

## **Marquette Associates, Inc.**

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### **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Marquette Associates, Inc. ("MAI", "Marquette"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact Tim Hamann at (312) 527-5500 or at [thamann@marquetteassociates.com](mailto:thamann@marquetteassociates.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 MAI is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The searchable IARD/CRD number for this Adviser is 21572.

MAI is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

**March 30, 2018**

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## **Item 2: Material Changes**

This brochure dated March 30, 2018 contains no material changes since the filing of our brochure dated August 11, 2017 as part of our annual updating amendment.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

Marquette Associates, Inc. ("MAI") is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. MAI's primary service is to provide investment consulting services to institutions, individuals, families, trusts, and charitable organizations or other business entities. The firm was founded and began providing investment advice in 1986 under the same name.

MAI is headquartered at 180 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 3500, Chicago, IL 60601 and has an additional office located in Baltimore, Maryland. MAI has two wholly-owned subsidiary advisers: 1. Fiduciary Consultants, Inc. ("FCI") located in St. Louis, Missouri, and 2. Peirce Park Group, Inc. ("PPG") located in West Chester, Pennsylvania. MAI is 100% employee owned; all 19 owners work full-time at the firm. The principal owners of the firm are Brian Wrubel and Tim Fallon, CIMA®.

### Investment Consulting Services

MAI offers both non-discretionary and discretionary investment consulting services, although MAI provides primarily non-discretionary consulting services. These services include:

- Asset allocation modeling / asset-liability studies
- Manager search, selection, and oversight
- Performance reporting and attribution analysis
- Firm-conducted research and educational training for clients
- Investment policy development and oversight
- Fee negotiation and cost advisement
- Custom benchmark development and peer comparison
- Review and selection of custodial bank

MAI provides customized services to its clients and no two investment programs are alike. Our consultants take into consideration factors such as the client's risk tolerance, forecasted liability, and return expectations when making recommendations. Clients are allowed to designate reasonable restrictions on their accounts.

In addition, MAI will provide fiduciary services which allows MAI to have the discretionary authority to rebalance accounts and hire and fire third party managers. Lastly, MAI may also work on special projects for prospective clients wherein MAI is retained to provide certain, discrete consulting services.

MAI does not participate in wrap fee programs or accept soft dollar payments for its services.

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**QPAM Services/Consulting**

In addition to MAI's investment consulting business, MAI serves on a regular basis as a consultant to various pension plans and as a Qualified Professional Asset Manager ("QPAM") under the Employee Retirement Income Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") with regard to various matters in which the services of a QPAM are required. This service may be outsourced to a third-party. Such services include:

- reviewing and advising on the client's proposed real estate transactions;
- evaluating and advising on conflicts of interest in real estate related transactions;
- providing oversight of the development of real estate construction projects;
- conducting due diligence for potential real estate investments;
- providing analysis of various strategic decisions associated with leases, investments, development, dispositions and evaluation of investment decisions;
- evaluating real estate investments which have been completed to determine whether they meet various industry and fiduciary standards; and
- overseeing the operations of two real estate properties.

**Investment Supervisory Services**

MAI provides investment supervisory services in the direct management of client portfolios to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and business entities on a discretionary basis. In addition, MAI has the authority to invest assets with various investment managers that are within the parameters of the Client's Investment Policy Statement.

Prior to engaging MAI to provide any of the foregoing investment advisory services, the client will be required to enter into one or more written agreements with MAI setting forth the terms and conditions under which MAI shall render its services. Likewise, MAI will use certain investment tools to determine the clients' risk parameters, time horizon and investment objectives. These include in person meetings, a risk profile, client questionnaire and other documentation.

MAI's clients are advised to properly notify MAI if there are ever any changes in their financial situation or investment objectives or if they wish to impose any reasonable restrictions upon MAI's management services. In general, MAI does permit restrictions upon the type of security or particular security that the client requests.

**Assets Under Management and Assets under Advisement**

As of December 31, 2017, MAI had \$4,137,258,098 in client assets under management on a discretionary basis and as of the same date, Marquette provided traditional investment consulting services to \$154,280,230,911 in client assets under advisement on a non-discretionary basis.

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## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

### Investment Consulting and Management Fees

MAI charges fees in three separate ways: 1) as a flat fee, 2) as a percentage of assets under advisement or management and 3) billed at an hourly rate. Fees are negotiable. For most clients, MAI negotiates a flat fee for its provision of investment consulting services, dependent upon the value of the client's assets under advisement, complexity of portfolio, travel required, number of meetings per year, and various other relevant factors. Flat fees are billed quarterly in advance or in arrears dependent upon the client's choice. In that way, the annual agreed upon fee is billed to the client in four separate installments. Flat fees may range from \$0- 870,000 per year.

For some clients, MAI negotiates a fee based upon a percentage of the client's assets under advisement or management. This fee is based upon the same factors used to determine the flat fee. MAI charges a client quarterly based upon the value of the client's assets under advisement or management as of the last day of the previous quarter. Fees are billed in advance or in arrears dependent upon the client's choice. Fee percentages may range from .05% to .50% of assets under advisement or management on an annual basis.

Lastly, MAI may charge fees based upon an hourly rate negotiated with the client. This type of fee arrangement is typically used for ad hoc projects pertaining to consulting services. These fees will be based upon a determination of the specific nature and circumstances of the relationship between MAI and the client. These hourly charges are billed upon the conclusion of the services and are payable within 30 days of completion of the services.

**Terminations and Refunds.** A client agreement may be canceled at any time and for any reason, by either party, upon at least 30 days' written notice. Upon termination, any paid but unearned fees will be promptly refunded, and any unpaid fees will be due and payable.

### Other Costs

Outside of the annual fee paid to MAI, clients may also incur additional charges from investment service providers, such as investment manager fees, transaction costs, or custodial fees. If a client invests in mutual funds with the selected manager it may incur mutual fund ticket charges and other transaction charges. These fees are in addition to the fees paid by the client to MAI.

None of MAI's supervised persons receives compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, nor by recommending managers for selection. Our firm does not offer any proprietary products for investment.

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### **Item 6: Performance-Based Fees**

MAI does not charge or collect performance-based fees; therefore, this section is not applicable.

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## Item 7: Types of Clients

MAI provides independent investment consulting and fiduciary services to pension and profit sharing plans, charitable organizations, corporations, state and municipal government entities, Taft-Hartley plans, high net worth individuals and other individuals. In addition to pension and profit-sharing plans, MAI provides services to other types of benefit plans including, health and welfare, annuity, endowment, foundation, and general funds.

MAI does not have a minimum account size.



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

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

MAI provides customized investment advice for each of our clients. Typically, we evaluate an organization's cash flow needs, spending policy, liquidity constraints, and operating results to help determine an overall strategic plan.

Our asset allocation studies evaluate potential client portfolios under a variety of macroeconomic environments, which directly impact the performance of asset classes. The studies are built to analyze often overlooked – but critical – features of portfolio construction, including liquidity, rebalancing, and net cash flow. We offer customized reports and analytics to evaluate circumstances unique to each plan, such as spending policies for endowments and funding ratios for pension funds. More generally, our asset allocation studies offer a comprehensive and rigorous analysis that will formulate the most effective portfolios to achieve client goals. Specifically, the following initiatives are included in our asset allocation studies:

- Identify and quantify sources of risk, beyond the use of standard deviation as the sole risk metric
- Establish a forward looking methodology that is not anchored by pre-determined expected returns, standard deviations and correlations
- Recognize the illiquid nature of alternative asset classes, along with the liquidity needs of each client
- Incorporate the client's return goals, liabilities, and cash flows
- Allow for portfolio re-balancing to keep asset allocations within target ranges
- Allow for non-normal return patterns
- Reflect current economic conditions in the analysis.

Our software is based on a Monte Carlo simulation of macroeconomic factors, which are used to model monthly return outcomes of capital markets. The simulations are created by a powerful economic scenario generator ("ESG"), which is the driving force behind our asset allocation model. The economic scenario generator simulates the future performance of the capital markets and macro-economy; the underlying models are calibrated based on the long-term historical record, so that they will reproduce the kinds of volatility and stress scenarios that have been observed over the 20th and 21st centuries. The models are linked and correlated so that the behavior of different asset classes and economic variables is consistent within each random scenario.

Portfolio performance over the course of the study reflects projected net cash flows—using actual benefit payments and contributions / historical cash flows—as well as overall portfolio composition, rebalancing rules, and beginning market value. When coupled with the simulated returns, these inputs provide the monthly market value of all asset classes for each proposed portfolio and of the total fund. We also calculate average annualized returns and standard deviations for each portfolio. These statistics allow us to calculate risk adjusted returns that figure heavily into determining the recommended portfolio.

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## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

Neither MAI nor any of its owners has any material legal or disciplinary events to report.

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

MAI has two wholly-owned subsidiaries: Fiduciary Consultants, Inc. ("FCI"), an SEC-registered investment adviser based in St. Louis, Missouri, and Peirce Park Group, Inc. ("PPG"), also an SEC-registered investment adviser based in West Chester, Pennsylvania. MAI may receive fees and income from FCI and PPG from their consolidated operations as wholly-owned subsidiaries of MAI.

In addition, Marquette may receive items of value from advisors that it may recommend in the form of manager sponsored outings or events that its employees may attend. Marquette has a Code of Ethics that puts restrictions on the attendance at these events, including the requirement that a representative from the donor of the tickets to the events be present at the event. Overall, the value of these outings or events is de minimus in relation to Marquette's overall operations.

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

MAI has adopted a Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of its employees and requires compliance with applicable securities laws. The Code also addresses the issues of the confidentiality of and the safeguarding of client information, the payment or receipt of gifts by MAI or its employees, and the recordkeeping requirements for all of the above.

The document establishes firm policies in the following areas:

- Standards of behavior regarding financial and vendor relationships, securities trading, and use of confidential information
- Ethics Training Program requirement for all employees
- Personal trading ("insider trading") policy regarding publicly traded companies for whom we are contracted for investment consulting services
- Whistleblower protection
- Internal enforcement of and compliance with aforementioned policies

Current employees are required to sign the Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy on a quarterly basis, as well as pass the CFA Code of Ethics examination upon hiring.

The firm will provide a copy of the Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest Policy to current and prospective clients upon request.

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## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

### Brokerage Practices Generally.

Generally, MAI clients have independently procured a custodian; nonetheless, in some instances MAI may institute a custodial search and recommendation for a client. For certain clients under management, MAI utilizes Charles Schwab & Co. ("Schwab") as custodian and broker-dealer for its clients' trades. Factors which MAI considers in recommending or utilizing a custodian/broker-dealer to clients include their respective financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, research, and service. *Schwab* enables MAI to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other securities at nominal transaction charges. The commissions and/or transaction fees charged by *Schwab* may be higher or lower than those charged by other broker-dealers.

Clients may incur transaction costs in addition to any commissions charged by the broker-dealer when securities traded over-the-counter are effected on their behalf through the broker-dealer on an agency basis. Broker custody of client assets may limit or eliminate MAI's ability to obtain best price and execution of transactions in over-the-counter securities.

#### 1. Schwab's Benefits

MAI may receive from Schwab, without cost to MAI, research reports, Schwab ratings, Schwab Stock, Mutual Funds and ETF Lists, Schwab Charts and basic market research. In general MAI does not use any of the items received from Schwab. The research and related reports may benefit MAI, and indirectly its clients. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, MAI endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first.

#### 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals.

MAI does not direct brokerage in exchange for client referrals.

#### 3. Directed Brokerage

Generally, MAI does not accept client directed brokerage arrangements.

#### 4. Trade Aggregation:

Marquette does not aggregate client trades since each client account is handled on an individual basis.

#### 5. Trade Errors

MAI corrects all trade errors through its Trade Error Account. MAI shall be responsible for any losses in the accounts and likewise may receive any gains resulting from the correction of any trade errors, or they may be retained by the custodian, or donated to charity.

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

Client accounts are subject to review by MAI's consultants and committee research team on a periodic basis. The overall committee research team oversees this process and facilitates communication among the consultants and research team on issues relevant to our clients.

In general, the lead consultant on the relationship reviews the client's accounts on a monthly and quarterly basis, as well as when clients are contemplating asset allocation and/or investment manager changes. These reviews are complemented by proprietary manager searches and asset allocation studies.

On a quarterly or monthly basis, MAI's consultants prepare investment reports in hard copy or electronic form based on the client's preferences. By the standard consulting agreement, quarterly reports are made available to clients within a timely fashion of the quarter end. Monthly "flash" reports are made available to clients soon after month end. Clients are urged to compare the reports provided by MAI with those statements that derive from the client's custodian of record.

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

MAI does not directly or indirectly compensate any non-supervised persons or entities for client referrals.

In addition, Marquette may receive items of value from advisors that it may recommend in the form of manager sponsored outings or sporting events that its employees may attend. Marquette has a Code of Ethics that puts restrictions on the attendance at these events, including the requirement that a representative from the donor of the tickets to the events be present at the event. Overall, the value of these outings or events is de minimus in relation to Marquette's overall operations.



## **Item 15: Custody**

MAI maintains custody of certain client assets for the purpose of assisting in bill paying and to facilitate the transfer of assets. MAI ensures that clients' assets are held by qualified custodians and that the custodian is sending to both the firm and the client directly statements of the client accounts. In addition, MAI recommends that clients review these statements and compare data with the reports prepared by MAI for accuracy. Finally, MAI has a surprise verification audit conducted annually on those client accounts over which it has a custody arrangement.

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## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

MAI offers a discretionary outsourced investment service option to its clients who want to delegate decision-making authority for their investment program to our firm. In this capacity, MAI would be responsible for asset allocation and rebalancing decisions, and investment manager review and selection.

MAI's Discretionary Committee meets on weekly basis internally (or as market actions warrant) to review our discretionary programs. All decisions are communicated to the client on a timely basis, ensuring the client is always aware of what decisions have been made and where their assets are currently invested. Monthly reporting supplements the flow of information, helping to ensure the appropriate amount of transparency in the investment process.

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

It is the policy of Marquette to not accept any authority to vote proxies on behalf of clients. Clients retain the responsibility for receiving and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in their portfolios. Nevertheless, Marquette may, in limited circumstances, accept authority to vote proxies in connection with certain investments. Accordingly, Marquette has adopted this policy to reflect its commitment in such circumstances to vote all client proxies for which it exercises voting authority in a manner consistent with the best interest of the client.

When exercising its authority, Marquette will generally vote proxies consistent with management unless the proxy voting committee determines that voting with management is not in the best interest of the underlying shareholder.

A copy of MAI's proxy voting policy is available from a client upon request.

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## Item 18: Financial Information

MAI does not bill clients six months in advance and, as such, is not required to provide a balance sheet to clients.

MAI has never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time. Neither MAI nor its owners have any financial circumstances to report. MAI is not aware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to its clients.

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## Additional Information/Privacy Policy

### PRIVACY NOTICE (Regulation S-P)

Pursuant to Regulation S-P adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, it is the policy of MAI to keep confidential nonpublic personal information ( "*information*" ) pertaining to each current and former client (i.e., *information* and records pertaining to personal background, investment objectives, financial situation, investment holdings, account numbers, account balances, etc.) unless MAI is (1) previously authorized by the client to disclose *information* to individuals and/or entities not affiliated with MAI, including, but not limited to the client's other professional advisors and/or service providers (i.e., attorney, accountant, insurance agent, broker-dealer, investment advisor account custodian, etc.); (2) required to do so by judicial or regulatory process; or (3) permitted to do so in accordance with the parameters of regulation S-P. The disclosure of *information* contained in any document completed by the client for processing and/or transmittal by MAI in order to facilitate the commencement/ continuation/ termination of a business relationship between the client and nonaffiliated third party service provider (i.e. broker-dealer, investment adviser, account custodian, insurance company, etc.), including *information* contained in any document completed and/or executed by the client for MAI (i.e., advisory agreement, client information form, etc.), shall be deemed as having been automatically authorized by the client with respect to the corresponding nonaffiliated third party service provider. Each individual and/or entity affiliated with MAI is aware of MAI's *privacy policy*, and has acknowledged his/her/its requirement to comply with same. In accordance with the MAI *privacy policy*, each such affiliated individual and/or entity shall have access to *information* to the extent reasonably necessary for MAI to perform its services for the client, and to comply with applicable regulatory procedures and requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Wrubel at (312) 527-5500 or at [bwrubel@marquetteassociates.com](mailto:bwrubel@marquetteassociates.com).