

**Item 1: Cover Page**  
**Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure**  
**December 2021**

**RB Advisors, LLC**  
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**Pasadena, CA 91103**

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**Chief Compliance Officer**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of RB Advisors, LLC. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 626-529-8347. 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 our firm is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching CRD #316705.

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of our firm and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Clients are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise clients for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

## **Item 2: Material Changes**

RB Advisors, LLC is required to notify clients of any information that has changed since the last annual update of the Firm Brochure ("Brochure") that may be important to them. Clients can request a full copy of our Brochure or contact us with any questions that they may have about the changes.

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## **Item 4: Advisory Business**

Our firm is dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of California in 2021 and has been in business as an investment adviser since that time. Our firm is wholly owned by Ricky Biel.

The purpose of this Brochure is to disclose the conflicts of interest associated with the investment transactions, compensation and any other matters related to investment decisions made by our firm or its representatives. As a fiduciary, it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing our client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizons. Working with clients to understand their investment objectives while educating them about our process, facilitates the kind of working relationship we value.

All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238 (k) are disclosed below regarding our firm, our representatives or our employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice. To comply with CCR Section 260.238(j), we disclose that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

### **Types of Advisory Services Offered**

#### **Asset Management:**

As part of our Asset Management service, a portfolio is created, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Portfolios will be designed to meet a particular investment goal, determined to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

Our firm utilizes the sub-advisory services of a third-party investment advisory firm or individual advisor (collectively, "Third-Party Managers") to aid in the implementation of an investment portfolio designed by our firm. Before selecting a Third-Party Manager, our firm will ensure that the chosen party is properly licensed or registered. Our firm will not offer advice on any specific securities or other investments in connection with this service. We will provide initial due diligence on Third-Party Managers and ongoing reviews of their management of client accounts. In order to assist in the selection of a Third-Party Manager, our firm will gather client information pertaining to financial situation, investment objectives, and reasonable restrictions to be imposed upon the management of the account.

Our firm will periodically review Third-Party Manager reports provided to the client at least annually. Our firm will contact clients from time to time in order to review their financial situation and objectives; communicate information to the Third-Party Manager(s) as warranted; and, assist the client in understanding and evaluating the services provided by the Third-Party Manager(s).

Clients will be expected to notify our firm of any changes in their financial situation, investment objectives, or account restrictions that could affect their financial standing.

### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

Our firm provides a variety of standalone financial planning and consulting services to clients for the management of financial resources based upon an analysis of current situation, goals, and objectives. Financial planning services will typically involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Cost Segregation Study, Corporate Structure, Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, or Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client. Our firm provides clients with a summary of their financial situation, and observations for financial planning engagements. Financial consultations are not typically accompanied by a written summary of observations and recommendations, as the process is less formal than the planning service. Assuming all the information and documents requested from the client are provided promptly, plans or consultations are typically completed within 6 months of the client signing a contract with our firm.

CCR Section 260.235.2 requires that we disclose to our financial planning clients that a conflict of interest exists between us and our clients. The client is under no obligation to act upon the investment adviser's recommendation. If the client elects to act on our recommendations, the client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through our firm.

### **Outsourcing of Certain Investment Operations:**

Our firm works with various third-party service providers, including, among others, Black Diamond Software, Inc., to help support the operational needs of managing and servicing client accounts. Authority provided to the outsourced service providers may include, but is not limited to, placing transactions with broker-dealers at the direction of our firm, opening accounts with the client's account custodian, and facilitating operational requests on the client's behalf based on instructions provided by associated persons of our firm. When providing these services, the third-party service provider is acting as an agent of our firm.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our firm provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising may include:

- Establishing an Investment Policy Statement – Our firm may assist in the development of a statement that summarizes the investment goals and objectives along with the broad strategies to be employed to meet the objectives.
- Investment Options – Our firm may work with the Plan Sponsor to evaluate existing investment options and make recommendations for appropriate changes.

- Asset Allocation and Portfolio Construction – Our firm may develop strategic asset allocation models to aid Participants in developing strategies to meet their investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation, and tolerance for risk.
- Investment Monitoring – Our firm may monitor the performance of the investments and notify the client in the event of over/underperformance and in times of market volatility.
- Participant Education – Our firm may provide opportunities to educate plan participants about their retirement plan offerings, different investment options, and general guidance on allocation strategies.

In providing services for retirement plan consulting, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, “Excluded Assets”). All retirement plan consulting services shall comply with the applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans (“Plan”) governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointment to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA as designated by the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

#### **Special/Income Portfolio Management:**

Our Special/Income Portfolio Management service is designed for clients whose wealth management needs are strictly income generation. Thus, we are limited with the active investments and trading strategies involved in our normal portfolios. The Special/Income Portfolio Management service also limits available recommendations for variable annuity products and/or special accounts.

#### **Sub-Manager Limited Discretion:**

For certain client assets, our firm outsources a portion of the investment management to an investment adviser not affiliated with our firm, who serves as a sub-adviser (“Sub-Manager”). Sub-Managers are granted limited discretionary investment authority over client assets that our firm assigns. For the assets directed to Sub-Manager for services, its responsibility includes the authority to:

- exercise discretion to determine the types of securities bought and sold, along with the percentage allocation;
- apply its discretion as to when to buy and sell;
- apply its discretion as to the timing of transactions;
- select the broker-dealer for execution of securities transactions, if appropriate; and
- take other portfolio management actions our firm delegates or deems appropriate.

Any authority of Sub-Managers only applies to the specific assets within the client’s custodial account for which said Sub-Manager has been appointed as the discretionary manager. The Sub-Manager shall not provide investment advice, or have any advisory responsibility, to the client beyond the assets for which it is appointed. The terms of services provided are directed in accordance with a

separate written agreement entered into between our firm and the Sub-Manager. Sub-Managers also provides separate services to our firm under its division.

In certain cases, our firm can obtain financial incentive to refer clients to certain Sub-Managers rather than manage the assets on our own or refer them to another adviser, which can create a conflict of interest. When our firm refers clients for Sub-Manager services, it can receive various incentives. To address this conflict of interest, alternative options can be discussed if the client does not want to invest their assets with a Sub-Manager or receive our firm's financial guidance services that require access to the Sub-Manager's platform.

### **Tailoring of Advisory Services**

Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Asset Management and Special/Income Management Portfolio clients. General investment advice will be offered to our Financial Planning & Consulting, and Retirement Plan Consulting clients.

Each Asset Management and Special/Income Management Portfolio client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account.

### **Participation in Wrap Fee Programs**

Our firm does not offer or sponsor a wrap fee program.

### **Regulatory Assets Under Management**

Our firm is a newly registered adviser and does not have initial assets to report.

## **Item 5: Fees & Compensation**

### **Compensation for Our Advisory Services**

#### **Asset Management:**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Advisory Fee</b>
Up to \$499,999.99	1.75%
\$500,000-\$999,999.99	1.50%
\$1,000,000-\$4,999,999.99	1.00%
\$5,000,000 and above	0.85%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the Client. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis monthly in advance based on the value of the account(s) on the last day of the previous month. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter. In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

- a) Clients must provide our firm with written authorization permitting direct payment of advisory fees from their account(s) maintained by a custodian who is independent of our firm;
- b) Our firm sends monthly statements to the client showing the fee amount, the value of the assets upon which the fee is based, and the specific manner in which the fee is calculated as well as disclosing that it is the client's responsibility to verify the accuracy of fee calculation, and that the custodian does not determine its accuracy; and
- c) The account custodian sends a statement to the client, at least quarterly, showing all account disbursements, including advisory fees.

The combined maximum annual fee charged to clients utilizing Third Party Managers will not exceed 3%. Our firm will debit fees for this service as disclosed in the executed advisory agreement between the client and our firm. This fee shall be in addition to any fees assessed by the chosen third-party money manager. The third-party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them. Third party money managers establish and maintain their own separate billing processes over which we have no control. They will directly bill you and describe how this works in their separate written disclosure documents.

#### **Special/Income Portfolio Management:**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Advisory Fee</b>
Up to \$499,999.99	1.25%
\$500,000-\$999,999.99	1.15%
\$1,000,000-\$1,999,999.99	0.90%
\$2,000,000 and above	0.82%

Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the Client. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis monthly in advance based on the value of the account(s) on the last day of the previous month. Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the month. Fees are generally not negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

- a) Clients must provide our firm with written authorization permitting direct payment of advisory fees from their account(s) maintained by a custodian who is independent of our firm;
- b) Our firm sends monthly statements to the client showing the fee amount, the value of the assets upon which the fee is based, and the specific manner in which the fee is calculated as well as disclosing that it is the client's responsibility to verify the accuracy of fee calculation, and that the custodian does not determine its accuracy; and
- c) The account custodian sends a statement to the client, at least quarterly, showing all account disbursements, including advisory fees.

The maximum annual fee charged to clients utilizing Third Party Managers will not exceed the maximum fee published above for this service. Our firm will debit fees for this service as disclosed in the executed advisory agreement between the client and our firm. This fee shall be in addition to any fees assessed by the chosen third-party money manager. The third-party money managers we recommend will not directly charge you a higher fee than they would have charged without us introducing you to them. Third party money managers establish and maintain their own separate



billing processes over which we have no control. They will directly bill you and describe how this works in their separate written disclosure documents.

### **Outsourcing of Certain Investment Operations:**

An additional fee will not be charged for this service. Clients will either be charged under the Asset Management Service, or the Special/Income Portfolio Management Service, above.

### **Financial Planning & Consulting:**

Our firm charges on an hourly or flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$500. Flat fees range from \$2,500 to \$20,000. Our firm requires a retainer of 50% of the ultimate financial planning or consulting fee at the time of signing. The remainder of the fee will be directly billed to the client and due within 30 days of a financial plan being delivered or consultation rendered. Our firm will not require a retainer exceeding \$500 when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting:**

Our Retirement Plan Consulting services are billed on an hourly or flat fee basis or a fee based on the percentage of Plan assets under management. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$500. Our flat fees range from \$2,500 to \$20,000. Fees based on a percentage of managed Plan assets will not exceed 1.00%. The fee-paying arrangements will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be detailed in the signed consulting agreement.

### **Other Types of Fees & Expenses**

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Clients will incur transaction fees for trades executed by their chosen custodian, either based on a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account(s) or via individual transaction charges. These transaction fees are separate from our firm's advisory fees and will be disclosed by the chosen custodian. Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), Interactive Brokers, SEI Securities, Inc. ("SEI"), and Community National Bank do not charge transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

Clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), distribution fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

### **Termination & Refunds**

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Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for Asset Management and Special/Income Management Portfolio services in writing at any time. Upon notice of termination

our firm will process a pro-rata refund of the unearned portion of the advisory fees charged in advance.

Financial Planning & Consulting clients may terminate their agreement at any time before the delivery of a financial plan by providing written notice. For purposes of calculating refunds, all work performed by us up to the point of termination shall be calculated at the hourly fee currently in effect. Clients will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned fees based on the time and effort expended by our firm.

Either party to a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement may terminate at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Full refunds will only be made in cases where cancellation occurs within 5 business days of signing an agreement. After 5 business days from initial signing, either party must provide the other party 30 days written notice to terminate billing. Billing will terminate 30 days after receipt of termination notice. Clients will be charged on a pro-rata basis, which takes into account work completed by our firm on behalf of the client. Clients will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered up to the point of termination (determined as 30 days from receipt of said written notice) and such fees will be due and payable.

### **Commissionable Securities Sales**

Our firm and representatives do not sell securities for a commission in advisory accounts.

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

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements**

Our firm has the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans;
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- Written financial plans are generally assessed a minimum fee of \$2,500.

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

### **Methods of Analysis**

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

**Charting:** In this type of technical analysis, our firm reviews charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.

**Cyclical Analysis:** Statistical analysis of specific events occurring at a sufficient number of relatively predictable intervals that they can be forecasted into the future. Cyclical analysis asserts that cyclical forces drive price movements in the financial markets. Risks include that cycles may invert or disappear and there is no expectation that this type of analysis will pinpoint turning points, instead be used in conjunction with other methods of analysis.

**Duration Constraints:** Our firm adhere to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis.

**Fundamental Analysis:** The analysis of a business's financial statements (usually to analyze the business's assets, liabilities, and earnings), health, and its competitors and markets. When analyzing a stock, futures contract, or currency using fundamental analysis there are two basic approaches one can use: bottom-up analysis and top-down analysis. The terms are used to distinguish such analysis from other types of investment analysis, such as quantitative and technical. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data, but with the goal of making financial forecasts. There are several possible objectives: (a) to conduct a company stock valuation and predict its probable price evolution; (b) to make a projection on its business performance; (c) to evaluate its management and make internal business decisions; (d) and/or to calculate its credit risk; and (e) to find out the intrinsic value of the share.

When the objective of the analysis is to determine what stock to buy and at what price, there are two basic methodologies investors rely upon: (a) Fundamental analysis maintains that markets may misprice a security in the short run but that the "correct" price will eventually be reached. Profits can be made by purchasing the mispriced security and then waiting for the market to recognize its "mistake" and reprice the security; and (b) Technical analysis maintains that all information is reflected already in the price of a security. Technical analysts analyze trends and believe that sentiment changes predate and predict trend changes. Investors' emotional responses to price movements lead to recognizable price chart patterns. Technical analysts also analyze historical trends to predict future price movement. Investors can use one or both of these different but complementary methods for stock picking.

**Qualitative Analysis:** A securities analysis that uses subjective judgment based on unquantifiable information, such as management expertise, industry cycles, strength of research and development, and labor relations. Qualitative analysis contrasts with quantitative analysis, which focuses on numbers that can be found on reports such as balance sheets. The two techniques, however, will often be used together in order to examine a company's operations and evaluate its potential as an investment opportunity. Qualitative analysis deals with intangible, inexact concerns that belong to the social and experiential realm rather than the mathematical one. This approach depends on the kind of intelligence that machines (currently) lack, since things like positive associations with a brand, management trustworthiness, customer satisfaction, competitive advantage and cultural shifts are difficult, arguably impossible, to capture with numerical inputs.

**Quantitative Analysis:** The use of models, or algorithms, to evaluate assets for investment. The process usually consists of searching vast databases for patterns, such as correlations among liquid assets or price-movement patterns (trend following or mean reversion). The resulting strategies may involve high-frequency trading. The results of the analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics.

**Sector Analysis:** Sector analysis involves identification and analysis of various industries or economic sectors that are likely to exhibit superior performance. Academic studies indicate that the health of a stock's sector is as important as the performance of the individual stock itself. In other words, even the best stock located in a weak sector will often perform poorly because that sector is out of favor. Each industry has differences in terms of its customer base, market share among firms, industry growth, competition, regulation and business cycles. Learning how the industry operates provides a deeper understanding of a company's financial health. One method of analyzing a company's growth potential is examining whether the number of customers in the overall market is expected to grow. In some markets, there is zero or negative growth, a factor demanding careful consideration. Additionally, market analysts recommend that investors should monitor sectors that are nearing the bottom of performance rankings for possible signs of an impending turnaround.

**Technical Analysis:** A security analysis methodology for forecasting the direction of prices through the study of past market data, primarily price and volume. A fundamental principle of technical analysis is that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so their analysis looks at the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. Therefore, price action tends to repeat itself due to investors collectively tending toward patterned behavior – hence technical analysis focuses on identifiable trends and conditions. Technical analysts also widely use market indicators of many sorts, some of which are mathematical transformations of price, often including up and down volume, advance/decline data and other inputs. These indicators are used to help assess whether an asset is trending, and if it is, the probability of its direction and of continuation. Technicians also look for relationships between price/volume indices and market indicators. Technical analysis employs models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, such as the relative strength index, moving averages, regressions, inter-market and intra-market price correlations, business cycles, stock market cycles or, classically, through recognition of chart patterns. Technical analysis is widely used among traders and financial professionals and is very often used by active day traders, market makers and pit traders.

## **Investment Strategies We Use**

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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:

**Alternative Investments:** Hedge funds, commodity pools, Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”), Business Development Companies (“BDCs”), and other alternative investments involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Alternative investments may lack transparency as to share price, valuation and portfolio holdings. Complex tax structures often result in delayed tax reporting. Compared to mutual funds, hedge funds and commodity pools are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees. Alternative investment managers typically exercise broad investment discretion and may apply similar strategies across multiple investment vehicles, resulting in less diversification.

**Asset Allocation:** The implementation of an investment strategy that attempts to balance risk versus reward by adjusting the percentage of each asset in an investment portfolio according to the investor's risk tolerance, goals and investment time frame. Asset allocation is based on the principle that different assets perform differently in different market and economic conditions. A fundamental justification for asset allocation is the notion that different asset classes offer returns that are not perfectly correlated, hence diversification reduces the overall risk in terms of the variability of returns for a given level of expected return. Although risk is reduced as long as correlations are not perfect, it is typically forecast (wholly or in part) based on statistical relationships (like correlation and variance) that existed over some past period. Expectations for return are often derived in the same way.

An asset class is a group of economic resources sharing similar characteristics, such as riskiness and return. There are many types of assets that may or may not be included in an asset allocation strategy. The "traditional" asset classes are stocks (value, dividend, growth, or sector-specific [or a "blend" of any two or more of the preceding]; large-cap versus mid-cap, small-cap or micro-cap; domestic, foreign [developed], emerging or frontier markets), bonds (fixed income securities more generally: investment-grade or junk [high-yield]; government or corporate; short-term, intermediate, long-term; domestic, foreign, emerging markets), and cash or cash equivalents. Allocation among these three provides a starting point. Usually included are hybrid instruments such as convertible bonds and preferred stocks, counting as a mixture of bonds and stocks. Other alternative assets that may be considered include: commodities: precious metals, nonferrous metals, agriculture, energy, others.; Commercial or residential real estate (also REITs); Collectibles such as art, coins, or stamps; insurance products (annuity, life settlements, catastrophe bonds, personal life insurance products, etc.); derivatives such as long-short or market neutral strategies, options, collateralized debt, and futures; foreign currency; venture capital; private equity; and/or distressed securities.

There are several types of asset allocation strategies based on investment goals, risk tolerance, time frames and diversification. The most common forms of asset allocation are: strategic, dynamic, tactical, and core-satellite.

- **Strategic Asset Allocation:** The primary goal of a strategic asset allocation is to create an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Generally speaking, strategic asset allocation strategies are agnostic to economic environments, i.e., they do not change their allocation postures relative to changing market or economic conditions.
- **Dynamic Asset Allocation:** Dynamic asset allocation is similar to strategic asset allocation in that portfolios are built by allocating to an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Like strategic allocation strategies, dynamic strategies largely retain exposure to their original asset classes; however, unlike strategic strategies, dynamic asset allocation portfolios will adjust their postures over time relative to changes in the economic environment.
- **Tactical Asset Allocation:** Tactical asset allocation is a strategy in which an investor takes a more active approach that tries to position a portfolio into those assets, sectors, or individual stocks that show the most potential for perceived gains. While an original asset mix is formulated much like strategic and dynamic portfolio, tactical strategies are often traded more actively and are free to move entirely in and out of their core asset classes
- **Core-Satellite Asset Allocation:** Core-Satellite allocation strategies generally contain a 'core' strategic element making up the most significant portion of the portfolio, while applying a dynamic or tactical 'satellite' strategy that makes up a smaller part of the portfolio. In this

way, core-satellite allocation strategies are a hybrid of the strategic and dynamic/tactical allocation strategies mentioned above.

**Debt Securities (Bonds):** Issuers use debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity.

**Fixed Income:** Fixed income is a type of investing or budgeting style for which real return rates or periodic income is received at regular intervals and at reasonably predictable levels. Fixed-income investors are typically retired individuals who rely on their investments to provide a regular, stable income stream. This demographic tends to invest heavily in fixed-income investments because of the reliable returns they offer. Fixed-income investors who live on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk of inflation eroding their spending power.

Some examples of fixed-income investments include treasuries, money market instruments, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds and international bonds. The primary risk associated with fixed-income investments is the borrower defaulting on his payment. Other considerations include exchange rate risk for international bonds and interest rate risk for longer-dated securities. The most common type of fixed-income security is a bond. Bonds are issued by federal governments, local municipalities and major corporations. Fixed-income securities are recommended for investors seeking a diverse portfolio; however, the percentage of the portfolio dedicated to fixed income depends on your own personal investment style. There is also an opportunity to diversify the fixed-income component of a portfolio. Riskier fixed-income products, such as junk bonds and longer-dated products, should comprise a lower percentage of your overall portfolio.

The interest payment on fixed-income securities is considered regular income and is determined based on the creditworthiness of the borrower and current market rates. In general, bonds and fixed-income securities with longer-dated maturities pay a higher rate, also referred to as the coupon rate, because they are considered riskier. The longer the security is on the market, the more time it has to lose its value and/or default. At the end of the bond term, or at bond maturity, the borrower returns the amount borrowed, also referred to as the principal or par value.

**Long-Term Purchases:** Our firm may buy securities for your account and hold them for a relatively long time (more than a year) in anticipation that the security's value will appreciate over a long horizon.

**Private Equity:** Private equity is an equity investment into non-quoted companies. The private equity investor looks at an investment prospect as investing in a company as opposed to investing in a company's stock. Private equity funds hold illiquid positions (for which there is no active secondary market) and typically only invest in the equity and debt of target companies, which are generally taken private and brought under the private equity manager's control.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"):** REITs primarily invest in real estate or real estate-related loans. Equity REITs own real estate properties, while mortgage REITs hold construction, development and/or long-term mortgage loans. Changes in the value of the underlying property of the trusts, the creditworthiness of the issuer, property taxes, interest rates, tax laws, and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment all can affect the values of REITs. Both types

of REITs are dependent upon management skill, the cash flows generated by their holdings, the real estate market in general, and the possibility of failing to qualify for any applicable pass-through tax treatment or failing to maintain any applicable exempted status afforded under relevant laws.

**Short-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, our firm may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). Our firm does this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that our firm believes will soon result in a price swing in the securities our firm purchase.

## **Risk of Loss**

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Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and the account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and the account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that clients understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, and that their assets are appropriately diversified in investments. Clients are encouraged to ask our firm any questions regarding their risk tolerance.

**Cyclical Analysis Risk:** Risks include that cycles may invert or disappear and there is no expectation that this type of analysis will pinpoint turning points, instead be used in conjunction with other methods of analysis.

**Debt Securities Risks:** The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. Bonds with longer rates of maturity tend to have greater interest rate risks.

Certain additional risk factors relating to debt securities include: (a) When interest rates are declining, investors have to reinvest their interest income and any return of principal, whether scheduled or unscheduled, at lower prevailing rates.; (b) Inflation causes tomorrow's dollar to be worth less than today's; in other words, it reduces the purchasing power of a bond investor's future interest payments and principal, collectively known as "cash flows." Inflation also leads to higher interest rates, which in turn leads to lower bond prices.; (c) Debt securities may be sensitive to economic changes, political and corporate developments, and interest rate changes. Investors can also expect periods of economic change and uncertainty, which can result in increased volatility of market prices and yields of certain debt securities. For example, prices of these securities can be affected by financial contracts held by the issuer or third parties (such as derivatives) relating to the security or other assets or indices. (d) Debt securities may contain redemption or call provisions entitling their issuers to redeem them at a specified price on a date prior to maturity. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a lower interest rate market, the account would have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in decreased income to investors. Usually, a bond is called at or close to par value. This subjects investors that paid a premium for their bond risk of lost principal. In reality, prices of callable bonds are unlikely to move much above the call price if lower interest rates make the bond likely to be called.; (e) If the issuer of a debt security defaults on its obligations to pay interest or principal or is the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, the account may incur losses or expenses in seeking recovery of amounts owed to it.; (f) There may be little trading in the secondary market for particular debt securities, which may affect adversely the account's ability to value accurately or dispose of such debt securities. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the value and/or liquidity of debt securities.

Our firm attempts to reduce the risks described above through diversification of the client's portfolio and by credit analysis of each issuer, as well as by monitoring broad economic trends and corporate and legislative developments, but there can be no assurance that our firm will be successful in doing so. Credit ratings for debt securities provided by rating agencies reflect an evaluation of the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. The rating of an issuer is a rating agency's view of past and future potential developments related to the issuer and may not necessarily reflect actual outcomes. There can be a lag between the time of developments relating to an issuer and the time a rating is assigned and updated.

**Duration Constraints Analysis Risk:** The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.

**Fixed Income Securities Risk:** Typically, the values of fixed-income securities change inversely with prevailing interest rates. Therefore, a fundamental risk of fixed-income securities is interest rate risk, which is the risk that their value will generally decline as prevailing interest rates rise, which may cause your account value to likewise decrease, and vice versa. How specific fixed income securities may react to changes in interest rates will depend on the specific characteristics of each security. Fixed-income securities are also subject to credit risk, prepayment risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. Credit risk is the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of a bond to decline.

**Fundamental Analysis Risk:** 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.

**Past Performance Risk:** Charting and technical analysis are often used interchangeably. Technical analysis generally attempts to forecast an investment's future potential by analyzing its past performance and other related statistics. In particular, technical analysis often times involves an evaluation of historical pricing and volume of a particular security for the purpose of forecasting where future price and volume figures may go. As with any investment analysis method, technical analysis runs the risk of not knowing the future and thus, investors should realize that even the most diligent and thorough technical analysis cannot predict or guarantee the future performance of any particular investment instrument or issuer thereof.

**Private Equity Risks:** Risks associated with private equity include:

- **Funding Risk:** The unpredictable timing of cash flows poses funding risks to investors. Commitments are contractually binding and defaulting on payments results in the loss of private equity partnership interests. This risk is also commonly referred to as default risk.
- **Liquidity Risk:** The illiquidity of private equity partnership interests exposes investors to asset liquidity risk associated with selling in the secondary market at a discount on the reported NAV.
- **Market Risk:** The fluctuation of the market has an impact on the value of the investments held in the portfolio.
- **Capital Risk:** The realization value of private equity investments can be affected by numerous factors, including (but not limited to) the quality of the fund manager, equity market exposure, interest rates and foreign exchange.

**Qualitative Analysis Risk:** A risk in using qualitative analysis is that subjective judgment may prove incorrect.



**Quantitative Analysis Risk:** A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**REITs Risk:** REITs involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Additionally, they may lack transparency as to share price, valuation and portfolio holdings as they are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees.

### **Description of Material, Significant or Unusual Risks**

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Our firm generally invests client cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. Ultimately, our firm tries to achieve the highest return on client cash balances through relatively low-risk conservative investments. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to our Asset Management and Special/Income Management Portfolio services, as applicable.

### **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

Ricky Biel, our firm's President & CEO, was previously, while at HBA Advisors, LLC ("HBA"), was found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation. HBA willfully violated, and Ricky Biel caused HBA's violations of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-1(a)(1) thereunder, which states that it shall constitute a fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative act, practice, or course of business for any investment adviser registered or required to be registered under the Advisers Act, directly or indirectly, to publish, circulate, or distribute any advertisement which refers, directly or indirectly, to any testimonial of any kind concerning the investment adviser or concerning any advice, analysis, report or other service rendered by such investment adviser. As a result of this violation, HBA was censured. Additionally, HBA received a fine of \$15,000 payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ricky Biel received a fine of \$10,000 payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Furthermore, HBA and Ricky Biel have been indicated to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-1(a)(1) thereunder.

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

Our firm is not registered, nor does it have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer, registered representative of a broker dealer, investment company or pooled investment vehicle, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, banking or thrift institution, accountant or accounting firm, lawyer or law firm, insurance company or agency, pension consultant, real estate broker or dealer or a sponsor or syndicator of limited partnership, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

Please see Item 4 for more information regarding our firm's selection of third-party managers. Prior to recommending third-party managers, our firm will ensure that the third-party manager is properly licensed or registered with the respective authorities. A potential conflict of interest for our firm in utilizing a third-party manager is receipt of services not available to us from other similar advisers. To minimize this conflict, our firm will make recommendations and selections in the best interest of our Clients.

Representatives of our firm are insurance agents/brokers. They offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest exists as these insurance sales create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation adviser and/or our supervised persons may earn. To mitigate this potential conflict, our firm will act in the client's best interest.

Ricky Biel is dually registered as investment adviser representative ("IAR") and is also an owner of HBA Advisors, LLC. A conflict of interest arises out of being an IAR and owner for multiple investment advisory firms. To mitigate this conflict, Mr. Biel will act in the Client's best interest. Furthermore, any services offered through HBA Advisors, LLC will remain separate from our firm's advisory services and will be governed under a separate agreement.

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

As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demands the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling securities that will be bought or sold in client accounts unless done so after the client execution or concurrently as a part of a block trade.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets (although our firm may be deemed to have custody of client assets if give the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts. See *Item 15 Custody*, below). Client assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. Our firm recommends that clients engage:

- The Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer, member SIPC; or
- The TD Ameritrade Institutional program. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade") member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade is an independent [and unaffiliated] SEC-registered broker-dealer.
- SEI Securities Inc. ("SEI")
- Community National Bank

Our firm is independently owned and operated and is not affiliated with Schwab, TD Ameritrade, SEI, or Community National Bank (herein "Custodians"). The Custodians will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when instructed. While our firm recommends that clients use either of the Custodians as custodian/broker, clients will decide whether to do so and open an account with one of the Custodians by entering into an account agreement directly with them. Our firm does not open the account. Even though the account is maintained the Custodians, our firm can still use other brokers to execute trades, as described in the next paragraph.

### **How Brokers/Custodians Are Selected**

Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. A wide range of factors are considered, including, but not limited to:

- combination of transaction execution services along with asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- capability to execute, clear and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
- capabilities to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- breadth of investment products made available (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), etc.)
- availability of investment research and tools that assist in making investment decisions
- quality of services
- competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate them
- reputation, financial strength and stability of the provider
- prior service to our firm and our other clients
- availability of other products and services that benefit our firm, as discussed below (see *"Products & Services Available from The Custodians"*)

### **Custody & Brokerage Costs**

The Custodians generally do not charge separately for custodial services but are compensated by charging commissions or other fees to clients on trades that are executed or that settle into the Custodians' account. For some accounts, the Custodians may charge your account a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account in lieu of commissions. The Custodians' commission rates and/or asset-based fees applicable to client accounts were negotiated based on our firm's commitment to maintain a minimum threshold of assets statement equity in accounts at the Custodians. This commitment benefits clients because the overall commission rates and/or asset-based fees paid are lower than they would be if our firm had not made the commitment. In addition to commissions or asset-based fees, the Custodians charge a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that our firm has executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into one of the Custodians' accounts. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation paid to the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize client trading costs, our firm has one of the Custodians execute most trades for our clients' accounts.

### **Products & Services Available from the Custodians**

Schwab Advisor Services and TD Ameritrade Institutional program are these custodians' businesses serving independent investment advisory firms like our firm. They provide our firm and clients with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to either custodian's retail customers. These custodians also make available various support services. Some of those services help manage or administer our client accounts while others help manage and grow our business. These custodians' support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (our firm does not have to request them) and at no charge to our firm. The availability of these custodians products and services are not based on the provision of particular investment advice, such as purchasing particular securities for clients. Here is a more detailed description of these custodians' support services:

### **Services that Benefit Clients**

The Custodians' institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through these programs include some to which our firm might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by firm clients. The Custodians' services described in this paragraph generally benefit clients and their accounts.

### **Services that May Not Directly Benefit Clients**

The Custodians also make available other products and services that benefit our firm but may not directly benefit clients or their accounts. These products and services assist in managing and administering our client accounts. They include investment research, both proprietary to each custodian and that of third parties. This research may be used to service all or some substantial number of client accounts, including accounts not maintained by either of the Custodians. In addition to investment research, the Custodians also make available software and other technology that:

- provides access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitates trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- provides pricing and other market data;
- facilitates payment of our fees from our clients' accounts; and
- assists with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

### **Services that Generally Benefit Only Our Firm**

The Custodians also offer other services intended to help manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

The Custodians may provide some of these services. In other cases, the Custodians will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to our firm. The Custodians may also discount or waive fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. The Custodians may also provide our firm with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment for our personnel.

Irrespective of direct or indirect benefits to our clients through the Custodians, our firm strives to enhance the client experience, help clients reach their goals and put client interests before that of our firm and associated persons.

### **Our Interest in The Custodians' Services.**

The availability of these services from the Custodians benefits our firm because our firm does not have to produce or purchase them. Our firm does not have to pay for these services, and they are not contingent upon committing any specific amount of business to the Custodians in trading commissions or assets in custody.

In light of our arrangements with the Custodians, a conflict of interest exists as our firm may have incentive to require that clients maintain their accounts with the Custodians based on our interest in receiving the Custodians' services that benefit our firm rather than based on client interest in

receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions. As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of the Custodians as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend the Custodians and has determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

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. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions. Our firm believes that the selection of the Schwab and TD Ameritrade as a custodian and broker is in the best interest of our clients. This is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of both custodians' suite of services, and not solely the Custodians' services that only benefit our firm.

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### **Client Brokerage Commissions**

The Custodians do not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm's use.

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### **Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars**

Our firm does not direct client transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits.

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### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

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### **Directed Brokerage**

Neither our firm nor any of our firm's representatives have discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers-dealers and/or custodians with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are conducted. Our firm routinely recommends that clients direct us to execute through a specified broker-dealer. Our firm recommends the use of the Custodians. Each client will be required to establish their account(s) with the Custodians if not already done. Please note that not all advisers have this requirement.

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### **Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services

purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, our firm will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

### **Client-Directed Brokerage**

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Our firm does not allow client-directed brokerage outside our recommendations.

### **Aggregation of Purchase or Sale**

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Our firm provides investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when our firm believes that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, our firm attempts to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

## **Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans**

Our management personnel or financial advisors Ricky Biel reviews accounts on at least an annual basis for our Asset Management and Special/Income Management Portfolio clients, and Third Party Money Management clients. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Our firm does not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when our Asset Management, Special/Income Management Portfolio, and Third Party Money Management clients are contacted.

Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

Financial Planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. Our firm does not provide ongoing services to financial planning clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Financial Planning clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately engage our firm for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

Retirement Plan Consulting clients receive reviews of their retirement plans for the duration of the service. Our firm also provides ongoing services where clients are met with upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc. Retirement Plan Consulting clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their plans unless they choose to engage our firm for ongoing services.

## Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation

### TD Ameritrade

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Our firm may recommend TD Ameritrade to clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our firm's participation in the program and the investment advice given to clients, although we receive economic benefits through our participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving our firm's participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by our firm's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit our firm but may not benefit our client accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. The benefits received by our firm or our personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of our fiduciary duties to our clients, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

### Schwab

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Our firm receives economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services made available to our firm and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit our firm, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (*see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices*). The availability of Schwab's products and services is not based on our firm giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

### Referral Fees

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Our firm does not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with relevant state statutes and rules.



## Item 15: Custody

State Securities Bureaus generally take the position that any arrangement under which a registered investment adviser is authorized or permitted to withdraw client funds or securities maintained with a custodian upon the adviser's instruction to the custodian is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguarding procedures:

- a) Clients must provide our firm with written authorization permitting direct payment of advisory fees from their account(s) maintained by a custodian who is independent of our firm;
- b) Our firm sends monthly statements to the client showing the fee amount, the value of the assets upon which the fee is based, and the specific manner in which the fee is calculated as well as disclosing that it is the client's responsibility to verify the accuracy of fee calculation, and that the custodian does not determine its accuracy; and
- c) The account custodian sends a statement to the client, at least quarterly, showing all account disbursements, including advisory fees.

Clients are encouraged to raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

### **Third Party Money Movement:**

On February 21, 2017, the SEC issued a no-action letter ("Letter") with respect to Rule 206(4)-2 ("Custody Rule") under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of authorization ("SLOA") is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with our custodian:

- The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
- The client authorizes the investment adviser, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
- The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
- The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.
- The investment adviser has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
- The investment adviser maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of the investment adviser or located at the same address as the investment adviser.
- The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed investment advisory client agreement. By granting investment discretion, our firm is authorized to execute securities transactions, determine which securities are bought and sold, and the total amount to be bought and sold. Should clients grant our firm non-discretionary authority, our firm would be required to obtain the client's permission prior to effecting securities transactions. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgement. In accordance with CCR Section 260.237.2(f)(1), our firm will obtain client permission prior to effecting securities transactions in client accounts managed on a non-discretionary basis.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for clients. Therefore, except in the event a third party money manager votes 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. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third party money manager), our firm and/or the client shall instruct the qualified custodian to forward copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

### **Item 18: Financial Information**

Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$500 in fees when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

## **Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

### **Executive Officers & Management Persons**

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**Ricky Enrique Biel**

**Year of Birth:** 1979

**Educational Background:**

- Mr. Biel has no formal education after high school.

**Business Background:**

- 01/2022 – Present      RB Advisors, LLC; CEO, President and Chief Compliance Officer
- 01/2010 – 01/2021      HBA Advisors, LLC; Partner

**Exams, Licenses & Other Professional Designations:**

- 2007: Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®)
- 2000: Series 7 & 66

### **Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®)**

The CRPC® is offered by The College for Financial Planning®. The CRPC® Program focuses on the pre- and post-retirement needs of individuals. Enrollment in the program guides you through the retirement process, addressing issues such as estate planning and asset management. The College for Financial Planning® awards the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor<sup>SM</sup> and CRPC® designation to students who: successfully complete the program; pass the final examination; and comply with the Code of Ethics, which includes agreeing to abide by the Standards of Professional Conduct promulgated by The College for Financial Planning®. Applicants must also disclose of any criminal, civil, self-regulatory organization, or governmental agency inquiry, investigation, or proceeding relating to their professional or business conduct. Conferment of the designation is contingent upon the College for Financial Planning's review of matters either self-disclosed or which are discovered by the College that are required to be disclosed. Successful students receive a certificate and are granted the right to use the designation on correspondence and business cards for a two-year period. Continued use of the CRPC® designation is subject to ongoing renewal requirements. Every two years individuals must renew their right to continue using the CRPC® designation by: completing 16 hours of continuing education and reaffirming to abide by the Standards of Professional Conduct, Terms and Conditions, and self-disclose any criminal, civil, self-regulatory organization, or governmental agency inquiry, investigation, or proceeding relating to their professional or business conduct.

### **Outside Business Activity**

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Please see Item 10 of this Firm Brochure.

### **Performance Based Fees**

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Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Disciplinary Information**

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An award or otherwise being found liable in an arbitration claim alleging damages in excess of \$2,500, involving any of the following:

- (a) An investment or an investment-related business or activity;
- (b) Fraud, false statement(s), or omissions;
- (c) Theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
- (d) Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
- (e) Dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.

Our firm has nothing to disclose in this regard.

An award or otherwise being found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding involving any of the following:

- (a) An investment or an investment-related business or activity;
- (b) Fraud, false statement(s), or omissions;
- (c) Theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
- (d) Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
- (e) Dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.

Ricky Biel, our firm's President & CEO, was previously, while at HBA Advisors, LLC ("HBA"), was found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation. HBA willfully violated, and Ricky Biel caused HBA's violations of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-1(a)(1) thereunder, which states that it shall constitute a fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative act, practice, or course of business for any investment adviser registered or required to be registered under the Advisers Act, directly or indirectly, to publish, circulate, or distribute any advertisement which refers, directly or indirectly, to any testimonial of any kind concerning the investment adviser or concerning any advice, analysis, report or other service rendered by such investment adviser. As a result of this violation, HBA was censured. Additionally, HBA received a fine of \$15,000 payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ricky Biel received a fine of \$10,000 payable to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Furthermore, HBA and Ricky Biel have been indicated to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-1(a)(1) thereunder.

## **Arrangements with Issuers of Securities**

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Our firm has nothing to disclose in this regard.

Our firm does not have compensation arrangements connected with advisory services which are in addition to our advisory fees. Our management persons and representatives do not have a relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities. As a fiduciary, our firm always put our Client's interest above our own. Information regarding participation of interest in client transactions can be found in our Code of Ethics as well as Item 11 of this Brochure. Clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting Ricky Biel, Chief Compliance Officer at 626-529-8347.