

# **Westview Investment Advisors**

## **Brochure**

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**This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Westview Investment Advisors (the “Registrant”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (802) 489-5342 or [ben@westviewinvest.com](mailto:ben@westviewinvest.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 Westview Investment Advisors also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

## **Item 2           Material Changes**

Since Westview Investment Advisors' initial filing on March 5, 2020, this Disclosure Brochure has been amended as follows:

- At Item 10 to describe an arrangement with an unaffiliated tax firm and related conflicts of interest

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#### **Item 4            Advisory Business**

- A. Westview Investment Advisors (the “Registrant”) is a limited liability company originally formed in 2019 in the state of Vermont. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in October 2019. The Registrant is owned by Benjamin Nostrand.

B.

##### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES**

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

The Registrant’s investment management services are customized based on the individual client’s needs. Prior to making any investment recommendations to new clients, an Advisor meets with the prospective client to assess their needs, goals and objectives. The Advisor’s focus during this process is on assisting the prospective client with determining their short-term and long-range investment goals and objectives.

Upon completing the analysis and the engagement of the Registrant to provide investment management services, the Advisor will work to determine an asset allocation strategy customized to the client’s financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance. Once an asset allocation strategy is agreed upon, the Registrant will customize the client’s portfolio allocation taking into consideration any limitations or restrictions, the market and economy at the time and the client’s financial situation, goals and objectives.

##### **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)**

The Registrant may provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Registrant’s planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but are generally an hourly fee of \$200, 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. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant.

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

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

### **RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

The Registrant provides retirement plan consulting services to sponsors of self-directed retirement plans and defined benefit plans organized under the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The Registrant performs these services in an ERISA Section 3(21) capacity, by assisting with the development of investment policy statements, and then the selection and monitoring of investment alternatives from which plan participants may choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. Upon request by the plan sponsor, Registrant may also provide participant education designed to assist participants in identifying the appropriate investment strategy for their retirement plan accounts. The terms and conditions of the engagement between the Registrant and the plan sponsor will be set forth in a Retirement Plan Services Agreement.

### **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, etc. Neither the Registrant, nor any of its representatives, serves as an attorney, accountant, or licensed insurance agent, 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, etc.). The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant.

If the client engages any such recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

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

**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 effect any account

transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's verbal consent.

**Variable Annuity Management.** The Registrant provides advisory services relative to the allocation of assets among the investment sub-divisions that comprise a variable investment product owned by the client. The Registrant manages the variable annuity on a tactical investment strategy basis, the objective of which is to be invested in the equity market during an anticipate uptrend and in cash during an anticipated pullback/correction. Of course, there can be no assurance or guarantee that the Registrant's decisions will be correct or profitable. The Registrant includes the variable product assets as part of "assets under management" for the purposes of calculating its annual advisory fee.

**Retirement Rollovers – No Obligation / Conflict of Interest:** A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If the Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by the Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Registrant will earn a new (or increase its current) advisory fee as a result of the rollover. No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant. **The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the potential for conflict of interest presented by such rollover recommendation.**

**eMoney Platform.** Registrant may provide its clients with access to an online platform hosted by "eMoney Advisor" ("eMoney"). The eMoney platform allows a client to view their complete asset allocation, including those assets that Registrant does not manage (the "Excluded Assets"). Registrant does not provide investment management, monitoring, or implementation services for the Excluded Assets. Unless otherwise specifically agreed to, in writing, Registrant's service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting only. Therefore, Registrant shall not be responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Rather, the client and/or their advisor(s) that maintain management authority for the Excluded Assets, and not Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for such investment performance. Without limiting the above, the Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. The client may choose to engage Registrant to manage some or all of the Excluded Assets pursuant to the terms and conditions of an Investment Advisory Agreement between Registrant and the client. The eMoney platform also provides access to other types of information and applications including financial planning concepts and functionality, which should not, in any manner whatsoever, be construed as services, advice, or recommendations provided by Registrant. Finally, Registrant shall not be held responsible for any adverse results a client may experience if the client engages in financial planning or other functions available on the eMoney platform without Registrant's assistance or oversight.

**Use of Mutual Funds:** Most mutual funds are available directly to the public. Thus, a prospective client can obtain many of the mutual funds that may be recommended and/or utilized by Registrant independent of engaging Registrant as an investment advisor.

However, if a prospective client determines to do so, he/she will not receive Registrant's initial and ongoing investment advisory services.

**Portfolio Activity.** Registrant has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the client's best interest. As part of its investment advisory services, Registrant will review client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine if any changes are necessary based upon various factors, including, but not limited to, investment performance, mutual fund manager tenure, style drift, and/or a change in the client's investment objective. Based upon these factors, there may be extended periods of time when Registrant determines that changes to a client's portfolio are neither necessary nor prudent. Clients nonetheless remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 below during periods of account inactivity. Of course, as indicated below, there can be no assurance that investment decisions made by Registrant will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

**Cash Positions.** 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 and cash equivalent positions (such as money market funds, etc.) for defensive and liquidity purposes. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all such cash positions are included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating the Registrant's advisory fee.

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

**Disclosure Statement.** A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure as set forth on Part 2A of Form ADV shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of the *Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement*. Any client who has not received a copy of Registrant's written Brochure at least 48 hours prior to executing the *Investment Advisory Agreement or Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement* shall have five business days subsequent to executing the agreement to terminate the Registrant's services without penalty.

- 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 February 13, 2020, the Registrant had \$130,040,498 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$466,222 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

## Item 5 Fees and Compensation

A.

### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

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

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>% of Assets</u>
On the First \$2,000,000	1.00%
From \$2,000,001- \$5,000,000	0.75%
From \$5,000,001 and above	Negotiable

To illustrate the above, a client placing \$2,500,000 under Registrant's management would incur an annual fee of 1.00% on the first \$2,000,000 and 0.75% on the remaining \$500,000.

Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee and/or charge a flat fee 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, prior fee schedules, competition, negotiations with client, etc.). 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.

### **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 is negotiable, but is generally an hourly fee of \$200, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Depending on a number of factors, including the overall complexity of the engagement, Registrant, in its sole discretion, may also negotiate a flat fee for financial planning and consulting services.

### **RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

The Registrant shall receive a retirement plan consulting fee based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the relevant plan's assets. However, fees shall vary depending upon various objective and subjective factors, including but not limited to: the amount of plan assets; plan composition; the scope and complexity of the engagement; the anticipated number of meetings and servicing needs; the professional(s) rendering the service(s); and negotiations with the client. As a result of these factors, similarly situated plan clients could pay different fees, and the services to be provided by the Registrant to any particular plan client could be available from other advisers at lower 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. The Registrant will send the client an invoice simultaneous to sending a fee deduction request to the custodian. 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 arrears, 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 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).
- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in arrears, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. The Registrant generally requires a minimum asset level of \$500,000 for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may waive or reduce its minimum asset level requirement 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, negotiations with client, etc.).

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, a pro-rated portion of the earned but unpaid advisory fee shall be due and debited through the account custodian.

- 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, business entities, pension and profit sharing plans and trusts. The Registrant generally requires a minimum asset level of \$500,000 for investment advisory services. The Registrant, in its sole discretion, may waive or reduce its minimum asset level requirement 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, negotiations with client, etc.).

## **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)
- Quantitative - (analysis performed using mathematical models to assess the value or shifts in a share price or earnings)
- Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)
- Cyclical – (analysis performed on historical relationships between price and market trends, to forecast the direction of prices)

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)
- Trading (securities sold within thirty (30) days)

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

B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks.

However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases, Short Term Purchases, and Trading - 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 transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy. Trading, an investment strategy that requires the purchase and sale of securities within a thirty (30) day investment time period, involves a very short investment time period but will incur

higher transaction costs when compared to a short term investment strategy and substantially higher transaction costs than a longer term investment strategy.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates (or recommends that the client allocate) client investment assets among various individual equity and fixed income securities, mutual funds, and Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's) on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

Registrant may also utilize and/or recommend that a client utilize exchange-traded notes ("ETNs"). ETNs are a type of debt security that trade on exchanges and seek a return linked to a market index or other benchmark. ETNs are unsecured debt securities issued by an underwriting bank. They have a maturity date and are backed only by the credit of the underwriting bank. ETNs are linked to the performance of a particular market benchmark(s) or strategy and upon maturity, the underwriting bank promises to pay the amount reflected in the benchmark index minus fees. ETNs are only linked to the performance of a benchmark; they do not actually own the benchmark index. ETNs face the risk that the credit rating of the underwriting bank may be reduced or the underwriting bank may go bankrupt, thus reducing the value of the ETN. Even though ETNs are not equities or index funds, they may also face some of the risks of investing in equities or index funds. The return on an ETN generally depends on price changes if the ETN is sold prior to maturity (as with stocks or ETFs) or on the payment, if any, of a distribution if the ETN is held to maturity (as with some other structured products).

Registrant may use or recommend the use of closed-end funds. Closed-end funds generally do not continually offer their shares for sale. Rather, they sell a fixed number of shares at one time, after which the shares typically trade on a secondary market, such as the New York Stock Exchange or the NASDAQ Stock Market. The specific risk factors related to closed-end funds vary depending upon the structure of each fund. Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a premium or discount relative to their net asset value ("NAV"). If Registrant purchases shares of a closed-end fund at a discount to its NAV, there can be no assurance that the discount will decrease, and it is possible that the discount may increase and affect whether the client will realize a gain or loss on the investment. Many closed-end funds invest using borrowed money to seek higher returns. This triggers greater risk and could cause the share price to fluctuate accordingly, especially because the closed-end fund will also have to pay interest or dividends on its leverage, effectively reducing the return value. Many closed-end funds also choose to distribute a fixed percentage of net assets regardless of the fund's actual interest income and capital gains. Consequently, distributions by a closed-end fund may include a return of capital, which would reduce the fund's net asset value and its earnings capacity. Closed-end funds may invest in a greater amount of illiquid securities than open-end mutual funds. Investments in illiquid securities pose risks related to uncertainty in valuations, volatile market prices, and limitations on resale that may have an adverse effect on the ability of the fund to dispose of the securities promptly or at reasonable prices. Finally, closed-end funds carry liquidity risks, which exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase and sell, possibly preventing Registrant from selling out of such illiquid securities at an advantageous price.

## **Item 9           Disciplinary Information**

The Registrant does not have any reportable disciplinary information.

## **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. **Green State Advisors, LLC**. A supervised person of Registrant provides tax consulting and preparation services in his separate capacity through Green State Advisors, LLC (“GSA”), an unaffiliated tax firm. Fees paid to GSA are separate from and in addition to any fees paid to Registrant, and Registrant provides no supervision or oversight over the services provided by GSA. Registrant has entered into an agreement with GSA whereby Registrant is entitled to receive a portion of the fees collected by GSA, in exchange for Registrant making its supervised person available to provide tax services to GSA clients. This arrangement presents a conflict of interest, in that a recommendation by Registrant to engage GSA for tax services could be made on the basis of compensation to be received by Registrant, rather than basing such a recommendation on a client’s best interest. GSA, and/or Registrant’s supervised person who provides services through GSA, may also recommend that GSA clients engage Registrant for investment advisory services. Although Registrant does not compensate GSA for client referrals, such recommendation presents a conflict of interest to the extent that it results in new or increased investment advisory compensation to Registrant.

**The Registrant’s Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, is available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflicts of interest such arrangement creates.**

- 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. 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 firm 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 Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the 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 firm 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* 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* 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 effect the

same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of broker-dealer services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant can receive from *Schwab* or *Fidelity* (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, mutual fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that can 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.

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

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, is available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflicts of interest such arrangement creates.**

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements

for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

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

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

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, is 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 management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or "bunch" such orders to 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. 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 Benjamin Nostrand. All investment advisory and financial planning clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to comprehensively review financial planning issues, investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis, as applicable.
- 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 with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the

client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment advisory services shall also receive a quarterly report from the Registrant 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 or Fidelity*. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from *Schwab or Fidelity*.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at *Schwab or Fidelity* as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to *Schwab or Fidelity* or any other any entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as result of the above arrangement.

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, is available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and any corresponding conflicts of interest any such arrangement creates.**

- 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 advisory 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 their 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. Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment advisory services shall also receive a quarterly report from the Registrant summarizing account activity and performance.

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

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

**The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding custody-related issues.**

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

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

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

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

Unless the client directs otherwise in writing, the Registrant is responsible for voting client proxies (**However**, the client shall maintain exclusive responsibility for all legal proceedings or other type events pertaining to the account assets, including, but not limited to, class action lawsuits.). The Registrant shall vote proxies in accordance with its Proxy Voting Policy, a copy of which is available upon request. The Registrant shall monitor corporate actions of individual issuers and investment companies consistent with the Registrant's fiduciary duty to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients. Although the factors which Registrant will consider when determining how it will vote differ on a case by case basis, they may, but are not be limited to, include the following a review of recommendations from issuer management, shareholder proposals, cost effects of such proposals, effect on employees and executive and director compensation. With respect to individual issuers, the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including corporate governance, adoption or amendments to compensation plans (including stock options), and matters involving social issues and corporate responsibility. With respect to investment companies (e.g., mutual funds), the Registrant may be solicited to vote on matters including the approval of advisory contracts, distribution plans, and mergers. The Registrant shall maintain records pertaining to proxy voting as required pursuant to Rule 204-2 (c) (2) under the Advisers Act. Copies of Rules 206(4)-6 and 204-2(c) (2) are available upon written request. In addition, information pertaining to how the Registrant voted on any specific proxy issue is also available upon written request. Requests should be made by contacting the Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Benjamin Nostrand.

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

- A. The Registrant does not solicit or require prepayment of fees of \$1,200 or more six months or more in advance.



- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

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