

**Item 1: Cover Sheet**



**34305 Solon Road, Suite 75, Solon, OH 44139**

**(440) 248-1632**

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

**Firm Brochure**  
(Part 2A of Form ADV)

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Walden Wealth Partners LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at: 330-714-9336, or by Email at: [karin@waldenwealth.com](mailto:karin@waldenwealth.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. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Walden Wealth Partners LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

May 12, 2017

## **Item 2: Material Changes**

The purpose of the Material Changes section is to call attention to material changes in this disclosure brochure, ADV – Part 2A, since its last delivery to you or since the last posting of this document on the SEC's public disclosure website: [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

At this time, there are two material changes to report.

Walden Wealth Partners LLC has a new business address: 34305 Solon Road, Suite 75, Solon, OH 44139.

Item 5: Fees and Compensation (page 7): Fixed and retainer fees may be amended based on changes in the scope of service and/or inflationary adjustments. All such changes will be disclosed to the client in writing and in advance.

## **Full Brochure Available**

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Walden Wealth Partners LLC. We welcome your questions and comments in order to provide you with a clear understanding of how we serve clients.

You can download a copy of this brochure at anytime from the SEC website [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can also contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Karin Maloney Stifler, by telephone at: 440-248-1632 or by email at [karin@waldenwealth.com](mailto:karin@waldenwealth.com) to request a copy of our brochure at no charge.

A full copy of our brochure is provided to all existing and new clients.

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## **Item 4: Advisory Business**

### **A. About Walden Wealth Partners, LLC**

Walden Wealth Partners LLC is an independent Fee-Only financial planning and investment advisory firm based in Solon, Ohio. Our clients are primarily individuals, families, and fiduciaries, such as trusts, qualified retirement plans, foundations, and businesses.

Walden Wealth Partners LLC is an Ohio limited liability company and is currently registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a Registered Investment Advisor. The firm is owned by managing partners, Sarah Hannibal, CFA, CPA (inactive) and Karin Maloney Stifler, CFP®, AIF®.

As a Registered Investment Adviser, Walden Wealth Partners is held to the highest standard of client care – the fiduciary standard. As a fiduciary, we always put our clients' interests first and must fully disclose any potential conflict of interest.

### **B. Services We Offer**

Walden Wealth Partners offers three core services on a fee-only basis:

- Wealth Management: Continuous financial planning and investment management.
- Financial Planning
- Fiduciary Consulting

#### **Wealth Management**

Walden Wealth Partners' Wealth Management Service constitutes a full service relationship, which includes continuous financial planning, investment planning, and investment management. Strategic planning and advice is tailored to meet each client's unique goals, values, needs, investment objectives, and preferences, with careful attention to management of risks, costs, and taxes, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Specific information about the components of Wealth Management Service is summarized below.

#### **Financial Planning**

The foundation of the Wealth Management Service, Walden Wealth Partners provides initial and continuous financial planning that integrates all aspects of the client's financial life into one master plan. Clients experience a collaborative and supportive process that prepares them to make informed decisions about their financial life that promote progress towards their life goals.

Under the Wealth Management Service, the financial planning process is ongoing and incorporates changes in goals, financial circumstances, opportunities and risks, income and estate tax laws, and other important factors that can influence plan strategies and outcomes.

We work in concert with clients' professional tax, legal, and insurance advisors in order to facilitate effective and timely implementation of strategies.

Our financial planning services are generally delivered on a continuous basis as part of an ongoing Wealth Management relationship. However, we may offer Financial Planning Services under a retainer relationship. Under the annual retainer service, we strategize, educate, guide, make recommendations, and advocate for clients on a broad spectrum of personal financial matters. Ongoing financial plan retainer services include regular communication, strategic review, and plan updates, for the purpose of guiding clients to make the most of their financial potential, and stay on track to meet their life goals.

The scope of financial planning services to be provided is based on the client's unique needs and circumstances, and is mutually agreed and documented in the written service agreement.

On an as-available basis, we may provide limited scope financial planning services to clients who do not require comprehensive financial planning services. Typically, limited scope financial consulting best serves individuals and families with less complex financial circumstances.

*Please note: Standalone financial planning services does not include continuous, proactive management of the client's investment portfolio. Limited scope financial planning does not include comprehensive financial planning, or ongoing monitoring and management of the client's goals, plan, investments, or financial circumstances.*

The elements of the financial planning process may include the following:

- Discussions of financial history, goals, values, challenges, concerns, preferences, and opportunities.
- Summary and analysis of net worth.
- Cash flow, savings and budgeting.
- Risk exposure review and risk protection planning.
- Debt management and debt repayment planning.
- Investment planning and asset allocation strategy.
- Evaluation of strategies to meet goals such as education, debt reduction, home purchase, charitable giving, and retirement.
- Retirement preparation, readiness, and retirement income planning.
- Contingency planning for long term care needs.
- Career management and employee benefits counsel.
- Income and estate tax planning.
- Charitable giving planning.
- Estate and legacy planning.
- Facilitation of communication about financial issues among family members.
- Personal finance and investment education for immediate family members.
- Communication and collaboration with the client's tax, legal, insurance, and other advisors, as needed, and with the advance authorization of the client.

#### **Investment Planning and Management:**

Included in the Wealth Management Service, Walden Wealth Partners provides investment planning and management services to meet each client's unique life goals and investment objectives. The investment planning process incorporates rigorous analysis to construct portfolios, with recommendations on asset allocation strategy and specific no load (no commission) mutual funds and exchange traded funds.

The process for designing the investment strategy is collaborative and educational, and involves the client directly in decision making. Top consideration is given to the client's goals and priorities, investment philosophy and preferences, current financial plan, risk capacity, risk tolerance, tax position, and if applicable, the menu of investment options in qualified retirement and 529 college savings plans.

- Central focus is on each client's goals and objectives, as integrated with their financial plan.
- The process involves collaborative investment education and decision-making, resulting in the development of a client-approved investment policy statement ("IPS").
- The client-approved IPS is documented in writing, and becomes the operating manual for ongoing implementation and oversight of the investments.

- After constructing and implementing the investment portfolio, Walden Wealth Partners provides continuous supervision and re-balancing as changes in market conditions and client circumstances may require.
- We initiate ongoing communication and regular review of the plan and IPS to ensure appropriateness of strategy relative to goals and financial circumstances.

Walden Wealth Partners provides investment management services mainly on a discretionary basis according to the investment policy statement (IPS) approved by the client. Clients may impose any reasonable restrictions on Walden Wealth's discretionary authority, including restrictions on the types of securities in which we may invest client's assets. Accordingly, clients authorize Walden Wealth Partners to perform various functions proactively on their behalf, such as rebalancing and determining securities to be purchased or sold and in what amounts.

Walden Wealth Partners may enter into non-discretionary investment relationships, in which clients approve recommended investment strategy in the IPS, and also must respond to recommended changes before the advisor can implement the changes. Under this relationship, a client must respond on a timely basis, or otherwise risk the consequences of delayed decision-making and implementation.

#### **Fiduciary Consulting Services:**

Walden Wealth Partners provides fiduciary consulting services, as defined in Section 3(21) and 3(38) of ERISA, serving persons and entities operating in a fiduciary capacity, such as retirement plan sponsors, trustees, charitable and for profit business entities. We establish, oversee, and document fiduciary best practices, processes, and procedures in order to support the fulfillment of individual and corporate fiduciaries' duties and responsibilities. Fiduciary engagements may include but are not limited to: Investment asset allocation and management, investment performance and fee benchmarking, investment review, investment menu design, qualified investment default option, investment policy statement, participant education and guidance, plan design, recordkeeping and process flows, and liability protection.

#### **C. Client-Tailored Services and Client-Imposed Restrictions**

Walden Wealth Partners tailors its services to the individual needs of each client. As described in Item 4. B. "Services We Offer", Walden Wealth Partners provides financial and investment planning advice and management that are tailored to each client's unique goals, values, and financial circumstances. We respect and honor clients' reasonable restrictions and preferences within both the financial and investment plans, and will communicate if we believe they are harmful to the client's financial wellbeing.

#### **D. Wrap Fee Programs**

Walden Wealth Partners does not participate in wrap fee programs.

#### **E. Client Assets Under Management and Supervision**

As of May 12, 2017, Walden Wealth Partners had assets under management totalling \$156.8 million, of which \$121.5 million is managed on a discretionary basis and \$35.3 million is managed on a non discretionary basis.

## F. Miscellaneous Considerations

### 1. Referrals to Other Professionals

Walden Wealth Partners assists with implementation of recommendations pertaining to estate, tax, insurance, investments, etc., but may not serve as an attorney, accountant, or insurance agent. We may recommend the services of other professionals, such as attorney, accountant/CPA, insurance, etc. as part of the implementation of the client's financial plan. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. Should a client engage 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.

### 2. Client Obligations

The client has an ongoing responsibility to provide current information on goals and financial circumstances to the advisor. In performing its services, Walden Wealth Partners is not required to verify information received from the client or the client's professional advisors. Prompt notification of changes in goals and financial circumstances by the client allow us to re-evaluate and possibly amend financial and investment plans and strategies accordingly to remain relevant and prudent.

### 3. Risk Management

Different types of financial instruments involve varying degrees of risk, and it cannot be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy recommended by Walden Wealth Partners will be profitable or equal to any specific performance level.

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

### A. Compensation Method and Terms

Walden Wealth Partners is a Fee-Only advisory firm. We are compensated by fees paid solely by our clients, and adhere to a strict policy prohibiting compensation from any other source. The fees for services provided by Walden Wealth Partners are disclosed in advance and in writing in the service agreement presented for the client's approval at the onset of the relationship. At the advisor's discretion, fees may be negotiable for special circumstances.

#### Wealth Management: Ongoing Financial Planning & Investment Management

Assets Under Management & Advisement	Annual Percentage Fee
First \$3,000,000 of assets	0.80% of assets, subject to \$2,000/quarter minimum*
Over \$3,000,000 of assets	Capped at maximum fee of \$6,000/quarter*

#### Standalone Financial Planning

Initial Plan Fee*	Ongoing Plan Retainer Fee*
Starting at \$2,000	Starting at \$1,000 per quarter

#### Fiduciary Consulting

Retainer Fee*	Project Fee*	Hourly Fee*
Individually quoted. Billed quarterly in arrears.	Individually quoted. Billed as agreed.	\$250 per hour. Billed in quarter hour increments.

\*Fixed and retainer fees may be amended based on changes in scope of service and/or inflationary adjustments. All such changes will be disclosed to the client in writing and in advance.

## **1. Payment of Wealth Management Fees**

Fee payment terms are disclosed in the written service agreement signed by the client and advisor.

How is the fee calculated?

The percentage-based fee is based on a formula equal to the market value of assets under management and supervision multiplied by 0.80% percent, subject to the minimum and maximum fee.

How and when are investment assets valued for fee purposes?

For fee calculation purposes, the total market value of managed and supervised assets, as reported by the third party custodian(s), is set on March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

Accounts initiated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee based on the signature date of the service agreement. Fees are also prorated for capital contributions and withdrawals made during the applicable calendar quarter (with the exception of de minimis contributions and withdrawals).

When are fees billed and payable?

Fees are payable in arrears (meaning after services are delivered), and billed in quarterly installments.

How are fees paid?

Clients typically authorize that the wealth management or financial planning retainer fee is paid directly from the client's account held by an independent custodian. Clients receive custodial statements, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts disbursed from the account, including the amount of the advisory fee paid to Walden Wealth Partners.

How often are fees reviewed?

The fee is subject to review periodically. Both the client and the advisor must mutually agree upon all fee changes in writing.

How are fees handled if our relationship is terminated?

Unless a client has received the firm's brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory agreement, the investment advisory agreement may be terminated by the client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. For this reason, we do not make initial investments within five (5) business days. Clients may terminate our relationship at their will by providing written notice to us. We will prorate the fees earned through the termination date and send clients an invoice for the final advisory and planning fees. Fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the client.

## **B. Payment of Retainer and Hourly Fees**

Fee payment terms are disclosed in the written service agreement signed by the client and advisor. Ongoing retainer fees are payable quarterly in arrears, that is, after services have been provided. Clients may elect to be billed or have hourly and retainer fees debited directly from their investment account.

## **C. Expense Ratios and Trading Fees**

Custodians and investment companies charge fees for their services to clients, separate from Walden Wealth Partners fees. Scrutiny of the cost structure of each investment is an important



component of our due diligence process prior to recommending a fund as an investment option for clients. "No load" (no commission) investments are selected for client portfolios, with institutional pricing when available.

Other fees associated with investing include transaction and brokerage fees charged by the client's custodian or executing brokerage firm.

#### **D. Prepayment of Client Fees**

Walden Wealth Partners may require a deposit at the onset of a new relationship, in which a portion of the fee is paid in advance. Financial planning clients may be asked to make a deposit to Walden Wealth Partners for future services, as noted in Section II of their Financial Planning Agreement. Fees for ongoing financial and investment services are billed quarterly in arrears, that is, after delivery of services.

#### **E. External Compensation for the Sale of Securities to Clients**

Walden Wealth Partners is a Fee-Only firm, and receive fees solely from our clients. We do not receive compensation from any investment product, and do not accept any commissions, finders fees, or soft dollar arrangements with any money manager or broker-dealer (see Item 12).

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

Walden Wealth Partners does not charge any performance-based fees (fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client). All fees are calculated as described above and are not charged on the basis of income or capital gains or capital appreciation of the funds or any portion of the funds of an advisory client.

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

Our clients are individuals and families (including high net worth), who seek to make the most of their financial potential, and align their resources with their overall family, lifestyle, education, retirement, and legacy goals and values. While there is a fee minimum (and maximum) for wealth management services, clients are not required to have a minimum amount of assets.

We also provide fiduciary consulting to parties serving as fiduciaries, such as trusts, retirement plans, non-profit and charitable organizations, and for-profit businesses.

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

#### **A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

Walden Wealth's services are based on long-term investment strategies incorporating the principles of Modern Portfolio Theory. Walden Wealth's investment approach is firmly rooted in the belief that markets are "efficient" over periods of time and that investors' long-term returns are determined principally by asset allocation decisions, rather than market timing or stock picking. Walden Wealth recommends diversified portfolios, principally through the use of passively managed, asset class mutual funds. In the implementation of investment plans, Walden Wealth therefore primarily uses mutual funds and, as appropriate, portfolios of conservative fixed income securities. Walden Wealth may also utilize Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) to represent a market sector. Walden Wealth's strategies do not utilize securities that we believe would be classified as having any unusual risks, and we do not recommend frequent trading, which can increase brokerage and other costs and taxes.

Although all investments involve risk, Walden Wealth's investment advice seeks to limit risk through broad diversification among asset classes. Our investment philosophy is designed for investors who

desire a buy and hold strategy. The frequent trading of securities increases brokerage and other transaction costs that our strategy seeks to minimize.

Clients may hold or retain other types of assets as well, and we may offer advice regarding those various assets as part of its services. Advice regarding such assets will generally not involve asset management services but may help to more generally assist the client.

Walden Wealth receives supporting research from various independent sources, including economists affiliated with Dimensional Fund Advisors (“DFA”). Walden Wealth utilizes DFA mutual funds in client portfolios. DFA mutual funds follow a passive asset class investment philosophy with low holdings turnover. DFA provides historical market analysis, risk/return analysis, and continuing education.

## **B. Investment Strategies**

Through a disciplined process, we custom-design investment strategies for each client. Strategies reflect five value-added investment management tenants: In-depth understanding of our clients, risk management, asset class diversification, tax efficiency, and expense control.

Our systematic investment planning process begins with an in-depth understanding of each client’s objectives and the specific risk tolerance associated with each goal. We rigorously analyze client’s income needs, tax position, career/income dynamics, financial capacity for risk, and emotional/behavioral preferences for risk, as revealed to us through the financial planning process. Next, we model exposure to capital markets, and affirm that the portfolio asset allocation is commensurate with the client’s ability and willingness to take financial risk. To fulfill the strategic framework, we research and typically recommend index mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds. Investment offerings from Vanguard, BlackRock/iShares, and Dimensional Fund Advisors often meet our criteria for low cost and tax efficiency. We selectively recommend actively managed funds, individually managed municipal bond portfolios by a third party specialist, and institutionally-priced immediate annuities, in order to tailor the portfolio to the client’s needs and preferences.

Once constructed, investment strategies are monitored through continuous research, analysis and supervision, alongside regular communication with clients.

## **C. Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

All investments present the risk of loss of principal – the risk that the value of securities (mutual funds, ETFs and individual bonds), when sold or otherwise disposed of, may be less than the price paid for the securities. Even when the value of the securities when sold is greater than the price paid, there is the risk that the appreciation will be less than inflation. In other words, the purchasing power of the proceeds may be less than the purchasing power of the original investment.

There is no risk protection strategy that is sufficient to fully protect investors from the risk of loss. However, we use a variety of risk mitigation strategies in order to manage portfolio risk and expected return. These strategies may include diversification, risk sharing through insurance coverage, careful attention to tax efficiency and portfolio expense, and tailoring investment strategy to the circumstances and preferences of the client, and especially to the client’s dependence on portfolio income versus earned or other income.

More information about the risks of any particular market sector can be reviewed in representative prospectuses for funds managing assets within each applicable sector.

## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

### **A. No Criminal or Civil Actions**

There are no criminal or civil actions against Walden Wealth Partners or its employees either in the past or at the present time.

### **B. No Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

There are no administrative enforcement proceedings against Walden Wealth Partners or its employees either in the past or at the present time.

### **C. No Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

There are no self-regulatory organization enforcement proceedings against Walden Wealth Partners or its employees either in the past or at the present time.

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

### **A. Broker Dealer or Representative Registration**

Walden Wealth Partners is not registered as a broker-dealer, nor are the staff registered representatives of a broker-dealer.

### **B. Futures or Commodity Registration**

Walden Wealth Partners is not registered as a commodity firm, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor, and does not have an application to register pending.

### **C. Material Relationships Maintained by this Advisory Business and Conflicts of Interest**

We have structured our business to minimize conflicts of interest. We do not pay or receive referral fees. We do not own a part of another business, and no business owns a part of our business. We do not earn commissions. We are completely Fee-Only.

### **D. Recommendation or Selection of Other Investment Service Providers and Products and Conflicts of Interest**

Walden Wealth Partners may engage independent investment managers and separate account managers ("SMAs") as sub advisors to provide investment management services and/or back office support in order to meet a Client's objectives. As a fiduciary, Walden Wealth Partners assesses and selects qualified and appropriate managers that will serve the Client's best interests. The sub advisor must be registered or on notice in the State in which the Client resides. Walden Wealth Partners directs and oversees the sub advisor, holds them accountable to adhere to the Client's investment strategy stated in the IPS, and compensates the sub advisor separately for their services. There is no added cost to the client when a sub advisor is engaged. Walden Wealth Partners does not receive any form of compensation from sub advisors that may be used to implement client investment plans.

Conversely, Walden Wealth Partners may be engaged as a sub advisor in which we provide financial and/or investment services to a client of another company.

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

### **A. Code of Ethics**

Walden Wealth Partners conducts its business as a fiduciary. This means that we honor an affirmative duty to put the interests of our clients first at all times. We are committed to the pursuit

of excellence in all areas of our practice. We will act with integrity in all instances. We uphold the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Professional Conduct as mandated by the CFA Institute, CFP Board of Standards, Center for Fiduciary Studies. The Code of Ethics is an integral part of how we do business on a day-to-day basis, and is available to any client or prospective client upon request.

#### **B. Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Walden Wealth Partners does not engage in principal trading, which is the practice of selling stock to clients from a firm's inventory or buying stock from clients into a firm's inventory. In addition, we do not recommend any securities to clients in which we have any proprietary ownership interest.

#### **C. Personal Trading**

We believe that our employees have the right to invest as they deem appropriate for their own accounts. We do not regard this as a conflict of interest since the investments we recommend to clients have wide market participation with prices that are easily discerned and market-determined, and since most employee trades involve mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that do not affect the securities markets. However, we have procedures in place to ensure that personal trading by our staff is never disadvantageous to our client's interests. Personal trading by staff and their relations must be in accordance with our Code of Ethics and trading policies and procedures. The Chief Compliance Officer of Walden Wealth Partners is Karin Maloney Stifler.

### **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

#### **A. Selecting Brokerage Firms**

Walden Wealth Partners considers a range of factors when recommending brokerage/custodial relationships, including:

- Client's needs and preferences.
- Transaction execution services and asset custody services.
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities).
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (e.g. wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- Breadth of available investment products, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds, etc.
- Quality of services.
- Competitiveness of pricing of services.
- Reputation, financial strength, leadership, and stability.

Walden Wealth Partners recommends the custodial services of Schwab Advisor Services ("Schwab"), a division of Charles Schwab & Company, Inc., which is a member of FINRA/SIPC. Schwab offers custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. Depending on client's needs and preferences, we may also manage or supervise client assets at other custodial firms.

#### **B. Research and Soft Dollars**

Walden Wealth Partners does not receive any soft dollar credits, and does not participate in soft dollar arrangements. We do not receive research or other benefits from account custodians commensurate with the volume of business we conduct with custodians.

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

Walden Wealth Partners may receive benefits from custodians through its participation in their respective institutional programs. The firms with whom we work may offer products and services

that support efficient and effective client service. The benefits received by the firm do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed. Receipt of general platform services does not diminish the firm's ability or duty to act in the best interests of its clients, including to seek best execution of trades for client accounts.

Examples of such benefits include the following:

- Facilitates trade execution.
- Provides access to client account data, such as trade confirmations and account statements.
- Provides research and other market data.
- Facilitates payment of advisory fees from client accounts.
- Assists with back office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting.

Other services that may benefit us and benefit clients indirectly include:

- Educational conferences and events.
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business matters.
- Practice management services and products through third party vendors at discounted or no cost.
- Publications and information on business management.

Walden Wealth Partners may receive from Schwab, without cost to Walden Wealth, computer software and related systems support, which allows us to better monitor client accounts maintained at that custodian. Walden Wealth may receive the software and support because the firm renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at Schwab. The software and support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e. are not "soft dollars"). The software and support may benefit Walden Wealth, but not its clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to clients, Walden Wealth endeavors at all times to put the interest of the clients first.

#### **D. No Brokerage for Client Referrals**

Walden Wealth Partners does not engage in the practice of directing brokerage business in exchange for the referral of clients.

#### **E. Directed Brokerage**

The client may direct Walden Wealth Partners in writing to use a particular Financial Institution to execute some or all transactions for the client. In that case, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for the account with that Financial Institution, and Walden Wealth will not seek better execution services or prices from other Financial Institutions, or be able to “batch” client transactions for execution with orders for other accounts managed by Walden Wealth. As a result, the client may pay higher commissions, other transaction costs, or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case. Subject to its duty of best execution, Walden Wealth Partners may decline a client’s request to direct brokerage if, in Walden Wealth’s sole discretion, such directed brokerage arrangements would result in additional operational difficulties.

#### **F. Order Aggregation**

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless Walden Wealth Partners decides to purchase or sell the same securities (typically ETFs) for several clients at approximately the same time. Walden Wealth may, but is not obligated to combine or “batch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates, or to allocate equitably among Walden Wealth’s clients’ differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently.

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

#### **A. Schedule for Periodic Review of Client Financial and Investment Plans**

Upon signing a contract with Walden Wealth Partners for continuous service, the client is requested to provide a variety of financial information. Soon after receipt of the information, we meet with the client to begin the planning process. Generally, the agenda for the first meeting is to confirm our understanding of the basic facts of the client’s personal and financial circumstances, and to begin the conversation about the client’s goals, values, concerns, preferences, and personal history. In general, in the next several meetings, we review and discuss draft financial plan analysis, priority list of planning objectives, and proposed strategies to address these planning priorities. The information from these initial meetings is summarized for the client in meeting memos and a master executive summary.

In subsequent meetings, which are typically spaced out within the next few months, Walden Wealth Partners and the client work together through each planning priority to ensure that the client’s financial plan strategies are closely and prudently tailored to the client’s unique circumstances.

Once this ‘on boarding’ process is complete, we shift to an ongoing meeting schedule, at least annually, or as mutually agreed with the client. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, the advisor and client are welcome to be in touch anytime, and especially when a planning need, question, or opportunity arises.

All client reviews and meetings are attended by Sarah Hannibal, CFA, CPA (inactive) and/or Karin Maloney Stifler, CFP®, AIF®.

#### **B. Review of Client Plans and Portfolios on a Non-Periodic Basis**

Walden Wealth Partners may perform ad hoc reviews on an as needed basis if there have been material changes in the tax laws, economic environment, etc., and changes in a client’s own situation, such as goals, opportunities, risk tolerance, net worth and/or income.

### **C. Content and Frequency of Client Reports**

Walden Wealth Partners generally documents material discussions after each meeting in written summaries which are sent to the client, and also sends reports related to initial financial and investment plans, as well as reviews and updates to the client's plans. The client's independent custodian will provide regular account statements directly to the client. The custodian's statement is the official record of the client's securities account.

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

#### **A. No Economic Benefits from External Sources and Conflicts of Interest**

Other than benefits provided through the firm's participation in the Schwab platform as described in Item 12, Walden Wealth Partners does not receive economic benefits from any external source.

#### **B. No Advisory Firm Payments for Client Referrals**

Walden Wealth Partners does not pay for client referrals, and does not receive compensation other than fees billed to clients for services.

### **Item 15: Custody**

As a general rule, Walden Wealth Partners does not take custody of client assets. Clients receive at least quarterly account statements directly from their custodian containing a description of all activity, cash balances, and portfolio holdings in their accounts. They will be sent to the email or postal mail address provided by the client. We urge clients to carefully and promptly review statements when received.

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

Walden Wealth requests that it be provided with written authority to determine which securities and the amounts of securities that are bought or sold. When selecting securities and determining amounts, Walden Wealth observes the investment policies, limitations and restrictions of the clients for which it advises. Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall be included in this written authority statement. Clients may amend these limitations as required. Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to Walden Wealth Partners in writing.

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

Walden Wealth Partners does not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Clients receive proxies directly from their account custodian for their review and consideration.

Clients should note that we will neither advise nor act on behalf of the client in legal proceedings involving companies whose securities are held or previously were held in the client's account(s), including, but not limited to, the filing of "Proofs of Claim" in class action settlements.

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

Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about Walden Wealth Partners LLC's financial condition. LLC has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients, and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding requiring the firm to provide financial information. Advisor does not require any advanced deposits of more than \$500.

## **Item 19: Requirement for State Registered Advisors**

### **Identify Principal Executive Officers and Management Person**

The Principal Executive Officer is Karin Maloney Stifler. The primary Management Person is Sarah Hannibal. See Form ADV Part 2B Supplement(s).

### **Describe Business Other Than Investment Advice**

Walden Wealth Partners LLC has no other business.

### **Describe How Supervised Persons are compensated with performance based fees**

There is no compensation with performance-based fees.

### **Describe if a Management Person has been subject to a Disciplinary Event**

The Walden Wealth Partners LLC Management Persons have not been subject to a disciplinary event.

### **Describe any Relationship with an Issuer of Securities**

Walden Wealth Partners LLC does not have relationships with issuers of securities.



**Item 1: Cover Page of Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)**

Supervised Person: Karin Maloney Stifler



**34305 Solon Road, Suite 75, Solon, OH 44139**

**(440) 248-1632**

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

This brochure supplement provides information about Sarah Hannibal and Karin Maloney Stifler that supplements the ADV brochure of Walden Wealth Partners. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Please contact Karin Maloney Stifler if you did not receive Walden Wealth Partners brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this brochure by calling 440-248-1632, or emailing [karin@waldenwealth.com](mailto:karin@waldenwealth.com).

Additional information about Walden Wealth Partners LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

May 12, 2017

## Item 2

**Supervised Person: Karin Maloney Stifler** (Born 1959)

### **Educational Background:**

- Center for Fiduciary Studies, Fiduciary360 – Accredited Investment Fiduciary™, 2010.
- College for Financial Planning, Denver, CO – Certified Financial Planner™, 1991.
- Northeastern University, Boston, MA – MBA Finance, 1987.
- Miami University, Oxford, OH – B.A. International Studies, 1981.
- University de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, 1980.

### **Business Experience:**

- True Wealth Advisors, Principal, 2004 – 2015.
- Morningstar, Analyst and Editor, 2000 – 2001.
- Spero-Smith Investment Advisors, Senior Financial Planner, 1994 – 1997.
- The Boston Company, Vice President, 1991 – 1993.

### **Service:**

- Ohio Police & Fire Pension Board, 2015 – present.
- Bluecoats, 2010 to present.
- National Pro Bono Financial Planning, 2001 to present.
- Personal economics and financial literacy, 2001 to present.

### **Professional Designations:**

#### **Certified Financial Planner (CFP®), 1990**

Certified Financial Planners are licensed by the CFP Board to use the CFP mark. Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education – Complete at least 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the *Standards of Professional Conduct*;
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care.

#### **Accredited Investment Fiduciary™ (AIF®)**

The AIF designation certifies that the recipient has specialized knowledge of fiduciary standards of care and their application to the investment management process. To receive the AIF designation, individuals must complete training, successfully pass a comprehensive, final examination and agree to abide by the AIF Code of Ethics. In order to maintain the AIF designation, the individual must annually renew their affirmation of the AIF Code of Ethics and complete six hours of continuing education credits. The certification is administered by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, LLC.

**Item 3 - Disciplinary Information:** There are no disciplinary actions to report for Ms. Stifler.

**Item 4 - Other Business Activities:** Ms. Stifler does not engage in other business activities.

**Item 5 - Additional Compensation:** Ms. Stifler does not receive additional compensation.

**Item 6 – Supervision:** Karin Maloney Stifler's financial planning, investment, and consulting services are supervised by Sarah Hannibal, CFA, Managing Partner, Walden Wealth Partners.

### **Item 7 – Requirements for State-Registered Advisors:**

Arbitration Claims: There are no such claims for Ms. Stifler.

Civil Self-Regulatory Organization or Administrative Proceeding: There is none to report.

Bankruptcy Petition: There is no such petition for Ms. Stifler.

**Item 1: Cover Page of Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)**

Supervised Person: Sarah Hannibal



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May 12, 2017

## Item 2

**Supervised Person: Sarah Hannibal** (Born 1971)

### **Educational Background:**

- Association for Investment Management and Research, Chartered Financial Analyst, 2001
- Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI – MBA with distinction, 2000.
- Miami University, Oxford, OH – BS Accounting, 1993.
- John E Dolibois European Center, Luxembourg, 1991.

### **Business Experience:**

- GEM Asset Management, LLC, Partner, 2005 – 2015.
- J.P. Morgan Private Bank, Chicago, IL – Vice President & Investment Specialist, 2000-2005.
- Deloitte - Audit Manager, London, UK 1996-1998.  
- Audit Senior, Chicago, IL 1993-1996.

### **Professional Designations:**

#### **Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), 2001**

A Chartered Financial Analyst is a professional designation issued by the CFA Institute that measures the qualifications and trustworthiness of financial professionals. A CFA candidate must pass three course exams to demonstrate competency in the following areas: portfolio management, accounting, ethics, money management, and security analysis. Licensed CFAs are subject to rigorous ethics rules.

#### **Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Inactive, 1994**

A CPA has passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and has met additional state education and experience requirements for membership in their respective professional accounting bodies and certification as a CPA. Sarah has passed the Exam and accomplished the required on-the-job experience but has lapsed her continuing professional education and therefore uses the designation "CPA Inactive."

**Item 3 - Disciplinary Information:** There are no disciplinary actions to report for Ms. Hannibal.

**Item 4 - Other Business Activities:** Ms. Hannibal owns 25% of Mendoza Partners, LLC, a wine producer. See [www.slantwalkwine.com](http://www.slantwalkwine.com).

**Item 5 - Additional Compensation:** Ms. Hannibal does not receive additional compensation.

**Item 6 – Supervision:** Sarah Hannibal's financial planning, investment, and consulting services are supervised by Karin Maloney Stifler, CFP®, AIF, Managing Partner, Walden Wealth Partners.

### **Item 7 – Requirements for State-Registered Advisors:**

Arbitration Claims: There are no such claims for Ms. Hannibal.

Civil Self-Regulatory Organization or Administrative Proceeding: There is none to report.

Bankruptcy Petition: There is no such petition for Ms. Hannibal.