

# Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC

## Firm Brochure - Form ADV Part 2A

*This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (352) 633-9046 or by email at: [drew.blackston@blackstonfinancialgroup.com](mailto:drew.blackston@blackstonfinancialgroup.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 Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC's CRD number is: 291380.*

8564 E County Road 466  
The Villages, FL 32162  
(352) 633-9046  
[drew.blackston@blackstonfinancialgroup.com](mailto:drew.blackston@blackstonfinancialgroup.com)  
<https://blackstonfinancialgroup.com>

*Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.*

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## **Item 2: Material Changes**

Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC has not yet filed an annual updating amendment using the Form ADV Part 2A. Therefore there are no material changes to report.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

### A. Description of the Advisory Firm

Blackston Financial Advisory Group, LLC (hereinafter "BFG") is a Limited Liability Company organized in the State of Florida. The firm was formed in July 2012, and the principal owner is David Southwick Blackston.

### B. Types of Advisory Services

#### *Portfolio Management Services*

BFG offers ongoing portfolio management services based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. BFG creates an Investment Policy Statement for each client, which outlines the client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Portfolio management services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Investment strategy
- Asset allocation
- Risk tolerance
- Personal investment policy
- Asset selection
- Regular portfolio monitoring

BFG evaluates the current investments of each client with respect to their risk tolerance levels and time horizon. BFG will request discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction. Risk tolerance levels are documented in the Investment Policy Statement, which is given to each client.

BFG seeks to provide that investment decisions are made in accordance with the fiduciary duties owed to its accounts and without consideration of BFG's economic, investment or other financial interests. To meet its fiduciary obligations, BFG attempts to avoid, among other things, investment or trading practices that systematically advantage or disadvantage certain client portfolios, and accordingly, BFG's policy is to seek fair and equitable allocation of investment opportunities/transactions among its clients to avoid favoring one client over another over time. It is BFG's policy to allocate investment opportunities and transactions it identifies as being appropriate and prudent, including initial public offerings ("IPOs") and other investment opportunities that might have a limited supply, among its clients on a fair and equitable basis over time.

BFG may direct clients to third-party investment advisers to manage all or a portion of the client's assets. Before selecting other advisers for clients, BFG will always ensure those other advisers are properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser. BFG conducts due diligence on any third-party investment adviser, which may involve one or more of the following: phone calls, meetings and review of the third-party adviser's performance

and investment strategy. BFG then makes investments with a third-party investment adviser by referring the client to the third-party adviser. BFG will review the ongoing performance of the third-party adviser as a portion of the client's portfolio.

### ***Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments***

BFG generally limits its investment advice to mutual funds, fixed income securities, insurance products including annuities, equities, ETFs (including ETFs in the gold and precious metal sectors), treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds, non-U.S. securities and private placements. BFG may use other securities as well to help diversify a portfolio when applicable.

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

BFG offers the same suite of services to all of its clients. However, specific client investment strategies and their implementation are dependent upon the client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Clients may impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs. However, if the restrictions prevent BFG from properly servicing the client account, or if the restrictions would require BFG to deviate from its standard suite of services, BFG reserves the right to end the relationship.

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

A wrap fee program is an investment program where the investor pays one stated fee that includes management fees, transaction costs, fund expenses, and other administrative fees. BFG does not participate in any wrap fee programs.

### **E. Assets Under Management**

BFG has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$0	\$0	January 2018

## **Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

### **A. Fee Schedule**

#### ***Portfolio Management Fees***

<b>Total Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Fees</b>
\$0 - \$100,000	2.00%
\$100,001 - \$300,000	1.75%
\$300,001 - \$1,000,000	1.50%
\$1,000,001 - And up	1.00%

BFG uses the value of the account as of the last business day of the billing period, after taking into account deposits and withdrawals, for purposes of determining the market value of the assets upon which the advisory fee is based.

These fees are generally negotiable and the final fee schedule is attached as Exhibit II of the Investment Advisory Contract. Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty for a full refund of BFG's fees within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Investment Advisory Contract generally with 5 days' written notice.

### ***Selection of Other Advisers Fees***

BFG will be compensated via a fee share from the advisers to which it directs those clients. This relationship will be memorialized in each a between BFG and each third-party adviser. The fees shared will not exceed any limit imposed by any regulatory agency.

BFG may direct clients to Royal Fund Management. The annual fee schedule is as follows:

<b>Total Assets Under Management</b>	<b>BFG's Fee</b>	<b>Third Party's Fee</b>	<b>Total Fee</b>
\$0 - \$100,000	50%	50%	2.00%
\$100,001 - \$1,000,000	50%	50%	1.50%
\$1,000,001 – And Up	50%	50%	1.25%

BFG uses the value of the account as of the last business day of the billing period, after taking into account deposits and withdrawals, for purposes of determining the market value of the assets upon which the advisory fee is based.

These fees are negotiable.

## **B. Payment of Fees**

### ***Payment of Portfolio Management Fees***

Asset-based portfolio management fees are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client's written authorization on a quarterly basis. Fees are paid in arrears.

### ***Payment of Selection of Other Advisers Fees***

Fees for selection of Royal Fund Management as third-party adviser are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client's written authorization. Fees are paid quarterly in arrears.

### **C. Client Responsibility For Third Party Fees**

Clients are responsible for the payment of all third party fees (i.e. custodian fees, brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.). Those fees are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by BFG. Please see Item 12 of this brochure regarding broker-dealer/custodian.

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

BFG collects its fees in arrears. It does not collect fees in advance.

### **E. Outside Compensation For the Sale of Securities to Clients**

Neither BFG nor its supervised persons accept any compensation for the sale of investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

BFG does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

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

BFG generally provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- ❖ Individuals
- ❖ High-Net-Worth Individuals

There is no account minimum for any of BFG's services.

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



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

### *Methods of Analysis*

BFG's methods of analysis include Fundamental analysis, Quantitative analysis and Technical analysis.

**Fundamental analysis** involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

**Quantitative analysis** deals with measurable factors as distinguished from qualitative considerations such as the character of management or the state of employee morale, such as the value of assets, the cost of capital, historical projections of sales, and so on.

**Technical analysis** involves the analysis of past market data; primarily price and volume.

### *Investment Strategies*

BFG uses long term trading.

**Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.**

## **B. Material Risks Involved**

### *Methods of Analysis*

**Fundamental analysis** concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

**Quantitative analysis** Investment strategies using quantitative models may perform differently than expected as a result of, among other things, the factors used in the models, the weight placed on each factor, changes from the factors' historical trends, and technical issues in the construction and implementation of the models.

**Technical analysis** attempts to predict a future stock price or direction based on market trends. The assumption is that the market follows discernible patterns and if these patterns can be identified then a prediction can be made. The risk is that markets do not always follow patterns and relying solely on this method may not take into account new patterns that emerge over time.

### *Investment Strategies*

**Long term trading** is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

**Selection of Other Advisers:** Although BFG will seek to select only money managers who will invest clients' assets with the highest level of integrity, BFG's selection process cannot ensure that money managers will perform as desired and BFG will have no control over the day-to-day operations of any of its selected money managers. BFG would not necessarily be aware of certain activities at the underlying money manager level, including without limitation a money manager's engaging in unreported risks, investment "style drift" or even regulatory breaches or fraud.

**Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.**

### **C. Risks of Specific Securities Utilized**

Clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any investment strategy. The investment types listed below (leaving aside Treasury Inflation Protected/Inflation Linked Bonds) are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency.

**Mutual Funds:** Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature.

**Equity** investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and/or capital gains if the value of the stock increases. The value of equity securities may fluctuate in response to specific situations for each company, industry conditions and the general economic environments.

**Fixed income** investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

**Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs):** An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to stocks. Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Areas of concern include the lack of transparency in products and increasing complexity, conflicts of interest and the possibility of inadequate regulatory compliance. Precious Metal ETFs (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Palladium Bullion backed “electronic shares” not physical metal) specifically may be negatively impacted by several unique factors, among them (1) large sales by the official sector which own a significant portion of aggregate world holdings in gold and other precious metals, (2) a significant increase in hedging activities by producers of gold or other precious metals, (3) a significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors.

**Annuities** are a retirement product for those who may have the ability to pay a premium now and want to guarantee they receive certain monthly payments or a return on investment later in the future. Annuities are contracts issued by a life insurance company designed to meet requirement or other long-term goals. An annuity is not a life insurance policy. Variable annuities are designed to be long-term investments, to meet retirement and other long-range goals. Variable annuities are not suitable for meeting short-term goals because substantial taxes and insurance company charges may apply if you withdraw your money early. Variable annuities also involve investment risks, just as mutual funds do.

**Private placements** carry a substantial risk as they are subject to less regulation than are publicly offered securities, the market to resell these assets under applicable securities laws may be illiquid, due to restrictions, and the liquidation may be taken at a substantial discount to the underlying value or result in the entire loss of the value of such assets.

**Non-U.S.** securities present certain risks such as currency fluctuation, political and economic change, social unrest, changes in government regulation, differences in accounting and the lesser degree of accurate public information available.

**Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.**

## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

### **A. Criminal or Civil Actions**

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

### **B. Administrative Proceedings**

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

### **C. Self-regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings**

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

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

### **A. Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative**

Neither BFG nor its representatives are registered as, or have pending applications to become, a broker/dealer or a representative of a broker/dealer.

### **B. Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor**

Neither BFG nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become either a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Advisor or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

### **C. Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests**

David Southwick Blackston is an investment adviser representative with another investment advisory firm, Royal Fund Management, and from time to time, may offer clients advice or products from those activities and clients should be aware that these services may involve a conflict of interest. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client and clients are in no way required to use the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

David Southwick Blackston is an independent licensed insurance agent, and from time to time, will offer clients advice or products from those activities. Clients should be aware that these services pay a commission or other compensation and involve a conflict of interest, as commissionable products conflict with the fiduciary duties of a registered investment adviser. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client; including the sale of commissionable products to advisory clients. Clients are in no way required to utilize the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

William Andrew Blackston is an investment adviser representative with another investment advisory firm, Royal Fund Management, and from time to time, may offer clients advice or products from those activities and clients should be aware that these services may involve a conflict of interest. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client and clients are in no way required to use the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

William Andrew Blackston is an independent licensed insurance agent, and from time to time, will offer clients advice or products from those activities. Clients should be aware that these services pay a commission or other compensation and involve a conflict of interest, as commissionable products conflict with the fiduciary duties of a registered investment adviser. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client; including the sale of commissionable products to advisory clients. Clients are in no way required to utilize the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

Travis Lee Bender is an investment adviser representative with another investment advisory firm, Royal Fund Management, and from time to time, may offer clients advice or products from those activities and clients should be aware that these services may involve a conflict of interest. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client and clients are in no way required to use the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

Travis Lee Bender is an independent licensed insurance agent, and from time to time, will offer clients advice or products from those activities. Clients should be aware that these services pay a commission or other compensation and involve a conflict of interest, as commissionable products conflict with the fiduciary duties of a registered investment adviser. BFG always acts in the best interest of the client; including the sale of commissionable products to advisory clients. Clients are in no way required to utilize the services of any representative of BFG in connection with such individual's activities outside of BFG.

#### **D. Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is Compensated for Those Selections**

BFG may direct clients to third-party investment advisers to manage all or a portion of the client's assets. BFG will be compensated via a fee share from the advisers to which it directs those clients. This relationship will be memorialized in each contract between BFG and each third-party advisor. The fees shared will not exceed any limit imposed by any regulatory agency. This creates a conflict of interest in that BFG has an incentive to direct clients to the third-party investment advisers that provide BFG with a larger fee split. BFG will always act in the best interests of the client, including when determining which third-party investment adviser to recommend to clients. BFG will ensure that all recommended advisers are licensed or notice filed in the states in which BFG is recommending them to clients.

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

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

BFG has a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. BFG's Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

#### **B. Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests**

BFG does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which a related person to BFG or BFG has a material financial interest.

#### **C. Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients**

From time to time, representatives of BFG may buy or sell securities for themselves that they also recommend to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of BFG to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. BFG will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage when similar securities are being bought or sold.

#### **D. Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities**

From time to time, representatives of BFG may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of BFG to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest; however, BFG will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage if representatives of BFG buy or sell securities at or around the same time as clients.

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

#### **A. Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker/Dealers**

Custodians/broker-dealers will be recommended based on BFG's duty to seek "best execution," which is the obligation to seek execution of securities transactions for a client on the most favorable terms for the client under the circumstances. Clients will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent, and BFG may also consider the market expertise and research access provided by the broker-

dealer/custodian, including but not limited to access to written research, oral communication with analysts, admittance to research conferences and other resources provided by the brokers that may aid in BFG's research efforts. BFG will never charge a premium or commission on transactions, beyond the actual cost imposed by the broker-dealer/custodian.

BFG will require clients to use TD Ameritrade Institutional, a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.

### ***1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits***

While BFG has no formal soft dollars program in which soft dollars are used to pay for third party services, BFG may receive research, products, or other services from custodians and broker-dealers in connection with client securities transactions ("soft dollar benefits"). BFG may enter into soft-dollar arrangements consistent with (and not outside of) the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. There can be no assurance that any particular client will benefit from soft dollar research, whether or not the client's transactions paid for it, and BFG does not seek to allocate benefits to client accounts proportionate to any soft dollar credits generated by the accounts. BFG benefits by not having to produce or pay for the research, products or services, and BFG will have an incentive to recommend a broker-dealer based on receiving research or services. Clients should be aware that BFG's acceptance of soft dollar benefits may result in higher commissions charged to the client.

### ***2. Brokerage for Client Referrals***

BFG receives no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

### ***3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use***

BFG will require clients to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. Not all advisers require clients to use a particular broker-dealer.

## **B. Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts**

If BFG buys or sells the same securities on behalf of more than one client, then it may (but would be under no obligation to) aggregate or bunch such securities in a single transaction for multiple clients in order to seek more favorable prices, lower brokerage commissions, or more efficient execution. In such case, BFG would place an aggregate order with the broker on behalf of all such clients in order to ensure fairness for all clients; provided, however, that trades would be reviewed periodically to ensure that accounts are not systematically disadvantaged by this policy. BFG would determine the appropriate number of shares and select the appropriate brokers consistent with its duty to seek best execution, except for those accounts with specific brokerage direction (if any).



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

### **A. Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews and Who Makes Those Reviews**

All client accounts for BFG's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis are reviewed at least Quarterly by William A Blackston, President, with regard to clients' respective investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at BFG are assigned to this reviewer.

### **B. Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts**

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

### **C. Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients**

Each client of BFG's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis will receive a monthly report detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees. This written report will come from the custodian.

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

### **A. Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients (Includes Sales Awards or Other Prizes)**

BFG may also receive compensation from the selected third party advisers via a fee split.

### **B. Compensation to Non – Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals**

BFG does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for client referrals.

## **Item 15: Custody**

When advisory fees are deducted directly from client accounts at client's custodian, BFG will be deemed to have limited custody of client's assets and must have written authorization from the client to do so. Clients will receive all account statements and billing invoices that are required in each jurisdiction, and they should carefully review those statements for accuracy.



## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

BFG provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services to clients. The advisory contract established with each client sets forth the discretionary authority for trading. Where investment discretion has been granted, BFG generally manages the client's account and makes investment decisions without consultation with the client as to when the securities are to be bought or sold for the account, the total amount of the securities to be bought/sold, what securities to buy or sell, or the price per share.

## **Item 17: Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)**

BFG will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Clients will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Clients should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

## **Item 18: Financial Information**

### **A. Balance Sheet**

BFG neither requires nor solicits prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, and therefore is not required to include a balance sheet with this brochure.

### **B. Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients**

Neither BFG nor its management has any financial condition that is likely to reasonably impair BFG's ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

### **C. Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years**

BFG has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition in the last ten years.