

Circle Advisers Inc.
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Brochure
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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Circle Advisers Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (212) 885-4200 or eric@circleadvisersinc.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 Circle Advisers Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

References herein to Circle Advisers 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

Although there have been no material changes to this Form ADV 2A Brochure since our last Annual Amendment filing on December 25, 2020, the Registrant has made disclosure changes, enhancements and additions at Items 4, 5, 7, 12 and 15.

ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions regarding the above changes, or any other issue pertaining to this Brochure.

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Item 4 **Advisory Business**

- A. Circle Advisers Inc. (the “Registrant”) is a corporation formed on September 15, 1982 in the State of Delaware. The Registrant became an SEC registered Investment Adviser Firm in January 1983. The Registrant is principally owned by Circle Consulting Group, Inc. Thomas Martin is the Registrant’s President.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, etc.) investment advisory services, and, to the extent specifically requested by a client, financial planning and related consulting services.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* 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.

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING

Registrant may also provide 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 Registrant (the “Excluded Assets”). Should the client receive such reporting services, the client acknowledges and understands that with respect to the Excluded Assets, Registrant’s service is limited to reporting services only and does not include investment management, review, or monitoring services, nor investment recommendations or advice. Unless agreed to otherwise, in writing, **the client and/or his/her/its other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets.** Unless also agreed to otherwise, in writing, Registrant does not provide investment management, monitoring or implementation services for the Excluded Assets. In the event the client desires that Registrant provide investment management services with respect to the Excluded Assets, the client may engage Registrant to do so for a separate and additional fee pursuant to the terms and conditions of an *Investment Advisory Agreement* between Registrant and the client.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant *may* determine to 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. Registrant’s planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$2,500 to \$6,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$125 to \$500 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). 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, including certain of Registrant’s representatives in their individual capacities as licensed insurance agents. (*See* disclosure at Item 10 C.). The recommendation by Registrant’s supervised persons, that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a conflict of interest, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend insurance products based on

commissions received, rather than on a particular client's need. 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. **Please Note:** 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** Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided. **Please Also Note:** Registrant believes that it is important for the client to address financial planning issues on an ongoing basis. It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant in writing if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

MISCELLANEOUS

Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services. To the extent requested by the client, the Registrant *may* provide consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, executive compensation and employment terms negotiations, etc. Neither the Registrant, nor any of its representatives, serves as an accountant, and no portion of the Registrant's services should be construed as same. To the extent requested by a client, the Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e. attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.), including certain representatives of the Registrant in their separate licensed capacities as discussed below. 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. **Please Note:** 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** Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided. **Please Also Note:** It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant in writing if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services. **Please Also Note:** Registrant's Principle, Thomas Martin, is a licensed attorney. Mr. Martin, however, does not provide legal services to Registrant's clients and no attorney-client relationship exists.

Other Business Activities. Mr. Martin is also a Principal of Circle Benefit Planning Corporation. Circle Benefit is also a subsidiary of Registrant's parent company, Circle Consulting Group, Inc.

Other Financial Industry Activities. Prior to 1990, Circle Consulting Group, Inc. and certain of its subsidiary companies, served as general partner in various limited partnerships in which certain clients of Registrant joined as limited partners. Although Circle Consulting Group, Inc. still serves as general partner to those limited partnerships that remain active, Circle Consulting Group, Inc. has not formed any limited partnerships since 1989, and correspondingly, no clients of Registrant have joined, nor have been solicited to join, any such venture as limited partners, or in any other capacity, since that date.

Please Note: Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis **must be willing to accept** that the Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior verbal consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event of a market correction during which the client is unavailable, the Registrant will be unable to affect any account transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's verbal consent.

ERISA Section 404(c) Investment Management

Currently, the Registrant renders consulting services to the sponsors of several "participant directed" retirement plan established by the sponsor pursuant to Section 404(c) of ERISA. Section 404(c) permits a Plan participant to exercise control over the assets contained in his/her individual retirement account. Registrant provides the Plan sponsor with advice relative to the investment alternatives available for Plan participants to choose from. In addition, if requested by the sponsor, the Registrant shall provide Plan participants with general impersonal informational seminars and/or materials which describe or explain the various investment options available to them under the Plan. Registrant may render similar consulting services to additional Plan sponsors in the future.

ERISA 3(21) Fiduciary

Currently, the Registrant provides investment advisory services, on a non-discretionary basis to several defined benefit plans. As an ERISA 3(21) fiduciary, the Registrant makes only recommendations to the plan sponsor and/or investment committee and does not accept discretionary authority.

Please Note: Cash Positions. Registrant treats cash as an asset class. As such, unless determined to the contrary by Registrant, all cash positions (money markets, etc.) shall be included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating the Registrants' advisory fee. At any specific point in time, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being **no guarantee** that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), the Registrant may maintain cash positions for defensive purposes. In addition, while assets are maintained in cash, such amounts could miss market advances. Depending upon current yields, at any point in time, Registrant's advisory fee could exceed the interest paid by the client's money market fund.

Margin Accounts: Risks/Conflict of Interest. Registrant **does not** recommend the use of margin for investment purposes. A *margin account* is a brokerage *account* that allows investors to borrow money to buy securities and/or for other non-investment borrowing purposes. The broker/custodian charges the investor interest for the right to borrow money and uses the securities as collateral. By using borrowed funds, the customer is employing leverage that will magnify both account gains and losses. Should a client determine to use margin, Registrant will include the entire market value of the margined assets when computing its advisory fee. Accordingly, Registrant's fee shall be based upon a higher margined account value, resulting in Registrant earning a correspondingly higher advisory fee. As a result, the potential of conflict of interest arises since Registrant may have an economic disincentive to recommend that the client terminate the use of margin. **Please Note:** The use of margin can cause significant adverse financial consequences in the event of a market correction. **ANY QUESTIONS: Our Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the use of margin.**

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 his/her/its responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant in writing if there is ever any change in his/her/its financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

Client Reporting

The Registrant may engage the services of unaffiliated technology providers to assist it in its client reporting capabilities. In so doing, the Registrant shall require any such provider to affirm its confidentiality obligations relative to all client related information.

Disclosure Statement. A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure as set forth on Part 2A of Form ADV and Form CRS (also known as the Client Relationship Summary) shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and 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 September 30, 2021, the Registrant had \$737,645,724 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 Fees and Compensation

- A. The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

If a client determines to engage the Registrant to provide non-discretionary investment advisory services on a *fee* basis, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets, including cash and cash equivalents, placed under the Registrant's management, generally on a stepped-up basis as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio Assets* **</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
First \$1,000,000	1.00%
From \$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	0.80%
From \$2,000,001 to \$5,000,000	0.60%
Above \$5,000,000	0.40%

* Notwithstanding the fee schedule above the Registrant charges a flat fee of 0.50% on any cash position maintained in the client's investment advisory account(s) subject to the fee of 0.40% for any account assets above \$5,000,000.

**** Clients whose investment account(s) total fixed income holdings are \$500,000 or greater will be charged a flat fee of 0.50% on any fixed income position maintained in their investment advisory account(s) subject to the fee of 0.40% for any account assets above \$5,000,000.**

On a case by case basis and in our sole discretion, our fees may be negotiable, based on the specific circumstances of a given client.

Please Note: Our fee schedule may present a conflict of interest to the extent that it incentivizes us to allocate less of your investment assets to cash or fixed income holdings to increase our compensation.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

To the extent specifically requested by a client, the Registrant *may* determine to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$2,500 to \$6,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$125 to \$500 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

Fee Dispersion. Registrant, in its discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee, charge a flat fee, waive its fee entirely, or charge fee on a different interval, based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, complexity of the engagement, anticipated services to be rendered, grandfathered fee schedules, employees and family members, courtesy accounts, competition, negotiations with client, etc.). **Please Note:** As result of the above, similarly situated clients could pay different fees. In addition, similar advisory services may be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees. **ANY QUESTIONS:** Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding advisory fees.

- 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 Fidelity Investments ("*Fidelity*") serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and fixed income 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). When beneficial to the client, individual fixed-income and/or equity transactions may be effected through broker-dealers with whom Registrant and/or the client have entered into arrangements for prime brokerage clearing services, including effecting certain client transactions through other SEC registered and FINRA member broker-dealers (in which event, the client generally will incur both the transaction fee charged by the executing broker-dealer and a “tradeaway” fee charged by *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity*).

- 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* between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the *Investment Advisory Agreement*. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory 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 and pension and profit sharing plans. The Registrant generally requires an annual minimum fee of \$2,500. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee, charge a flat fee, waive its fee entirely, or charge fee on a different interval, based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, complexity of the engagement, anticipated services to be rendered, grandfathered fee schedules, employees and family members, courtesy accounts, competition, negotiations with client, etc.). **Please Note:** As result of the above, similarly situated clients could pay different fees. In addition, similar advisory services may be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

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

- A. The Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
 - Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)

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

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

- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

Please Note: Investment Risk. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk. Therefore, it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended and/or undertaken by Circle Advisers Inc.), or any non-investment related services, will be profitable, equal any historical performance level(s), be suitable for the client's portfolio or individual situation, or prove successful. Circle Advisers Inc. is neither a law firm nor accounting firm, and no portion of its services should be construed as legal or accounting advice. Please remember that it remains the client's responsibility to advise Circle Advisers Inc., in writing, if there are any changes in their personal/financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising our previous recommendations and/or services, or if the client would like to impose, add, or to modify any reasonable restrictions to the investment advisory services.

- 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 strategies - Long Term Purchases and Short Term Purchases - are fundamental investment strategies. 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 transaction costs when compared to a longer-term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various mutual funds and ETF's, income producing equities, fixed income instruments, and cash or cash equivalents on a non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

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. **Licensed Insurance Agents.** Certain of Registrant's representatives, in their individual capacities, are licensed insurance agents, and may recommend the purchase of certain insurance-related products on a commission basis. As referenced in Item 4.B above, clients can engage certain of Registrant's representatives to purchase insurance products on a commission basis.

Conflict of Interest: The recommendation by Registrant's representatives that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a *conflict of interest*, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions to be received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products from Registrant's representatives. Clients are reminded that they may purchase insurance products recommended by Registrant through other, non-affiliated insurance agents. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above conflicts of interest.**

- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects 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.

- 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. From time to time, 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 potential 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 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 potential 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* and/or *Fidelity*. 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* and/or *Fidelity* (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 obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to affect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's 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. The

Registrant's advisory clients are charged differing commission rates on transactions by each custodian dependent on whether clients have chosen to receive their monthly custodial statements electronically or hard-copy via mail. Clients who enter their trades electronically (without broker assistance), are not charged a per trade commission, while those that utilize a Schwab broker are charged a \$25.00 per trade commission. The same applies for clients with accounts at Fidelity.

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 may receive from *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* (or another broker-dealer/custodian) 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 *may* be 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.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* 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, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest such arrangement may create.

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 affected 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. **Please Note:** 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. **Please Also Note:** Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. **Please Further Note:** Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment advisory 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 obtain 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. In the event that the Firm becomes aware that a Firm employee seeks to trade in the same security on the same day, the employee transaction will either be included in the "batch" transaction or transacted after all discretionary client transactions have been completed. 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 advisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principals and/or representatives. All investment advisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant in writing 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 may receive an indirect economic

benefit from *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity*. Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* 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, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding perceived conflict of interest any such arrangement may create.

- B. If a client is introduced to the Registrant by either an unaffiliated or an affiliated solicitor, Registrant *may* pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee shall be paid solely from the Registrant's investment management fee, and shall not result in any additional charge to the client. If the client is introduced to the Registrant by an unaffiliated solicitor, the solicitor, at the time of the solicitation, shall disclose the nature of his/her/its solicitor relationship, and shall provide each prospective client with a copy of the Registrant's written Brochure with a copy of the written disclosure statement from the solicitor to the client disclosing the terms of the solicitation arrangement between the Registrant and the solicitor, including the compensation to be received by the solicitor from the Registrant.

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. Under government regulations, we are deemed to have custody of your assets if you authorize us to instruct *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* to deduct our advisory fees directly from your account. *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* maintain actual custody of your assets. You will receive account statements directly from *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity* at least quarterly. They will be sent to the email or postal mailing address you provided to *Schwab* and/or *Fidelity*. You should carefully review those statements promptly when you receive them. **Please Also Note:** The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of Registrant's advisory fee calculation. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

Please Note: 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.

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

Item 16 Investment Discretion

The Registrant does not provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis.

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 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 does not provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

ANY QUESTIONS: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Eric Block, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.