

**Item 1: Cover Page**  
**Part 2A of Form ADV: Wrap Fee Program Brochure**  
**February 2017**



**Carbon Beach Asset Management, LLC**  
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**Firm Contact:**  
**Tobias Carlisle**  
**Chief Compliance Officer**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Carbon Beach Asset Management, LLC. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by at (203) 554-8896 or [info@carbonbeacham.com](mailto:info@carbonbeacham.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any State Securities Authority. Additional information about our firm is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching CRD#281228.

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

## Item 2: Material Changes

Carbon Beach Asset Management, LLC is required to make clients aware of information that has changed since the last annual update to the Wrap Brochure ("Brochure") and that may be important to them. Clients can then determine whether to review the brochure in its entirety or to contact us with questions about the changes.

- Since our initial registration, our firm has added two additional asset management strategies (Concentrated Deep Value, and Hedged Deep Value) that are described herein under item 4. We are now also sub-advisors to a mutual fund, see item 9 for more information. Additionally, Upon the expected implementation of the Department of Labor's Fiduciary Rule, the "Compliance with the DOL Fiduciary Rule" section of our Code of Ethics disclosed herein will be effective. This addition includes, among other things, important procedures defining our firm as a level-fee fiduciary and our compliance with the Impartial Conduct Standard.

### Item 3: Table of Contents

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## Item 4: Services, Fees & Compensation

Our firm is dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of California in 2015 and has been in business as an investment adviser since that time. Our firm is owned by Colin Macintosh (50%) and Tobias Carlisle (50%). Our firm manages \$7,000,000 in assets on a discretionary basis.

As a fiduciary it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing the client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication. Our program allows clients to pay a single fee for investment advisory services and associated custodial transaction costs. Because our firm absorbs client transaction fees, an incentive exists to limit trading activities in client accounts.

### Our Advisory Services

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#### Asset Management:

As part of our Asset Management service, a portfolio is created, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments and managed in accordance with the following:

- *Classic Value*: A tax-efficient portfolio of approximately thirty (30) deeply undervalued U.S. exchange-traded stocks and American Depositary Receipts in the tradition of Benjamin Graham, Carl Icahn, and Warren Buffett.
- *Risk Managed Value*: A tax-efficient portfolio of approximately thirty (30) deeply undervalued U.S. exchange-traded stocks and American Depositary Receipts plus risk-managed exposure to the market. We use a dynamic market-timing model to determine when to fully hedge the portfolio by selling a stock market index-based ETF.
- *Enhanced Return Value*: A leveraged tax-efficient portfolio of approximately thirty (30) deeply undervalued U.S. exchange-traded stocks and American Depositary Receipts plus risk-managed exposure to the market. We use a dynamic market-timing model to determine when to partially hedge the portfolio by selling a stock market index-based ETF.
- *Concentrated Deep Value*: A concentrated long-only portfolio of 10-15 U.S. equities and ADRs with a catalyst in the tradition of Graham and Buffett. A highly idiosyncratic strategy not managed with the objective of achieving a particular return relative to a benchmark index.
- *Hedged Deep Value*: Hedged exposure to our Concentrated Deep Value strategy. We use a market-timing model to determine when to fully hedge the long portfolio by selling the S&P 500 index. A highly idiosyncratic strategy not managed with the objective of achieving a particular return relative to a benchmark index.

We can apply each strategy in stocks of all market capitalizations meeting certain minimum liquidity requirements, large capitalization stocks only, or small capitalization stocks meeting certain minimum liquidity requirements only.

In certain limited circumstances, for example, to assist clients to conform to ethical-, environmental- or faith-based mandates, clients may request we avoid certain individual stocks. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored and rebalanced as necessary. It is the client's responsibility to provide us with an up-to-date list of restricted securities.

### **Fee Schedule**

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 2.25%. Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the value of the account(s) on the time-weighted daily average of the previous quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter. In rare cases, our firm will agree to direct bill clients.

- a) Clients must provide our firm with written authorization permitting direct payment of advisory fees from their account(s) maintained by a custodian who is independent of our firm;
- b) Our firm sends quarterly statements to the client showing the fee amount, the value of the assets upon which the fee is based, and the specific manner in which the fee is calculated as well as disclosing that it is the client's responsibility to verify the accuracy of fee calculation. In the event of a disagreement between our firm and the custodian, we determine the accuracy of the calculation; and
- c) The custodian sends a statement to the client, at least quarterly, showing all account disbursements, including advisory fees.

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

The fees not included in the advisory fee for our services are custodial transaction fees, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses), mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions.

All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238 (k) are disclosed above regarding our firm, our representatives or our employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice. To comply with CCR Section 260.238(j), we disclose that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

### **Termination & Refunds**

Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for Asset Management service in writing at any time. Upon notice of termination pro-rata advisory fees for services rendered to the point of termination will be charged. If advisory fees cannot be deducted, our firm will send an invoice for due advisory fees to the client.

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

Our firm and representatives do not sell securities for a commission in advisory accounts.

## **Wrap Fee Program Recommendations**

Our firm does not recommend or offer the wrap program services of other providers.

### **Item 5: Account Requirements & Types of Clients**

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- Our firm requires a minimum account balance of \$1,000,000 for our Asset Management service. This minimum account balance requirement is negotiable.

Our firm has the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Investment Companies

### **Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection & Evaluation**

#### **Selection of Portfolio Managers**

Our firm's investment adviser representatives ("IAR"s) act as portfolio manager(s) for this fee program. A conflict arises in that other investment advisory firms may charge the same or lower fees than our firm for similar services. Our IARs are subject to individual licensing requirements as imposed by state securities boards. Our firm is required to confirm or update each IAR's Form U4 on an annual basis. IAR supervision is conducted by our Chief Compliance Officer or management personnel.

#### **Advisory Business:**

Information about our fee services can be found in Item 4 of this brochure. Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Asset Management clients. Our firm does not usually allow clients to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing their account. Restrictions based on ethical-, environmental- or faith-based foundation mandates will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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

We only manage wrap fee accounts.

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

Performance based fees can only be assessed to qualified clients pursuant to CCR 260.234 as defined in Rule 205 with at least \$1,000,000 under management with our firm or a net worth of at least \$2,000,000. A performance fee is a fee based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the managed assets of a client.

In addition to the advisory fee charged in Item 4 of this brochure, our firm charges up to 25% of the net profits (i.e., profits after our management fee has been deducted) achieved for the previous quarter's account management. The performance fee is payable only if the net profits in the client account(s) exceed the performance calculation of the previous year (a "high water mark"). At our discretion, our firm may waive all or any portion of the performance fee or may agree with a client to other changes to the performance fee by written agreement only.

In charging performance fees to some client accounts, our firm faces a conflict of interest as our firm can potentially receive greater fees from client accounts having a performance-based compensation structure than from accounts only charged an advisory fee. As a result, there exists an incentive to direct the best investment ideas to, or to allocate or sequence trades in favor of, the account that pays a performance fee. Our firm has taken important steps to ensure that our performance based accounts are not favored over our client's non-performance fee based accounts.

Performance based and non-performance based accounts are periodically review and compared. In the event that our firm finds performance based accounts are being unduly (i.e., consistently) favored over non-performance based accounts, our firm would take action to address the situation on a case-by-case basis. This could include allowing non-performance based accounts to trade before performance based accounts to the extent practicable, or if the problem persists, not allowing new performance based accounts, waiving our performance based fees or cancelling our performance based fee arrangements altogether and in some cases, termination of firm personnel.

Our firm also makes use of block trades and allocations made based on client's risk tolerance, investment objectives and restrictions. Our firm will periodically review block trade allocations to detect whether profitable trades are being disproportionately allocated to performance based accounts, while unprofitable trades are being disproportionately allocated to pure-fee based accounts with no performance fee. If a problem is detected in the allocation of block trades, our firm will take measures as previously described above.

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

The following methods of analysis are utilized by our firm when formulating investment advice and/or managing client assets:

**Cyclical Analysis:** In this type of technical analysis, we measure the movements of a particular stock against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.

**Fundamental Analysis:** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Technical Analysis:** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement. Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Quantitative Analysis:** We use quantitative analysis that may include mathematical analysis in an attempt to identify the impact of interest rate changes on individual securities and portfolios of securities. The results of our quantitative analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis:** We use qualitative analysis to evaluate individual securities, focusing on non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management and others not readily subject to measurement, and incorporate that analysis into our security selection process. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

**Risks for All Forms of Analysis:** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

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

**Deep Value Investing:** Value investing involves buying a stock at a sufficient discount to intrinsic value allowing for a margin of safety. Deep value investment is a method of security analysis codified by Benjamin Graham, and popularized by his former student, Warren Buffett. Graham's Security Analysis (1934) offered the foundational insight that the market price of a security is distinct from its intrinsic value, which can be calculated by analyzing a company's financial statements, and business prospects. If the stock trades at a sufficient discount from its intrinsic value to provide a margin of safety it can be purchased. Over time its price will revert towards its intrinsic value, and the stock should be sold. This presents a potential risk that the stock price does not revert towards intrinsic value in a timely fashion, or at all. Further, intrinsic value may deteriorate in the interim, and, in the worst case scenario, the equity may become worthless.

**Long-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, we may purchase securities with the idea of holding them for a relatively long time (typically held for at least a year). A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell. Typically we employ this sub-strategy when we believe the securities to be well valued; and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class. The potential risks associated with this investment strategy involve a lower than expected return, for many years in a row. Lower-than-expected returns that last for a long time and/or that are severe in nature would have the impact of dramatically lowering the ending value of your portfolio, and thus could significantly threaten your ability to meet financial goals.

**Short-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, we may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities we



purchase. The potential risk associated with this investment strategy is associated with the currency or exchange rate. Currency or exchange rate risk is a form of risk that arises from the change in price of one currency against another. The constant fluctuations in the foreign currency in which an investment is denominated vis-à-vis one's home currency may add risk to the value of a security. Currency risk is greater for shorter term investments, which do not have time to level off like longer term foreign investments.

**Short Sales:** We borrow shares of a stock for your portfolio from someone who owns the stock on a promise to replace the shares on a future date at a certain price. Those borrowed shares are then sold. On the agreed-upon future date, we buy the same stock and return the shares to the original owner. We engage in short selling based on our determination that the stock will go down in price after we have borrowed the shares. If we are correct and the stock price has gone down since the shares were purchased from the original owner, the client account realizes the profit. The two primary perceived risks of short selling are that the in the long term, markets trend upward and short selling can expose investors to potentially unlimited risk. Due to the "upside gap", sellers risk not being able to react until after a significant loss has already been incurred.

**Margin Transactions:** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings. Margin accounts and transactions are risky and not necessarily for every client. The potential risks associated with these transactions are (1) You can lose more funds than are deposited into the margin account; (2) the force sale of securities or other assets in your account; (3) the sale of securities or other assets without contacting you; and (4) you may not be entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your account(s) are liquidated or sold to meet a margin call.

**Security Selection:** A proprietary credit evaluation process drives our security selection process. The system uses both internally and externally generated credit research to evaluate securities we are considering for purchase. Based on research we conduct internally, our Credit Committee selects securities for our Approved list. The ultimate decision to purchase or sell a security is based on the firm's evaluation of the current price for the security. The risk of security selection is that the methods of analysis employed will not provide accurate measurement of the risk association with each individual security.

**Please Note:** Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that you understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, are appropriately diversified in your investments, and ask us any questions you may have.

#### **Voting Client Securities:**

SEC Rule 206(4)-6 requires investment advisers who have voting authority with respect to securities held in their clients' accounts to monitor corporate actions and vote proxies in their clients' interests. Our firm is required by the SEC to adopt written policies and procedures, make those policies and procedures available to clients, and retain certain records with respect to proxy votes cast.

Our firm considers proxy voting an important right of our clients as shareholders and believe that reasonable care and diligence must be taken to ensure that such rights are properly and timely exercised. When our firm has discretion to vote the proxies of our clients, our firm will vote those

proxies in the client's best interests and in accordance with these policies and procedures. Clients may request a copy of our written policies and procedures regarding proxy voting and/or information on how particular proxies were voted by contacting our Chief Compliance Officer, Mr. Carlisle, by phone at (203) 554-8896 or [tobias@carbonbeacham.com](mailto:tobias@carbonbeacham.com).

### **Policy for Voting Proxies**

All proxies received by our firm will be given to our Chief Compliance Officer or designated person for processing. Our Chief Compliance Officer will determine which accounts managed by our firm hold the security to which the proxy relates. These accounts and their share holdings will be matched to the proxies received for each security. Missing proxies or significant variances in shares held will be investigated.

A grid of securities being voted will be updated with each proxy being voted. The grid will also contain a list of clients with the security voted upon. Our Chief Compliance Officer will review each item for voting on each proxy. Based on our proxy voting guidelines outlined below, a determination of how our firm votes will be made. Proxies will generally be voted online unless custodian requires mailed forms. In the absence of standing voting guidelines from the client, our firm will vote proxies in the best interest of each particular client.

Our firm seeks to ensure compliance with the new Exchange Act Rule 14a-11. In accordance with the aforementioned rule, our firm provides shareholders with the opportunity to nominate directors at a shareholder meeting under the applicable state or foreign law. Clients also have the ability to have their nominees included in the company proxy materials sent to all of our shareholders. Furthermore, the clients as shareholders also have the ability to use the shareholder proposal process to establish procedures for the inclusion of shareholder director nominations in company proxy materials.

### **Proxies Voting Guidelines**

Where voting authority exists, proxies are voted by our firm according to Board recommendations in categories listed below among others unless not deemed to be in the best interests of the client:

- for directors and for management on routine matters;
- for a limit on or reduction of the number of directors, and for an increase in the number of directors on a case by case basis;
- against the creation of a tiered board;
- for the elimination of cumulative voting;
- for independence of auditors;
- for deferred compensation;
- for profit sharing plans;
- for stock option plans unless the plan could result in material dilution to shares outstanding or is excessive;
- for stock repurchases;
- for an increase in authorized shares unless the authorization effectively results in a blind investment pool for shareholders;
- for reductions in the par value of stock;
- for company name changes;
- for routine appointments of auditors.

Our firm abstains on motions to limit directors' liability. Material issues not addressed above (e.g., mergers, poison pills, social investing and miscellaneous shareholder proposals) are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Records of all issues and votes are maintained and reported to clients as requested.

Our firm recognizes that under certain circumstances our firm may have a conflict of interest between us and our clients. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, situations where our firm or one or more of our affiliates, including officers, directors and employees, has or is seeking a client relationship with the issuer of the security that is the subject of the proxy vote. Our firm shall periodically inform our employees that they are under an obligation to be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest on the part of our firm with respect to voting proxies on behalf of funds, both as a result of our employee's personal relationships and due to circumstances that may arise during the conduct of our business, and to bring conflicts of interest of which they become aware to the attention of the proxy manager. Our firm shall not vote proxies relating to such issuers on behalf of client accounts until our firm has determined that the conflict of interest is not material or a method of resolving such conflict of interest has been agreed upon by our management team. A conflict of interest will be considered material to the extent that it is determined that such conflict has the potential to influence our decision-making in voting a proxy. Materiality determinations will be based upon an assessment of the particular facts and circumstances. If our firm determines that a conflict of interest is not material, our firm may vote proxies notwithstanding the existence of a conflict. If the conflict of interest is determined to be material, the conflict shall be disclosed to our management team and our firm shall follow the instructions of the management team.

Our Chief Compliance Officer will maintain files relating to our proxy voting procedures. Records will be maintained and preserved for five years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on a record, with records for the last two years kept on our premises. Records of the following will be included in the files:

- a copy of each proxy statement that our firm receives, provided however that our firm may rely on obtaining a copy of proxy statements from the SEC's EDGAR system for those proxy statements that are available;
- a record of each vote that our firm casts;
- a copy of any document our firm created that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, or that memorializes that decision;
- a copy of each written client request for information on how our firm voted such client's proxies, and a copy of any written response to any client request for information on how our firm voted their proxies.

Our written policies and procedures regarding proxy voting are disclosed here. Information on how particular proxies were voted may contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Mr. Carlisle, by phone at (203) 554-8896 or [tobias@carbonbeacham.com](mailto:tobias@carbonbeacham.com).

Our firm does not pay for proxy voting services with soft dollars. Also, our firm does not charge an additional fee to vote proxies.

## **Item 7: Client Information Provided to Portfolio Manager(s)**

All accounts are managed by our in-house licensed IARs. The IAR selected to manage the client's account(s) or portfolio(s) will be privy to the client's investment goals and objectives, risk tolerance, restrictions placed on the management of the account(s) or portfolio(s) and relevant client notes taken by our firm. Please see our firm's Privacy Policy for more information on how our firm utilizes client information.

## **Item 8: Client Contact with Portfolio Manager(s)**

Clients are always free to directly contact their portfolio manager(s) with any questions or concerns about their portfolios or other matters.

## **Item 9: Additional Information**

### **Disciplinary Information**

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

### **Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations**

Our firm is not registered, nor does it have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer, registered representative of a broker dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities. Our firm does not recommend or select other investment advisers for our clients.

Our firm is a sub-advisor to USA Mutual's Deep Value Fund. Our sub-advisory duties involve execution of our deep value strategy on behalf of all investors in the fund. We receive a portion of the internal expenses charged by the fund and, as such, we do not invest any of our advisory client's assets in the fund. Prospective advisory clients seeking access to this strategy will be directed to invest in the fund as it is more cost advantageous than engaging us to implement a similar strategy through Carbon Beach. It should be noted that mutual funds do not have the fiduciary requirements placed upon registered investment advisers.

Mr. Macintosh is the General Partner of Connors/Macintosh LLC film production company. In such capacity Mr. Macintosh acts as the executive producer on various films in different stages of production. This activity constitutes approximately 10% of his income.

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

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As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demands the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

Our firm provides investment advice to assets affected by the Department of Labor ("DOL") Fiduciary Rule for a level fee. As such, we abide by the Impartial Conduct Standards as defined by the DOL. To

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

comply with these standards, our firm and our advisors give advice that is in our clients' best interest, charge no more than reasonable compensation (within the meaning of ERISA Section 408(b)(2) and Internal Revenue Code Section 4975(d)(2), and make no misleading statements about investment transactions, compensation, conflicts of interest, and any other matters related to investment decisions.

As a level-fee fiduciary, we maintain a non-variable compensation structure that is provided on the basis of a fixed percentage of the value of assets or a set fee that does not vary with the particular investment recommended, as opposed to a commission or other transaction based fee.

### **Review of Accounts**

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Our Chief Compliance Officer, Mr. Carlisle, reviews accounts on at least a quarterly basis. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with the firm's model. Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, or requests by the client, etc.

Our firm does not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when our Asset Management clients are contacted.

### **Selecting a Brokerage Firm**

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Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets. Client assets must be maintained by a qualified custodian. Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. The factors considered, among others, are these:

- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors
- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Financial condition
- Business reputation
- Quality of services

With this in consideration, our firm has an arrangement with Interactive Brokers, LLC ("IB"), a qualified custodian from whom our firm is independently owned and operated. IB offers services to independent investment advisers which includes custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. IB enables us to obtain many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges. IB does not charge client accounts separately for custodial services.

IB may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. Research products and services provided by IB may include: research reports on recommendations or other information about particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses;

financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by IB to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. The aforementioned research and brokerage services qualify for the safe harbor exemption defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

IB does not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm's use. The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which our firm has investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of IB as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend IB and have determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

### **Soft Dollars**

Our firm does not receive soft dollars in excess of what is allowed by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The safe harbor research products and services obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients but not necessarily all at any one particular time.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

### **Directed Brokerage**

Neither our firm nor any of our firm's representatives have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers-dealers and/or custodians with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected. Our firm routinely recommends that clients direct us to execute through a specified broker-dealer. Our firm recommends the use of IB.

### **Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of



the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, our firm will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

### **Client-Directed Brokerage**

Our firm does not allow client-directed brokerage outside our recommendations.

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

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

### **Client Referrals**

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Our firm pays referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with relevant state statutes and rules. Such referral fee represents a share of our investment advisory fee charged to our clients. This arrangement will not result in higher costs to the referred client. In this regard, our firm maintains Solicitors Agreements in compliance with relevant state statutes and rules and applicable state and federal laws. All clients referred by Solicitors to our firm will be given full written disclosure describing the terms and fee arrangements between our firm and Solicitor(s). In cases where state law requires licensure of solicitors, our firm ensures that no solicitation fees are paid unless the solicitor is registered as an investment adviser representative of our firm. If our firm is paying solicitation fees to another registered investment adviser, the licensure of individuals is the other firm's responsibility.

### **Financial Information**

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Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$500 in fees and six or more months in advance.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

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