

## **DARIUS ADVISORS, LLC**

*a Registered Investment Adviser*

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Darius Advisors, LLC (hereinafter “Darius” or the “Firm”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact the Firm at the telephone number listed above. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority. Additional information about the Firm is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The Firm is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply any level of skill or training.

## **Item 2. Material Changes**

In this Item, Darius is required to discuss any material changes that have been made to the brochure since the last annual amendment dated. There are no such material changes to disclose.

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## Item 4. Advisory Business

Darius is an independent private advisory firm offering comprehensive financial advice, wealth organization, and financial/retirement planning. These services are delivered through in-house asset management. Prior to Darius rendering any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with Darius setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the “Advisory Agreement”).

Darius filed for registration as an investment adviser in November 2017 and is owned by Interim Holdings, LLC who is filing on behalf of an individual listed in Part 1 of the Form ADV in response to Item 10. As of the date of this filing, Darius does not have any assets under management; however, the Firm reasonably expects to be eligible for registration with the SEC within 120 days of approval as an investment adviser.

While this brochure generally describes the business of Darius, certain sections also discuss the activities of its Supervised Persons, which refer to the Firm’s officers, partners, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), employees or any other person who provides investment advice on Darius’s behalf and is subject to the Firm’s supervision or control.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Services

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Darius offers clients a broad range of financial planning and consulting services, which includes complete financial organization. The services include any or all of the following functions:

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Business Planning         | • Retirement Planning                 |
| • Cash Flow Forecasting     | • Financing Planning and Availability |
| • Trust and Estate Planning | • Charitable Planning                 |
| • Financial Reporting       | • Tax Planning                        |
| • Insurance Planning        | • Education Planning                  |

In performing these services, Darius is not required to verify any information received from the client or from the client’s other professionals (e.g., attorneys, accountants, etc.,) and is expressly authorized to rely on such information. Darius recommends certain clients engage the Firm for additional related services, its Supervised Persons in their individual capacities as insurance agents and/or other professionals to implement its recommendations. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists for the Firm to recommend that clients engage Darius or its affiliates to provide (or continue to provide) additional services for compensation, including investment management services. Clients retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding implementation and are under no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations made by Darius under a financial planning or consulting engagement. Clients are advised that it remains

their responsibility to promptly notify the Firm of any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Darius's recommendations and/or services.

### **Wealth Management Services**

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Darius provides clients with wealth management services which includes a broad range of comprehensive financial planning and consulting services as well as discretionary management of investment portfolios.

Darius primarily allocates client assets among individual debt and equity securities, various mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), options and annuities in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

Where appropriate, the Firm also provides advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios. Clients can engage Darius to manage and/or advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance and annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans). In these situations, Darius directs or recommends the allocation of client assets among the various investment options available with the product. These assets are generally maintained at the underwriting insurance company or the custodian designated by the product's provider.

Darius tailors its advisory services to meet the needs of its individual clients and seeks to ensure, on a continuous basis, that client portfolios are managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. Darius consults with clients on an initial and ongoing basis to assess their specific risk tolerance, time horizon, liquidity constraints and other related factors relevant to the management of their portfolios. Clients are advised to promptly notify Darius if there are changes in their financial situation or if they wish to place any limitations on the management of their portfolios. Clients can impose reasonable restrictions or mandates on the management of their accounts if Darius determines, in its sole discretion, the conditions would not materially impact the performance of a management strategy or prove overly burdensome to the Firm's management efforts.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting Services**

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Darius provides various consulting services to qualified employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries. This suite of institutional services is designed to assist plan sponsors in structuring, managing and optimizing their corporate retirement plans. Each engagement is individually negotiated and customized, and includes any or all of the following services:

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Plan Design and Strategy      | • Investment Selection        |
| • Plan Review and Evaluation    | • Plan Fee and Cost Analysis  |
| • Executive Planning & Benefits | • Plan Committee Consultation |

- Fiduciary and Compliance

- Participant Education

As disclosed in the Advisory Agreement, certain of the foregoing services are provided by Darius as a fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). In accordance with ERISA Section 408(b)(2), each plan sponsor is provided with a written description of Darius’s fiduciary status, the specific services to be rendered and all direct and indirect compensation the Firm reasonably expects under the engagement.

## Item 5. Fees and Compensation

Darius offers services on a fee basis. Additionally, certain of the Firm’s Supervised Persons, in their individual capacities, offer insurance products under a separate commission-based arrangement.

Darius offers wealth management services for an annual fee for financial advice, financial planning, liability management and comprehensive wealth organization. Fees are based on managed and supervised assets advised on as well as secured lending balances. Fee arrangements reflect the unique demands and characteristics of the advisory services provided to each family relationship. Fees range between 0.20% and 1.50% per annum.

The annual fee is prorated and charged quarterly, in advance. If assets in excess of \$25,000 are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a billing period, the fee payable with respect to such assets is adjusted to reflect the interim change in portfolio value. For the initial period of an engagement, the fee is calculated on a *pro rata* basis. In the event the advisory agreement is terminated, the fee for the final billing period is prorated through the effective date of the termination and the outstanding or unearned portion of the fee is charged or refunded to the client, as appropriate.

Darius recommends and assists clients with obtaining financing for capital needs, not to leverage investments managed by the Firm. The Firm will include amounts borrowed by the client as assets under management where the Firm has assisted the client with obtaining the financing. Additionally, for asset management services the Firm provides with respect to certain client holdings (e.g., held-away assets, accommodation accounts, alternative investments, etc.), Darius may negotiate a fee rate that differs from the range set forth above.

### Retirement Plan Consulting Fees

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Darius may charge a fixed project-based fee to provide clients with retirement plan consulting services. Each engagement is individually negotiated and tailored to accommodate the needs of the individual plan sponsor, as memorialized in the Agreement. These fees vary, based on the scope of the services to be

rendered and the amount of assets to be managed. The annual asset-based fee will range between 25 and 100 basis points (0.25% – 1.00%).

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**Fee Discretion**

Darius may, in its sole discretion, negotiate to charge a lesser fee based upon certain criteria, such as anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing/legacy client relationship, account retention and pro bono activities.

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**Additional Fees and Expenses**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to Darius, clients also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, margin and other borrowing costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (*e.g.*, fund management fees and other fund expenses), 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. The Firm’s brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

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**Direct Fee Debit**

Clients provide Darius with the authority to directly debit their accounts for payment of the investment advisory fees. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to Darius.

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**Account Additions and Withdrawals**

Clients can make additions to and withdrawals from their account at any time, subject to Darius’s right to terminate an account. Additions can be in cash or securities provided that the Firm reserves the right to liquidate any transferred securities or declines to accept particular securities into a client’s account. Clients can withdraw account assets on notice to Darius, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, the Firm designs its portfolios as long-term investments and the withdrawal of assets may impair the achievement of a client’s investment objectives. Darius may consult with its clients about the options and implications of transferring securities. Clients are advised that when transferred securities are liquidated, they may be subject to transaction fees, short-term redemption fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (*e.g.*, contingent deferred sales charges) and/or tax ramifications.

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

Darius does not provide any services for a performance-based fee (i.e., a fee based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's assets).

## **Item 7. Types of Clients**

Darius offers services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations and business entities.

### **Minimum Account Value**

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As a condition for starting and maintaining an investment management relationship, Darius imposes a minimum portfolio value of \$1,000,000. Darius may, in its sole discretion, accept clients with smaller portfolios based upon certain criteria, including anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing client, account retention, and pro bono activities. Darius only accepts clients with less than the minimum portfolio size if the Firm determines the smaller portfolio size will not cause a substantial increase of investment risk beyond the client's identified risk tolerance. Darius may aggregate the portfolios of family members to meet the minimum portfolio size.

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

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

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Darius offers discretionary equity and fixed income investment management using its proprietary investment processes. A high priority is placed on preservation of capital and realistic returns. The idea is that strategies should be simple and easy to understand without unwarranted complexity.

Darius begins a client relationship by getting to know and understand a prospective clients' needs and goals. At this point Darius determines if there is a 'fit', or alignment, between the client's goals and the Firm's abilities.



Before investment strategies are discussed and explained, the client expresses their needs, wants and goals. Once Darius understands what the client is trying to achieve, the portfolio strategies Darius uses are explained and an asset allocation is derived.

Together with the client, an 'asset allocation mandate' is determined based on the client's needs and goals. Examples; 30% 70% stocks and bonds, 50% 50% stocks and bonds, 70% 30% stocks and bonds, etc. The Firm endeavors to keep the balance close to the client's target asset allocation through re-balancing when the mix changes from their mandate, or when the client adds or removes funds.

Tax sensitivity is considered when managing the assets.

Darius follows various founding principles:

- The Firm puts clients interests ahead of its own.
- The Firm seeks to develop mutual trust between the Firm and the client.
- The Firm strives to preserve and protect clients wealth.
- The Firm maintains a high level of transparency.
- The Firm's principals invest their money alongside their clients.

## **Risk of Loss**

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### *Market Risks*

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and all investors should be guided accordingly. The profitability of a significant portion of Darius's recommendations and/or investment decisions may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks, bonds and other asset classes. During times of market volatility, Darius may raise cash on a tactical basis to preserve capital. There can be no assurance that Darius will be able to predict those price movements accurately or capitalize on any such assumptions.

### *Mutual Funds and ETFs*

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as mutual funds and ETFs are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss.

Shares of mutual funds are generally distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (e.g., sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual

NAV fluctuates with intraday changes to the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares may differ significantly from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to actual NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for indexed based ETFs and potentially more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies may cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their pro rata NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. Generally, an ETF only redeems shares when aggregated as creation units (usually 20,000 shares or more). Therefore, if a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

### *Options*

Options allow investors to buy or sell a security at a contracted "strike" price at or within a specific period of time. Clients may pay or collect a premium for buying or selling an option. Investors transact in options to either hedge (i.e., limit) losses in an attempt to reduce risk or to speculate on the performance of the underlying securities. Options transactions contain a number of inherent risks, including the partial or total loss of principal in the event that the value of the underlying security or index does not increase/decrease to the level of the respective strike price. Holders of options contracts are also subject to default by the option writer which may be unwilling or unable to perform its contractual obligations.

## **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

Darius has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

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

This item requires investment advisers to disclose certain financial industry activities and affiliations.

### **Licensed Insurance Agents**

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A number of the Firm's Supervised Persons are licensed insurance agents and offer certain insurance products on a fully-disclosed commissionable basis. A conflict of interest exists to the extent that Darius recommends the purchase of insurance products where its Supervised Persons are entitled to insurance

commissions or other additional compensation. The Firm has procedures in place whereby it seeks to ensure that all recommendations are made in its clients' best interest regardless of any such affiliations.

## Item 11. Code of Ethics

Darius has adopted a code of ethics in compliance with applicable securities laws ("Code of Ethics") that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of its Supervised Persons. Darius's Code of Ethics contains written policies reasonably designed to prevent certain unlawful practices such as the use of material non-public information by the Firm or any of its Supervised Persons and the trading by the same of securities ahead of clients in order to take advantage of pending orders.

The Code of Ethics also requires certain of Darius's personnel to report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments (*e.g.*, initial public offerings, limited offerings). However, the Firm's Supervised Persons are permitted to buy or sell securities that it also recommends to clients if done in a fair and equitable manner that is consistent with the Firm's policies and procedures. This Code of Ethics has been established recognizing that some securities trade in sufficiently broad markets to permit transactions by certain personnel to be completed without any appreciable impact on the markets of such securities. Therefore, under limited circumstances, exceptions may be made to the policies stated below.

When the Firm is engaging in or considering a transaction in any security on behalf of a client, no Supervised Person with access to this information may knowingly effect for themselves or for their immediate family (*i.e.*, spouse, minor children and adults living in the same household) a transaction in that security unless:

- the transaction has been completed;
- the transaction for the Supervised Person is completed as part of a batch trade with clients; or
- a decision has been made not to engage in the transaction for the client.

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 mutual funds or money market funds; and (iv) shares issued by unit investment trusts that are invested exclusively in one or more mutual funds.

Clients and prospective clients may contact Darius to request a copy of its Code of Ethics.

## Item 12. Brokerage Practices

### Recommendation of Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions

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Darius recommends that clients utilize the custody, brokerage and clearing services of Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. through its Schwab Advisor Services division (“Schwab”) for investment management accounts. The final decision to custody assets with Schwab is at the discretion of the client, including those accounts under ERISA or IRA rules and regulations, in which case the client is acting as either the plan sponsor or IRA accountholder. Darius is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab provides Darius with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to retail investors.

Factors which Darius considers in recommending Schwab or any other broker-dealer to clients include their respective financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, research and service. Schwab enables the Firm to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other securities at nominal transaction charges. Schwab has also agreed to reimburse clients for exit fees associated with moving accounts to Schwab. The reimbursement is only available up to a certain amount for all of the Firm’s clients over a twelve month period. Fees are reimbursed on a first-come-first-served basis so that no clients are favored. The commissions and/or transaction fees charged by Schwab may be higher or lower than those charged by other Financial Institutions.

The commissions paid by Darius’s clients to Schwab comply with the Firm’s duty to obtain “best execution.” Clients may pay commissions that are higher than another qualified Financial Institution might charge to effect the same transaction where Darius determines that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. 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 Financial Institution’s services, including among others, the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates and responsiveness. Darius seeks competitive rates but may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client transactions.

Consistent with obtaining best execution, brokerage transactions are directed to certain broker-dealers in return for investment research products and/or services which assist Darius in its investment decision-making process. Such research will be used to service all of the Firm’s 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 because Darius does not have to produce or pay for the products or services.

Darius periodically and systematically reviews its policies and procedures regarding its recommendation of Financial Institutions in light of its duty to obtain best execution.

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

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Darius receives without cost from Schwab administrative support, computer software, related systems support, as well as other third party support as further described below (together "Support") which allow Darius to better monitor client accounts maintained at Schwab and otherwise conduct its business. Darius receives the Support without cost because the Firm renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at Schwab. The Support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e., not "soft dollars"). The Support benefits Darius, but not its clients directly. Clients should be aware that Darius's receipt of economic benefits such as the Support from a broker-dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Firm's choice of broker-dealer over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, Darius endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first and has determined that the recommendation of Schwab is in the best interest of clients and satisfies the Firm's duty to seek best execution.

Specifically, Darius receives the following benefits from Schwab: i) receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; ii) access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional traders; iii) access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and iv) access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

In addition, the Firm receives funds to be used toward qualifying third-party service providers for research, marketing, compliance, technology and software platforms and services. These services generally are available to independent investment advisors on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the advisor's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Schwab Advisor Services. Schwab's services include brokerage services that are related to the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, including that in the form of advice, analyses and reports, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions or other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Schwab also makes available to the Firm other products and services that benefit the Firm but may not benefit its clients' accounts. These benefits may include national, regional or Firm specific educational events organized and/or sponsored by Schwab. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of Darius by Schwab personnel, including meals, invitations to sporting events,

including golf tournaments, and other forms of entertainment, some of which may accompany educational opportunities. Other of these products and services assist Darius in managing and administering clients' accounts. These include software and other technology (and related technological training) that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of the Firm's fees from its clients' accounts, and assist with back-office training and support functions, recordkeeping and client reporting. Many of these services generally may be used to service all or some substantial number of the Firm's accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. Schwab also makes available to Darius other services intended to help the Firm manage and further develop its business enterprise. These services may include professional compliance, legal and business consulting, publications and conferences on practice management, information technology, business succession, regulatory compliance, employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, insurance and marketing. In addition, Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay vendors for these types of services rendered to the Firm by independent third parties. Schwab may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to the Firm. While, as a fiduciary, Darius endeavors to act in its clients' best interests, the Firm's recommendation that clients maintain their assets in accounts at Schwab may be based in part on the benefits received and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Schwab, which creates a potential conflict of interest.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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Darius does not consider, in selecting or recommending broker-dealers, whether the Firm receives client referrals from the Financial Institutions or other third party.

### **Directed Brokerage**

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

**Trade Aggregation**

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Transactions for each client will be effected independently, unless Darius decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. Darius may (but is not obligated to) combine or “batch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Firm’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might not have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and allocated among Darius’s clients pro rata to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that the Firm determines to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which Darius’s Supervised Persons may invest, the Firm does so in accordance with applicable rules promulgated under the Advisers Act and no-action guidance provided by the staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Darius does not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of the aggregation.

In the event that the Firm determines that a prorated allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, the allocation will be made based upon other relevant factors, which 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, the Firm 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.

**Item 13. Review of Accounts****Account Reviews**

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Darius monitors client portfolios on a continuous and ongoing basis while regular account reviews are conducted on at least a quarterly basis. Equity portfolios are managed to a model. Weekly reviews are performed to minimize variance. Fixed income portfolios are more diverse and portfolio managers are review accounts regularly and may be triggered by a high level of cash in an account. Reviews are conducted by the Firm’s Principals, as well as a non-Principal financial advisor. All investment advisory

clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals and objectives with Darius and to keep the Firm informed of any changes thereto. The Firm contacts ongoing investment advisory clients at least annually to review its previous services and/or recommendations and quarterly to discuss the impact resulting from any changes in the client's financial situation and/or investment objectives.

#### **Account Statements and Reports**

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Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied. From time-to-time or as otherwise requested, clients may also receive written or electronic reports from Darius and/or an outside service provider, which contain certain account and/or market-related information, such as an inventory of account holdings or account performance. Clients should compare the account statements they receive from their custodian with any documents or reports they receive from Darius or an outside service provider.

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

#### **Client Referrals**

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In the event a client is introduced to Darius by either an unaffiliated or an affiliated solicitor, the Firm may pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with applicable state securities laws. Unless otherwise disclosed, any such referral fee is paid solely from Darius's investment management fee and does not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to the Firm by an unaffiliated solicitor, the solicitor is required to provide the client with Darius's written brochure(s) and a copy of a solicitor's disclosure statement containing the terms and conditions of the solicitation arrangement. Any affiliated solicitor of Darius is required to disclose the nature of his or her relationship to prospective clients at the time of the solicitation and will provide all prospective clients with a copy of the Firm's written brochure(s) at the time of the solicitation.

### **Item 15. Custody**

The Advisory Agreement and/or the separate agreement with any Financial Institution authorize Darius to debit client accounts for payment of the Firm's fees and to directly remit that those funds to the Firm in accordance with applicable custody rules. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to Darius.



In addition, as discussed in Item 13, Darius will also send, or otherwise make available, periodic supplemental reports to clients. Clients should carefully review the statements sent directly by the Financial Institutions and compare them to those received from Darius.

## **Item 16. Investment Discretion**

Darius is given the authority to exercise discretion on behalf of clients. Darius is considered to exercise investment discretion over a client's account if it can effect and/or direct transactions in client accounts without first seeking their consent. Darius is given this authority through a power-of-attorney included in the agreement between Darius and the client. Clients may request a limitation on this authority (such as certain securities not to be bought or sold). Darius takes discretion over the following activities:

- The securities to be purchased or sold;
- The amount of securities to be purchased or sold; and
- When transactions are made.

## **Item 17. Voting Client Securities**

### **Acceptance of Proxy Voting Authority**

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Darius accepts the authority to vote a client's securities (i.e., proxies) on their behalf. When Darius accepts such responsibility, it will only cast proxy votes in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients. Absent special circumstances, which are fully-described in the Firm's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, all proxies will be voted consistent with guidelines established and described in Darius's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, as they may be amended from time-to-time. Clients may contact Darius to request information about how the Firm voted proxies for that client's securities or to get a copy of Darius's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures. A brief summary of Darius's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures is as follows:

- Darius has formed a Proxy Voting Committee that will be responsible for monitoring corporate actions, making voting decisions in the best interest of clients, and ensuring that proxies are submitted in a timely manner.
- The Proxy Voting Committee will vote proxies according to Darius's then current Proxy Voting Guidelines. The Proxy Voting Guidelines include many specific examples of voting decisions for

the types of proposals that are most frequently presented, including: composition of the board of directors; approval of independent auditors; management and director compensation; anti-takeover mechanisms and related issues; changes to capital structure; corporate and social policy issues; and issues involving mutual funds.

- Although the Proxy Voting Guidelines are followed as a general policy, certain issues are considered on a case-by-case basis based on the relevant facts and circumstances. Since corporate governance issues are diverse and continually evolving, the Firm devotes an appropriate amount of time and resources to monitor these changes.
- Clients cannot direct Darius's vote on a particular solicitation but can revoke the Firm's authority to vote proxies.

In situations where there is a conflict of interest in the voting of proxies due to business or personal relationships that Darius maintains with persons having an interest in the outcome of certain votes, the Firm takes appropriate steps to ensure that its proxy voting decisions are made in the best interest of its clients and are not the product of such conflict. The Firm may engage a third party to vote proxies on its behalf. In those situations the Firm will ensure that the third party has acceptable proxy voting policies in place, including how to handle conflicts of interest.

## **Item 18. Financial Information**

Darius is not required to disclose any financial information due to the following:

- The Firm does not require or solicit the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six months or more in advance of services rendered;
- The Firm does not have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients; and
- The Firm has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.