

## Part 2A of Form ADV: Brochure

### South State Advisory

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This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of South State Advisory. If You have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact Us at (803) 231-3492 or You may email Us at [Raymond.Hrin@SouthStateWealth.com](mailto:Raymond.Hrin@SouthStateWealth.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.

South State Advisory is a Registered Investment Adviser ("RIA"). Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about South State Advisory is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

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#### **South State Advisory**

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## Item 2: Material Changes

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Pursuant to SEC rules, we will deliver to You a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of Our fiscal year. We will further provide ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary. To receive the most current copy of this Brochure at no charge, please contact us at (803) 231-3492 or Raymond.Hrin@SouthStateWealth.com. Alternatively, you can also obtain this filing and other information about our firm at <https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/>.

South State Advisory has made the following material changes to this Brochure since our last annual filing on February 15, 2019:

Effective January 1, 2019, all four members of the Minis team have joined as employees of South State Advisory.

Effective January 1, 2019, four members of the portfolio management team of South State Bank's Private Wealth department have joined as employees of South State Advisory. Three of these individuals were already affiliated with South State Advisory as investment adviser representatives.

Effective January 1, 2019, nine individuals of the retirement plan services department of South State Bank have joined as employees of South State Advisory. Three of these individuals were already affiliated with South State Advisory as investment adviser representatives.

Mark Allen of Minis & Company ("Minis") has transitioned from the firm effective April 22, 2019.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

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### Ownership

**South State Advisory** (“SSA”, “We”, “Our”, “Us”, the “Firm”) is an investment advisory firm registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. SSA provides investment advisory, financial planning, and retirement plan administration and consulting services to individual and institutional clients (“You”, “Your”). The Firm first registered with the SEC in 2010 under the name of First Southeast 401k Fiduciaries, Inc., and is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of South State Bank (“SSB”), a South Carolina banking corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of South State Corporation (“SSC”).

South State Advisory maintains a Board of Directors to effect strong corporate governance in overseeing firm activities, including but not limited to financial results, ratification of programs, policies and procedures, and audit and regulatory exam results. We also maintain Investment Committees that oversee the investment selection standards for what is recommended for purchase in client accounts. There is also a Compliance Committee that oversees the compliance testing, audit and exam results, and general risk management and compliance oversight matters.

### Services Provided

SSA provides investment advisory, financial planning, and retirement plan services. The Firm does business under the names South State Advisory, South State Retirement Plan Services, and Minis & Company. In providing services, We generally act as a fiduciary, unless otherwise disclosed to You.

Our investment advisory services retain a client-based focus, with open investment architecture and implementation of proprietary investment and allocation approaches. We utilize research partners, sub-managers, mutual funds, alternative investments, options, warrants, real estate investment trusts (“REITS”), Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”) and other securities that meet Our stringent investment selection standards. We build an investment strategy that is highly customized to match the cash flow, risk and time horizon needs of Your particular life circumstances and financial objectives. With this customized approach, You have the option to instruct Us to impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

Our financial planning services are designed to provide advice-based financial strategies that are customized to meet Your unique needs. We offer multi-disciplined expertise with a focus on developing and implementing solutions for Your important financial issues, including retirement, education, estate, philanthropic, and business succession planning. Our financial planning service fees are typically included in the investment management fees agreed upon by clients and Us. Financial planning is typically not billed separately. If billed separately, total costs for financial planning, whether per hour or on a fixed retainer basis, range from as low as \$500 to as much as \$50,000 or more. There is no typical planning service as services are customized to the particular needs of the client; thus, there is a wide range of fees imposed.

Our retirement plan services include Investment Fiduciary, Administration and Compliance, Recordkeeping Platform and Retirement Plan Consulting Services. Our Service Agreement will define the

services that You select for Us to perform. With proper disclosure, We have the authority to select a third-party to provide any of these services.

For those clients where We provide Investment Fiduciary Services, We work to determine client goals and objectives, preferring to develop a written investment policy statement (“IPS”) for each client. Specifically, these services include IPS preparation, selection of investment vehicles, monitoring of investment performance, and when requested, employee communications including periodic educational support and investment workshops. The IPS or other document can define the parameters upon which We monitor and make decisions, including the type of investments permissible in Your retirement plan. We typically provide advice on mutual funds, (including Exchange-Traded Funds, “ETFs”) and bank common collective accounts. We provide investment fiduciary services on either a “non-discretionary” basis, as defined by Section 3(21) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), or a “discretionary” basis, as defined by Section 3(38) of ERISA.

In providing Administration and Compliance Services, We review information on each retirement plan related to plan feasibility, design, and document preparation. We work with clients to prepare and maintain plan, trust, and administrative documents and to maintain compliance with applicable regulations and the provisions of their plan’s document.

In offering Recordkeeping Platform Services, We establish and maintain individual participant accounts as required by the plan document. We record transactions in these accounts and report these transactions back to participants and the plan sponsor using a variety of reporting methods.

In providing Consulting Services, We prepare corrective filings, assist with Department of Labor and Internal Revenue Service examinations and audits, and assist with other plan issues that are outside the normal scope of Our services.

### Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2019, South State Advisory had approximately \$2.346 billion in assets under management, consisting of \$1.922 billion managed on a discretionary basis and \$425 million managed on a non-discretionary basis.

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

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### General

We will deduct Our fees directly from the account, be paid through the recordkeeper or custodian, or bill You directly upon request. While fees are negotiated under certain circumstances, they are generally payable quarterly and in advance.

### Investment Advisory Services

Fees for investment advisory services are based on the market value of Your assets under management, including cash balances. Fees are calculated as follows:

ASSETS	ANNUAL RATE	QTRLY RATE
On first \$1,000,000	1.00%	0.2500%
Next \$2,000,000	0.75%	0.1875%
Next \$2,000,000	0.50%	0.1250%
Over \$5,000,000	0.40%	0.1000%

When a minimum fee applies, We will disclose it to you. Services delivered for partial periods are charged on a pro-rata basis. For only the first quarterly fee wherein the start date of the account occurs during the quarter, the fee for investment advisory services provided is calculated in arrears using a prorated formula, based upon the market value of the assets in the account on the last day of the previous quarter.

### Financial Planning Services

The above annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the extent agreed upon by You, financial planning, and consulting services. If the client requires significant planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of SSA), We have the option to separately charge for such additional services, the terms and dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written agreement with the client. In these extraordinary situations, fees for financial planning services are negotiable, based on the scope and complexity of Your situation. Planning fees can be charged on an hourly basis, or on a retainer fee basis. There is, however, an inherent conflict of interest for Us whenever Our financial plan recommends the use of services that We provide (e.g., investment advisory). It is Your choice whether to implement Our recommendations from a financial plan. Future circumstances may affect the attainment of Your goals and objectives, so it is important to keep Us informed to keep Your financial plan updated.

### Retirement Plan Services offered through South State Retirement Plan Services

#### Investment Fiduciary

Fees for investment fiduciary services are based on whether You have selected investment advisory or investment management services as described under §3(21) and §3(38) of ERISA, respectively. Fees are based on a flat fee or the market value of Your assets pursuant to written service agreements. Fees will be paid by You or paid by the plan. Fees paid by the plan are either allocated across participant accounts or paid by the mutual funds held as investments. In cases where fees are paid through the mutual funds, all mutual funds provide a level amount of compensation across the plan. Optimal fee arrangements are based on the client's specific needs; overall fees are disclosed, and level compensation arrangements eliminate any incentive to recommend particular mutual funds based on compensation payouts. When a minimum fee applies, it will be disclosed to you. Services delivered for partial periods are charged on a pro-rata basis. For only the first quarterly fee wherein the start date of the account occurs during the quarter, the fee for investment fiduciary services provided is calculated in arrears using a prorated formula, based upon the market value of the assets in the account as of the date of the billing.

## **Administration and Compliance**

Fees for Administration and Compliance are alternatively charged on plan assets that change based on the fluctuation in asset values in the plan or on a per-head or per annum basis meaning that their rates do not change with the plan's assets. These fees are invoiced in advance at the beginning of each calendar quarter based upon the attributable characteristics of the plan (typically based on the number of participants) at the time of billing. Services delivered for partial periods are charged on a pro-rata basis.

## **Platform, Selection, and Monitoring Services**

The annual fee for Platform, Selection and Monitoring services is charged as a percentage of assets under management (including cash balances) and typically ranges from 0.25% to 1.0%.

Depending on the nature of the client's circumstances and services provided, We quote an exact percentage to each client based on both the nature and total dollar value of the account and the scope of services to be provided. Clients are invoiced in advance at the beginning of each calendar quarter based upon the value (market value or fair market value in the absence of market value), of the client's account at the time of billing. Services delivered for partial periods are charged on a pro-rata basis.

## **Consulting Services**

As specified by client agreement, in certain situations, some consulting services are "built-in" to your fees. In the cases when they are not, consulting fees are charged on an hourly basis, ranging from \$75 - \$350 per hour, depending on the nature and complexity of each client's circumstances. An estimate for total hours will be determined at the start of the consulting services relationship. All fees are due upon completion of the consulting services. In all cases, the scope and nature of fees are outlined in one or more governing client agreements.

## **Other Fees and Expenses**

You have the choice to place assets at either a brokerage firm or bank trust department. You pay additional fees as disclosed, including, but not limited to, any commissions, custody fees, transaction charges or mark-up/mark-downs imposed as transactions are executed on Your behalf. Should You direct Us to use a particular broker or custodian, these fees are in some cases higher than other alternatives. Please review Item 12 of this brochure to learn more about Our Brokerage Practices.

Certain retirement plan services are charged on a per-use basis, which includes such items as postage, envelopes, address locator, participant enrollment books, stop-and-reissue checks, etc. When invoiced, these fees are clearly itemized, billed in arrears, and billed on a per-occurrence or per item basis.

All fees paid to SSA are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds, including money market funds and ETFs. In the case of mutual funds and ETFs, these fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. Although We generally recommend the purchase of "no-load" mutual funds, if a mutual fund also imposes sales charges, You will pay an initial or deferred sales charge. You could invest in a mutual fund or ETF directly, without Our services. In that case, You would not receive the services provided by SSA which are designed, among other things, to assist You in determining which fund or funds are most appropriate for Your financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, You should review both the fees charged by the funds or ETFs and Our fees to fully understand the total fees to be paid in exchange for



the advisory services We provide.

From time to time, an investment of a Retirement Plan We service or platform You utilize makes payments to Us in exchange for certain services we provide to them. Any payments that We receive will be used to offset fees payable by the client where possible. For clients who terminate their relationship with Us that continue to maintain an active retirement plan, we will send revenue sharing payments to the current service provider to effect appropriate fee offsets. For clients who terminated their relationships that no longer maintain an active retirement plan, we will retain revenue sharing payments pursuant to pre-existing written service agreements with such clients. Therefore, We will retain any remaining revenue sharing payments received after all advisory fee offsets and/or rebates are made. SSA has policies and procedures in place intended to help ensure that We provide recommendations that are in the best interest of our clients.

Different share classes are usually available for a given mutual fund, with each share class having different expenses and features designed to meet the needs of a particular investor. We will seek to recommend the share class that best meets client needs. Doing what is best for the client does not always equate to selecting the lowest available share class because share class expenses represent only one element of the total fee/expense impact on the client. In some cases, available share class options will be limited or imprudent based on qualifying requirements of the fund company, availability of share class options on a given broker or custodial platform, or factors such as tax implications to You or other associated expenses in making a move from one share class to another. The process we employ to review existing mutual fund holdings to ensure the share class selection remains in the best interest of the client is a manual process which is implemented over time. Therefore, We will not in all cases immediately become aware of the availability of a change in share classes.

To address the conflict of interest arising from Our affiliation with South State Bank (“SSB”), We do not purchase or sell within client accounts the stock of SSB or its parent company, unless directed by the client to do so. No investment advisory fees are charged on any SSB transactions or shares held by a client in his/her account. However, the client will bear any transaction costs, such as commissions, and other charges or expenses, if any, related to the execution of such transactions.

### Termination

A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason in accordance with the terms of the governing contract. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded to the client based upon pro-rata adjustment as of the account’s termination date, and any earned, unpaid fees will be due and payable. You have the right to terminate an agreement without penalty or any fees being assessed within five business days after entering into the agreement.

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

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Performance-based fees are based on a share of capital gains on, or capital appreciation of, the assets held within a client account. We do not assess any performance-based fees on client accounts.

Side-by-side management refers to the management of performance and non-performance-based fee accounts. Since We do not have any performance-based fee accounts, this does not apply.

## Item 7: Types of Clients

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We provide services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals;
- High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts (including employee benefit trusts);
- Companies (Agencies, Corporate Pension, and Profit Sharing Plans);
- Partnerships / Business Associations;
- Charitable Institutions;
- Hospitals / Museums / Churches / Schools / Universities;
- Foundations / Endowments;
- Government Entities; and
- Labor Unions.

There is no minimum balance to open or maintain an account. However, minimum fees do in some cases apply to You. Such minimum fees are disclosed directly to clients when they do apply.

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

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### Investment Strategy

We use a team approach to establish and implement Our investment strategy. In general, Our investment philosophy balances the higher return potential available in stocks with the relative historical safety available in cash and fixed income investments. We select stocks based on their average growth prospect and selling price. Fixed income investments are selected to seek safety of principal while pursuing the best available yield.

There is no guarantee that a particular strategy will meet its investment goals. Additionally, the investment strategies and techniques We use within a given strategy tend to vary over time depending on various factors. We at times give advice and act for some clients which differs from advice given, or the timing or nature, of action taken for other clients with similar or different objectives.

### Investment Process

We generally manage accounts with full investment discretion. However, clients have the option to retain Us on a limited-discretionary basis. You also have the option to direct Us to purchase, sell, or avoid selling, particular securities for the purpose of realizing a capital loss or avoiding a capital gain. In the selection of individual securities for a client's portfolio, primary emphasis is placed upon liquidity, quality, and growth.

### Stocks

Stocks are selected if We believe they have the potential for above average total return over a one- to two-year time horizon. Total return is comprised of capital change plus dividend income. Liquidity and quality are emphasized, with quality being measured by analyzing financial strength, growth, stability of profits, and management competence. Once a stock achieves its return potential, at least a portion is

often sold. If a stock declines significantly in price, We will evaluate whether to keep holding the position. The risks associated with investments in stocks include the possibility of capital loss, as well as the possibility that earnings, sales, and dividends do not meet expectations. Markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and periods of falling prices. By focusing on a longer-term investment horizon, We seek to keep trading and transaction costs as low as possible.

### **Fixed Income & Cash Equivalents**

For cash and equivalents, We use money market funds and U.S. Treasury Bills. When investing in the fixed income market, U.S. Treasury Notes, Bonds and, if appropriate, investment-grade municipals are acquired. Additionally, We will purchase Federal Agency, or high-quality corporate bonds and FDIC insured Certificates of Deposit.

The risks associated with investments in bonds include the possibility of capital loss, particularly prior to maturity, as well as changes in interest rates, inflation rates, credit rating, and the shape of the yield curve adversely impacting the prices of bonds owned in an account.

### **Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”)**

Mutual funds and ETFs are selected to obtain proper diversification in client accounts, either due to lower investable assets, or to access industry sectors and/or companies that are not otherwise available when investing in individual securities. The mutual funds and ETFs purchased are not affiliated with Us and are typically “no-load”. Mutual funds may be open-end or closed-end in nature.

### **Retirement Asset Rollovers**

SSA may recommend that clients take a distribution from their retirement plan or another qualified account and roll the distribution amount over to a Retirement Account at SSA. We receive compensation for providing these services. As a result, We have an incentive to recommend that you take such distribution and roll over the proceeds to a Retirement Account at SSA. This conflict of interest is mitigated through Our compliance program, including those related to suitability.

### **Methods of Analysis**

We maintain Investment Committees (“Committees”) to set, monitor, and maintain Our investment selection standards and communicate market commentary and recommendations. There is an Investment Committee for SSA, as well as one specific to services provided by South State Retirement Plan Services. These Committees, comprised of Investment Advisor Representatives (or “Portfolio Managers”, or “Client Relationship Managers”) of SSA, uses various sources of information to perform investment analysis on a regular basis, which include but are not limited to:

- Internal and external research materials;
- Financial newspapers and magazines;
- Company websites;
- Rating agency reports;
- Annual reports and SEC filings; and
- Press Releases.

The results of Our analysis provide a mechanism for decision makers to use in formulating investment advice or managing assets.

## Risk of Loss

It is important that clients understand that investing in securities involves risk, which includes the possibility that Your account could go down in value. SSA does not offer any guarantee that the strategies We recommend and/or employ within client portfolios will produce desired results or avoid loss. Investing money in the financial markets carries with it numerous risks. The primary risk involved is market risk. Included in this risk is the possibility of loss stemming from market declines in various asset classes, rising interest rates, and rising credit spreads, among other influences.

While We strive to construct portfolios that are diversified, there is no guarantee that market forces will not overwhelm diversification efforts. Recognizing that assuming some type of risk is unavoidable, We take a risk-based approach in seeking to minimize the probability and magnitude of losses. Such risk management steps include proper asset and sector allocation, proactive tactical shifts to exploit opportunities or avoid risks, in-depth and independent research, financial planning, client education, and regular portfolio monitoring and client reviews.

Finally, communication with clients at the inception of the relationship and periodically thereafter plays a critical role in maintaining a prudent and successful long-term investment program. Below We summarize the primary investment risks of investing assets with Us, however this list does not capture all risks of investing.

**Risk of Loss:** Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

**Market Fluctuation:** Financial markets and the value of investments fluctuate substantially over time, which at times leads to losses in the value of client portfolios, especially in the short run.

**Asset Class Correlations:** During times of market turmoil, correlations between asset classes often break down, which at times results in higher than expected losses for diversified portfolios.

**Mutual Funds:** Mutual fund investing involves risk; principal loss is possible. Clients will pay fees and expenses, even when investment returns are flat or negative. Clients cannot influence the securities bought and sold, nor the timing of transactions which therefore at times result in undesirable tax consequences. Mutual funds incur fees that are separate from those fees charged by Us. Accordingly, Our investments in mutual funds will result in the layering of fees and expenses.

**Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs):** ETFs are subject to risks like those of stocks and are not suitable for all clients. Shares can be bought and sold through a broker, and the selling shareholder in certain cases will pay brokerage commissions in connection with transactions. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate so that when shares are redeemed, they are generally worth more or less than original cost. Shares can only be redeemed directly from the fund. There can be no assurance that an active trading market for the shares will develop or be maintained, and shares trade at, above or below their net asset value. Additionally, ETFs are not structured as investment companies and thus are not regulated under the Investment Company Act of 1940. ETFs incur fees that are separate from those fees charged by Us. Accordingly, Our investments in ETFs will result in the layering of fees and expenses.

**Closed-end Funds:** A closed-end fund is an investment instrument that is listed on an exchange and trades much like common stock shares. Its share price is determined by supply and demand day to day, along with the value of the fund's holdings. While closed-end funds trade freely throughout the trading day, they can be subject to risks of low liquidity in trading. Closed-end funds can be invested in a wide variety of investment instruments, including stocks, bonds, and various derivatives. Closed-end funds typically use a high degree of leverage. They are either diversified or non-diversified. Risks associated with closed-end fund investments include credit risk, volatility and the risk of magnified losses resulting from the use of leverage.

**Fixed Income:** Prices of fixed income (debt) securities typically decrease in value when interest rates rise. This risk is usually greater for longer-maturity debt securities. Investments in debt with lower credit ratings (and non-rated credits) are subject to a greater risk of loss to principal and interest than those with higher credit ratings.

**Inflation Risk:** Risk that increases in the prices of goods and services, and therefore the cost of living, reduce consumer purchasing power.

**Income Risk:** Risk that an investment strategy designed to generate a sufficient income does not sustain a desired lifestyle, resulting in the need to sell other assets to generate desired income.

**Liquidity Risk:** Risk evident when clients do not have full access to their funds and/or when assets cannot be converted into cash per normal market settlement standards. Liquidity risk is generally higher for small capitalization stocks, alternative assets, and private placement securities. Liquidity risk is often higher during times of market and/or world turmoil.

**Foreign Securities:** Investments in foreign securities tend at times to introduce greater volatility to client portfolios. Additional risks include political risk, currency translation risk, and lack of transparency (accounting methods, regulatory reporting requirements, shareholder protection rules, etc. may vary). These factors can at times result in large price swings of foreign security investments, and greater risk of loss.

**Options – Selling a Covered Call:** In certain situations, a client has the opportunity to participate in options strategies, such as selling covered call options. Selling a covered call option gives the buyer of the option the right to buy a specified amount of an underlying security (already owned by the client) at a specified price on or before the expiration date. The options are sold for a premium that is paid to the client. This premium acts as a partial hedge and potential source of cash flow for the account. However, there are risks involved in selling covered options, including the risk that the stock price increases in value well above the strike price of the option. In this case the client will be required to sell the stock at a price (the strike price) well below where the price the stock is trading in the open market at that time. Moreover, the price of the stock could decline to a point where the partial hedge provided by the option premium will not cover the full loss in the value of the stock. In addition, any time a covered option is exercised by the buyer, the sale of the stock results in brokerage fees to the client, as well as the brokerage fees associated with the sale of the covered option.

**Options – Buying Puts:** In certain situations, a client has the opportunity to participate in options strategies, such as buying put options. When initiating a long put option position, the option holder looks to cover his/her downside risk in the event the stock takes a larger than expected hit. Puts allow the put buyers the ability to force the writer of the option to buy the underlying stock at the strike price.

Puts protect against disastrous or rapid declines in a security's value. Buying a put results in a net credit, or cash outlay for brokerage fees and premium, such that if the stock does not decline and the option is not exercised, the option holder loses the premium paid for the option. Keep in mind that the exercise of the option and resulting sale of stock results in brokerage fees to the options holder.

**Independent Manager Selection:** Client assets are in certain cases, where appropriate, invested by outside professional asset managers. We do not directly control the investment decisions of outside managers. An independent manager could stray from its stated investment strategy (known as "style drift") or make poor investment decisions which place client assets at greater risk of loss.

**Private Funds (sometimes known as Alternative Investments):** Client assets are in certain cases, where appropriate, invested in private funds, either of a real estate, hedge fund, or private equity nature. There are numerous risks associated with private fund investing, which most notably include liquidity constraints and lack of transparency. A complete discussion of each private fund's risks is set forth in each fund's offering documents, which is provided to each qualified client for review and consideration at the time of investment.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):** REITs are at times adversely impacted by factors affecting the real estate industry, which include changes in interest rates and social and economic trends. REITs are not always diversified, and are subject to the risk of fluctuations in income from underlying real estate assets, poor performance by the REIT's manager, prepayments and defaults by borrowers, adverse changes in tax laws, and, with respect to U.S. REITs, their failure to qualify for the special tax treatment granted to REITs under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and/or to maintain exempt status under the Investment Company Act.

**Cybersecurity:** Intentional cybersecurity breaches include unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices (such as through "hacking" activity); infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code; and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes, or website access or functionality. In addition, unintentional incidents can occur, such as the inadvertent release of confidential information (possibly resulting in the violation of applicable privacy laws). A cybersecurity breach could result in the loss or theft of customer data or funds, the inability to access electronic systems ("denial of services"), loss or theft of proprietary information or corporate data, physical damage to a computer or network system, or costs associated with system repairs. Such incidents could cause SSA, a portfolio company, or other service provider to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs, or financial loss.

**COVID-19 and Pandemics:** Occurrences of epidemics or pandemics, depending on their scale, may cause different degrees of damage to national and local economies. Global economic conditions may be disrupted by widespread outbreaks of infectious or contagious diseases, and such disruption may adversely affect the investment performance of an account. For example, the continuing spread of COVID-19 (also known as novel coronavirus or coronavirus disease 2019) may have an adverse effect on the value, operating results, and financial condition of some or all of the companies in your portfolio. The progress and outcome of the current COVID-19 outbreak remains uncertain and may result in significant adverse consequences to the global economy.

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

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We are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of Our advisory business, or the integrity of Our management. We do not have any legal or disciplinary events to report related to past or present activities.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

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South State Advisory (“SSA”) is a division of South State Bank (“SSB”), a South Carolina banking corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of the South State Corporation. South State Corporation is based in Columbia, SC, and is a registered bank holding company incorporated under the laws of South Carolina. South State Corporation consists of South State Bank, including departments Private Wealth, a division of SSB that provides trust and fiduciary services and South State Investment Services, a division of SSB that provides retail non-deposit investment products through an agreement with LPL Financial. More information on SSB can be found at [www.southstatebank.com](http://www.southstatebank.com).

The management team of SSA reports to employees of South State Wealth, a brand identifier representing the collective Wealth Management departments of SSB that include departments Private Wealth and South State Investment Services, as well as South State Advisory and its ‘doing business as’ names South State Retirement Plan Services and Minis & Company. In some cases, employees are simultaneously registered as associated persons of LPL Financial, an unaffiliated registered broker/dealer.

SSB’s Private Wealth Department has entered into a Service Provider Agreement with SSA to provide investment advisory services for its client accounts where it has authority to make investment decisions. SSB’s Private Wealth Department pays a fee to SSA for this service. In all cases, compliance policies and Code of Ethics guidelines apply to ensure that client interests are placed first and foremost.

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

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### Code of Ethics

We have adopted a written Code of Ethics that sets forth Our high standard of business conduct and reinforces the need for objectivity and reasonableness to meet Our fiduciary obligations. The Code of Ethics informs employees of the restrictions on the acceptance or giving of material gifts or entertainment, making charitable or political contributions, prohibitions on insider trading, maintaining the confidentiality of client information, outside business activity guidelines, and procedures for employee securities trading, among others.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to place client interests first and foremost. Certain SSA employees and related persons who are deemed to be “access persons”<sup>1</sup> are subject to the Code of Ethics, which addresses, among other things:

- Serving client interests ahead of their own;
- Not taking inappropriate advantage of their position with SSA;
- Avoiding actual or potential conflicts of interest or abuse of their position of trust and responsibility;
- Prohibitions against trading, either personally or on behalf of others, on material nonpublic information or communicating material nonpublic information to others in violation of the law;
- Adherence to all federal and state securities laws; and
- Disclosure of personal trading activity to the Chief Compliance Officer.

### Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

Access persons are permitted to maintain personal securities accounts as long as personal investing practices are consistent with fiduciary standards and regulatory requirements, and do not conflict with their duty to SSA and Our clients. Our access persons, on occasion, buy, hold, or sell certain securities for themselves that We also recommend for purchase or sale in Our client portfolios. This presents a conflict of interest if the access person were to use information obtained during the normal course of business to trade ahead of clients in a personal account or account managed by Us for employees or their family members. Access persons with prior knowledge of a client transaction (e.g., Our Portfolio Managers intending to place a similar trade in client accounts) are not permitted to buy or sell securities for their own account until transactions for securities in client accounts are completed.

To further mitigate any such conflicts of interest, Our Code of Ethics requires pre-clearance of certain reportable personal securities transactions as well as reporting and certifications of investment activities. Access person investments in Initial Public Offerings, limited offerings, and private placements must be pre-cleared by the Chief Compliance Officer or his designee.

We do not act in a principal capacity relative to client accounts or sell securities as principal to clients. Cross trades between client accounts or a client’s account and an employee’s account are strictly prohibited. We do not recommend the purchase or sale of Our parent company’s stock, South State Corporation.

### Insider Trading

SSA prohibits all employees from illegally acting on, misusing, or disclosing any material nonpublic information, also known as “inside information”. SSA monitors the risks associated with inside information by:

- Providing periodic employee education and training;
- Authorizing and monitoring employee service on boards of public companies;
- Monitoring and restricting personal trading of employees and certain household members; and
- Maintaining a compliance program to monitor employee activity.

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<sup>1</sup> An access person is a supervised person who has access to nonpublic information regarding clients' purchase or sale of securities, is involved in making securities recommendations to clients, or who has access to such recommendations that are nonpublic.



### **Gifts, Entertainment, and Political/Charitable Contributions**

As a fiduciary, SSA strives to place client interests first and foremost. Our compliance policies and procedures are designed to ensure that the fiduciary standard of care is evident in all interactions with and on behalf of Our clients. SSA's compliance policies implement internal controls which address numerous business practices including gifts, entertainment, and political as well as charitable contributions. These controls include:

- Requiring employees to report certain gifts, entertainment, as well as political and charitable contributions;
- Limiting the dollar value of gifts and political contributions;
- Monitoring entertainment activities; and
- Monitoring outside employee activity and interests not directly related to Our business.

A copy of the SSA Code of Ethics is available to any client or prospective client by contacting Us at (803) 231-3492.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

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### **Broker Selection / Recommendations**

We have a duty to act in Your best interests by obtaining "best execution," or to execute securities transactions in a way to ensure that Your total costs or proceeds in each transaction are the most favorable under the circumstances. The Investment Committee select brokers to conduct securities transactions, while a quarterly evaluation is performed regarding the overall reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid. 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, which typically include:

- A combination of transaction execution services along with asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody);
- Capability to execute, clear and settle trades (buy and sell securities for Your account);
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.);
- Breadth of investment products made available (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchanged traded funds, etc.);
- Quality of services;
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate them;
- Reputation, financial strength, and stability of the provider; and
- Their prior service to Us and Our clients.

In some cases, the client will pay a broker or brokerage commission more than what another broker might have charged for the same transaction in recognition of the value of the brokerage services provided (e.g. custodian, consulting services).

SSA works with its clients to negotiate commission rates for portfolio transactions. Due to differences in Our ability to negotiate similar discounts for individuals based on differences in their relationships with

particular brokerage firms (account sizes, client/broker relationships, brokerage firm discount policy, etc.), clients often receive different commission rates.

As noted in Item 10 above, at least one employee is simultaneously registered as an associated person of LPL Financial, an unaffiliated registered broker/dealer. There are instances when an individual is compensated to be a broker of record for a client, and for the individual to be compensated for recommending Our services. In this case, You pay expenses to LPL Financial or mutual fund expenses, as well as fees for services that We provide.

### Soft Dollars

We place certain equity and fixed income trades through brokers that offer soft dollar benefits directly or through corporate affiliates. Soft dollar arrangements are a means of paying brokerage firms for their services through commission revenue rather than by direct hard dollar payments. Soft dollar benefits are solely related to research or brokerage services as defined under Section 28(e) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, and include research developed by a third party (e.g., macroeconomic commentary, stock, mutual fund, and ETF selection screening and write-ups). Those benefits create a conflict of interest by causing You to pay a higher commission than You would otherwise, benefit clients that have not paid for them, and cause Us to pay less to produce or pay for this research. Additionally, We have an incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on Our interest in receiving the research provided, rather than the most favorable execution for Your trade(s).

To mitigate this conflict of interest, We only use soft dollars if We decide in good faith the higher commission is warranted in meeting Our fiduciary duty to clients. To minimize this conflict of interest, SSA regularly reviews commission rates to affirm their reasonableness. We do not execute securities transactions as a principal, so no soft dollars are paid in conjunction with principal transactions. We have adopted strict compliance policies to ensure that Our use of soft dollars is consistent with Our duty to obtain the best available execution and that research services represent fair and measurable value for Our clients. Research services are obtained from brokers that We believe add value to a broad range of accounts, although perhaps not useful to every account in every case.

### Brokerage for Client Referrals

While there is an inherent conflict of interest in the relationship between investment advisers, consultants, and brokerage firms relating to the referral of business, We work to minimize these conflicts whenever possible. We do not pay or receive a fee or commission of any kind from any broker or consultant. Additionally, We do not agree to direct any transaction to a brokerage firm for execution, nor any service to a consultant, based upon anything other than the firm's ability to service Our clients' accounts as a fiduciary. We do not differentiate between referred and non-referred clients when negotiating commissions with brokerage firms.

### Directed Brokerage

If You direct Us to use a particular broker or dealer, You are responsible for negotiating commissions as We cannot always obtain volume discounts or best execution for Your account on each transaction. In other words, directing brokerage can at times cost You more money. In addition, under these circumstances a disparity in commission charges at times exist between the commissions charged to clients who direct Us to use a particular broker or dealer and clients whose accounts are not so directed.

Directed brokerage trades are generally executed after non-directed trades for accounts trading the same security or investment.

If a client does not direct Us to use a particular broker-dealer, We are in a position to recommend one or more discount brokerage options for custodial services and select trade counterparties that we believe meet best qualitative execution parameters.

### Trade Aggregation (Bunching)

When allocating trades, We strive to treat clients fairly and equitably. To achieve best execution, We attempt to aggregate or bunch client orders within a given strategy and negotiate brokerage commissions for those clients that give Us brokerage discretion. When possible, We attempt to execute similar trades in “block” transactions. When aggregating client orders, management’s considerations include but are not limited to the following:

- No advisory account, including a related account, is favored over any other account.
- Clients participating in an aggregated order shall receive an average share price with other transaction costs shared on a pro rata basis.
- We will not aggregate transactions unless it is consistent with our duty to seek best execution and the terms of our investment management agreement with each client for which trades are being aggregated.
- Before aggregating trades, the Portfolio Manager will specify the participating client accounts and the intended allocation among those clients.
- If the aggregated order is filled in its entirety, it will be allocated among clients in accordance with the terms of the order.
- If the order is partially filled, it will be allocated pro rata based on the allocation statement/spreadsheet.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the order will at times be allocated on a random basis or follow another allocation methodology spelled out in Our trade management policies, but only if the reason is justified and consistent with our fiduciary duty to our clients.
- Our books and records will separately reflect the orders for each client account that are aggregated, as well as the securities bought and sold for and held by that account.
- We receive no additional compensation of any kind because of the proposed aggregation; however, we receive soft dollar credits in some executions.
- Individual investment advice and treatment will be accorded to each client.

Some factors that lead to an account receiving an allocation other than on a strict pro-rata basis include unique client objectives, restrictions, cash flows or tax status. Precise pro-rata allocations are not always achieved due to factors such as the rounding of quantities to achieve round lot positions in client accounts. Additionally, small execution quantities tend to result in some clients receiving different execution prices and allocations in the same security on subsequent days. Transaction costs will be assigned based upon the account’s commission schedule.

### Principal and Cross Agency Transactions

In keeping with Our mission to deliver unbiased advice, SSA does not maintain or engage in trading for any proprietary securities account, otherwise known as ‘principal trading.’ As a matter of policy, We do not conduct agency cross transactions. An ‘agency cross transaction’ occurs when the investment adviser acts as broker for the advisory client and the other party to the trade. Agency cross transactions

also arise if an adviser is or affiliates with a broker-dealer. SSA does not cross trades between client accounts.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

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### Client Account Reviews

Client accounts are monitored on an ongoing basis by the Portfolio Managers to ensure client accounts remain within their established investment objectives. In the case of South State Retirement Plan Services, this is performed by its Investment Committee. A more formal review is usually triggered by decisions to buy or sell particular securities, if a client changes his/her investment objectives, in the event of a significant cash flow, or if the market, political, or economic environment changes materially.

On an annual basis, Portfolio Managers are required to formally review client investment objectives against the actual allocations and investment holdings within their clients' portfolios. The reviews also address account distribution and structure in view of the Firm's current investment strategy. The Chief Compliance Officer reviews the results of the formal review to ensure accounts outside of their established objectives are properly addressed.

### Client Reporting

Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written or electronic transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the custodian. Periodically, a client elects to meet with their Portfolio Manager in person and will receive during the meeting a written report prepared by SSA. Clients are urged to carefully review and compare any report they receive from SSA to statements received from their qualified custodian. SSA reports at times vary from custodial statements based on differences between accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methods for certain securities.

We encourage clients to consult with Us often about their portfolios and reports. We request that clients promptly notify Us of any change in investment objective or investment policy statement.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

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We do not receive any additional compensation from third parties for providing investment advice to Our clients. We or Our affiliates pay compensation for client referrals to South State Advisory to employees under common control of South State Corporation; in addition, We receive compensation for client referrals to any of the affiliated entities of South State Corporation named in Item 10 above. Although this presents a potential conflict of interest, under no circumstances does payment of this referral fee result in higher advisory fees for the referred client. We follow written compliance policies, applicable state/federal registration requirements, and fiduciary standards when participating in referral arrangements.

## Item 15: Custody

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We are given the authority to deduct advisory fees in certain client accounts. In this limited context, We are deemed to have custody. We have adopted policies and procedures to safeguard client assets, including assets maintained in client accounts where Our personnel have the authority to deduct advisory fees. Clients are responsible to select qualified custodians to hold funds and securities within investment accounts managed on their behalf. A client must authorize any direct fee debit arrangements with the custodian.

For those accounts where SSA has a direct fee deduction arrangement, it is Our policy to send the client an invoice notice detailing the fee calculation. Further, for such accounts, SSA performs a specific due inquiry to ascertain that the qualified custodian sends an account statement, at least quarterly, to each client for which the qualified custodian maintains funds or securities.

SSA provides other services on behalf of its clients that require disclosure in Form ADV Part 1, Item 9. In particular, certain clients have signed asset transfer authorizations that permit the qualified custodian to rely upon instructions from SSA to transfer client funds to “third parties.” In accordance with the guidance provided in the SEC Staff’s February 21, 2017 Investment Adviser Association No-Action Letter, the affected accounts are not subjected to an annual surprise CPA examination.

When the Private Wealth Department of SSB, Our parent company, acts as custodian for accounts that We manage, this results in Our having indirect custody of assets. Also, SSA often serves as the discretionary investment adviser for clients of Private Wealth.

Due to Our affiliations, when SSB serves as custodian for accounts We manage, We are subject to a surprise custody examination by an independent accounting firm each year to ensure that the information We report matches the information maintained by the custodian. The Private Wealth Department of SSB would also be required to undergo an internal control review by an independent accounting firm to verify operating effectiveness.

Clients should receive a statement from the broker dealer, bank, or other qualified custodian maintaining their assets on at least a quarterly basis. We urge Our clients to carefully review such statements and compare the official custodial records to the account statements that We provide You. SSA reports at times vary from custodial statements based on differences between accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methods for certain securities.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

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Unless we are hired to provide administrative or financial planning services only, clients give Us either limited or full discretionary authority over their assets. Either at the inception of the account or at any point thereafter, You are permitted to place reasonable restrictions on the securities in which We can invest for You. Those restrictions should be made in writing either in an investment policy statement, in the investment guidelines, or in a separate written communication.

Client advisory agreements specify the level of discretion delegated to Us. We manage client accounts on a fully discretionary basis where We retain full decision-making authority for investment decisions

within the guidelines of the written client advisory agreement. Client investment objectives, policies, limits, and restrictions must be given to Us in writing. Portfolio Managers, as well as the Chief Compliance Officer, review the securities bought or sold to ensure they fall within established client specific and strategy guidelines.

When You delegate investment discretion to Us, You authorize Us to make decisions in line with Your investment objectives without seeking Your approval, including the following:

- Determine which securities to buy, hold, and sell;
- Decide total amount of securities to buy, hold, and sell;
- Select broker-dealers through whom We buy and sell securities (unless directed);
- Set commission rates paid for securities transactions; and
- Choose the timing of when and prices at which We buy and sell securities, which impact broker-dealer transaction costs.

We allow clients to limit Our discretionary authority in the following ways:

- Retain certain positions;
- Limit or exclude investment in certain asset classes or securities; and
- Require Your authorization before trading (there is in certain cases an incremental cost for this service).

Various securities and/or tax laws, as well as internal compliance policies, may impose additional restrictions on the investments made.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

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At account origination, all clients are required to select whether We will be responsible for proxy voting or if the client wishes to retain that right. If You opt to vote Your own proxies, all proxy materials will be delivered directly to You by the custodian or transfer agent. All proxies that We are responsible for voting will be voted in accordance with Our Proxy Voting Policy, a copy of which is available upon request by contacting Us at (803) 231-3492.

As a rule, We vote client proxies the same way across all accounts. However, if You request in writing that We vote your proxies differently, We will do so. In the absence of specific client direction, we contract with a widely-used and reputable third-party firm to vote client shares in conformity with that firm's recommendations. This firm is not affiliated with Us and remains independent by making recommendations based on its own internal guidelines. We will not follow the proxy firm's recommendations when voting client shares when We believe it is in Our clients' best interest not to do so. We conduct due diligence on the third-party firm to validate their qualifications and monitor any conflicts of interest associated with their recommendations.

As a matter of policy, We maintain detailed records of all client proxy votes. Clients may obtain information about how We voted any proxies on Your behalf by contacting Us at (803) 231-3492.

Conflicts of interest between Our interests and those of Our clients are identified prior to proxy voting. For example, if a client serves as an executive with a publicly traded company, and other clients hold

securities issued by the company, the situation would be deemed a conflict of interest. All material conflicts of interest that are identified are disclosed to the clients affected, and client consent will be obtained prior to voting.

Under certain circumstances, We do not vote proxies. Where clients have set up securities lending programs, We cannot vote proxies unless We issue instructions to the client custodian to retrieve the securities before the record date. We generally do not initiate a call back of securities where a client participates in securities lending.

We do not vote proxies for holdings of Our parent company, South State Corporation.

As part of Our proxy voting service, We have elected to participate with an unaffiliated company that provides asset recovery services covering class action lawsuits, bankruptcies, and disgorgements. This company will receive a contingency fee of 18% of the total settlement collected for You. There is no additional fee to You for this service, and We do not receive any portion of any amount recovered.

For South State Retirement Plan Services, we do not vote proxies for any non-IRA clients. For IRA clients of South State Retirement Plan Services, we will act as agent for receipt of certain legally required communications, including prospectuses, annual and semiannual reports, and proxy materials. We will act as our clients' agent to vote proxies on their behalf, as well as file any class action lawsuits, bankruptcies, etc. for any securities positions held or previously held by the account.

## Item 18: Financial Information

We have not identified any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair Our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Our clients, nor have We ever filed for bankruptcy or been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

## Part 2B of Form ADV: Brochure Supplement for South State Advisory (“SSA”)

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South State Advisory

520 Gervais Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone Number: (803) 231-3492

Fax: (803) 540-3944

Email Address: Raymond.Hrin@SouthStateWealth.com

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This Brochure Supplement provides information about Our investment adviser representatives that supplements South State Advisory’s Form ADV Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact Our Chief Compliance Officer, Raymond Hrin, at (803) 231-3492 if You did not receive Our brochure, or if You have any questions about the contents of this Supplement. Additional information about these professionals is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).



Jon P. Ahrens, AIF®

2430 Mall Drive, Suite 360

Charleston, SC 29406

(843) 284-4225

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Jon Ahrens was born in 1965. He received a B.M. degree from the University of South Carolina in 1987 and a M.E. degree from The Citadel in 1991.

Mr. Ahrens previously served as Agent/Registered Representative with New York Life Insurance Company from 2003-2005. Mr. Ahrens joined a predecessor to SSA in 2006, and has served as Vice President, Fiduciary Services Manager since 2012.

Mr. Ahrens received his Accredited Investment Fiduciary® designation in 2010.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

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

The AIF® designation certifies that the recipient has specialized knowledge of fiduciary standards of care and their application to the investment management process. To receive the AIF® designation, individuals must complete a training program, successfully pass a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor and agree to abide by the AIF® Code of Ethics. To maintain the AIF® designation, the individual must annually renew their affirmation of the AIF® Code of Ethics and complete six hours of continuing education credits. The certification is administered by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, LLC (a Fiduciary360 (fi360) company). More information about AIF® is available at <http://www.fi360.com>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Ahrens has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. Ahrens or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Mr. Ahrens is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Ahrens does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

**Supervision**

Mr. Ahrens is directly supervised by Kelly Gardner, Director of Retirement Plan Services who can be reached at (843) 284-4210, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of parent company South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Brian A. Barker, CFP®, AIF®

200 East Broad Street, Suite 100

Greenville, SC 29601

(864) 342-4903

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Brian Barker was born in 1977. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Clemson University in 2000 and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 2006. He earned his Certified Financial Planner™ designation in 2004, his Accredited Investment Fiduciary® designation in 2007, and joined South State Bank as a Portfolio Manager in 2009, following four years with Wachovia as a Portfolio Manager, he became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2017.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

#### ***Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®)***

The CFP® designation is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold the CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and many other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. To attain the right to use the CFP® certification, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP® Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP® Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP® Board's Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® certification:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and

- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the Standards of Professional Conduct. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professional must provide financial planning services in the best interest of their clients.

More information about the CFP® is available at <http://www.CFP.net>.

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

The AIF® designation certifies that the recipient has specialized knowledge of fiduciary standards of care and their application to the investment management process. To receive the AIF® designation, individuals must complete a training program, successfully pass a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor and agree to abide by the AIF® Code of Ethics. To maintain the AIF® designation, the individual must annually renew their affirmation of the AIF® Code of Ethics and complete six hours of continuing education credits. The certification is administered by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, LLC (a Fiduciary360 (fi360) company). More information about AIF® is available at <http://www.fi360.com>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Barker has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. Barker or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Barker is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Barker does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

### **Supervision**

Mr. Barker serves as the Director of Asset Management and is directly supervised by George King, President of South State Wealth who can be reached at (803) 231-3542, the Wealth Management division of South State Bank, and indirectly supervised by SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Matthew (“Matt”) C. Day

200 East Broad Street, Suite 100

Greenville, SC 29601

(864) 342-4902

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Matt Day was born in 1990. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Financial Management from Clemson University in 2012. He joined South State Bank as a Commercial Banking Analyst in 2014, then promoted into roles as a Financial Forecasting Manager and Commercial Portfolio Manager. He became an Associate Portfolio Manager and an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2019.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Day has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client’s evaluation of Mr. Day or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Day is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Day does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than South State Bank in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

### **Supervision**

Mr. Day is supervised by Brian Barker, who may be reached at (864) 342-4903, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Fredrick (Fred) K. Dutcher, AIF®

2430 Mall Drive, Suite 360

Charleston, SC 29406

(843) 284-4235

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Frederick (Fred) Dutcher was born in 1963. He received a B.S. degree with a concentration in Finance from Frostburg State University. He previously served as Vice President, Regional Sales, with Wachovia from 1999-2005; Vice President, Regional Sales Director with Hand Benefits & Trust from 2005-2006; Vice President, Regional Sales with New York Life from 2006-2008; and Vice President, Blue Water Benefits from 2008-2009. Since 2009, he has served as Vice President, Senior Retirement Plan Consultant. He received his Accredited Investment Fiduciary® designation in 2006.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

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

The AIF® designation certifies that the recipient has specialized knowledge of fiduciary standards of care and their application to the investment management process. To receive the AIF® designation, individuals must complete a training program, successfully pass a comprehensive, closed-book final examination under the supervision of a proctor and agree to abide by the AIF® Code of Ethics. To maintain the AIF® designation, the individual must annually renew their affirmation of the AIF® Code of Ethics and complete six hours of continuing education credits. The certification is administered by the Center for Fiduciary Studies, LLC (a Fiduciary360 (fi360) company). More information about AIF® is available at <http://www.fi360.com>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Dutcher has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. Dutcher or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Mr. Dutcher is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Dutcher does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

**Supervision**

Mr. Dutcher is directly supervised by Kelly Gardner, Director of Retirement Plan Services who can be reached at (843) 284-4210, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of parent company South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Kyle B. Dwyer, CFP®

25 Bull Street

Savannah, GA 31401

(912) 629-6640

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Kyle Dwyer was born in 1982. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance in 2006 from Fairfield University. He earned his Certified Financial Planner™ designation in 2015 and joined South State Bank as a Portfolio Manager in 2019, following five years as an Advisor with Spruce Investment Advisors and several years as Client Associate and Research Analyst with various investment advisory firms. He became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2019.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

#### ***Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®)***

The CFP® designation is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold the CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and many other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. To attain the right to use the CFP® certification, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP® Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP® Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP® Board's Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® certification:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and



- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the Standards of Professional Conduct. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professional must provide financial planning services in the best interest of their clients.

More information about the CFP® is available at <http://www.CFP.net>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Dwyer has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. Dwyer or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Dwyer is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Dwyer does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

### **Supervision**

Mr. Dwyer is supervised by David Kirkpatrick, who may be reached at (803) 231-2984, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Robert (“Bobby”) B. Fauntleroy, CFA®

4222 Cox Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

(804) 412-7988

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Bobby Fauntleroy was born in 1958. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Virginia in 1980 and an MBA from the University of North Carolina in 1988. He earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) designation in 1997 and joined South State Bank as a Senior Portfolio Manager in 2017 as a result of merger, following over twenty-five years managing client investment portfolios at various financial institutions. He became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in January 2019.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

#### ***Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®)***

The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) charter is a globally respected, graduate-level investment credential established in 1962 and awarded by the CFA® Institute – the largest global association of investment professionals.

To earn the CFA® charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join the CFA® Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA® Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. More information about the CFA® is available at <http://www.CFAinstitute.org>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Fauntleroy has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client’s evaluation of Mr. Fauntleroy or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Fauntleroy is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Fauntleroy does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

**Supervision**

Mr. Fauntleroy is supervised by David Kirkpatrick, who may be reached at (803) 231-2984, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

David M. Kirkpatrick, CFP®

520 Gervais Street

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 231-2984

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

David Kirkpatrick was born in 1980. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Marketing in 2002 along with a Master in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 2007. He earned his Certified Financial Planner™ designation in 2010 and joined South State Bank as a Portfolio Manager in 2013, following six years as a Portfolio Manager with Synovus Trust Company, NA and five years as an Investment Analyst with the Ag First Farm Credit Bank. He became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2017.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

#### ***Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®)***

The CFP® designation is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold the CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and many other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. To attain the right to use the CFP® certification, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP® Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP® Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP® Board's Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® certification:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and

- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the Standards of Professional Conduct. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professional must provide financial planning services in the best interest of their clients.

More information about the CFP® is available at <http://www.CFP.net>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Kirkpatrick has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. Kirkpatrick or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Kirkpatrick is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Kirkpatrick does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

### **Supervision**

Mr. Kirkpatrick is supervised by George King, President of South State Wealth who can be reached at (803) 231-3542, the Wealth Management division of South State Bank, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Richard (“Rich”) J. Linden  
520 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 231-2984

#### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Rich Linden was born in 1977. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics in 2000 from Harvard University. He joined South State Advisory as a Senior Portfolio Manager in 2020, following six years as a Senior Portfolio Manager with Synovus Trust Company, five years as a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo, LLC, and two years as a Senior Portfolio Analyst with Highland Capital Management.

#### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Linden has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client’s evaluation of Mr. Linden or of SSA.

#### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. Linden is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

#### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. Linden does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

#### **Supervision**

Mr. Linden is supervised by David Kirkpatrick, who may be reached at (803) 231-2984, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.

Martin C. McWilliams III, CFA®

520 Gervais Street

Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 540-3980

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Martin McWilliams was born in 1986. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Virginia in 2008. He earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) designation in 2012 and joined South State Bank as an Associate Portfolio Manager in 2017, following over six years as a Research Analyst with Goshen Investments, LLC. He became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2017.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Value of Professional Designations**

#### ***Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®)***

The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) charter is a globally respected, graduate-level investment credential established in 1962 and awarded by the CFA® Institute – the largest global association of investment professionals.

To earn the CFA® charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join the CFA® Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA® Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct. More information about the CFA® is available at <http://www.CFAinstitute.org>.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Mr. McWilliams has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Mr. McWilliams or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Besides his affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Mr. McWilliams is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Mr. McWilliams does not receive additional compensation or economic benefits from any person or entity other than SSA in connection with the provision of investment advice to clients.

**Supervision**

Mr. McWilliams is supervised by Brian Barker who may be reached at (864) 342-4903, and indirectly supervised by the SSA Board of Directors. SSA is audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.



## Robin S. Roseman

3515 Wheeler Road, Building B

Augusta, GA 30909

(706) 739-1085

### **Educational Background and Business Experience**

Robin Roseman was born in 1971. She received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Appalachian State University in 1993. She previously served as a Regional Support Specialist for Wells Fargo Advisors and was most recently the Trust Investment Services and Compliance Officer for Georgia Bank and Trust. She became an Investment Adviser Representative with SSA in 2017.

### **Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to Your evaluation of everyone providing investment advice. Ms. Roseman has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of Ms. Roseman or of SSA.

### **Other Business Activities**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any other business activities regarding the individual providing investment advice. Ms. Roseman is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA or South State Bank.

### **Additional Compensation**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose any additional compensation received from a non-client by everyone providing investment advice. Besides her affiliation with SSA and South State Bank, Ms. Roseman is not engaged in other investment related, or non-investment related business activities, and does not receive compensation in connection with any business activity outside of SSA or South State Bank.

### **Supervision**

Ms. Roseman serves as a Wealth Analyst and is directly supervised by Charissa Deyo, Wealth Analyst for South State Wealth who can be reached at (864) 342-4905, the Wealth Management division of South State Bank, and indirectly supervised by SSA and South State Corporation Board of Directors. SSA and South State Bank are audited by the Internal Audit Department of South State Bank to assess the adequacy of its internal controls and policies and procedures. In addition, the Chief Compliance Officer of SSA, Raymond Hrin, performs periodic reviews to assess compliance with applicable rules and regulations and may be reached at (803) 231-3492.