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ITEM 1 | Cover

# Part 2A of Form ADV Firm Brochure

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of the Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services divisions of Mesirow Financial Investment Management, Inc. ("MFIM"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact 312.595.6081 or [ADVinquiries@mesirow.com](mailto:ADVinquiries@mesirow.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") or by any state securities authority. Additional information about Mesirow Financial Investment Management, Inc., is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The site may be searched by a unique identifying number known as a "CRD number." MFIM's CRD number is 111135.

Mesirow refers to Mesirow Financial Holdings, Inc. and its divisions, subsidiaries and affiliates. The Mesirow name and logo are registered service marks of Mesirow Financial Holdings, Inc. © 2021. All rights reserved.

## ITEM 2 | Material Changes

MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services' Form ADV Part 2A, currently dated June 24, 2021, and as amended from time to time, is MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services' disclosure document prepared based on the Security and Exchange Commission's regulatory requirements. MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services is required to update this document at least annually, or when an event occurs that may be deemed to have a material impact on MFIM Investment Advisory's investment management business and/or on its clients, or when a disciplinary event occurs.

MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services have no disciplinary events to report or disclose.

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## ITEM 4 | Advisory Business

MFIM, an Illinois corporation formed in 1986, is an investment advisor registered with the SEC with its principal place of business located in Illinois. MFIM's sole shareholder is Mesirow Financial Services, Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mesirow Financial Holdings, Inc.

MFIM does not provide tax or legal advice. Clients should consult with an expert on tax or legal issues. For private clients, MFIM Wealth Management offers both discretionary and non-discretionary services.

### WEALTH MANAGEMENT CLIENTS

MFIM Wealth Management assists clients with both investment management and financial planning services. MFIM Wealth Management primarily assists in preparing an Investment Policy Statement based on a particular client's investment objectives and sets asset allocation targets based on these objectives. MFIM Wealth Management then constructs an investment portfolio based on asset allocation targets. Quantitative and qualitative measures are used to evaluate the portfolio on an ongoing basis, as well as to evaluate the performance of the portfolio in relation to the client's Investment Policy Statement. MFIM Wealth Management can engage third-party investment managers or sub-advisors specializing in distinct objectives as part of implementing an overall investment strategy. MFIM can also utilize proprietary investments, including publicly-traded mutual funds and private alternative investment products.

MFIM Wealth Management also internally manages a discretionary micro cap strategy (herein referred to as the "Micro Cap Strategy"). This strategy is designed to qualitatively research and build diversified portfolios providing exposure to the smallest and least liquid portion of the U.S. equity market.

MFIM Wealth Management also internally manages an Impact Management strategy (herein referred to as "Impact Management"). This strategy is designed to build portfolios investing in companies that are known to be socially conscious, have a positive corporate culture and an impact on the community at large.

MFIM also internally manages a Quality Dividend Strategy. This strategy is designed to primarily invest in the equities of companies generating regular dividend income with the potential for capital appreciation.

Lastly, MFIM Wealth Management acts as investment manager to an affiliated private fund, the Wealth Advisors Feeder Fund I, L.P. (herein referred to as "WA Feeder Fund"), a Delaware Limited Partnership. Investment in the WA Feeder Fund is not open to the general public and is offered only to a limited number of qualified investors. The WA Feeder Fund was formed for the purpose of investing substantially all of its assets in the Acacia Conservation Fund, L.P. (the "Underlying Fund"), a Delaware Limited Partnership. As Investment Manager of the WA Feeder Fund, MFIM Wealth Management manages the fund's investments and certain administrative matters. The Mesirow Real Estate Value Fund IV Feeder, L.P. (herein referred to as the "Real Estate Feeder Fund") is not open to the general public and is offered only to qualified MFIM Wealth Management clients. The Real Estate Feeder Fund was formed for the purpose of investing substantially all of its assets in the Mesirow Financial Real Estate Value Fund IV, L.P., managed by an affiliated MFIM entity and available to institutional investors. The Real Estate Feeder Fund is managed by an affiliated MFIM entity and has been established for the purpose of investing exclusively by MFIM Wealth Management clients. In addition to the private funds listed herein, MFIM Wealth Management can make available certain other private funds or alternative investment strategies either directly or through allocations into other funds investing in those strategies

## RETIREMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

MFIM Retirement Advisory Services also provides services, which include providing retirement plan sponsors comprehensive consulting services by assisting plans in establishing and/or maintaining a consistent and ongoing documented process of prudent oversight and due diligence.

MFIM's Retirement Advisory Services serves as an ERISA 3(38) investment manager for Participant Managed Accounts (PMA) on various employer sponsored retirement plan provider platforms. Additionally, MFIM's Retirement Advisory Services serves as an ERISA 3(38) investment manager for a Pooled Employer Plan (PEP) whereas Newport Group Inc. (Newport) serves as the Pooled Plan Provider.

MFIM's Mesirow SMART Portfolios® program is an easy-to-use online tool that provides access to professional, institutional-quality portfolio management through a secure and low-cost investment product.

## WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND RETIREMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

As of March 31, 2021, MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services had approximately \$7.02 billion in assets on a discretionary basis and \$1.18 billion in assets on a non-discretionary basis, with an additional \$13.76 billion in assets under advisement.

## ITEM 5 | Fees and Compensation

### WEALTH MANAGEMENT CLIENTS

MFIM Wealth Management provides investment advisory services to clients for an annual fee. Clients generally pay an investment advisory fee based on a percentage of assets under management and under advisement. Fees based on either AUM or AUA typically are established at a rate of 1.0%, but can deviate based on account size, client's aggregate assets under management/advisement, complexity of financial planning services provided, and other reasons not listed. Alternatively, some clients may pay a flat annual rate as negotiated with MFIM Wealth Management for planning and/or investment advisory services. At a minimum, MFIM Wealth Management can enforce an annual fee of \$4,000.

Sub-advisors and third-party investment managers generally charge a separate management fee in addition to MFIM's management fee. The separate fee is determined by the sub-advisor and is only applied to assets managed in a segregated separately managed account. The specific sub-advisor fees are disclosed to clients at the time of onboarding and will depend on the specific third-party manager being used to execute a specific investment strategy. Certain sub-advisors may be accessed through third-party platforms which also contain certain additional administrative or platform fees. Those additional fees are disclosed at the time of onboarding and will depend on the specific third-party platform used to execute the investment strategy.

MFIM Wealth Management Micro Cap Strategy charges a maximum fee of 1.5% of AUM. Minimum investment for the program is \$250,000. MFIM Wealth Management may in its sole discretion waive the minimum for investment.

MFIM Impact Management charges a maximum fee of 1.5% of AUM.

MFIM Quality Dividend Strategy generally charges a fee consistent with the client's annual advisory fee.

Private Funds and other alternative investments offered will contain investment advisory fees as well as other expenses, such as accounting, tax and audit expenses, legal fees, and ongoing administrative expenses. Private funds that invest in an underlying fund managed by an affiliated or unaffiliated fund manager typically will also incur the underlying fund manager's associated fees and expenses, and such fees and expenses are generally allocated to clients on a pro-rata basis. MFIM Wealth Management will receive compensation for advisory services relating to private funds or alternative

investments, including investments where MFIM Wealth Management or an affiliate thereof serves as the general partner and/or investment manager.

Additional details on fees relating to Private Funds and/or Alternative Investments can be found in relevant offering memorandum and other governing documents.

For investments in proprietary products, MFIM Wealth Management will receive compensation for advisory services while an affiliate receives separate compensation as investment manager.

## RETIREMENT ADVISORY SERVICES CLIENTS

Annual advisory fees for employer sponsored defined contribution and defined benefit retirement plans have been established within the following minimum annual fee ranges:

Retirement plans under \$5,000,000	0.50%
Retirement plans between \$5,000,000 and \$20,000,000	0.25%
Retirement plans between \$20,000,000 and \$50,000,000	0.20%
Retirement plans over \$50,000,000	typically pay a flat fee

MFIM's Retirement Advisory Services PMA program fees are charged at specified intervals and are typically 50 bps or less per year.

MFIM's Retirement Advisory Services PEP program fees are paid to MFIM by Newport for its investment management services.

Additional details on fees relating to the PEP can be found in the fee schedule of the PEP contract and other governing documents.

MFIM's Mesirow SMART Portfolios® program fees are charged at specified intervals and are typically 36 bps per year. Minimum investment for the program is \$5,000.

## WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND RETIREMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

Management fees are generally to be paid quarterly in advance. However, there may be instances when fees are billed in arrears, including certain alternative investments and third-party managers or sub-advisors. For purposes of determining the management fees, the value of the assets under management is based on information provided by the custodian of the assets. In the event an account terminates, the unearned management fee will be refunded based upon the number of days during the quarter the account was not under management. For non-retirement advisory services, management fees are typically deducted from the custodial account and paid directly to MFIM.

In connection with the purchase or recommendation of mutual funds, in the event Mesirow Financial, Inc. ("MFI"), MFIM's broker/dealer affiliate, is appointed as the broker/dealer of record, MFI can and does receive Rule 12b-1 fees from certain mutual funds. In those instances, the client's advisory fees will be reduced and offset by the amount of the Rule 12b-1 fees received by MFI to mitigate any incentive or conflict. MFI can also receive and retain fees received in connection with such mutual fund transactions for performing services related to shareholder accounting and related communications.

In addition, some mutual fund companies pay revenue on amounts invested in non-transaction fee funds. As part of its agreement with its clearing firm, Mesirow Financial will receive some of this revenue. As not all funds pay revenues on non-transaction fee funds, Mesirow Financial is incentivized to purchase shares of mutual funds that pay revenues.

### **Limited Negotiability of Advisory Fees**

MFIM retains the discretion to negotiate alternative fees on a client-by-client basis. Client facts, circumstances and needs will be considered in determining the fee schedule. These facts, circumstances and needs may include, among other factors, the complexity of the client; assets to be placed under management; anticipated future additional assets; related accounts; portfolio style; account composition; and reporting requirements. The specific annual fee schedule will be identified in the contract between MFIM and each client.

Discounts, not generally available to our advisory clients, are offered to employees, family members and friends of associated persons of MFIM.

### **Termination of the Advisory Relationship**

Clients may generally terminate their investment management agreement upon providing five (5) days prior written notice. Certain fees are paid in advance of services provided. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees are generally refunded. In calculating a client's reimbursement of fees, MFIM will prorate the reimbursement according to the number of days remaining in the billing period. For those clients that utilize outside managers that bill in arrears, such as sub-advisors or third-party managers, if the Account is terminated before the end of a calendar quarter or if the Account is transferred from MFIM in its entirety before the end of a calendar quarter, the outside manager fee will be charged calculated based on the amount of time the account was opened during the quarter prior to account termination.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker/dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker/dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Clients have a choice on where to custody their assets, and therefore such fees and expenses vary between clients. Additionally, some fees listed on the Mesirow Financial Fee sheet are marked up from the cost to Mesirow, or are additional fees not specifically tied to any Mesirow cost, and the additional revenue is retained by Mesirow and used to offset costs of business operations. MFIM's affiliated broker, MFI, receives revenue based on client's free credit balances, debit balances, margin balances, money market sweep funds and will receive revenue based on other clearing or custody related fees.

### **Grandfathering of Minimum Account Requirements**

Pre-existing advisory clients are subject to minimum account requirements and advisory fees in effect at the time the client entered into the advisory relationship. Therefore, minimum account requirements will differ among clients.

### **ERISA Accounts**

In certain circumstances, MFIM is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include, among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation.

### **Mesirow Financial Managed Funds**

MFIM offers mutual funds and other funds that are managed by different MFIM business units. Clients who invest in the MFIM funds will normally pay fees to both their Mesirow Financial advisor and to the Mesirow Financial business unit that manages the fund. Due to collecting multiple fees from wealth advisor or RAS clients invested in Mesirow Financial managed funds, and other revenues generated from fund investments, Mesirow Financial is highly incentivized to choose Mesirow Financial managed funds, or to encourage clients to invest in Mesirow Financial managed funds.

## **Advisory Fees in General**

Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers.

## **Limited Prepayment of Fees**

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

## **Educational Events**

MFIM employees benefit from educational events sponsored by service providers to MFIM, such as law firms, audit firms and other professional services firms.

## **ITEM 6 | Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management**

MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services do not charge performance-based fees.

## **ITEM 7 | Types of Clients**

MFIM provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- Corporations or other businesses
- Pension and profit sharing plans
- Non-qualified plans
- State or municipal government entities
- Charitable organizations

## **ITEM 8 | Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

### **METHOD OF ANALYSIS**

#### **Wealth Management**

In developing an Investment Policy Statement for clients, MFIM Wealth Management typically considers the following factors:

- Short- and long-term objectives for asset growth, income, liquidity, tax efficiency
- Risk tolerance and time horizon
- Asset allocation targets
- Specific guidelines and preferences about investments that will be included in or excluded from a client's portfolio

MFIM Wealth Management analyzes a vast universe of data in order to select investments that meet our standards of quality and fit within the client's risk profile. Investments are typically made in mutual funds, equities, fixed income products, and alternative investments. The focus of the due diligence process is to identify investments with integrity,



strong organizations, consistent style and a successful track record. To do this, the following issues are typically evaluated:

- Historical performance
- Company fundamentals
- Investment style
- Historical taxability
- Manager incentives
- Fixed-income creditworthiness
- Corporations or other businesses
- State or municipal government entities
- Trading liquidity

MFIM Wealth Management Micro Cap and Ultra Micro Cap Strategies perform due diligence to create a diversified portfolio of micro cap and ultra micro cap equities. The following factors are considered when evaluating a potential holding in the portfolio:

- Trading liquidity
- Earnings quality and growth potential
- Company management strength
- Quality of business model

Company's use of cash flow and investor capital Risks include risk of loss of principal and limited liquidity.

MFIM Quality dividend Strategy performs due diligence to create portfolios of the equities of companies generating regular dividend income with the potential for capital appreciation. The following factors are considered when evaluating a potential holding in the portfolio

- Business Quality
- Financial Health
- Valuation

### **Retirement Advisory Services**

MFIM's Retirement Advisory Services division performs comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research and analysis customized for clients, which generally includes the following activities: (i) analyzing plan expenses; (ii) setting guidelines for prudent investment practices; (iii) creating a diversified investment menu; (iv) educating plan participants; (v) performing ongoing due diligence of investment managers and vendors; and (vi) documenting the due diligence process.

MFIM's PMA program is administered through algorithmic allocation and trading technology that is provided by and integrated with each retirement plan provider's platform. Portfolios are created using various individual participant data points available in the provider's recordkeeping system. These data points are used to customize an allocation and glide path for each participant that is specific to their individual circumstances. Customized portfolios are constructed and monitored by our dedicated investment committee. The system includes an automated investment engine through which we manage the client's portfolio on an ongoing basis.

MFIM's Mesirow SMART Portfolios® combine asset management with a technology solution developed by Schwab Performance Technologies® ("SPT") called Institutional Intelligent Portfolios. The platform is available exclusively through independent investment advisory firms for their clients who open or maintain a brokerage account at Charles Schwab & Co, (CS&Co) an affiliate of SPT. MFIM is independent of and not owned by, affiliated with, or sponsored or supervised by SPT, CS&Co or their affiliates.

The platform enables us to make the program available to clients online and includes a system that automates certain key parts of our investment process. The system will utilize client responses to an Investor Profile Questionnaire to assess their risk capacity and risk willingness and map each client to one of our customized portfolios. Customized portfolios are constructed and monitored by our dedicated investment committee. The system includes an automated investment engine through which we manage the client's portfolio on an ongoing basis through automatic rebalancing and tax-loss harvesting (if the client is eligible and elects). This rebalancing function is an algorithm that is designed to maintain each client's target allocation by asset class. The algorithm has no impact on the underlying investments of the overall portfolio recommended to the client as a part of the account opening process. Rebalancing conditions:

- The percentage allocation of an ETF varies by a set parameter;
- MFIM decides to change the ETFs or their percentage allocations for a particular investment strategy;
- MFIM decides to change a client's investment strategy, which could occur, for example, when a client makes a change to their investment profile or imposes or modifies restrictions on the management of their account.

MFIM has the ability under the program to suspend trading in the event of extreme market volatility.

MFIM's PEP program allows individual qualified retirement plans to pool assets together in the same retirement plan, providing benefits such as reduced plan expenses and reduced fiduciary liabilities. Newport acts as the PEP's Pooled Plan Provider (PPP). Mesirow acts as ERISA 3(38) investment fiduciary. Morningstar acts as the Advisor Managed Account technology provider.

MFIM, as the PEP's 3(38) investment fiduciary, provides the following services:

- Develop and adopt an Investment Policy Statement appropriate for the PEP
- Investment Menu Construction and oversight
- Provide a discretionary asset management program designed for plan participants
- PEP oversight and compliance

## FORMS OF RISK

### Mutual Fund Investing

Investments in mutual funds are subject to market risks such as absence of liquidity in markets or fluctuations in market prices beyond the control of the managers, resulting in investment objectives of the fund not being achieved.

### Past Performance

Past performance of a particular investment is not indicative of the future performance.

### Asset Allocation Models

While asset allocation models are believed to result in a diversified portfolio of investments, diversification does not protect against market risks and does not assume profit.

### Risks for All Forms of Analysis

MFIM's analysis methods rely on publicly-available sources of information, which may not be reliable and are assumed to be accurate and unbiased data. While MFIM is confident that the data is accurate, there is always a risk that MFIM's analysis may be compromised by limited, inaccurate or misleading information.

Risk of Loss Investments are not guaranteed and can lose some or all of its value.

## ITEM 9 | Disciplinary Information

MFIM and its management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

## ITEM 10 | Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation by MFIM and its management persons or employees creates a conflict of interest that potentially impairs the objectivity of MFIM and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. MFIM endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment advisor. MFIM typically takes the following steps to address and to mitigate any potential conflicts:

- MFIM discloses to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest;
- MFIM collects, maintains and documents accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's investment mandates, financial goals, objectives and risk tolerance;
- MFIM's management conducts regular reviews of each client account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are suitable for the client's needs and circumstances;
- MFIM requires that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity to ensure that any conflicts of interest in such activities are properly addressed;
- MFIM periodically monitors outside employment activities of its employees to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed; and
- MFIM educates its employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need to have a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

MFIM's affiliate has a clearing relationship with National Financial Services, a Fidelity company ("NFS") however; clients have the authority to select custodians. Certain employees of MFIM may be separately licensed as registered representatives of MFI. These individuals, in their separate capacity, can and do at

certain times, effect securities transactions for which they will receive separate, yet customary compensation.

MFIM Wealth Management Director of Research currently participates on the advisory board of Grubb Properties Qualified Opportunity Zone Fund, a private investment in which MFIM Wealth Management recommends certain clients invest. This is an unpaid outside business activity.

## ITEM 11 | Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

MFIM has adopted a Code of Ethics that sets forth the ethical standards of business conduct that MFIM requires of its employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

MFIM and its personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics, but also to the general principles that guide the Code of Ethics.

MFIM's Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by MFIM's access persons. MFIM has additional policies and procedures relating to the preclearance of all employee trades (other than securities deemed exempt from this obligation). MFIM's Code of Ethics also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

MFIM's Code of Ethics further includes policies and procedures governing gifts and entertainment, outside business activities, confidentiality of information and information barriers, and charitable and political contributions. The Code of Ethics also prohibits the misuse of material non-public information and emphasizes the avoidance of conflicts of interest with investors. Each employee must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics on an annual basis. Any employee who violates the Code of Ethics may be subject to possible actions, which may include enhanced supervision, censure, suspension or termination.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email ([maryjo.hayes@mesirow.com](mailto:maryjo.hayes@mesirow.com)) or by phone (312.595.6512).

MFIM is part of a group of affiliated financial services companies that perform a number of different services for a client. MFIM is mindful of the conflicts or potential conflicts that such relationships create.

Consequently, MFIM has adopted a Code of Conduct that prescribes standards of conduct required of all employees, regardless of their position or affiliation in the group. The Code prohibits self-dealing and other improper activities, the misuse of material non-public information, and it emphasizes the avoidance of conflicts of interest with clients. Some specific areas of potential conflict are discussed below.

MFIM and/or individuals associated with it can buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) can have an interest or position in certain securities that may also be recommended to a client. However, it is the expressed policy of MFIM that no person employed by MFIM can purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing such employee(s) from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

MFIM does not aggregate employee trades with client transactions.

MFIM, through MFI, can direct the purchase or sale in securities on a principal basis in accordance with Section 206(3) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

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

1. No principal or employee of MFIM can put his or her own interest above the interest of an advisory client.
2. No principal or employee of MFIM can buy or sell securities for their personal portfolio(s) based on information received as a result of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public.
3. It is the expressed policy of MFIM that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account.
4. MFIM requires prior approval for any IPO or private placement investments.
5. MFIM maintains a list of all reportable securities holdings for our firm and anyone associated with this advisory practice that has access to advisory recommendations ("access person"). These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by the appropriate designated supervisor.
6. MFIM has established procedures for the maintenance of all required books and records.
7. For accounts custodied at NFS, clients are fully informed that related persons can receive separate commission compensation when effecting transactions during the implementation process.
8. Clients can decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where MFIM is granted discretionary authority.
9. All of MFIM's principals and employees must act in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
10. MFIM requires delivery and acknowledgement of the Code of Ethics by each access person.
11. MFIM has established policies requiring the reporting of Code of Ethics violations to senior management.

Any individual who violates any of the above restrictions may be subject to possible actions, which may include enhanced supervision, censure, suspension or termination.

## ITEM 12 | Brokerage Trading Practices

For equity and fixed income securities, MFIM will endeavor to select those brokers/dealers that will provide the best services at the lowest potential commission rates possible. The reasonableness of commissions is based on the broker's stability, reputation, ability to provide professional services, access to relevant markets, expertise in particular securities markets, competitive commission rates and prices, research, trading platform, and other services that will help MFIM in providing investment management services to clients.

The authority to select brokers/dealers is set forth in the investment advisory agreement signed by the client to establish an account.

MFIM Wealth Management and Retirement Advisory Services do not have any soft-dollar arrangements and do not receive any soft-dollar benefits.

MFIM Wealth Management Micro Cap Strategy accounts are opened and custodied at Charles Schwab & Co. MFIM has a soft dollar arrangement for Micro Cap accounts.

MFIM Mesirow SMART Portfolios® program accounts are opened and custodied at Charles Schwab & Co.

Where MFIM selects MFI to execute transactions, the client should consider the following: (i) although MFIM believes that MFI's commission rates are competitive with other full service brokers, there has been no arms-length negotiation to receive the lowest possible commission rate; and (ii) for some accounts there

will be an incentive on MFIM's part to engage in or recommend more trading with respect to investment management services (or conversely less trading).

MFIM does not usually engage in agency cross transactions whereby it has discretion over two accounts, or MFI, acts simultaneously as a broker for accounts (which may be an advisory or brokerage account) and buys from or sells to another account. However, under certain circumstances, MFIM can determine that it is beneficial to both accounts to transact in the same security with each other. Depending on the size of the transaction and the volume and liquidity of the market, MFIM can decide that crossing the two orders will bring a better price or facilitate the time of an execution, as where, for example, one account may be selling to fulfill a withdrawal request and, simultaneously, another account buying to invest a contribution of funds.

A cross transaction will be made only with the prior and informed consent of MFIM's advisory clients or interpretations of the SEC permitting such transactions without client consent. Agency cross transactions will not be permitted for ERISA clients.

MFIM will block trades where possible and when advantageous to clients. This blocking of trades permits the trading of aggregate blocks of securities composed of assets from multiple client accounts, so long as transaction costs are shared equally and on a pro-rated basis between all accounts included in any such block. Clients should be aware that when MFIM places a blocked order, or an order aggregating the trades for a number of advisory accounts, if multiple fills are obtained, such orders are executed at an average daily price calculated by the broker/dealer. Likewise, in the event that a blocked order results in a partial execution, MFIM will allocate the securities bought or sold on a pro rata basis unless limited due to size constraints.

## ITEM 13 | Review of Accounts

### INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

MFIM Wealth Management has dedicated supervisors, as well as compliance, operational and internal audit staff, who monitor and provide oversight to the investment activities of supervised personnel. The supervisors, or their designees, review and monitor the activities of wealth advisors. Such activities include, but are not limited to, adhering to client guidelines and objectives, trading and best execution, employee trading, investment product due diligence, and marketing and advertising.

## ITEM 14 | Client Referrals and Other Compensation

### CLIENT REFERRALS

MFIM periodically enters into solicitor's arrangements with unrelated third parties ("Solicitors") where MFIM agrees to pay a portion of the fees derived from an account to the individual or entity that referred the account. Unless otherwise disclosed, the client is not charged any amount in addition to the customary advisory fee charged by MFIM. There is no

differential between the amount of or level of advisory fee charged by MFIM to the client, attributable to the existence of any Solicitor's arrangement and that charged to other clients of MFIM. MFIM at times pays referral compensation to its affiliates and/or their employees. Whenever MFIM pays a referral fee, we require the Solicitor to provide the prospective client with a copy of this document (our Firm Brochure) and a separate disclosure statement that includes the following information:

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

The advisory fees paid to MFIM by clients referred by solicitors, or by affiliates of MFIM and/or their employees, are not increased as a result of any referral fee.

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

MFIM also compensates affiliated personnel that work in other business units for referrals.

## ITEM 15 | Custody

MFIM Wealth Management clients choose which custodian will custody their assets. Most of MFIM Wealth Management clients choose to custody their assets at NFS, since MFIM Wealth Management's affiliate has a clearing relationship with NFS. MFIM Wealth Management and clients receive account statements from NFS. MFIM Wealth Management Micro Cap Strategy accounts are opened and custodied at Charles Schwab & Co.

MFIM has obtained and continues to obtain certain revenues from NFS and receives various operational and supervisory efficiencies when clients choose NFS as its custodian. In addition, MFIM's affiliated broker-dealer also receives revenues, including Correspondent Business Development Credits from NFS for maintaining its business relationships and customer accounts at NFS. Consequently, MFIM is incentivized to have clients choose NFS as their custodian over other custodians.

MFIM Wealth Management is deemed to have custody of client assets under the SEC's Custody Rule, 206(4)-2, due to the fact that a related person, as defined by the rule, serves as the general partner for the MFIM Wealth Management funds. MFIM Wealth Management complies with the Custody Rule requirements by annually sending audited financial statements to its investors.

Charles Schwab & Co. (CS & Co.) will also custody MFIM Mesirow SMART Portfolios® program assets and will deliver client statements at least quarterly. MFIM does not pay Schwab Performance Technologies® (SPT) a fee for its services in the Mesirow SMART Portfolios® program so long as MFIM maintains \$10 million in client assets for accounts at CS & Co. that are not enrolled in the program. If MFIM does not meet this condition, MFIM will pay SPT an annual fee of .10% on the value of our clients' assets in the program. This arrangement incentivizes MFIM to maintain assets in the program and creates a potential conflict between Client's interest and MFIM'S interest. Most Retirement Plan Advisory clients custody their assets at an outside custodian and receive statements from the custodian. **Due to the fact that MFIM Wealth Management does not custody client assets, clients are urged to carefully compare the information provided on**



statements to any report provided by MFIM Wealth Management to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

## ITEM 16 | Investment Discretion

Clients may engage MFIM to provide discretionary and non-discretionary asset management services. Clients give MFIM discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary investment management agreement with MFIM and may in certain circumstances limit or change/amend such limitations by giving MFIM written instructions.

## ITEM 17 | Voting Client Securities

MFIM's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures apply only in the event that MFIM has agreed, or been instructed, to vote proxies on behalf of a client. **Currently, the only groups within MFIM that have undertaken this responsibility are Equity Management, Wealth Management Micro Cap and Ultra Micro Cap Strategies, and MFIM Fixed Income High Yield.** Otherwise, it is the general policy of MFIM that the Firm's registered investment advisors and underlying groups do not vote proxies on behalf of clients. The following information regarding MFIM's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, therefore, applies only to Equity Management, Wealth Management Micro Cap and Ultra Micro Cap Strategies, and MFIM Fixed Income High Yield.

MFIM has adopted and implemented policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of clients, in accordance with its fiduciary duties and SEC rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. MFIM's authority to vote the proxies of certain of MFIM's clients is established by MFIM's advisory contracts executed by those clients, and MFIM's proxy voting policy and procedures have been tailored to reflect these specific contractual obligations. In addition to SEC requirements governing advisors, MFIM Proxy Voting Policies reflect the long-standing fiduciary standards and responsibilities for ERISA accounts required by the Department of Labor.

Except as otherwise agreed to in writing with a client, MFIM has no authority or obligation to take any action or render any advice with respect to the voting of proxies on behalf of a client.

With the exception as described below regarding MFIM's Fixed Income High Yield group, wherein MFIM has accepted discretionary authority to vote proxies on behalf of clients, MFIM has elected to utilize an outside, third-party, independent proxy voting service (the "Service"). There are four (4) separate sets of guidelines that are utilized by MFIM which are established by the Service, utilizing its expertise and standing within the financial services industry, as well as our own. In general, MFIM has instructed the Service to vote Taft-Hartley and other union related accounts in accordance with the Taft-Hartley proxy voting guidelines, Public Fund accounts in accordance with the Public Fund proxy voting guidelines, and clients investing our Small Cap Value Sustainable and SMID Cap Value Sustainable strategies in accordance with the Sustainability guidelines, each as established by the Service to be responsive to their particular concerns. All other accounts are generally instructed to be voted in accordance with the standard proxy voting guidelines established by the Service.

Specifically regarding MFIM's Fixed Income High Yield group, high yield bonds and leveraged loans are subject to amendments, waivers and other such modifications after they are issued. MFIM HY votes on these actions in the best interest of its clients, giving recognition to the effect on both the future prospects of the bond or loan as well as any fee or other consideration offered by the issuer to clients who consent. In addition, bonds or loans may become subject to restructuring proceedings, in or out of bankruptcy, in which case MFIM HY will act in its best judgment to maximize the



cash flow and value. If the restructuring results in clients owning equity of the issuer, MFIM HY will vote as a shareholder in any vote put to shareholders, including any proxy vote, in accordance with its best judgment of the clients' interests.

In the event that a client of MFIM requests information as to how a particular proxy had been voted on that client's behalf, MFIM will provide said information to the client in a timely manner. Under no circumstance will MFIM disclose to a third party how a proxy had been voted on behalf of a client without that client's expressed, written consent. Likewise, in the event that a client of MFIM requests a copy of MFIM's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, MFIM will provide said Policies and Procedures within a reasonable amount of time to the client at client's address of record.

MFIM has designated its Director of Operations as responsible for administering and overseeing the proxy voting process. MFIM is currently not aware of any potential conflicts of interest. However, should MFIM become aware of a conflict of interest, it will rely on, and the Service, where applicable, shall vote in accordance with, its pre-determined policies as set forth in the guidelines if application of such policies to the matter at hand involves discretion on the part of MFIM.

## ITEM 18 | Financial Information

MFIM has no additional financial circumstances to report.

MFIM has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past 10 years.