

Item 1 – Cover Page

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March 21, 2016

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Mariner Wealth Advisors–Chicago, LLC dba Mariner Wealth Advisors (“MWA”). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (913) 647-9700. 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. MWA is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information through which you determine to hire or retain an Adviser.

Additional information about MWA is also available via the SEC’s web site at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## **Item 2 – Material Changes**

The material changes from the initial Brochure dated June 9, 2015 include: a new office location (Item 1), a legal name change to Mariner Wealth-Advisors-Chicago, LLC, the addition of an owner and updating assets under management (Item 4) and additional affiliations and conflicts of interest (Item 10).

Pursuant to SEC Rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business's fiscal year. We may provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

We will provide you with a new Brochure if requested based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge. Currently, our Brochure may be requested by contacting us at (913) 647-9700 or [compliance@mariner-holdings.com](mailto:compliance@mariner-holdings.com).

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#### **Item 4 – Advisory Business**

Mariner Wealth Advisors–Chicago, LLC dba Mariner Wealth Advisors (“MWA,” “we,” or “us”) is an investment adviser. We are a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware since May 2015. Mariner Wealth Advisors-Chicago is owned by Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC, managing member and majority owner, and Keith Plywaczynski, member and managing partner. Mariner Wealth Advisors is wholly owned by Mariner Holdings, LLC, an independent financial services firm. The Bicknell Family Holding Company, LLC is the majority owner and manager of Mariner Holdings. Martin Bicknell is the elected manager of the Bicknell Family Holding Company.

We provide personal financial planning, consulting, and investment management services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and business entities. Depending upon the engagement, we offer our services on a fee basis based upon assets under management. We may provide our clients with a broad range of comprehensive financial planning and consulting services (which may include non-investment related matters).

Prior to engaging us, the client will be required to enter into one or more written agreements setting forth the terms, conditions, and objectives under which we shall render our services (the “Agreement”). Additionally, we may only implement our investment recommendations after a client has arranged for and furnished all information and authorization regarding accounts with appropriate financial institutions. Our clients are advised to promptly notify us if there are ever any changes in their financial situation or investment objectives or if they wish to impose any reasonable restrictions upon our advisory services.

Our total assets under management were \$158,763,801 as of December 31, 2015.

## **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

Our fees are subject to negotiation and all fee arrangements will comply with Section 205 of the Advisers Act.

The specific manner in which our fees are charged is established in the Agreement. We will generally bill our fees in advance on a quarterly basis based upon the value of assets under management on the last day of the previous quarter, and as more fully described in the Agreement. The Agreement and/or the separate agreement with any financial institution(s) may authorize us to invoice the custodian for the advisory fee. The Agreement further authorizes the custodian to deduct the amount stated in the fee statement from one or more of the client's accounts in accordance with applicable custody rules. The financial institution(s) recommended by us have agreed to send a statement to the client, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts disbursed from the account including the amount of management fees paid directly to us.

A client may make additions to and withdrawals from the account at any time, subject to our right to terminate an account. If assets are deposited into an account after the inception of a quarter that exceed \$100,000, the fee payable with respect to such assets will be prorated based on the number of days remaining in the quarter. A client may withdraw account assets on notice to us, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. For partial withdrawals in excess of \$100,000 within a billing period, we shall credit our unearned fee towards the next quarter's fee. However, we design our portfolios as long-term investments and asset withdrawals may impair the achievement of a client's investment objectives.

For the initial quarter of investment management services, the first quarter's fees shall be calculated on a *pro rata* basis. The Agreement between us and a client will continue in effect until terminated by either party pursuant to the terms of the Agreement. Our annual fee shall be prorated through the date of termination and any remaining balance shall be charged or refunded to the client, as appropriate, in a timely manner.

Additions may be in cash or securities, provided that we reserve the right to liquidate any transferred securities, or decline to accept particular securities into a client's account. We may consult with our clients about the options and ramifications of transferring securities. However, clients are advised that when transferred securities are liquidated, they are subject to transaction fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (i.e. contingent deferred sales charge) and/or tax ramifications.

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which shall be incurred by a client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, third party investment managers and other third parties such as fees charged by managers, custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual funds and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and

costs. Advisory clients should note that they have the option to purchase investment products recommended by us through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with us.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for client transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

## **Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

We do not charge any performance-based fees (fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client). If deemed appropriate for a particular client, we may recommend investments that charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

We generally provide investment advice to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (including high net worth individuals)
- Trusts, estates, or charitable organizations
- Corporations or business entities other than those listed above

We do not impose a minimum portfolio size or minimum annual fee. Certain Independent or Affiliated Investment Managers (hereafter referred to as “Managers”) may, however, impose more restrictive account requirements and varying billing practices than us. In such instances, we may alter our corresponding account requirements and/or billing practices to accommodate those of the Manager(s).



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

We utilize a long term strategy when providing and implementing our advice. However, should a client's situation change or the basis for making an investment change, there may be occasions where we may utilize a short term strategy and securities are held less than one year.

We may recommend that clients authorize the active discretionary management of a portion of their assets by and/or among certain Manager(s), based upon the stated investment objectives of the client. When recommending or selecting a Manager for a client, we shall review information about the Manager(s) such as its disclosure statement and/or material supplied by the Manager(s) or independent third parties for a description of the Manager's investment strategies, past performance and risk results to the extent available.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear, including loss of your original principal. Past performance is not indicative of future results, therefore, you should not assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. We do not provide any representation or guarantee that your goals will be achieved. Depending on the different types of investments, there may be varying degrees of risk:

- **Market Risk** – Either the market as a whole, or the value of an individual company, goes down, resulting in a decrease in the value of client investments.
- **Equity Risk** – Stocks are susceptible to fluctuations and to the volatile increases and decreases in value as their issuer's confidence in or perceptions of the market change. Investors holding common stock of any issuer are generally exposed to greater risk than if they hold preferred stock or debt obligations of the issuer.
- **Company Risk** – There is always a level of company or industry risk when investing in stock positions. This is referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that a company may perform poorly or that its value may be reduced based on factors specific to it or its industry.
- **Options Risk** – Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than investing in the underlying securities. Purchasing and writing put or call options are highly specialized activities and involve greater investment risk. Puts and calls are the right to sell or buy a specified amount of an underlying asset at a set price within a set time.
- **Fixed Income Risk** – Investing in bonds involves the risk that the issuer will default on the bond and be unable to make payments. In addition, individuals depending on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk that inflation will erode their spending power. Fixed-income investors receive set, regular payments that face the same inflation risk.

- **ETF and Mutual Fund Risk** – ETF and mutual fund investments bear additional expenses based on a pro-rata share of operating expenses, including potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities held by the ETF or mutual fund. Clients also incur brokerage costs when purchasing ETFs.
- **International Investing Risk** – International investing, especially in emerging markets, involves special risks, such as currency exchange and price fluctuations, as well as political and economic risks.
- **Alternative Investment Risk** – Alternative investments encompass a broad array of strategies, each with its own unique return and risk characteristics that must be considered on a case-specific basis.
- **Management Risk** – Investments also vary with the success and failure of the investment strategies, research, analysis and determination of portfolio securities. If our strategies do not produce the expected returns, the value of your investments will decrease.

### **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of us or the integrity of our management. We have no information applicable to this Item.

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

We have relationships and arrangements that are material to our advisory business or to our clients with related persons that are either an investment adviser, broker-dealer or investment company, trust company, accounting firm, insurance company or agency, or real estate broker or dealer.

### Other Investment Advisers

We are affiliated, and under common control, with other SEC registered investment advisers:

- 440 Investment Group, LLC (“440”) (CRD No. 155399);
- Alegria Energy, LLC (“Alegria”) (CRD No. 281531);
- Ascent Investment Partners, LLC (“AIP”) (CRD No. 152533);
- Convergence Investment Partners, LLC (“CIP”) (CRD No. 148472);
- FirstPoint Financial, LLC (“FirstPoint”) (CRD No. 175252);
- Giralda Advisors, LLC (“Giralda”) (CRD No. 165971);
- Mariner Institutional Consulting, LLC (“MIC”) (CRD No. 173582);
- Mariner Real Estate Management, LLC (“MREM”) (CRD No. 159261);
- Mariner Retirement Advisors, LLC (“MRA”) (CRD No. 172372);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC (“Mariner”) (CRD No. 140195);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-Leawood, LLC (“MWA-Leawood”) (CRD No. 170703);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-Madison, LLC (“MWA-Madison”) (CRD No. 165972);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-Manasquan (“MWA-Manasquan”) (CRD No. 171018);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-NYC, LLC (“MWA-NYC”) (CRD No. 169459);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-Oklahoma, LLC (“MWA-Oklahoma”) (CRD No. 107355);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-Omaha, LLC (“MWA-Omaha”) (CRD No. 109904);
- Mariner Wealth Advisors-St. Louis, LLC (“MWA-St. Louis”) (CRD No. 207512);
- Montage Investments, LLC (“Montage”) (CRD No. 152607);
- Nuance Investments, LLC (“Nuance”) (CRD No. 148534);
- Palmer Square Capital Management LLC (“Palmer Square”) (CRD No. 155697);
- RB Investments, LLC (“RB Investments”) (CRD No. 269836);
- RealtyClub Investment Advisors LLC (“RealtyClub”) (CRD No. 175359);
- RiverPoint Capital Management, LLC (“RPCM”) (CRD No. 165759);
- Silverwest Hotels LLC (“Silverwest Hotels”) (CRD No. 175360);
- TorrayResolute, LLC (“TorrayResolute”) (CRD No. 173090);
- Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (“TCA”) (CRD No. 123711);
- Tortoise Credit Strategies, LLC (“TCS”) (CRD No. 277046);
- Tortoise Index Solutions, LLC (“TIS”) (CRD No. 213515); and
- Vantage Investment Advisors, LLC (“VIA”) (CRD No. 174099), respectively.

We are affiliated, and under common control, with an exempt reporting investment adviser:

- Flyover Capital Partners, LLC (“Flyover”) (CRD No. 173709).

### Broker-Dealer

We are affiliated, and under common control, with Montage Securities, LLC (“Montage Securities”) (CRD No. 154327), a broker/dealer registered with the SEC and various state jurisdictions, member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), Securities Investment Protection Corporation (SIPC), and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). Certain MWA advisors may also be licensed as Registered Representatives of Montage Securities.

### Investment Company or Other Pooled Investment Vehicles

Mariner Wealth Advisors recommends that certain clients invest in mutual funds, private funds and/or separately managed accounts managed by one or more Advisory Affiliates should a client’s advisor determine such investments are in the client’s best interest and in accordance with the client’s investment objectives. The Advisory Affiliate shall receive management fees from the product, as disclosed in the offering documents provided to the client or separate agreement executed with the Advisory Affiliate by the client, as applicable.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Convergence Core Plus Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Convergence Core Plus Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Convergence Opportunities Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Convergence Opportunities Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to Convergence Market Neutral Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Convergence Market Neutral Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to The Giralda Fund administered by Gemini Fund Services, LLC. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to The Giralda Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Giralda Risk-Managed Growth Fund administered by Gemini Fund Services, LLC. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Giralda Risk-Managed Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Palmer Square Absolute Return Fund administered by UMB Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions

relative to the Absolute Return Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Palmer Square SSI Alternative Income Fund administered by UMB Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Alternative Income Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Palmer Square Income Plus Fund administered by UMB Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Income Plus Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Palmer Square Long/Short Credit Fund administered by UMB Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Long/Short Credit Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Consilium Emerging Market Small Cap Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Emerging Market Small Cap Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Nuance Concentrated Value Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Nuance Concentrated Value Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Nuance Mid Cap Value Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Nuance Mid Cap Value Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Nuance Concentrated Value Long-Short Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Nuance Concentrated Value Long-Short Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the TorrayResolute Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the TorrayResolute Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Tortoise MLP & Pipeline Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions

relative to the Tortoise MLP & Pipeline Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Tortoise North American Energy Independence Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Tortoise North American Energy Independence Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Tortoise Select Opportunity Fund administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the Tortoise Select Opportunity Fund may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Tortoise North American Pipeline Fund (TPYP), an Exchange Traded Fund (“ETF”), administered by U.S. Bancorp Fund Services. All relevant information, terms and conditions for the ETF may be found in its prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the following closed-end funds: Tortoise Energy Independence Fund, Inc.; Tortoise MLP Fund, Inc.; Tortoise Power and Energy Infrastructure Fund, Inc.; Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc.; and Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp. One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment adviser to the Palmer Square Opportunistic Income Fund, a closed-end interval fund. All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to each of the closed-end funds may be found in each fund’s respective prospectus, which each investor is required to receive prior to being accepted as an investor.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment manager of Montage Seed Capital, LLC.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment manager of WBR, LLC; Mariner Mangrove II, LLC; Mariner-Piper Senior Living Fund, LLC; and Mariner-Store, LLC.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the Advisor to SMC Reserve Fund II, L.P., and Submanager to Class F of SMC Holdings II, LP.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the investment manager to Flyover Capital Tech Fund I, L.P.

One of our Affiliates is investment manager or collateral manager to the following private funds: Palmer Square Opportunistic Credit Fund U.S. LLC, Palmer Square Opportunistic Credit Fund LP, Palmer Square Opportunistic Credit Fund, Ltd., Palmer Square Short Duration Investment Grade Fund, LLC, Palmer Square Capital Special Situations Fund LP, Palmer Square CLO 2013-1, Ltd., Palmer Square CLO 2013-2, Ltd., Palmer Square CLO 2014-1, Ltd., Palmer Square CLO 2015-1, Ltd., Palmer Square CLO 2015-2, Ltd., Palmer Square Loan Funding 2016-2, Ltd., Palmer Square Loan Funding 2016-3, Ltd., Loan Funding II, Ltd., Loan Funding I, Ltd., and Guilford Capital Credit L.P. One of our Affiliates serves as the sub-adviser to Atlantic Global Yield Opportunity Fund, LP (a hedge fund of funds). One of our Affiliates serves as an

investment manager to the following hedge fund of funds: Palmer Square Opportunity Fund L.P.; Palmer Square Multi-Strategy Fund L.P.; Palmer Square Multi-Strategy Fund, Ltd.; Palmer Square Emerging Manager Fund L.P.; and Palmer Square Emerging Manager Fund II L.P.

One of our Affiliates is the investment manager to Mariner Real Estate Partners, LLC (“MREP”); Mariner Real Estate Partners II, LLC (“MREP II”); Mariner Real Estate Partners III, LLC (“MREP III”); Mariner Real Estate Partners III A, LLC (“MREP III A”); Mariner Real Estate Partners III B, LLC (“MREP III B”); Mariner Real Estate Partners IV, LLC (“MREP IV”); Mariner Real Estate Partners IV A, LLC (“MREP IV A”); MREM BOT Holdings LLC (“MREP BOT”); Mariner Residential Recovery Fund, LLC (“MRRF”); Mariner Residential Recovery Fund A, LLC (“MRRF A”); M-CMBS Opp. Fund LLC (“M-CMBS Opp.”); and MREM Fairway Investors LLC; all of which are pooled investment vehicles focusing on real estate investments.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the advisor to Silverwest Hotel Fund I LLC and Silverwest Hotel Fund I A LLC and Manager to SMG Waikoloa Partners LLC, all of which are pooled investment vehicles focusing on real estate investments. In addition, said Advisory Affiliate is also the Manager of Silverwest Manager Fund-I LLC, the Manager of Silverwest Hotel Feeder LLC, a pooled investment vehicle which acts as a feeder fund for Silverwest Hotel Fund I, LLC.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the Investment Manager to RC 2015-I Investors, L.P.

One of our Advisory Affiliates is the Investment Manager to Alegria Fund, LP.

One of our advisory affiliates is the sub-adviser to the Atlantic Global Yield Opportunity Fund, LP.

All relevant information, terms and conditions relative to the aforementioned private funds including the investment objectives and strategies, minimum investments, qualification requirements, suitability, fund expenses, risk factors, and potential conflicts of interest, are set forth in the offering documents (which typically include confidential private offering memorandum, Limited Partnership Agreement/Limited Liability Company Agreement, and Subscription Agreement), which each investor is required to receive and/or execute prior to being accepted as an investor.

#### Trust Company

We are under common control with Mariner Trust Company, LLC. Mariner Trust Company, LLC, is a state-chartered public trust company organized under the laws of South Dakota and serves to provide administrative trust services and other related services to customers of Mariner Trust Company, LLC.



### Accounting Firm

We are under common control with Mariner Consulting, a Certified Public Accounting Firm, which offers accounting advice and tax preparation services. MWA does not render accounting advice or tax preparation services to our clients; however Mariner Consulting does offer accounting advice and tax preparation services. To the extent that a client requires accounting advice and/or tax preparation services, we, if requested, will recommend the services of a Certified Public Accountant, including the services of Mariner Consulting, all of which services shall be rendered independent of MWA pursuant to a separate agreement between the client and the Certified Public Accountant, referral or otherwise. We shall not receive any of the fees charged by any recommended Certified Public Accountant, referral or otherwise.

### Insurance Company or Agency

We are under common control with Mariner Insurance Resources, LLC; ERS Insurance, Inc.; and ERS Securas, LLC; duly licensed insurance agencies. Certain of our representatives, in their individual capacities, are licensed insurance agents with these companies and in such capacity may recommend on a fully disclosed basis the purchase of certain insurance-related products. These individuals are compensated for the sale of these insurance-related products.

The recommendation by a representative of MWA that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a conflict of interest, as the receipt of commission may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from a representative of MWA. Clients are reminded that they may purchase insurance products recommended by MWA through other, non-affiliated insurance agents.

### Real Estate Broker or Dealer

We are under common control with Mariner Real Estate Management, LLC. One of our affiliates, Ryan Anderson, is a licensed real estate broker and an indirect owner of Mariner Real Estate Management, LLC.

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

We have adopted a code of ethics that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of our associated persons and requires compliance with applicable securities laws (“Code of Ethics”). In accordance with Section 204A of the Advisers Act, the Code of Ethics contains written policies reasonably designed to prevent the unlawful use of material non-public information by us or any of our associated persons. The Code of Ethics also requires that certain of our personnel (“access persons”) report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments such as initial public offerings and limited offerings. No access person may themselves purchase or sell, directly or indirectly, any security in which the access person or an affiliate account has, or by reason of the transaction acquires, any direct or indirect beneficial ownership if the access person knows or reasonably should know that the security, at the time of the purchase or sale (i) is being considered for purchase or sale on behalf of any client account; or (ii) is being actively purchased or sold on behalf any client account.

If an access person is aware that the Firm is purchasing/selling or considering for purchase/sale any security on behalf of a client, the access person may not themselves effect a transaction in that security prior to the completion of the purchase/sale or until a decision has been made not to purchase/sell such security. This does not include transactions for accounts that are executed as part of a block trade within a managed strategy or for accounts over which the access person has no direct influence or control. These requirements are not applicable to: (i) direct obligations of the Government of the United States; (ii) money market instruments, bankers’ acceptances, bank certificates of deposit, commercial paper, repurchase agreements and other high quality short-term debt instruments, including repurchase agreements; (iii) shares issued by money market funds; (iv) shares issued by other mutual funds that are not advised or sub-advised by the firm or its affiliates; and (v) shares issued by unit investment trusts that are invested exclusively in one or more mutual funds, none of which are funds advised or sub-advised by the firm or its affiliates.

MWA, from time to time, recommends to clients that they buy or sell securities in which employees or other related persons have a financial interest. These types of transactions present a conflict of interest in that employees or related persons might benefit from market activity by a client in a security held by an employee. In order to reasonably prevent conflicts of interest between MWA and its clients, employee trading is monitored under the Code of Ethics.

We do not execute any principal or agency cross securities transactions for client accounts, nor do we execute cross trades between client accounts. Principal transactions are generally defined as transactions where an adviser, acting as principal for its own account or the account of an affiliated broker-dealer, buys from or sells any security to any advisory client. A principal transaction may also be deemed to have occurred if a security is crossed between an affiliated hedge fund and another client account. An agency cross transaction is generally defined as a transaction where a person acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which the investment adviser, or any person controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser, acts as broker for both the advisory client and for another person on the other side of the

transaction. Agency cross transactions may arise where an adviser is dually registered as a broker-dealer or has an affiliated broker-dealer.

No supervised person may trade, either personally or on behalf of others, while in the possession of material, nonpublic information, nor may any personnel of MWA communicate material, nonpublic information to others in violation of the law. Furthermore, all access persons are required to submit information to the Chief Compliance Officer detailing all outside business activities. The Chief Compliance Officer will review and approve these activities on a case by case basis.

Our clients or prospective clients may request a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at (913) 647-9700 or [compliance@mariner-holdings.com](mailto:compliance@mariner-holdings.com).

## Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

If the client requests us to arrange for the execution of securities brokerage transactions for the client's account, we shall direct such transactions through broker-dealers that we reasonably believe will provide best execution. Transactions may be cleared through other broker-dealers with whom MWA and the Financial Institution(s) have entered into agreements for prime brokerage clearing services. We shall periodically and systematically review our policies and procedures regarding recommending broker-dealers to our clients in light of our duty to obtain best execution.

The client may direct us in writing to use a particular broker-dealer to execute some or all transactions for the client. In that case, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for the account with that broker-dealer, and we will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" client transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by us (as described below). As a result, the 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. Subject to our duty of best execution, we may decline a client's request to direct brokerage if, in our sole discretion, such directed brokerage arrangements would result in additional operational difficulties or violate restrictions imposed by other broker-dealers (as further discussed below).

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. We may (but are not obligated to) combine or "batch" such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates, or to allocate equitably among our 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 generally be averaged as to price and allocated among our clients pro rata to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that we determine to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which our Advisory Affiliate(s) may invest, we shall generally do so in accordance with applicable rules promulgated under the Advisers Act and no-action guidance provided by the staff of the SEC. We shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of the aggregation. In the event that we determine that a prorated allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, the allocation will be made based upon other relevant factors, which may include: (i) when only a small percentage of the order is executed, shares may be allocated to the account with the smallest order or the smallest position or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings relative to other portfolios, with similar mandates; (ii) allocations may be given to one account when one account has limitations in its investment guidelines which prohibit it from purchasing other securities which are expected to produce similar investment results and can be purchased by other accounts; (iii) if an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, shares may be reallocated to other accounts (this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account's assets after an order is placed); (iv) with respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash; (v) in cases when a pro rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a *de minimis* allocation in one or more accounts, we may

exclude the account(s) from the allocation; the transactions may be executed on a pro rata basis among the remaining accounts; or (vi) in cases where a small proportion of an order is executed in all accounts, shares may be allocated to one or more accounts on a random basis.

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

### 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, the Firm may receive from Schwab and/or Fidelity (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform and/or mutual fund sponsor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist us to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Possible support services the firm may receive include: investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, 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 the Firm in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

The Firm's majority owner, Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC ("MWA"), has entered into a custodial support services agreement with Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services ("Fidelity"), which, through Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC or National Financial Services LLC, provides execution, custodial and other services for some or all of the client accounts managed by certain MWA affiliates, including us ("Client Accounts"). Under this agreement, MWA, through us, provides Fidelity with certain back office, administrative, custodial support and clerical services with respect to Client Accounts ("Support Services"). Fidelity pays MWA a fee for the provision of these Support Services. The fee is calculated based on the average daily balance of eligible client assets in Client Accounts. Eligible client assets consist primarily of client investments in non-transaction fee mutual funds other than Fidelity sponsored funds. MWA's, and subsequently the Firm's, receipt of this compensation may create conflicts of interest in our recommending investments in eligible assets and in our choosing Fidelity to maintain Clients' Accounts.

To the extent the Firm is acting as a "Fiduciary" with respect to "Qualified Accounts" subject to "ERISA," The Firm will seek to avoid or remedy any situation where its receipt of compensation that was paid to MWA by Fidelity for Support Services would be a prohibited transaction under "ERISA." This may entail the Firm disclaiming entitlement to such compensation or reducing its management fee by the amount of compensation received. For purposes of the foregoing, "ERISA" shall mean the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended

(“ERISA”) and the applicable “ERISA-mirror provisions” of Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; “Fiduciary” shall be defined as that term is defined under ERISA; and “Qualified Accounts” shall mean accounts that constitute a retirement plan (including a 401(k) plan) or other employee benefit plan subject to ERISA, an account for a tax-qualified retirement plan (including a Keogh plan), or an individual retirement account under the Internal Revenue Code.

**Trade Error Policy.** The Firm has a policy to minimize the occurrence of trade errors and, should they occur, detect such trade errors and take steps to resolve the error in the best interest of the Firm’s clients. Upon the timely discovery of a trade error, the Firm will reimburse accounts for losses resulting from trade errors caused by the Firm. If such a trade error creates a gain for the client’s account, the Firm shall follow the dictates of the account custodian’s trade error policy which typically provides that any gains shall be donated to charity. The Firm will not retain the net gains on a trade error correction.

### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

For investment advisory clients, we monitor portfolios as part of an ongoing process while regular account reviews are conducted on at least a quarterly basis. For those clients to whom we provide financial planning and/or consulting services, reviews are conducted on an “as needed” basis. Such reviews are conducted by one of our wealth advisors. All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals, and objectives with us and to keep us informed of any changes thereto. We shall contact ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review our previous services and/or recommendations and to discuss the impact resulting from any changes in the client’s financial situation and/or investment objectives.

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

We may enter into certain referral agreements whereby we pay a referral fee to solicitors/introducers and/or receive payment for referring clients to another business or related party, in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Advisers Act and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee shall be paid solely from our investment management fee, and shall not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to us by an unaffiliated solicitor, the client will be given, prior to or at the time of entering into any advisory contract with the client, (1) a copy of our written disclosure statement which meets the requirements of Rule 204-3 of the Advisers Act, and (2) a copy of the solicitor's disclosure statement containing the terms and conditions of the solicitation arrangement including compensation. Any affiliated solicitor of ours shall disclose the nature of his/her relationship to prospective clients at the time of the solicitation and will provide all prospective clients with a copy of our written disclosure statement at the time of the solicitation.

If we determine that it is appropriate based on the client's investment objectives, we will recommend affiliate investment advisers' services to manage a portion of a client's assets. These affiliate investment advisers charge fees in addition to and separate from the fees charged by MWA. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists to the extent we recommend affiliate investment adviser services.

If we determine that it is appropriate based on the client's investment objectives and investor status, clients are solicited to invest in investment-related limited partnerships or limited liability companies for which one of our related persons serves as the general partner or manager. These limited partnerships or limited liability companies charge fees in addition to and separate from the fees charged by MWA. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists to the extent we recommend these investments.



### **Item 15 – Custody**

MWA is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities under Rule 206(4)-2 due to its ability to debit fees directly from client accounts. Clients should receive at least quarterly statements from the broker dealer, bank or other qualified custodian that holds and maintains client's investment assets. We urge clients to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the account statements that we may provide to clients. Our statements may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

### **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

We usually receive discretionary authority from the client at the outset of an advisory relationship to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold. In all cases, however, such discretion is to be exercised in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives for the particular client account.

When selecting securities and determining amounts, we observe the investment policies, limitations and restrictions of the clients for which we advise.

Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to us in writing.

## **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

We vote proxies on behalf of our clients, unless otherwise agreed in writing. We cast proxy votes in a manner consistent with the best interest of our clients. Absent special circumstances, which are fully described in our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, all proxies will be voted consistent with guidelines established and described in our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, as they may be amended from time-to-time. At any time, clients may contact us to request information about how we voted proxies for that client's securities or to get a copy of our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures.

A brief summary of our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures is as follows:

- According to its Proxy Voting Procedures, MWA's policy is to vote client shares primarily in conformity with Glass Lewis & Co. recommendations, in order to limit conflict of interest issues between MWA and its clients. Glass Lewis & Co. is a neutral third party that issues recommendations based upon its own internal guidelines.
- MWA may vote client shares inconsistent with Glass Lewis & Co. recommendations if MWA believes it is in the best interest of its clients. In such a case, MWA will have to file a written disclosure detailing why it believes Glass Lewis & Co.'s recommendation was not in the client's best interest.
- MWA votes client shares via ProxyEdge, an electronic voting platform provided by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ProxyEdge retains a record of proxy votes for each client.
- MWA's Compliance Department will periodically review proxy votes to ensure consistency with its procedures.
- In situations where there is a conflict of interest in the voting of proxies due to business or personal relationships that MWA maintains with persons having an interest in the outcome of certain votes, MWA will take appropriate steps to ensure that our proxy voting decisions are made in the best interest of our clients.

## **Item 18 – Financial Information**

Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients, and have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

# MARINER WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC PRIVACY POLICY

FACTS	WHAT DOES MARINER WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?	
WHY?	Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.	
What?	<p>The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:</p> <p>■ Name; ■ Social Security number; ■ Address; ■ Assets; ■ Income; ■ Account Balances; ■ Account Transactions; ■ Transaction History; ■ Transaction or Loss History; ■ Investment Experience; ■ Risk Tolerance; ■ Retirement Assets; ■ Checking Account Information; ■ Employment Information; ■ Wire Transfer Instructions.</p> <p>If you decide at some point to either terminate our services or become an inactive customer, we will continue to adhere to our privacy policy, as may be amended from time to time.</p>	
How?	All financial companies need to share clients' personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their clients' personal information; the reasons Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC ("MWA") chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.	
Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC share?	Can you limit this sharing?
<b>For our everyday business purposes—</b> such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	Yes. MWA may share personal information described above for business purposes with a non-affiliated third party if the entity is under contract to perform transaction processing or servicing on behalf of MWA and otherwise as permitted by law. Any such contract entered by MWA will include provisions designed to ensure that the third party will uphold and maintain privacy standards when handling personal information. MWA may also disclose personal information to regulatory authorities as required by applicable law.	No.
<b>For our marketing purposes—</b> to offer our products and services to you	Yes. MWA shares personal information for our marketing purposes as permitted by law.	Yes.
<b>For joint marketing with other financial companies</b>	No.	We don't share.
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your transactions and experiences	Yes. MWA shares personal information with affiliates as permitted by law.	No.
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your creditworthiness	No.	We don't share.
<b>For nonaffiliates to market to you</b>	No.	We don't share.
QUESTIONS?	Call (913) 647-9700 or email <a href="mailto:compliance@mariner-holdings.com">compliance@mariner-holdings.com</a>	

<b>Who is providing this notice?</b>	Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC
<b>How does Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC protect my personal information?</b>	<p>To protect your nonpublic personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured files and buildings.</p> <p>MWA limits access to personal information to individuals who need to know that information in order to service your account.</p>
<b>How does Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC collect my personal information?</b>	<p>We collect your personal information, for example, when you</p> <p>Complete account paperwork; ■ Seek advice about your investments; ■ Direct us to buy securities; ■ Direct us to sell your securities; ■ Enter into an investment advisory contract; ■ Give us your contact information.</p> <p>We also collect your personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</p>
<b>Why can't I limit all sharing?</b>	<p>Federal law gives you the right to limit only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes—information about your creditworthiness</li> <li>■ affiliates from using your information to market to you</li> <li>■ sharing for non-affiliates to market to you</li> </ul> <p>State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing.</p>

<b>Affiliates</b>	<p>Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <p>■ MWA may share personal information described above for business purposes as permitted by law with our affiliates. Our affiliates include financial intermediaries such as investment advisers. MWA does not share confidential information with affiliates so that they can market their services or products to you.</p>
<b>Non-affiliates</b>	<p>Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and non-financial companies.</p> <p>■ MWA may share personal information described above for business purposes with non-affiliated third parties performing transaction processing or servicing on behalf of MWA and otherwise as permitted by law. Such companies may include broker-dealers, banks, investment advisers, mutual fund companies and insurance companies. MWA may also share personal information with parties who provide technical support for our hardware and software systems and our legal and accounting professionals. MWA does not share with non-affiliates so that they can market their services or products to you.</p>
<b>Joint marketing</b>	<p>A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.</p> <p>■ MWA does not jointly market with nonaffiliated financial companies.</p>