

# **Maryland Financial Group, Inc.**

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## **Wrap Program Disclosure Brochure**

**March 30, 2021**

This wrap fee program brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Maryland Financial Group, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (301) 251-8550. 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.

Maryland Financial Group, Inc. is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an adviser.

Additional information about Maryland Financial Group, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## Item 2 Summary of Material Changes

Since its last annual update of March 31, 2020, Maryland Financial Group, Inc. ("Maryland Financial, MFG, we, us, our, our"), we have made the following changes:

- This Disclosure Brochure was amended to disclose that our firm is affiliated with an insurance agency that is under common control and ownership with our firm. Please refer to Item 10 of this Disclosure Brochure for more information. If you have any questions about this change, please contact our firm's Chief Compliance Officer, Amy F. Cox, at (301) 251-8550.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any other material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary. We will further provide you with a new Brochure as necessary based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge.

Currently, our brochure maybe requested by contacting Amy F. Cox, Chief Compliance Officer at (301) 251-8550 or [amycox@tmg-llc.net](mailto:amycox@tmg-llc.net). We will provide you with a new brochure at any time without charge.

Additional information about Maryland Financial Group is also available via the SEC's website [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The SEC's website also provides information about any persons affiliated with Maryland Financial Group, Inc. who are registered, or are required to be registered, as investment adviser representatives of Maryland Financial Group, Inc.

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## Item 4 Services, Fees and Compensation

### Services

Maryland Financial Group, Inc. ("MFG") is a corporation organized under the laws of Maryland. The Monitor Group, LLC acquired the Rockville, MD-based investment advisory firm in 2005 and is the principal owner. Christopher Cox and Amy Cox are the Managing Members and owners of The Monitor Group, LLC. MFG is registered as an investment advisory firm with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

MFG also offers its services under the following names:

- The Monitor Group, LLC
- Newcorp Wealth Strategies
- Legacy Wealth Management
- Coastal Wealth Management
- Barnett Wealth Advisors
- Integrigen Wealth Management
- MFG Business Design

Maryland Financial Group, Inc. ("Advisor") offers asset management services based on the individual needs of the client. This Brochure provides a description of the advisory services offered under the Maryland Financial Group wrap program. For more information about Advisor's other investment advisory services, please contact Advisor for a copy of a similar brochure that describes such services or go to [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

In the Maryland Financial Group Wrap program, Advisor provides ongoing investment advice and management on assets in the client's account. Advisor provides advice on the purchase and sale of various types of investments, such as mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), variable annuity subaccounts, equities, fixed income securities. Advisor provides advice that is tailored to the individual needs of the client based on the investment objective chosen by the client. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or groups of securities by indicating in the written advisory agreement with Advisor.

Advisor provides management services on a discretionary basis. The client authorizes the Advisor to have discretion by signing an advisory agreement.

Assets for program accounts are held at LPL Financial ("LPL") as custodian. LPL also acts as executing broker/dealer for transactions placed in program accounts, and provides other administrative services as described throughout this Brochure.

As of March 12, 2021, we managed approximately \$810,344,763 million in client assets on a discretionary basis and approximately \$0 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis. Information about our asset management services is available upon request.

### Fees

In the Maryland Financial Group Wrap program, clients pay Advisor a single annual advisory fee for advisory services and execution of transactions. Clients do not pay brokerage commissions, markups or transaction charges for execution of transactions in addition to the advisory fee. The advisory fee is negotiable between the client and the Advisor and is set out in the advisory agreement. The advisory fee is a percentage based on the value of all assets in the account, including cash holdings. The

advisory fee may be higher than the fee charged by other investment advisors for similar services. The advisory fee is paid to Advisor and is shared between Advisor and its associated persons. Advisor does not accept performance-based fees for program accounts.

<b>Assets under Management</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Fee</b>
\$0 to \$249,999	2.35%
Next \$250,000 to \$499,999	2.00%
Next \$500,000 to \$999,999	1.75%
Next \$1,000,000	1.50%

The advisory fee is deducted from the account by LPL as the custodian of assets based on a written authorization from the client. LPL calculates and deducts the advisory fee quarterly in advance. If the advisory agreement is terminated before the end of the quarterly period, client is entitled to a pro-rated refund of any pre-paid quarterly advisory fee based on the number of days remaining in the quarter after the termination date.

Although clients do not pay a transaction charge for transactions in a program account, clients should be aware that Advisor pays LPL transaction charges for the transactions. The transaction charges paid by Advisor vary based on the type of transaction (e.g., mutual fund, equity or fixed income security) and range from \$0 to \$50. Because Advisor pays the transaction charges in program accounts, there is a conflict of interest. Clients should understand that the cost to Advisor of transaction charges may be a factor that the Advisor considers when deciding which securities to select and how frequently to place transactions in a program account.

### **Other Types of Fees and Charges**

Program accounts will incur additional fees and charges from parties other than the Advisor as noted below. These fees and charges are in addition to the advisory fee paid to Advisor. Advisor does not share in any portion of these third party fees.

LPL, as the custodian and broker-dealer providing brokerage and execution services on program accounts, will impose certain fees and charges. LPL notifies clients of these charges at account opening and makes available a list of these fees and charges on its website at [www.lpl.com](http://www.lpl.com). LPL will deduct these fees and charges directly from the client's program account.

There are other fees and charges that are imposed by other third parties that apply to investments in program accounts. Some of these fees and charges are described below.

- If a client's assets are invested in mutual funds or other pooled investment products, clients should be aware that there will be two layers of advisory fees and expenses for those assets. Client will pay an advisory fee to the fund manager and other expenses as a shareholder of the fund. Client will also pay Advisor the advisory fee with respect to those assets. Most of the mutual funds available in the program may be purchased directly. Therefore, clients could generally avoid the second layer of fees by not using the management services of Advisor and by making their own investment decisions.
- Certain mutual funds impose fees and charges such as contingent deferred sales charges, early redemption fees and charges for frequent trading. These charges may apply if client transfers into or purchases such a fund with the applicable charges in a program account.
- Although only no-load and load-waived mutual funds can be purchased in a program account, client should understand that some mutual funds pay asset based sales charges or service fees

(e.g., 12b-1 fees) to the custodian with respect to account holdings.

- If client holds a variable annuity as part of an account, there are mortality, expense and administrative charges, fees for additional riders on the contract and charges for excessive transfers within a calendar year imposed by the variable annuity sponsor.

Further information regarding fees assessed by a mutual fund, or variable annuity is available in the appropriate prospectus, which is available upon request from the Advisor or from the product sponsor directly.

### **Other Important Considerations**

- The advisory fee is an ongoing wrap fee for investment advisory services, the execution of transactions and other administrative and custodial services. The advisory fee may cost the client more than purchasing the program services separately, for example, paying an advisory fee plus commissions for each transaction in the account. Factors that bear upon the cost of the account in relation to the cost of the same services purchased separately include the type and size of the account, historical and or expected size or number of trades for the account, and number and range of supplementary advisory and client-related services provided to the client.
- The advisory fee also may cost the client more than if assets were held in a traditional brokerage account. In a brokerage account, a client is charged a commission for each transaction, and the representative has no duty to provide ongoing advice with respect to the account. If the client plans to follow a buy and hold strategy for the account or does not wish to purchase ongoing investment advice or management services, the client should consider opening a brokerage account rather than a program account.
- The Advisor recommending the program to the client receives compensation as a result of the client's participation in the program. This compensation includes the advisory fee and also may include other compensation, such as bonuses, awards or other things of value offered by LPL to the Advisor or its associated persons. The amount of this compensation may be more or less than what the Advisor would receive if the client participated in other LPL programs, programs of other investment advisors or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage and other client services. Therefore, the Advisor may have a financial incentive to recommend a program account over other programs and services.
- The investment products available to be purchased in the program can be purchased by clients outside of a program account, through broker-dealers or other investment firms not affiliated with Advisor.

## **Item 5 Account Requirements and Types of Clients**

A minimum account value of \$25,000 is generally required for the program. We, at our sole discretion, may accept clients with smaller portfolios based upon certain factors including:

- anticipated future earning capacity,
- anticipated future additional assets,
- account composition,
- related accounts (including family members), and
- pre-existing client relationships

We provide advisory services primarily to high net worth individuals, including their trusts, estates and retirement accounts. We also provide services to corporations or business entities including their pension and profit sharing plans.

## Item 6 Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation

In the Maryland Financial Group Wrap program, Advisor does not select, review or recommend other investment advisors or portfolio managers. Advisor, through its associated persons, is responsible for the investment advice and management offered to clients. Advisor generally requires that individuals involved in determining or giving investment advice have experience with large retail bank and/or brokerage firms.

For more information about the associated person of Advisor managing the account, client should refer to the Brochure Supplement for the associated person, which client should have received along with this Brochure at the time client opened the account.

LPL performs certain administrative services for Advisor, including generation of quarterly performance reports for program accounts. Client will receive an individual quarterly performance report, which provides performance information on a time weighted basis. The performance reports are intended to inform clients as to how their investments have performed for a period, both on an absolute basis and compared to leading investment indices.

### Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

- **Alternative Strategy Mutual Funds.** Certain mutual funds available in the program invest primarily in alternative investments and/or strategies. Investing in alternative investments and/or strategies may not be suitable for all investors and involves special risks, such as risks associated with commodities, real estate, leverage, selling securities short, the use of derivatives, potential adverse market forces, regulatory changes and potential illiquidity. There are special risks associated with mutual funds that invest principally in real estate securities, such as sensitivity to changes in real estate values and interest rates and price volatility because of the fund's concentration in the real estate industry.
- **Closed-End Funds.** Client should be aware that closed-end funds available within the program are not readily marketable. In an effort to provide investor liquidity, the funds may offer to repurchase a certain percentage of shares at net asset value on a periodic basis. Thus, clients may be unable to liquidate all or a portion of their shares in these types of funds.
- **Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs).** ETFs are typically investment companies that are legally classified as open end mutual funds or UITs. However, they differ from traditional mutual funds, in particular, in that ETF shares are listed on a securities exchange. Shares can be bought and sold throughout the trading day like shares of other publicly-traded companies. ETF shares may trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. This difference between the bid price and the ask price is often referred to as the "spread." The spread varies over time based on the ETF's trading volume and market liquidity, and is generally lower if the ETF has a lot of trading volume and market liquidity and higher if the ETF has little trading volume and market liquidity. Although many ETFs are registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940 like traditional mutual funds, some ETFs, in particular those that invest in commodities, are not registered as an investment company.
- **Exchange-Traded Notes (ETNs).** An ETN is a senior unsecured debt obligation designed to track the total return of an underlying market index or other benchmark. ETNs may be linked to



a variety of assets, for example, commodity futures, foreign currency and equities. ETNs are similar to ETFs in that they are listed on an exchange and can typically be bought or sold throughout the trading day. However, an ETN is not a mutual fund and does not have a net asset value; the ETN trades at the prevailing market price. Some of the more common risks of an ETN are as follows. The repayment of the principal, interest (if any), and the payment of any returns at maturity or upon redemption are dependent upon the ETN issuer's ability to pay. In addition, the trading price of the ETN in the secondary market may be adversely impacted if the issuer's credit rating is downgraded. The index or asset class for performance replication in an ETN may or may not be concentrated in a specific sector, asset class or country and may therefore carry specific risks.

- **Leveraged and Inverse ETFs, ETNs and Mutual Funds.** Leveraged ETFs, ETNs and mutual funds, sometimes labeled "ultra" or "2x" for example, are designed to provide a multiple of the underlying index's return, typically on a daily basis. Inverse products are designed to provide the opposite of the return of the underlying index, typically on a daily basis. These products are different from and can be riskier than traditional ETFs, ETNs and mutual funds. Although these products are designed to provide returns that generally correspond to the underlying index, they may not be able to exactly replicate the performance of the index because of fund expenses and other factors. This is referred to as tracking error. Continual re-setting of returns within the product may add to the underlying costs and increase the tracking error. As a result, this may prevent these products from achieving their investment objective. In addition, compounding of the returns can produce a divergence from the underlying index over time, in particular for leveraged products. In highly volatile markets with large positive and negative swings, return distortions are magnified over time. Because of these distortions, these products should be actively monitored, as frequently as daily, and are generally not appropriate as an intermediate or long-term holding. To accomplish their objectives, these products use a range of strategies, including swaps, futures contracts and other derivatives. These products may not be diversified and can be based on commodities or currencies. These products may have higher expense ratios and be less tax-efficient than more traditional ETFs, ETNs and mutual funds.
- **Options.** Certain types of option trading are permitted in order to generate income or hedge a security held in the program account; namely, the selling (writing) of covered call options or the purchasing of put options on a security held in the program account. Client should be aware that the use of options involves additional risks. The risks of covered call writing include the potential for the market to rise sharply. In such case, the security may be called away and the program account will no longer hold the security. The risk of buying long puts is limited to the loss of the premium paid for the purchase of the put if the option is not exercised or otherwise sold by the program account.
- **Structured Products.** Structured products are securities derived from another asset, such as a security or a basket of securities, an index, a commodity, a debt issuance, or a foreign currency. Structured products frequently limit the upside participation in the reference asset. Structured products are senior unsecured debt of the issuing bank and subject to the credit risk associated with that issuer. This credit risk exists whether or not the investment held in the account offers principal protection. The creditworthiness of the issuer does not affect or enhance the likely performance of the investment other than the ability of the issuer to meet its obligations. Any payments due at maturity are dependent on the issuer's ability to pay. In addition, the trading price of the security in the secondary market, if there is one, may be adversely impacted if the issuer's credit rating is downgraded. Some structured products offer full protection of the principal invested, others offer only partial or no protection. Investors may be sacrificing a higher yield to obtain the principal guarantee. In addition, the principal guarantee relates to nominal principal and does not offer inflation protection. An investor in a



structured product never has a claim on the underlying investment, whether a security, zero coupon bond, or option. There may be little or no secondary market for the securities and information regarding independent market pricing for the securities may be limited. This is true even if the product has a ticker symbol or has been approved for listing on an exchange. Tax treatment of structured products may be different from other investments held in the account (e.g., income may be taxed as ordinary income even though payment is not received until maturity). Structured CDs that are insured by the FDIC are subject to applicable FDIC limits.

- **Hedge Funds and Managed Futures.** Hedge and managed futures funds are available for purchase in the program by clients meeting certain qualification standards. Investing in these funds involves additional risks including, but not limited to, the risk of investment loss due to the use of leveraging and other speculative investment practices and the lack of liquidity and performance volatility. In addition, these funds are not required to provide periodic pricing or valuation information to investors and may involve complex tax structures and delays in distributing important tax information. Client should be aware that these funds are not liquid as there is no secondary trading market available. At the absolute discretion of the issuer of the fund, there may be certain repurchase offers made from time to time. However, there is no guarantee that client will be able to redeem the fund during the repurchase offer.
- **Variable Annuities.** If client purchases a variable annuity that is part of the program, client will receive a prospectus and should rely solely on the disclosure contained in the prospectus with respect to the terms and conditions of the variable annuity. Client should also be aware that certain riders purchased with a variable annuity may limit the investment options and the ability to manage the subaccounts.
- **Margin Accounts.** Client should be aware that margin borrowing involves additional risks. Margin borrowing will result in increased gain if the value of the securities in the account go up, but will result in increased losses if the value of the securities in the account goes down. The custodian, acting as the client's creditor, will have the authority to liquidate all or part of the account to repay any portion of the margin loan, even if the timing would be disadvantageous to the client. For performance illustration purposes, the margin interest charge will be treated as a withdrawal and will, therefore, not negatively impact the performance figures reflected on the quarterly advisory reports.

It is important to note that no methodology or investment strategy is guaranteed to be successful or profitable. All investments involve risks that can result in loss:

- loss of principal,
- a reduction in earnings (including interest, dividends and other distributions), and
- the loss of future earnings

Additionally, these risks may include:

- market risk,
- interest rate risk,
- issuer risk, and
- general economic risk

Although we manage your portfolio in a manner consistent with your risk tolerances, we cannot guarantee that our efforts will be successful. You should be prepared to bear the risk of loss.

You must also be aware that the use of margin, options and short sales are higher risk strategies. It is possible to lose all of the principal you invest, and sometimes more. In a cash account, your risk is limited to the amount of money that you have invested. In a margin account, your risk includes the amount of money invested plus the amount that has been loaned to you. When you short sell, your losses can be infinite.

### **Voting Client Securities**

Advisor does not accept authority to vote client securities. Clients retain the right to vote all proxies that are solicited for securities held in the account. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations from the custodian of assets. If clients have questions regarding the solicitation, they should contact the Advisor or the contact person that the issuer identifies in the proxy materials. In addition, Advisor does not accept authority to take action with respect to legal proceedings relating to securities held in the account.

## **Item 7 Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers**

In the Maryland Financial Group Wrap program, the Advisor is responsible for account management; there is no separate portfolio manager involved. The Advisor obtains the necessary financial data from the client and assists the client in setting an appropriate investment objective for the account. The Advisor obtains this information by having the client complete an advisory agreement and other documentation. Clients are encouraged to contact the Advisor if there have been any changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives or if they wish to impose any reasonable restrictions on the management of the account or reasonably modify existing restrictions. Client should be aware that the investment objective selected for the program is an overall objective for the entire account and may be inconsistent with a particular holding and the account's performance at any time. Client should further be aware that achievement of the stated investment objective is a long-term goal for the account.

## **Item 8 Client Contact with Portfolio Managers**

Client should contact Advisor at any time with questions regarding program account.

## **Item 9 Additional Information**

### **Disciplinary Information**

We have not been the subject of any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of our business or the integrity of our management.

### **Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Advisor is only in the business of providing investment advice.

Investment advisor representatives may also be registered representatives of LPL Financial LLC ("LPL"), an unaffiliated SEC registered and FINRA/SIPC member broker/dealer. In their capacity as registered representatives, these persons will receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by these persons in their capacities as registered representatives is

separate and in addition to our advisory fees. These practices present a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives have a financial incentive to effect securities transactions in accounts held with LPL.

Investment Adviser Representatives of our firm may also be registered as investment adviser representatives of LPL Financial LLC, an SEC registered investment adviser (and Broker-Dealer as disclosed above). Any compensation earned in this separate capacity is separate and apart from the advisory fees charged by our firm.

We are affiliated with ABC Holding of the MidAtlantic and Southeast, LLC through common control and ownership, an affiliated insurance agency. Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as insurance agents with this affiliate, other non-affiliated insurance agencies, or as independent insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products to you. Compensation earned by these persons in their capacities as licensed insurance agents is separate and in addition to our advisory fees. These practices present a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are licensed insurance agents have a financial incentive to sell you insurance products.

You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase securities and/or insurance products through any person or entity affiliated with our firm.

### **Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

A copy of Advisor's code of ethics is available to clients or prospective clients upon request by contacting Amy Cox at (301) 251-8550 or [amycox@tmg-llc.net](mailto:amycox@tmg-llc.net)

We have adopted a *Code of Ethics* ("*Code*") to address the securities-related conduct of our advisory representatives and employees. The *Code* includes our policies and procedures developed to protect your interests in relation to the following:

- the duty at all times to place your interests ahead of ours;
- that all personal securities transactions of our advisory representatives and employees be conducted in a manner consistent with the *Code* and avoid any actual or potential conflict of interest, or any abuse of an advisory representative's or employee's position of trust and responsibility;
- that advisory representatives may not take inappropriate advantage of their positions;
- that information concerning the identity of your security holdings and financial circumstances are confidential; and,
- that independence in the investment decision-making process is paramount

We will provide a copy of the *Code* to you or any prospective client upon request. We do not buy or sell securities for our firm that we also recommend to clients. However, our advisory representatives and employees are permitted to buy or sell the same securities for their personal and family accounts that are bought or sold for your account(s). The personal securities transactions by advisory representatives and employees may raise potential conflicts of interest when they trade in a security that is:

- owned by you or
- considered for purchase or sale for you

We have adopted policies and procedures that are intended to address these conflicts of interest. These policies and procedures:

- require our advisory representatives and employees to act in your best interest;
- prohibit favoring one client over another; and,
- provide for the review of transactions to discover and correct any same-day trades that result in an advisory representative or employee receiving a better price than a client.

Advisory representatives and employees must follow our procedures when purchasing or selling the same securities purchased or sold for you.

### **Review of Accounts**

In addition, all program accounts are subjected to a risk based exception reporting system that flags accounts on a quarterly basis for criteria such as performance, trading activity, and concentration. The exception reporting identifies accounts where additional scrutiny or analysis by Advisor may be appropriate.

During any month that there is activity in the program account, client will receive a monthly account statement from LPL showing account activity as well as positions held in the account at month end. Additionally, client will receive a confirmation of each transaction that occurs within the program account unless the transaction is the result of a systematic purchase, redemption or exchange. Client will also receive a detailed quarterly report showing performance, positions and activity from LPL.

### **Other Compensation**

Advisor and its associated persons may receive additional non-cash compensation from product sponsors. However, such compensation may not be tied to the sales of any products. Compensation may include such items as gifts valued at less than \$100 annually, an occasional dinner or ticket to a sporting event, or reimbursement in connection with educational meetings or marketing or advertising initiatives. Product sponsors may also pay for education or training events that may be attended by Advisor's employees and associated persons.

We may enter into written compensation agreements ("Solicitation Agreements") with certain unaffiliated parties. These parties pay Maryland Financial Group a "Solicitor's Fee", which is a percentage of the fee paid by referred clients. These payments are a portion of the fee customarily charged and do not result in an increase in the amount of the fee paid by clients. Before entering into a Solicitation Agreement, the CCO will confirm that the other party is registered with the appropriate regulatory authorities where required. Any solicitation or referral arrangements will comply with applicable laws that govern:

- the nature of the service;
- fees to be paid;
- disclosures to clients; and,
- any necessary client consents

If we will receive compensation as a Solicitor related to your account, you will receive a written disclosure identifying the Solicitor and describing the compensation arrangement.

### **Financial Information**

We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to you.

Our firm has an existing loan with LPL Financial resulting from transition and working capital loans. This arrangement is a conflict of interest that must be disclosed as there is a financial interest / obligation with LPL Financial for whom we primarily conduct our firm's trading activity. In efforts to mitigate this conflict, we provide this disclosure. Our firm and its investment adviser representatives are fiduciaries and will always act in our client's best interest.

## **Custody**

### *Fee Deduction*

Maryland Financial Group, Inc. does not have physical custody of client funds or securities but we may have constructive custody based on an ability to deduct advisory fees. A qualified custodian (LPL Financial or Schwab) maintains custody of client funds and securities in a separate account for each client under the client's name. The custodian sends account statements showing all transactions, positions, and all deposits and withdrawals of principal and income. Clients should carefully review those account statements.

### *Disbursement Authorization*

Our clients may establish standing authorization for our firm, through the client's acting custodian(s), to assist with client requested transfers and/or disbursements. Where we have standing authorization to transfer and/or disburse client funds, and such arrangements meet the criteria set forth in the SEC Custody Rule guidance (issued February 2017), we are deemed to have custody.

Consequently, we have taken steps to implement controls in efforts to comply with the SEC's Custody Rule guidance (SEC No-Action Letter dated February 21, 2017; SEC Custody Rule FAQ II.4; and, IM Guidance Update No. 2017-01), including, but not limited to: (1) adhering to the seven conditions specific to Standing Letters of Authorization delineated in the SEC No-Action Letter; and, (2) amending our Form ADV. Since many of the seven conditions involve the qualified custodian's operations, we will collaborate closely with our clients' acting custodian(s) in efforts to ensure that the representations are being satisfied.

We do not have physical custody of client funds or securities. All client assets are maintained with a qualified custodian.

### *Miscellaneous*

There are certain securities managed as part of the account that may be held at a third party. For example, variable annuities, hedge funds and managed futures are often held directly with the investment sponsor. For those outside positions, client will receive confirmations and statements directly from the investment sponsor.

For outside positions not custodied at LPL, LPL may receive information (e.g., number of shares held and market value) from the investment sponsor and display that information on statements and reports prepared by LPL. Such information also may be used to calculate performance in performance reports prepared by LPL. Although Advisor believes that the information provided by LPL is accurate, Advisor recommends that clients refer to the statements and reports received directly from the investment sponsor and compare them with the information provided in any statements or reports from LPL. The statements and reports provided by LPL with respect to outside positions should not replace the statements and reports received directly from the investment sponsor.

## Brokerage Practices

In the Maryland Financial Group Wrap program, Advisor requires that clients direct LPL as the sole and exclusive broker-dealer to execute transactions in the account. LPL is not paid a commission for executing transactions. Because associated persons of the Advisor are licensed with LPL, this presents a conflict of interest. Clients should understand that not all advisors require their clients to direct brokerage. By directing brokerage to LPL, clients may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions. Therefore, directed brokerage may cost clients more money.

Advisor may receive support services and/or products from LPL, which assist the Advisor to better monitor and service program accounts maintained at LPL. These support services and/or products may be received without cost, at a discount, and/or at another negotiated rate, and may include the following:

- 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
- consulting services
- attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events
- marketing support
- computer hardware and/or software
- other products used by Advisor in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations

Clients do not pay more for services as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Advisor to LPL or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific securities as a result of the arrangement.

Advisor may aggregate transactions in equity and fixed income securities for a client with other clients to improve the quality of execution. When transactions are so aggregated, the actual prices applicable to the aggregated transactions will be averaged, and the client account will be deemed to have purchased or sold its proportionate share of the securities involved at the average price obtained. Advisor may determine not to aggregate transactions, for example, based on the size of the trades, the number of client accounts, the timing of the trades, the liquidity of the securities and the discretionary or non-discretionary nature of the trades. If Advisor does not aggregate orders, some clients purchasing securities around the same time may receive a less favorable price than other clients. This means that this practice of not aggregating may cost clients more money.