

# Northbound Advisors LLC Wrap Fee Program Brochure

*This wrap fee program brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Northbound Advisors LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (305) 567-3369 or by email at: [info@sproutfi.com](mailto:info@sproutfi.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 Northbound Advisors LLC is also available on the SEC's website at <https://www.sproutfi.com>. Northbound Advisors LLC's CRD number is: 323186.*

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*Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.*

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## **General**

### **Item 2: Material Changes**

Northbound Advisors LLC has not yet filed an annual updating amendment to this Wrap Fee Program Brochure. Therefore, there are no material changes to this brochure to report.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

### A. Description of the Advisory Firm

Northbound Advisors LLC (hereinafter “NAL”) provides Robo-advisory portfolio management to clients under this wrap fee program as sponsor and portfolio manager via an online interface. This entails the use of algorithm-based portfolio management advice, rather than in-person investment advice. These automated investment solutions are customized to each client and based on individual characteristics, such as the client’s age, risk tolerance, income, and current assets, among others.

NAL provides Robo-advisory portfolio management services via an online interface.

Total Assets Under Management	Annual Fees
All Assets	1.00%

Robo-advisory portfolio management fees are withdrawn directly from the client’s accounts with client’s written authorization.

Robo-advisory portfolio management fees are paid monthly in arrears.

NAL uses an average of the daily balance in the client’s account throughout the billing period, after taking into account deposits and withdrawals, for purposes of determining the market value of the assets upon which the advisory fee is based.

Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty, for full refund of NAL’s fees, within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Investment Advisory Contract immediately upon written notice.

### B. Contribution Cost Factors

The program may cost the client more or less than purchasing such services separately. There are several factors that bear upon the relative cost of the program, including the trading activity in the client’s account, the adviser’s ability to aggregate trades, and the cost of the services if provided separately (which in turn depends on the prices and specific services offered by different providers).

### C. Additional Fees

NAL will wrap third party fees (e.g., custodian fees, brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.) for wrap fee portfolio management accounts. NAL will charge clients one fee and pay all transaction fees using the fee collected from the client. Clients should be aware that NAL has an incentive to limit trading activities since the firm absorbs

those transaction costs.

Certain other fees are not included in the wrap fee and are paid for separately by the client. These include, but are not limited to, margin costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or exchange traded fund, fees associated with “step out” transactions if the account uses different custodians or broker-dealers, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions.

#### **D. Compensation of Client Participation**

Neither NAL nor any representatives of NAL receive any additional compensation beyond advisory fees for the participation of clients in the wrap fee program.

### **Item 5: Types of Clients**

NAL generally offers advisory services to the following types of clients:

- ❖ Individuals
- ❖ High-Net-Worth Individuals

There is a \$10 account minimum.

### **Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation**

#### **A. Selecting/Reviewing Portfolio Managers**

NAL will not select outside portfolio managers for management of this wrap fee program. NAL will be the sole portfolio manager for this wrap fee program.

NAL will use industry standards to calculate portfolio manager performance.

NAL reviews the performance information to determine and verify its accuracy and compliance with presentation standards. The performance information is quarterly and is reviewed by NAL.

#### **B. Related Persons**

NAL and its personnel serve as the portfolio managers for all wrap fee program accounts. This is a conflict of interest in that no outside adviser assesses NAL's management of the wrap fee program. However, NAL addresses this conflict by acting

in its clients' best interest consistent with its fiduciary duty as sponsor and portfolio manager of the wrap fee program.

### **C. Advisory Business**

NAL provides "Robo-advisory" portfolio management services via an online interface. This entails the use of algorithm-based portfolio management advice, rather than in-person investment advice. These automated investment solutions are customized to each client and based on individual characteristics, such as the client's age, risk tolerance, income, and current assets, among others.

NAL will require discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction.

Risk tolerance levels are documented in the Investment Policy Statement, which is given to each client.

Portfolio management accounts will not have to pay for transaction or trading fees. NAL will charge clients one fee, and pay transaction fees using the advisory fee collected from the client. Certain other fees are not included in the wrap fee and are paid for separately by the client. These include, but are not limited to, margin costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or exchange traded fund, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions.

Clients should be aware that NAL has an incentive to limit trading activities since the firm absorbs those transaction costs. To address this conflict, NAL will always act in the best interest of its clients consistent with its fiduciary duty as an investment adviser.

#### ***Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments***

NAL generally limits its investment advice to mutual funds, equities, fixed income securities, ETFs, ETFs in the gold and precious metal sectors, REITs, and margin, although NAL primarily recommends ETF's. NAL may use other securities as well to help diversify a portfolio when applicable.

#### ***Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status***

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your U.S. retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

### ***Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions***

NAL offers the same suite of services to all of its clients. However, specific client investment strategies and their implementation are dependent upon the client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Clients are not permitted to impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs.

### ***Wrap Fee Programs***

As discussed herein, NAL sponsors and acts as portfolio manager for this wrap fee program. NAL manages the investments in the wrap fee program, but does not manage those wrap fee accounts any differently than it would manage non-wrap fee accounts. The fees paid to the wrap account program will be given to NAL as a management fee.

### ***Amounts Under Management***

NAL has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-Discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$0	\$0	August 2022

### ***Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management***

NAL does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

Clients paying a performance-based fee should be aware that investment advisers have an incentive to invest in riskier investments when paid a performance-based fee due to the higher risk/higher reward attributes.

### ***Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies***

#### **Methods of Analysis**

NAL's methods of analysis include Fundamental Analysis, Quantitative Analysis and Modern Portfolio Theory.

**Fundamental analysis** involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

**Quantitative analysis** deals with measurable factors as distinguished from qualitative considerations such as the character of management or the state of employee morale, such as the value of assets, the cost of capital, historical projections of sales, and so on.

**Modern portfolio theory** is a theory of investment that attempts to maximize portfolio expected return for a given amount of portfolio risk, or equivalently minimize risk for a given level of expected return, each by carefully choosing the proportions of various assets.

### **Investment Strategies**

NAL uses long-term investing and margin transactions.

*Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.*

## ***Material Risks Involved***

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### **Methods of Analysis**

**Fundamental analysis** concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

**Quantitative Model Risk:** Investment strategies using quantitative models may perform differently than expected as a result of, among other things, the factors used in the models, the weight placed on each factor, changes from the factors' historical trends, and technical issues in the construction and implementation of the models.

**Modern portfolio theory** assumes that investors are risk averse, meaning that given two portfolios that offer the same expected return, investors will prefer the less risky one. Thus, an investor will take on increased risk only if compensated by higher expected returns. Conversely, an investor who wants higher expected returns must accept more risk. The exact trade-off will be the same for all investors, but different investors will evaluate the trade-off differently based on individual risk aversion characteristics. The implication is that a rational investor will not invest in a portfolio if a second portfolio exists with a more favorable risk-expected return profile – i.e., if for that level of risk an alternative portfolio exists which has better expected returns.



## Investment Strategies

**Long term investing** is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

**Short term trading** risks include liquidity, economic stability, and inflation, in addition to the long-term investing risks listed above.

**Margin transactions** use leverage that is borrowed from a brokerage firm as collateral. Leverage enhances the ability to acquire assets, but also amplifies net profits and losses and increases transaction costs. When losses occur, the value of the margin account may fall below the brokerage firm's threshold thereby triggering a margin call. This may force the account holder to either allocate more funds to the account or sell assets on a shorter time frame than desired.

*Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.*

## ***Risks of Specific Securities Utilized***

**Equity** investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and/or capital gains if the value of the stock increases. The value of equity securities may fluctuate in response to specific situations for each company, industry conditions and the general economic environments.

**Fixed income** investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best-known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

**Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs):** An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to stocks. Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Areas of concern include the lack of transparency in products and increasing complexity, conflicts of interest and the

possibility of inadequate regulatory compliance. Because ETFs use "authorized participants" (APs) as agents to facilitate creations or redemptions (primary market), there is a risk that an AP decides to no longer participate for a particular ETF; however, that risk is mitigated by the fact that other APs can step in to fill the vacancy of the withdrawing AP [an ETF typically has multiple APs] and ETF transactions predominantly take place in the secondary market without need for an AP. Like other liquid securities, ETF pricing changes throughout the trading day and there can be no guarantee that an ETF is purchased at the optimal time in terms of market movements. Moreover, due to market fluctuations, ETF brokerage costs, differing demand and characteristics of underlying securities, and other factors, the price of an ETF can be lower than the aggregate market price of its cash and component individual securities (net asset value – NAV). An ETF is subject to the same market risks as those of its underlying individual securities, and also has internal expenses that can lower investment returns.

**Mutual Funds:** Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature.

**Precious Metal ETFs** (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Palladium Bullion backed "electronic shares" not physical metal) specifically may be negatively impacted by several unique factors, among them (1) large sales by the official sector which own a significant portion of aggregate world holdings in gold and other precious metals, (2) a significant increase in hedging activities by producers of gold or other precious metals, (3) a significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors.

*Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.*

### ***Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)***

NAL will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Clients will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Clients should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

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

All client information material to managing the portfolio (including basic information, risk tolerance, sophistication level, and income level) is provided to the portfolio manager. The portfolio manager will also have access to that information as it changes and is updated.

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

NAL does not restrict clients from contacting portfolio managers. NAL's representatives can be contacted during regular business hours using the information on the Form ADV Part 2B cover page.

## **Item 9: Additional Information**

### **A. Disciplinary Action and Other Financial Industry Activities**

#### ***Criminal or Civil Actions***

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

#### ***Administrative Proceedings***

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

#### ***Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings***

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

#### ***Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative***

NAL is not registered as broker/dealer, though its Chief Compliance Officer its representatives, Gregory R. Dow, is registered as a representative of an affiliated broker/dealer.

#### ***Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor***

Neither NAL nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become either a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Advisor or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

#### ***Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests***

Neither NAL nor its representatives have any material relationships to this advisory business that would present a possible conflict of interest.

#### ***Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is***

## *Compensated for Those Selections*

NAL does not select third-party investment advisers.

## **B. Code of Ethics, Client Referrals, and Financial Information**

### *Code of Ethics*

NAL has a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. NAL's Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

### *Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests*

NAL does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which NAL or a related person has a material financial interest.

### *Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients*

From time to time, representatives of NAL may buy or sell securities for themselves that the algorithm recommends to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of NAL to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. NAL will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest. Representatives will never engage in trading as trading is conducted by the algorithm.

### *Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities*

From time to time, representatives of NAL may buy or sell securities for themselves that the algorithm recommends to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of NAL to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. NAL will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest.

### ***Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews***

Robo-advisory portfolio management accounts are not reviewed by NAL, save for automated allocation revisions. Clients are encouraged to update NAL of any change in their objectives, risk tolerance, or other pertinent information.

### ***Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts***

Robo-advisory portfolio management accounts do not undergo non-periodic review by NAL, allocations will change in accordance with the portfolio management software utilized by NA and changes to the client's profile.

### ***Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients***

Each client will receive a monthly account statement from the custodian.

### ***Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients***

NAL does not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly from any third party for advice rendered to NAL clients.

### ***Compensation to Non – Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals***

NAL may enter into written arrangements with third parties to act as solicitors for NAL's investment management services. Solicitor relationships will be fully disclosed to each client to the extent required by applicable law. NAL will ensure each solicitor is exempt, notice filed, or properly registered in all appropriate jurisdictions.

### ***Balance Sheet***

NAL neither requires nor solicits prepayment of more than \$1,200.

### ***Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients***

NAL does not have any financial condition that would impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

### ***Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years***

NAL has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.