

**Part 2A of Form ADV: *Firm Brochure***

**Highlander Capital Management, LLC**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Highlander Capital Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 973-718-3503 or eweeck@highlandercapital.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Highlander Capital Management, LLC also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 106667.

## **Item 2    Material Changes**

The SEC adopted "Amendments to Form ADV" in July, 2010. This Firm Brochure, dated 03/25/2020, is our new disclosure document prepared according to the SEC's new requirements and rules. As you will see, this document is a narrative that is substantially different in form and content, and includes some new information that we were not previously required to disclose.

After our initial filing of this Brochure, this Item will be used to provide our clients with a summary of new and/or updated information. We will inform you of the revision(s) based on the nature of the updated information.

Consistent with the new rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. Furthermore, we will provide you with other interim disclosures about material changes as necessary.

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## **Item 4     Advisory Business**

Highlander Capital Management, LLC is a SEC-registered investment adviser with its principal place of business located in New Jersey. Highlander Capital Management, LLC began conducting business in 1996.

Listed below are the firm's principal shareholders (i.e., those individuals and/or entities controlling 25% or more of this company).

- Douglas Alan MacWright, President

- Highlander Capital Management, LLC offers the following advisory services to our clients:

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Our firm provides continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities

- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Other

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

### **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of 12/31/2019, we were actively managing \$212,355,846 of clients' assets on a discretionary basis plus \$2,351,934 of clients' assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

Our annual fees for Investment Supervisory Services are based upon a percentage of assets under management and generally range from **.40%** to **2.00%**.

#### **Performance-Based Fees**

Our performance-based fee schedule is based on a percentage of assets under management plus a percentage of the difference between a client's account and that of an appropriate index. The index will be chosen by Highlander Capital Management, LLC and the client based on the nature of the investment strategy to be used.

The fees charged for this service will be determined by the client's individual circumstances and will never exceed 25% of the account's performance above an appropriate index. The actual fees are disclosed to the client before entering into this type of arrangement and are detailed in the client's Investment Management Agreement. The percentage of assets under management is billed quarterly, in arrears.

The client must understand the proposed method of compensation and its risks prior to entering into the contract. Accordingly, clients paying performance-based fees are directed to the "Performance-Based Fees" section (Item 6) below for more comprehensive disclosures, including potential conflicts of interest resulting from this type of compensation.

To qualify for this type of fee schedule, a client must either demonstrate a net worth of at least \$1,500,000 or must have at least \$750,000 under management.

Clients who elect to terminate their contracts will be charged a performance-based fee based on the performance of the account for the measuring period going back from the termination date and pro-rated from the date on which the performance-based fee was previously assessed by our firm.

In measuring the client's assets for the calculation of performance-based fees, Highlander Capital Management, LLC shall include: for securities for which market quotations are readily available, the realized capital losses and unrealized capital losses of securities over the period and, if the unrealized capital appreciation of the securities over this period is included, the unrealized capital depreciation of securities over the period.

The performance-based fee may create an incentive for Highlander Capital Management, LLC to recommend investments which may be riskier or more speculative than those which would be recommended under a different fee arrangement.

PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES WILL ONLY BE CHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REG. 205-3 OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 AND/OR APPLICABLE STATE REGULATIONS. THE FEES WILL NOT BE OFFERED TO ANY CLIENT RESIDING IN A STATE IN WHICH SUCH FEES ARE PROHIBITED.

On a case-by-case basis, Highlander Capital Management, LLC determines an appropriate fee structure based on the size, complexity and investment objectives of the client's account. Fee arrangements may include a combination of a management fee and incentive fee, or may be solely limited to a management fee or an incentive-based fee. The terms and conditions of the fee structure are mutually agreed upon prior to entering into an advisory agreement.

**Account Management Fees:** Highlander Capital Management, LLC typically charges a fee for account management that is calculated and paid as a percentage of the assets under management. The Account Management Fee is calculated at an annual rate not to exceed **2.00%**. Fees are calculated on a **quarterly basis and are billed in arrears**. The Account Management Fee is prorated for periods less than a full billing cycle and adjusted to cover any additional contributions made during that period.

**Managed Account Incentive Fees:** Certain Managed Accounts pay Highlander Capital Management, LLC performance-based compensation ("Incentive Fees"). The Incentive Fee is calculated based on a percentage of the net profits of the account(s) on a frequency mutually agreed upon with the client.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC's incentive fee is typically **15%** of the net profits above the account's previous "high water mark". To the extent that the amount of account appreciation is less than the high water mark, there is a loss carry-forward allocation that must be recouped before Highlander Capital Management, LLC is entitled to a performance-based fee.

In instances in which our firm's investment management services are provided solely for an incentive fee based compensation, advisory clients should recognize that such fee arrangements create an investment conflict as it creates an incentive to allocate profitable investments to such a client thereby enabling us to recognize increased compensation for our management services.

Clients who elect to terminate their contracts will be charged a performance-based fee based on the performance of the account for the measuring period going back from the termination date and pro-rated from the date on which the performance-based fee was last assessed.

In measuring the Managed Account client's assets for the calculation of performance-based fees, Highlander Capital Management, LLC includes: for securities for which market quotations are readily available, the realized capital losses and unrealized capital losses of securities over the period and, if the unrealized capital appreciation of the securities over this period is included, the unrealized capital depreciation of securities over the period. As such, we may receive increased compensation with regard to unrealized appreciation as well as unrealized gains in the client's account.

The client must understand the performance-based fee method of compensation and its risks prior to entering into a management contract with us.

PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES WILL ONLY BE CHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REG. 205-3 OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 AND/OR APPLICABLE STATE REGULATIONS. THE FEES WILL NOT BE OFFERED TO ANY CLIENT RESIDING IN A STATE IN WHICH SUCH FEES ARE PROHIBITED.

Our fees are billed in arrears at the end 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 end of the previous quarter. Fees will be debited from the account in accordance with the client authorization in the Client Services Agreement.

A minimum of **\$100,000** of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Highlander Capital Management, LLC may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

**Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees:** Although Highlander Capital Management, LLC has established the aforementioned fee schedule(s), we retain the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs are considered in determining the fee schedule. These include the complexity of the client, assets to be placed under management, anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style, account composition, reports, among other factors. The specific annual fee schedule is identified in the contract between the adviser and each client.

We may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size requirements and determining the annualized fee.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, may be offered to family members and friends of associated persons of our firm.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Termination of the Advisory Relationship:** A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt of **10** days written notice. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded.

**Mutual Fund Fees:** All fees paid to Highlander Capital Management, LLC for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds and/or ETFs to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. If the fund also imposes sales charges, a client may pay an initial or deferred sales charge. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

**Wrap Fee Programs and Separately Managed Account Fees:** Highlander does not participate in any wrap fee programs.

**Additional Fees and Expenses:** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

**Grandfathering of Minimum Account Requirements:** Pre-existing advisory clients are subject to Highlander Capital Management, LLC's minimum account requirements and advisory fees in effect at the time the client entered into the advisory relationship. Therefore, our firm's minimum account requirements will differ among clients.

**ERISA Accounts:** Highlander Capital Management, LLC is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act ("ERISA"), and regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), respectively. As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include, among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation. To avoid engaging in prohibited transactions, Highlander Capital Management, LLC may only charge fees for investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons do not receive any commissions or 12b-1 fees, or conversely, investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons receive commissions or 12b-1 fees, however, only when such fees are used to offset Highlander Capital Management, LLC's advisory fees.

**Advisory Fees in General:** Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

**Limited Prepayment of Fees:** Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1,200 more than six months in advance of services rendered.

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

### **PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES**

As we disclosed in Item 5 of this Brochure, our firm accepts a performance-based fee from the client. Such a performance-based fee is calculated based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of the client. To qualify for a performance-based fee arrangement, a client (or Fund investor, as applicable) must either demonstrate a net worth of at least \$1,500,000 or must have at least \$750,000 under management immediately after entering into a management agreement with us.

Clients should be aware that performance-based fee arrangement may create an incentive for us to recommend investments which may be riskier or more speculative than those which would be recommended under a different fee arrangement.

We endeavor at all times to put the interest of our clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; accordingly, we take the following steps to address these conflicts:

1. We disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for our firm and employees to earn more compensation from advisory clients who pay performance-based fees;



2. We collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;
3. Our management conducts regular reviews of each client account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are suitable to that client's needs and circumstances;
4. We have implemented policies and procedures for fair and consistent allocation of investment opportunities among all client accounts;
5. We periodically compare holdings and performance of all accounts with similar strategies to identify significant performance disparities indicative of possible favorable treatment;
6. We periodically review trading frequency and portfolio turnover rates to identify possible patterns of "window dressing," "portfolio churning," or any intent to manipulate trading to boost performance near the reporting period; and
7. We educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients and equitable treatment of all clients, regardless of the fee arrangement.

**The client must understand the performance-based fee method of compensation and its risks prior to entering into a management contract with us.**

**PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES WILL ONLY BE CHARGED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF RULE 205-3 OF THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940 AND/OR APPLICABLE STATE REGULATIONS. THE FEES WILL NOT BE OFFERED TO ANY CLIENT RESIDING IN A STATE IN WHICH SUCH FEES ARE PROHIBITED.**

## **Item 7    Types of Clients**

Highlander Capital Management, LLC provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)
- High net worth individuals
- Pension and profit sharing plans (other than plan participants)
- Other pooled investment vehicles (e.g., hedge funds)
- Charitable organizations

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain minimum account requirements to maintain an account, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

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

### METHODS OF ANALYSIS

We use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

***Fundamental Analysis.*** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell).

Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

***Technical Analysis.*** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement.

Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

***Quantitative Analysis.*** We use mathematical models in an attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a company's quantifiable data, such as the value of a share price or earnings per share, and predict changes to that data.

A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

***Qualitative Analysis.*** We subjectively evaluate non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management, labor relations, and strength of research and development factors not readily subject to measurement, and predict changes to share price based on that data.

A risk in using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

***Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis.*** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy.

A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.

***Risks for all forms of analysis.*** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that

the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

### **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

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

**Long-term purchases.** We purchase securities with the idea of holding them in the client's account for a year or longer. Typically we employ this strategy when:

- we believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or
- we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantage of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell.

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

A short-term purchase strategy poses risks should the anticipated price swing not materialize; we are then left with the option of having a long-term investment in a security that was designed to be a short-term purchase, or potentially taking a loss.

In addition, this strategy involves more frequent trading than does a longer-term strategy, and will result in increased brokerage and other transaction-related costs, as well as less favorable tax treatment of short-term capital gains.

**Trading.** We purchase securities with the idea of selling them very quickly (typically within 30 days or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of our predictions of brief price swings.

Utilizing a trading strategy creates the potential for sudden losses if the anticipated price swing does not materialize. Moreover, under those circumstances, we are left with few options:

- having a long-term investment in a security that was designed to be a short-term purchase,  
or
- the potential of having to taking a loss.

In addition, because this strategy involves more frequent trading than does a longer-term strategy, there will be a resultant increase in brokerage and other transaction-related costs, as well as less favorable tax treatment of short-term capital gains.

**Short sales.** We borrow shares of a stock for your portfolio from someone who owns the stock on a promise to replace the shares on a future date at a certain price. Those borrowed shares are then sold. On the agreed-upon future date, we buy the same stock and return the shares to the original owner. We engage in short selling based on our determination that the stock will go down in price after we have borrowed the shares. If we are correct and the stock price has gone down since the shares were purchased from the original owner, the client account realizes the profit.

**Margin transactions.** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.

**Option writing.** We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset.

The two types of options are calls and puts:

- A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
- A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

We will use options to speculate on the possibility of a sharp price swing. We will also use options to "hedge" a purchase of the underlying security; in other words, we will use an option purchase to limit the potential upside and downside of a security we have purchased for your portfolio.

We use "covered calls", in which we sell an option on security you own. In this strategy, you receive a fee for making the option available, and the person purchasing the option has the right to buy the security from you at an agreed-upon price.

We use a "spreading strategy", in which we purchase two or more option contracts (for example, a call option that you buy and a call option that you sell) for the same underlying security. This effectively puts you on both sides of the market, but with the ability to vary price, time and other factors.

**Risk of Loss.** Clients should understand that investing in any securities, including mutual funds, involves a risk of loss of both income and principal.

## **Item 9    Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

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

### ***FIRM Registrations:***

In addition to Highlander Capital Management, LLC being a registered investment adviser, our firm is affiliated with a FINRA member broker-dealer. A list of affiliated broker-dealers is specifically disclosed in Section 7.A. on Schedule D of Form ADV, Part 1, which can be accessed by following the directions provided on the Cover Page of this Firm Brochure.

### ***MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL Registrations:***

Management personnel of our firm are separately licensed as registered representatives of **Highlander Capital Group, Inc.**, an **affiliated** FINRA member broker-dealer.

While Highlander Capital Management, LLC and these individuals endeavor at all times to put the interest of the clients first as part of our fiduciary duty, clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation itself creates a conflict of interest, and may affect the judgment of these individuals when making recommendations.

### ***Other pooled investment vehicle(s):***

Management personnel of Highlander Capital Management, LLC may also be managing member(s) of limited liability companies (LLCs) and/or general partner(s) to limited partnerships (LPs) formed for investment purposes. As appropriate, our advisory clients may be solicited to invest in such LLCs and/or LPs. These related persons of our firm do not receive investment advisory compensation in relation to these investments, but do have a conflict of interest in soliciting client investments.

Because investment in these types of entities may involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

Related persons of our firm may spend as much as **20%** of their time on these related activities.

A list of these affiliated entities is specifically disclosed on Schedule D of Form ADV, Part 1 at Item 7.B. Part 1 of our Form ADV can be accessed by following the directions provided on the Cover Page of this Firm Brochure.

Clients interested in investing in the partnership/company should refer to the partnership's/company's private placement memorandum for more information specific to the partnership/company.

Clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation by Highlander Capital Management, LLC and its management persons or employees creates a conflict of interest that may impair the objectivity of our firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Highlander Capital Management, LLC endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for our firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to our firm's advisory fees;

- we disclose to clients that they are not obligated to purchase recommended investment products from our employees or affiliated companies;
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;
- our firm's management conducts regular reviews of each client account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are suitable to the client's needs and circumstances;
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by our firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

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

Our firm has adopted a Code of Ethics which sets forth high ethical standards of business conduct that we require of our employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

Our Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by the firm's access persons. Among other things, our Code of Ethics also requires the prior approval of any acquisition of securities in a limited offering (e.g., private placement) or an initial public offering. Our code also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC's Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, all employees are reminded that such information may not be used in a personal or professional capacity.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [eweek@highlandercapital.com](mailto:eweek@highlandercapital.com), or by calling us at 973-718-3503.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC or individuals associated with our firm may buy securities for the firm or for themselves from our advisory clients; or sell securities owned by the firm or the individual(s) to our advisory clients. We will ensure, however, that such transactions are conducted in compliance with all the provisions under Section 206(3) of the Advisers Act governing principal transactions to advisory clients.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC and individuals associated with our firm are prohibited from engaging in agency cross transactions.

The principals of Highlander Capital Management, LLC are also the principals of Highlander Bank Advisors, LLC, the Managing Member of **Highlander Bank Holdings, LLC** (the Fund). The Managing Member has designated Highlander Capital Management, LLC as having primary responsibility for investment management and administrative matters, such as accounting tax and periodic reporting, pertaining to the Fund. Highlander Capital Management, LLC and our members, officers and employees will devote to the Fund as much time as we deem necessary and appropriate to manage the Fund's business. Highlander Capital Management, LLC and our affiliates are not restricted from forming additional investment funds, entering into other investment advisory relationships or engaging in other business activities, even though such activities may be in competition with the Fund and/or may involve substantial time and resources of our firm and our affiliates. Potentially, such activities could be viewed as creating a conflict of interest in that the time and effort of our management personnel and employees will not be devoted exclusively to the business of the Fund, but could be allocated between the business of the Fund and other of our business activities and those of our affiliates.

Investments in the Fund may be recommended to advisory clients for whom a partnership investment may be more suitable than would a separate advisory account managed by our firm. Clients who invest in the Fund are not charged any additional advisory fees other than the advisory fee allocated to the limited partners of the Fund.

The Fund is not required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 in reliance upon an exemption available to funds whose securities are not publicly offered. Highlander Capital Management, LLC manages the Fund on a discretionary basis in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Fund's offering and organizational documents.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of our employees will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts.

Our firm and/or individuals associated with our firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) may have an interest or position in a certain security (ies) which may also be recommended to a client.

We may aggregate our employee trades with client transactions where possible and when compliant with our duty to seek best execution for our clients. In these instances, participating clients will receive an average share price and transaction costs will be shared equally and on a pro-rata basis. In the instances where there is a partial fill of a particular batched order, we will allocate all purchases pro-rata, with each account paying the average price. Our employee accounts will be **included** in the pro-rata allocation.

As these situations represent actual or potential conflicts of interest to our clients, we have established the following policies and procedures for implementing our firm's Code of Ethics, to ensure our firm complies with its regulatory obligations and provides our clients and potential clients with full and fair disclosure of such conflicts of interest:

1. No principal or employee of our firm may put his or her own interest above the interest of an advisory client.
2. No principal or employee of our firm may buy or sell securities for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is a result of information received as a result of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public.
3. It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account. This prevents such employees from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.
4. Our firm requires prior approval for any IPO or private placement investments by related persons of the firm.
5. We maintain a list of all reportable securities holdings for our firm and anyone associated with this advisory practice that has access to advisory recommendations ("access person"). These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by our firm's Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee.
6. We have established procedures for the maintenance of all required books and records.
7. All clients are fully informed that related persons may receive separate commission compensation when effecting transactions during the implementation process.
8. Clients can decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where our firm is granted discretionary authority.
9. All of our principals and employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
10. We require delivery and acknowledgement of the Code of Ethics by each supervised person of our firm.
11. We have established policies requiring the reporting of Code of Ethics violations to our senior management.
12. Any individual who violates any of the above restrictions may be subject to termination.

As disclosed in the preceding section of this Brochure (Item 10), related persons of our firm are separately registered as **securities representatives of a broker-dealer**. Please refer to Item 10 for a detailed explanation of these relationships and important conflict of interest disclosures.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

Highlander Capital Management, LLC will endeavor to select those brokers or dealers which will provide the best services at the lowest commission rates possible. The reasonableness of commissions is based on the broker's stability, reputation, ability to provide professional services, competitive commission rates and prices, research, trading platform, and other services which will help Highlander Capital Management, LLC in providing investment management services to clients. Highlander Capital Management, LLC may, therefore recommend (or use) the use of a broker who provides useful research and securities



transaction services even though a lower commission may be charged by a broker who offers no research services and minimal securities transaction assistance. Research services may be useful in servicing all our clients, and not all of such research may be useful for the account for which the particular transaction was effected.

Consistent with obtaining best execution for clients, Highlander Capital Management, LLC may direct brokerage transactions for clients' portfolios to brokers who provide research and execution services to Highlander Capital Management, LLC and, indirectly, to Highlander Capital Management, LLC's clients. These services are of the type described in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and are designed to augment our own internal research and investment strategy capabilities. This may be done without prior agreement or understanding by the client (and done at our discretion). Research services obtained through the use of soft dollars may be developed by brokers to whom brokerage is directed or by third-parties which are compensated by the broker. Highlander Capital Management, LLC does not attempt to put a specific dollar value on the services rendered or to allocate the relative costs or benefits of those services among clients, believing that the research we receive will help us to fulfill our overall duty to our clients. Highlander Capital Management, LLC may not use each particular research service, however, to service each client. As a result, a client may pay brokerage commissions that are used, in part, to purchase research services that are not used to benefit that specific client. Broker-dealers we select may be paid commissions for effecting transactions for our clients that exceed the amounts other broker-dealers would have charged for effecting these transactions if Highlander Capital Management, LLC determines in good faith that such amounts are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by those broker-dealers, viewed either in terms of a particular transaction or our overall duty to its ('brokerage') discretionary client accounts.

When Highlander Capital Management, LLC uses client brokerage commissions to obtain research or brokerage services, we receive a benefit to the extent that Highlander Capital Management, LLC does not have to produce such products internally or compensate third-parties with our own money for the delivery of such services. Therefore, such use of client brokerage commissions results in a conflict of interest, because we have an incentive to direct client brokerage to those brokers who provide research and services we utilize, even if these brokers do not offer the best price or commission rates for our clients.

Within our last fiscal year, we have obtained the following products and services on a soft-dollar basis:

**General Economic, Fundamental and Credit Research, as well as research on specific industries and individual securities.**

Highlander Capital Management, LLC requires that clients provide us with written authority to determine the broker-dealer to use and the commission costs that will be charged to our clients for these transactions.

Clients must include any limitations on this discretionary authority in this written authority statement. Clients may change/amend these limitations as required. Such amendments must be provided to us in writing.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC will block trades where possible and when advantageous to clients. This blocking of trades permits the trading of aggregate blocks of securities composed of assets from multiple client accounts, so long as transaction costs are

shared equally and on a pro-rated basis between all accounts included in any such block.

Block trading may allow us to execute equity trades in a timelier, more equitable manner, at an average share price. Highlander Capital Management, LLC will typically aggregate trades among clients whose accounts can be traded at a given broker, and generally will rotate or vary the order of brokers through which it places trades for clients on any particular day.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC's block trading policy and procedures are as follows:

- 1) Transactions for any client account may not be aggregated for execution if the practice is prohibited by or inconsistent with the client's advisory agreement with Highlander Capital Management, LLC, or our firm's order allocation policy.
- 2) The trading desk in concert with the portfolio manager must determine that the purchase or sale of the particular security involved is appropriate for the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives and with any investment guidelines or restrictions applicable to the client's account.
- 3) The portfolio manager must reasonably believe that the order aggregation will benefit, and will enable Highlander Capital Management, LLC to seek best execution for each client participating in the aggregated order. This requires a good faith judgment at the time the order is placed for the execution. It does not mean that the determination made in advance of the transaction must always prove to have been correct in the light of a "20-20 hindsight" perspective. Best execution includes the duty to seek the best quality of execution, as well as the best net price.
- 4) Prior to entry of an aggregated order, a written order ticket must be completed which identifies each client account participating in the order and the proposed allocation of the order, upon completion, to those clients.
- 5) If the order cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated pro rata among the participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. However, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to participating client accounts in accordance with the initial order ticket or other written statement of allocation. Furthermore, adjustments to this pro rata allocation may be made to avoid having odd amounts of shares held in any client account, or to avoid excessive ticket charges in smaller accounts.
- 6) Generally, each client that participates in the aggregated order must do so at the average price for all separate transactions made to fill the order, and must share in the commissions on a pro rata basis in proportion to the client's participation. Under the client's agreement with the custodian/broker, transaction costs may be based on the number of shares traded for each client.
- 7) If the order will be allocated in a manner other than that stated in the initial statement of allocation, a written explanation of the change must be provided to and approved by the Chief Compliance Officer no later than the morning following the execution of the aggregate trade.
- 8) Highlander Capital Management, LLC's client account records separately reflect, for each account in which the aggregated transaction occurred, the securities which are held by, and bought and sold for, that account.
- 9) Funds and securities for aggregated orders are clearly identified on Highlander Capital Management, LLC's records and to the broker-dealers or other intermediaries handling the

transactions, by the appropriate account numbers for each participating client.

10) No client or account will be favored over another.

## Item 13 Review of Accounts

### INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

**REVIEWS:** While the underlying securities within Individual Portfolio Management Services accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least **quarterly**. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: **the portfolio manager responsible for the management of the account and by Eckart Weeck, CCO.**

**REPORTS:** In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide **annual** reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings to selected accounts.

## Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation

### CLIENT REFERRALS

Our firm may pay referral fees to independent persons or firms ("Solicitors") for introducing clients to us. Whenever we pay a referral fee, we require the Solicitor to provide the prospective client with a copy of this document (our *Firm Brochure*) and a separate disclosure statement that includes the following information:

- the Solicitor's name and relationship with our firm;
- the fact that the Solicitor is being paid a referral fee;
- the amount of the fee; and
- whether the fee paid to us by the client will be increased above our normal fees in order to compensate the Solicitor.

As a matter of firm practice, the advisory fees paid to us by clients referred by solicitors are not increased as a result of any referral.

It is Highlander Capital Management, LLC's policy not to accept or allow our related persons to accept any form of compensation, including cash, sales awards or other prizes, from a non-client in conjunction with the advisory services we provide to our clients.

## Item 15 Custody

We previously disclosed in the "Fees and Compensation" section (Item 5) of this Brochure

that our firm directly debits advisory fees from client accounts.

As part of this billing process, the client's custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis, the custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

Our firm does not have actual or constructive custody of client accounts.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may hire us to provide discretionary asset management services, in which case we place trades in a client's account without contacting the client prior to each trade to obtain the client's permission.

Our discretionary authority includes the ability to do the following without contacting the client:

- determine the security to buy or sell; and/or
- determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

Clients give us discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may also change/amend such limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

We vote proxies for all client accounts; however, you always have the right to vote proxies yourself. You can exercise this right by instructing us in writing to not vote proxies in your account.

We will vote proxies in the best interests of its clients and in accordance with our established policies and procedures. Our firm will retain all proxy voting books and records for the requisite period of time, including a copy of each proxy statement received, a record of each vote cast, a copy of any document created by us that was material to making a decision how to vote proxies, and a copy of each written client request for information on how the adviser voted proxies. If our firm has a conflict of interest in voting a particular action, we will notify the client of the conflict and retain an independent third-party to cast a vote.

Clients may obtain a copy of our complete proxy voting policies and procedures by contacting **Eckart A. Weeck** by telephone, email, or in writing. Clients may request, in writing, information on how proxies for his/her shares were voted. If any client requests a copy of our complete proxy policies and procedures or how we voted proxies for his/her account(s), we will promptly provide such information to the client.

We will neither advise nor act on behalf of the client in legal proceedings involving companies

whose securities are held in the client's account(s), including, but not limited to, the filing of "Proofs of Claim" in class action settlements. If desired, clients may direct us to transmit copies of class action notices to the client or a third party. Upon such direction, we will make commercially reasonable efforts to forward such notices in a timely manner.

With respect to ERISA accounts, we will vote proxies unless the plan documents specifically reserve the plan sponsor's right to vote proxies. To direct us to vote a proxy in a particular manner, clients should contact **Eckart A. Weeck** by telephone, email, or in writing.

You can instruct us to vote proxies according to particular criteria (for example, to always vote with management, or to vote for or against a proposal to allow a so-called "poison pill" defense against a possible takeover). These requests must be made in writing. You can also instruct us on how to cast your vote in a particular proxy contest by contacting us at **Highlander Capital Management, LLC, 535 Millburn Ave., Short Hills, NJ 07078 or by email to eweck@highlandercapital.com.**

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

As an advisory firm that ***maintains discretionary authority for client accounts***, we are also required to disclose any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations. Highlander Capital Management, LLC has no additional financial circumstances to report.

Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$1,200 per client more than six months in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

Highlander Capital Management, LLC has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.