

TCI WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.

SEC File Number: 801 – 37083

ADV Part 2A, Firm Brochure

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This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (520) 733-1477 or catherine.nichols@tciwealth.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 TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

References herein to TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc. as a “registered investment adviser” or any reference to being “registered” does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 Material Changes

There have been no material changes made to TCI Wealth Advisors' Brochure since our last Annual Amendment filing made on March 25, 2019.

TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc.'s Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq., remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have about this change or any other aspect of this Firm Brochure.

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Item 4 Advisory Business

- A. TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc. (the “Registrant”) is a corporation formed on August 6, 1990 in the state of Arizona. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in August 1990. The Registrant is owned by several individuals and trusts as reported on the Registrant’s ADV Part 1, Schedules A and B. However, the Registrant is not “principally owned” (as that term is defined for the purposes of this ADV Part 2A, Item 4.A) by any such individual(s) or trust(s). John Stephens is the Registrant’s Chief Executive Officer. Catherine Nichols is the Registrant’s President, Treasurer, and Chief Compliance Officer.

B.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

The Registrant provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management.

Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the extent specifically requested by the client, financial planning and consulting services. In the event that the client requires extraordinary planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of the Registrant), the Registrant may determine to charge for such additional services, the dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written notice to the client.

Our Process

The investment plan process begins with a discussion of financial values and goals, as well as the client’s key relationships, existing assets, other professional advisors, preferred process and important interests. Taking into account the long-term nature of successful investing, Registrant then sets objectives for the client’s portfolio that are appropriate for willingness, ability and need to take risk, and the investment horizon(s) identified. Because it is so important, asset allocation is the first investment decision. During this process, Registrant decides how much of a portfolio to invest in each of the different investment types, or asset classes, including stocks, bonds and short-term investments, both domestic and foreign. With an asset allocation in place, Registrant selects the investment vehicles to use to implement the portfolio strategy. Two key investing principles guide these decisions: the importance of diversification and the value of remaining invested.

Building on the aforementioned, Registrant constructs a portfolio suited to Clients’ needs, goals, time horizon and risk attitude. The building blocks for the portfolio are institutional asset class funds, an excellent way to implement a diversified portfolio investment so as to maximize the probability of achieving goals.

It is important to note that Registrant believes in the long-term building of wealth. While no strategy guarantees a certain rate of return, a disciplined asset allocation approach can produce a higher probability of success, if given over five or more years to implement it.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a

Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services.

If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant.

If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged licensed professional[s] (i.e. attorney, accountant, insurance agent, etc.), and not the Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided.

It shall remain the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING

The Registrant also provides retirement plan consulting services. To the extent that the plan sponsor engages the Registrant in an ERISA Section 3(21) capacity, the Registrant will assist with the selection and/or monitoring of investment options (generally open-end mutual funds and exchange traded funds) from which plan participants shall choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. If the plan sponsor chooses to engage the Registrant in an ERISA Section 3(38) capacity, Registrant may provide the same services as described above, but may also: create specific asset allocation models that Registrant manages on a discretionary basis, which plan participants may choose in managing their individual retirement account; and/or modify the investment options made available to plan participants on a discretionary basis. The terms and conditions of the engagement shall generally be set forth in a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement between the Registrant and the plan sponsor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Limitations of Financial Planning, Non-Investment Consulting and Implementation.

As indicated above, to the extent requested by a client, Registrant may provide financial planning and related consulting services. Neither the Registrant nor its investment adviser representatives assist clients with the implementation of any financial plan, unless they have agreed to do so in writing. The Registrant does not monitor a client's financial plan, and it is the client's responsibility to revisit the financial plan with the Registrant, if desired.

Furthermore, although the Registrant may provide recommendations regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning and insurance, the Registrant does not serve as a law firm, accounting firm, or insurance agency, and no portion of Registrant's services should be construed as legal, accounting, or insurance implementation services. Accordingly, the Registrant does not prepare estate planning documents, tax returns or sell insurance products.

To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.). Clients are reminded that they are under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation made by Registrant or its representatives.

If the client engages any unaffiliated recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged licensed professional[s] (i.e. attorney, accountant, insurance agent, etc.), and not the Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided.

Client Obligations. In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis must be willing to accept that Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to such transaction(s) from the client. Therefore, in the event that Registrant would like to make a transaction for a client's account (including in the event of an individual holding or general market correction), and the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to effect the account transaction(s) (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's consent.

Independent Managers. Registrant may recommend that the client allocate a portion of a client's investment assets among unaffiliated independent investment managers ("Independent Manager(s)") in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s). In such situations, the Independent Manager(s) will have day-to-day responsibility for the active discretionary management of the allocated assets. Registrant will continue to render investment supervisory services to the client relative to the ongoing monitoring and review of account performance, asset allocation, and client investment objectives. The Registrant generally considers the following factors when recommending Independent Manager(s): the client's designated investment objective(s), management style, performance, reputation, financial strength, reporting, pricing, and research. The investment management fees charged by the designated Independent Manager(s) are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's ongoing investment advisory fee, subject to the terms and conditions of a separate agreement between the client and the Independent Manager(s). Registrant's advisory fee is set forth in the fee schedule at Item 5 below.

Use of Mutual Funds. While the Registrant may recommend allocating investment assets to mutual funds that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also recommend that clients allocate investment assets to publically-available mutual funds that the client could obtain without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to allocate investment assets to publically-available mutual funds without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser, the client or

prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant's initial and ongoing investment advisory services.

Other mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors ("DFA"), are generally only available through registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant's services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability and/or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq. remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have this arrangement.**

Portfolio Activity. Registrant has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the client's best interest. As part of its investment advisory services, Registrant will review client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine if any changes are necessary based upon various factors, including, but not limited to, investment performance, fund manager tenure, style drift, account additions/withdrawals, and/or a change in the client's investment objective. Based upon these factors, there may be extended periods of time when Registrant determines that changes to a client's portfolio are neither necessary nor prudent. Clients nonetheless remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 below during periods of account inactivity.

ByAllAccounts and eMoney Advisor Platform. In conjunction with the services provided by ByAllAccounts, Inc. and the eMoney Advisor platform, the Registrant may also provide periodic comprehensive reporting services, which can incorporate all of the client's investment assets including those investment assets that are not part of the assets managed by the Registrant (the "Excluded Assets"). The Registrant's service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting services only, which does not include investment implementation. Because the Registrant does not have trading authority for the Excluded Assets, to the extent applicable to the nature of the Excluded Assets (assets over which the client maintains trading authority vs. trading authority designated to another investment professional), the client (and/or the other investment professional), and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for directly implementing any recommendations relative to the Excluded Assets. The client and/or their other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not the Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Without limiting the above, the Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. In the event the client desires that the Registrant provide non-discretionary investment management services (whereby the Registrant would have trading authority) with respect to the Excluded Assets, the client may engage the Registrant to do so pursuant to the terms and conditions of the *Investment Advisory Agreement* between the Registrant and the client. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq. remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have this arrangement.**

Disclosure Statement. A copy of the Registrant's written disclosure statement as set forth on Part 2 of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*, *Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement*, or *Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement*.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser

representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at any time, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.

- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2019, the Registrant had \$2,896,189,829 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$77,222,816 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 Fees and Compensation

A.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

The Registrant provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee-only* basis. The Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management, generally between 0.50% and 1.00% as follows:

<u>Standard Fee Schedule</u>	
<u>Assets</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Up to \$2 million	1.00%
Between \$2 million and \$5 million	0.75%
Over \$5 million	0.50%

- To the extent that the Registrant chooses to accept a client with assets below \$400,000, the Registrant may charge up to 1.25% of assets under management.

Fee Schedule for Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Up to \$5 million	0.50%
Over \$5 million	Negotiable

The Registrant's investment advisory fee is negotiable at Registrant's discretion, depending upon objective and subjective factors including but not limited to: the amount of assets to be managed; portfolio composition; the scope and complexity of the engagement; the anticipated number of meetings and servicing needs; related accounts; future earning capacity; anticipated future additional assets; the professional(s) rendering the service(s); prior relationships with the Registrant and/or its representatives, and negotiations with the client. As a result of these factors, similarly situated clients could pay different fees, the services to be provided by the Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees, and certain clients may have fees different than those specifically set forth above.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$500 to \$1,500 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$150 to \$250 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide retirement plan consulting services, the Registrant's annual fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of plan assets, generally between 0.36% and 0.50% as follows:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Up to \$5 million	0.50%
Over \$5 million	0.36%

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. Both Registrant's *Investment Advisory Agreement* and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.
- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that Charles Schwab and Co., Inc. ("*Schwab*") or TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("*TD*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* and *TD* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions. In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).
- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.

The *Investment Advisory Agreement*, *Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement*, and *Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of such Agreement. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of any advanced unearned fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.

- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

Item 7 Types of Clients

The Registrant's clients shall generally include individuals, high net worth individuals, business entities, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, and charitable organizations. The Registrant generally requires an annual minimum fee of \$1,000 for investment advisory services to non-employer sponsored retirement plans. Therefore, clients who maintain less than \$80,000 in assets under Registrant's management, who are subject to this minimum fee will pay a higher percentage annual fee than the 1.25% referenced in Item 5.A. above.

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

- A. The Registrant shall utilize the following methods of security analysis:
- Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
 - Cyclical – (analysis performed on historical relationships between price and market trends, to forecast the direction of prices)

The Registrant shall utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)

Investment Risk. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks. However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategy - Long Term Purchases- is a fundamental investment strategy. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of

more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy.

Registrant believes that the best investment results come from a low-cost index-based asset allocation approach with a disciplined rebalance strategy. By taking the time to learn about the client and his/her goals and risk tolerance, a return goal can be established (expressed as a percentage over inflation). Registrant and the client then agree on a guiding asset allocation. This serves as the basis for the client's long-term investment strategy as set forth in the Investment Plan executed by the client.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various mutual funds, exchange traded funds, individual equities, individual bonds, and/or bond funds on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

In limited circumstances, the Registrant may recommend that clients allocate investment assets among real estate investment trusts ("REITs") on a non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

REITs are subject to risks generally associated with investing in real estate, such as: possible declines in the value of real estate; adverse general and local economic conditions; possible lack of availability of mortgage funds; changes in interest rates; and environmental problems. In addition, REITs are subject to certain other risks related specifically to their structure and focus such as: dependency upon management skills; limited diversification; the risks of locating and managing financing for projects; heavy cash flow dependency; possible default by borrowers; the costs and potential losses of self-liquidation of one or more holdings; the possibility of failing to maintain exemptions from securities registration; and, in many cases, relatively small market capitalization, which may result in less market liquidity and greater price volatility. Clients are therefore encouraged to carefully review and discuss each applicable REIT's offering documents with the Registrant, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration.

The Registrant may also allocate clients' investment assets on a discretionary basis, among one or more of its asset allocation models. Registrant's asset allocation models have been designed to comply with the requirements of Rule 3a-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Rule 3a-4 provides similarly managed investment programs, such as Registrant's asset allocation models, with a non-exclusive safe harbor from the definition of an investment company. In accordance with Rule 3a-4, the following disclosure is applicable to Registrant's management of client assets:

1. Initial Interview – at the opening of the account, the Registrant, through its designated representatives, shall obtain from the client information sufficient to determine the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
2. Individual Treatment - the account is managed on the basis of the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
3. Quarterly Notice – at least quarterly the Registrant shall notify the client to advise the Registrant whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account;
4. Annual Contact – at least annually, the Registrant shall contact the client to determine whether the client's financial situation or investment objectives have changed, or if the

client wants to impose and/or modify any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account;

5. Consultation Available – the Registrant shall be reasonably available to consult with the client relative to the status of the account;

6. Quarterly Report – the client shall be provided with a quarterly report for the account for the preceding period;

7. Ability to Impose Restrictions – the client shall have the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of the account, including the ability to instruct the Registrant not to purchase certain mutual funds;

8. No Pooling – the client’s beneficial interest in a security does not represent an undivided interest in all the securities held by the custodian, but rather represents a direct and beneficial interest in the securities which comprise the account;

9. Separate Account – a separate account is maintained for the client with the Custodian;

10. Ownership – each client retains indicia of ownership of the account (e. g. right to withdraw securities or cash, exercise or delegate proxy voting, and receive transaction confirmations).

The Registrant believes that its annual investment management fee is reasonable in relation to: (1) the advisory services provided under the *Investment Advisory Agreement*; and (2) the fees charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. However, Registrant’s annual investment management fee may be higher than that charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. In addition to Registrant’s annual investment management fee, the client will also incur charges imposed directly at the mutual and exchange traded fund level (e.g., management fees and other fund expenses).

Registrant’s investment models may involve above-average portfolio turnover which could negatively impact upon the net after-tax gain experienced by an individual client in a taxable account.

Item 9 Disciplinary Information

The Registrant has not been the subject of any disciplinary actions.

Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

- A. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. **Other Investment Adviser.** The Registrant is under common control with TCI Foundation, Inc., which is an SEC-registered firm and a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. TCI Foundation, Inc. offers financial planning and consultation services to individuals of modest means on a pro bono basis, but **does not** provide investment supervisory or management services. To the extent that the Registrant or its representatives refer clients to TCI Foundation, Inc. for services, neither the Registrant, its representatives, or TCI

Foundation, Inc. will receive any compensation as a result. Accordingly, there is no commensurate conflict of interest with respect to this arrangement.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq, remains available to address any questions that a Participant or prospective Participant may have regarding the above conflict of interest.

- D. The Registrant does not recommend or select other investment advisors for its clients.

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

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.

Furthermore, as of November 28, 2016, the Registrant was deemed to be in conformity with the fiduciary standards of the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence ("CEFEX"). These fiduciary standards are defined in the Prudent Practices for Investment Advisors handbook published by fi360, Inc.¹

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. Practices such as "scalping" (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, "front-running" (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant's clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant's "Access Persons". The Registrant's securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings at

¹ The Handbook describing fiduciary best practices for investment advisors is available at www.cefex.org.

least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11.C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant's Access Persons.

Item 12 Brokerage Practices

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at *Schwab* or *TD*. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal *Investment Advisory Agreement* with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending *Schwab*, *TD*, or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to seek best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable. 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 broker-dealer services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant receives from *Schwab* and/or *TD* (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, vendor, unaffiliated product/fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data,

software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

As indicated above, certain of the support services and/or products that are received may assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise.

There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or *TD*, or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq., remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflict of interest.

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance.

Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq., remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangements.

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at

approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or “bunch” such orders to seek best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

Item 13 Review of Accounts

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant’s Principals and/or representatives. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant may conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant receives economic benefits from *Schwab* or *TD* including support services and products without cost (and/or at a discount). There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* or *TD* or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.
- B. Neither the Registrant nor any of its representatives compensates any person other than its supervised persons for client referrals.

Item 15 Custody

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian on a quarterly basis. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian.

The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

Custody Situations: The Registrant engages in other practices and/or services on behalf of its clients that require disclosure at ADV Part 1, Item 9. Some of such practices and/or services are subject to an annual surprise CPA examination in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

In addition, certain clients have signed asset transfer authorizations that permit a qualified custodian to rely upon instructions from the Registrant 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. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq., remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding custody-related issues.**

Item 16 Investment Discretion

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at any time, impose restrictions, **in writing**, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

Item 17 Voting Client Securities

- A. The Registrant does not vote client proxies. Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets.
- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

Item 18 Financial Information

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Catherine Nichols, Esq., remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.