Item 2           Material Changes

This item discusses only specific material changes that are made to the Brochure and provides clients with a summary of such changes. There have been no material changes made to The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada's disclosure statement since its last Annual Amendment filing on March 24, 2015.

**Any Questions?: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michelle Konstantarakis, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding these changes or any other item discussed on this Brochure.**

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

- A. The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada (the “Registrant”) is a corporation formed on March 26, 1987 in the state of Nevada. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Advisor Firm in January 1988. The Registrant is owned by the Garcia Family Trust dated 8/29/91, Randy A. Garcia and Staci R. Garcia, Trustees.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations, etc.) investment advisory services. The Registrant **does not** hold itself out as providing financial planning, estate planning or accounting services.

#### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management. The Registrant may also charge an hourly rate for consulting services determined based on the agreed upon services. For additional information, please refer to Item 5, Fees and Compensation.

#### **CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)**

To the extent specifically requested by the client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters) on a stand-alone hourly fee basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a *Limited Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services. If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. **Please Note:** If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client’s responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant’s previous recommendations and/or services.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Private Investment Funds.** The Registrant may recommend that its clients consider the purchase of private investment funds on a non-discretionary basis. The Registrant’s role relative to the private investment funds shall be limited to its initial and ongoing due diligence and investment monitoring services. If a client determines to become a private fund investor, the amount of assets invested in the fund(s) shall be included for purposes of Registrant calculating its annual investment advisory fee. Registrant’s clients are under absolutely no obligation to consider or make an investment in a private investment fund(s).

**Please Note:** Private investment funds generally involve various risk factors, including, but not limited to, potential for complete loss of principal, liquidity constraints and lack of transparency, a complete discussion of which is set forth in each fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration. Unlike liquid investments that a client may maintain, private investment funds do not provide daily liquidity or pricing. Each prospective client investor will be required to complete a Subscription Agreement, pursuant to which the client shall establish that he/she is qualified for investment in the fund, and acknowledges and accepts the various risk factors that are associated with such an investment.

**Please Also Note: Valuation.** In the event that the Registrant references private investment funds owned by the client on any supplemental account reports prepared by the Registrant, the value(s) for all private investment funds owned by the client shall reflect the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor. If the fund sponsor does not provide a post-purchase valuation, then the valuation shall reflect the initial purchase price (and/or a value as of a previous date) or the current value(s) (either the initial purchase price and/or the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor). If the valuation reflects the initial purchase price (and/or a value as of a previous date), then the current value(s) (to the extent ascertainable) **could be significantly more or less than the original purchase price.** The client's advisory fee shall be based upon such reflected fund value(s).

**Limited Consulting/Implementation Services.** Although the Registrant does not hold itself out as providing financial planning, estate planning or accounting services, to the extent specifically requested by the client, the Registrant *may* provide limited consultation services to its investment management clients on investment and non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Registrant shall not receive any separate or additional fee for any such consultation services. Neither the Registrant, nor any of its representatives, serves as an attorney or accountant, and no portion of the Registrant's services should be construed as same. If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. **Please Note:** If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

**Tradeaway/Prime Broker Fees.** Relative to its discretionary investment management services, when beneficial to the client, individual fixed income transactions may be effected through broker-dealers other than the account custodian, in which event, the client generally will incur both the fee (commission, mark-up/mark-down) charged by the executing broker-dealer and a separate "tradeaway" and/or prime broker fee charged by the account custodian (Schwab or TD Ameritrade).

**Please Note: Cash Positions.** At any specific point in time, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being **no guarantee** that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), Registrant **may** maintain cash positions for defensive purposes. All cash positions (money markets, etc.) shall be included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating Registrant's advisory fee. In the rare instance that a negative cash or margin balance is maintained in an account at the sole direction of the client, the margin amount shall not be deducted for purposes of calculating Registrant's advisory fee. **Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michelle Konstantarakis, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above fee billing practice.**

**Independent Managers.** The Registrant may allocate (and/or recommend that the client allocate) a portion of a client's investment assets among unaffiliated independent investment managers in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the *Independent Manager[s]* shall have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. The Registrant shall continue to render investment advisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation and client investment objectives. Factors which the Registrant shall consider in recommending *Independent Manager[s]* include the client's designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research.

**Use of Dimensional Fund Advisors Mutual Funds:** While the Registrant may recommend allocating investment assets to mutual funds that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also recommend that clients allocate investment assets to publically-available mutual funds that the client could obtain without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to allocate investment assets to publically-available mutual funds without engaging Registrant as an investment advisor, the client or prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant's initial and ongoing investment advisory services. Others mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors ("DFA"), are generally only available through registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant's services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability and/or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above.**

**Please Note: Non-Discretionary Service Limitations.** Clients that determine to engage Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event that Registrant would like to make a transaction for a client's account (including in the event of an individual holding or general market correction), and the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect the account transaction(s) (as it would for its discretionary clients) **without first obtaining the client's consent.**

**Other Services.** The Registrant provides its clients with other services such as Qualified Plan Provider Search and Independent Manager Search. The costs of these services will be charged separately and agreed to by and between the Registrant and client in advance.

**Retirement Rollovers.** A client leaving an employer typically has four options (and may engage in a combination of these options): i) leave the money in his former employer's plan, if permitted, ii) roll over the assets to his new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, iii) rollover to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). The Registrant may recommend an investor roll over plan assets to an IRA managed by the Registrant. As a result the Registrant and its representatives may earn an asset-based fee (*see Please Note* below). In contrast, a recommendation that a client or prospective client leave his or her plan assets with his or her old employer or roll the assets to a plan sponsored by a new employer will generally result in no compensation to the Registrant (unless you engage the Registrant to monitor and/or manage the account while maintained at your employer). The Registrant has an economic incentive to encourage an investor to roll plan assets into an IRA that the Registrant will manage or to engage the Registrant to monitor and/or manage the account while maintained at your employer. There are various factors that the Registrant may consider before recommending a rollover, including but not limited to: i) the investment options available in the plan versus the investment options available in an IRA, ii) fees and expenses in the plan versus the fees and expenses in an IRA, iii) the services and responsiveness of the plan's investment professionals versus the Registrant's, iv) protection of assets from creditors and legal judgments, v) required minimum distributions and age considerations, and vi) employer stock tax consequences, if any. . **Please Note:** If Registrant's engagement will include the management of the client's retirement account per the same fee schedule set forth in Item 5 below, regardless of custodian or the client's decision to process a rollover, the above economic incentive to recommend a rollover is moot. No client is under any obligation to rollover plan assets to an IRA managed by the Registrant or to engage the Registrant to monitor and/or manage the account while maintained at your employer.

**Client Obligations.** In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains his/her/its responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

**Disclosure Statement.** A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure as set forth on Part 2 of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at anytime, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.

- E. As of December 31, 2015, the Registrant had total assets under management and consultation of \$890,390,692; \$756,258,182 in assets under management and \$134,132,510 in assets under consultation. Of the assets under management, \$685,478,573 are managed on a discretionary basis and \$70,779,609 managed on a non-discretionary basis.

## Item 5 Fees and Compensation

- A. The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis.

### INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall generally be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
First \$2 Million	1.00%
Next \$3 Million	0.50%
Over \$5 Million	0.30%

For Clients with Assets Under \$1,000,000, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall generally be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
Up to \$667,000	1.50%
\$667,001 to \$999,999	\$2,500 quarterly

### CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

To the extent specifically requested by the client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters) on a stand-alone hourly fee basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a *Limited Consulting Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/ clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures.

In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.

- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that various broker-dealer/custodians serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and fixed income securities transactions). In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all independent investment managers, mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other expenses).

Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. The Registrant generally requires an annual minimum fee of \$10,000 and a minimum asset level of \$3,000,000 for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee and/or reduce or waive its minimum asset or fee requirement based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, etc.). **Please Note:** If you maintain less than \$1million of assets under Registrant's management, and are subject to the \$10,000 annual minimum fee, you will pay a higher percentage Annual Fee than the 1.00% referenced in the above fee schedule.

- D. The *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.
- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

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

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

## **Item 7            Types of Clients**

The Registrant's clients shall generally include individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations. The Registrant generally requires an annual minimum fee of \$10,000 and a minimum asset level of \$3,000,000 for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment management fee and/or reduce or waive its minimum asset or fee requirement based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, etc.). **Please Note:** If you maintain less than \$1million of assets under Registrant's management, and are subject to the \$10,000 annual minimum fee, you will pay a higher percentage Annual Fee than the 1.00% referenced in the fee schedule at Item 5 above.



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

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)

The Registrant may utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

**Please Note: Investment Risk.** Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks. However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases and Short Term Purchases- are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various individual equity (stocks), debt (bonds) and fixed income securities, mutual funds, exchange traded funds and/or independent managers, on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). (*See Independent Managers above*).

Registrant employs four specific categories to describe the overall investment objective of client accounts. These categories are Conservative, Moderate, Growth, and Aggressive Growth. The selection of an investment objective is a key element in determining the appropriate asset allocation for the individual accounts that comprise the client's total portfolio. Each category of investment objectives results from the combination of several factors: time horizon, liquidity, risk tolerance and target rate of return.

**Item 9            Disciplinary Information**

The Registrant has not been the subject of any disciplinary actions.

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

- A. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. The Registrant has no other relationship or arrangement with a related person that is material to its advisory business.
- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects for its clients.

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

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's Representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.  
  
In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.
- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. Practices such as "scalping" (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, "front-running" (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant's clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant's "Access Persons". The Registrant's securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11.C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant's Access Persons.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at various broker-dealer/custodians. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Registrant may recommend that clients establish brokerage accounts with Schwab Advisory Services, a division of Charles Schwab & Co. (*Schwab*), TD Ameritrade Institutional, a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. (*TD Ameritrade*) or other broker-dealer/custodian. *Schwab* is a FINRA registered broker-dealer and member of SIPC. TD Ameritrade is a member of FINRA/SIPC/NFA. Schwab and TD Ameritrade are independent and unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealers that offer to independent investment advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions.

Registrant participates in Schwab's and TD Ameritrade's institutional customer programs and Registrant may recommend Schwab and TD Ameritrade to clients for custody and brokerage services. Although Registrant receives some benefits from Schwab and TD Ameritrade through its participation in the programs, there is no direct link between Registrant's participation in the programs and the investment advice given to clients. The benefits received by Registrant or its personnel through participation in the programs do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to the custodians. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Registrant or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Registrant's choice for custody and brokerage services.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending various broker-dealer/custodians include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service.

Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable. 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 broker-dealer services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may receive from *Schwab* or *TD Ameritrade* (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, and/or mutual fund sponsor), without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations, investment-related research, pricing information and market data, access to a trading desk, access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts), software and other technology that provide access to client account data, the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts, access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations. In prior years, the Registrant received annual cash allowances from *Schwab* ranging from \$15,000 to \$40,000, of which 100% has been used towards payment for Tamarac, a web based platform designed for registered investment advisers. In 2016, the Registrant expects to receive \$40,000 from *Schwab* in cash allowances. Many of these products and services may be used to service all or some substantial number of Registrant's accounts, including accounts not maintained at the broker-dealer/ custodian providing the benefit.

As indicated above, certain of the support services and/or products that *may* be received may assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise. *Schwab* or *TD*

*Ameritrade* may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing services to Registrant.

In evaluating whether to recommend that client custody their assets at a broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant may take into consideration the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and other arrangements as part of the total mix of factors it considers and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided, which may create a potential ***conflict of interest***. Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab or TD Ameritrade* (or any other broker-dealer/custodian) as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab or TD Ameritrade* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michelle Konstantarakis, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangements and any corresponding conflict of interest such arrangements may create.**

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. **Directed Brokerage**: Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, a client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case. **Please Note**: In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. **Please Also Note**: Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

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- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at

approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or “bunch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

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

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principals and/or representatives. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant *may* conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

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

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A. above, the Registrant receives economic benefits from various broker-dealer/custodians. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from various broker-dealer/custodians.

Registrant’s clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at the various broker-dealer/custodian as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to various broker-dealer/custodians or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

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- B. The Registrant does not compensate, directly or indirectly, any person, other than its representatives or former representatives, for client referrals.

## **Item 15      Custody**

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian on a quarterly basis. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance. **Please Note:** To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian. **Please Also Note:** The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

## **Item 16      Investment Discretion**

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at anytime, impose restrictions, **in writing**, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

## **Item 17      Voting Client Securities**

- A. The Registrant does not vote client 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.
- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

**Item 18      Financial Information**

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

**ANY QUESTIONS: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Michelle Konstantarakis, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.**