

Form ADV Part 2A Appendix 1: Wrap Fee Program Brochure

Strategic Wealth Management

March 9, 2023

Paragon Financial Services

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Paragon Financial Services. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 804-673-8888. 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 Paragon Financial Services is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

Paragon Financial Services is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 Summary of Material Changes

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since our last annual amendment dated February 28, 2022 we have the following material changes to report:

We have begun to offer tax preparation, tax planning and estate planning solutions to clients of Paragon Financial Services. Consequently, the following items in the disclosure brochure have been amended as follows:

- Item 9 Additional Information regarding our other financial industry activities and affiliations as follows:

Preparation and Planning Coordination Services

Associated persons of our firm who perform work for estate planning or tax preparation / planning clients that have chosen to engage Encore Estate Plans or Paragon Tax Strategy are salaried employees of Paragon Financial Services. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to Item 5 *Fees and Compensation* section of *Paragon Financial Services ADV Part 2A firm brochure*.

If you require tax preparation or tax planning services, we will recommend that you use the services of a CPA that is associated through Paragon Tax Strategy relationship with United Cloud Partners Services. Our advisory services are separate and distinct from the compensation paid for tax preparation and / or tax planning services to Paragon Tax Strategy or United Cloud Partners Services. United Cloud Partners Service, and its CPAs, is otherwise regulated by the professional organizations to which it belongs and must comply with the rules of those organizations. These rules may prohibit paying or receiving referral fees to or from investment advisers that are not members of the same organization.

Referral arrangements with our affiliate, Paragon Tax Strategy, presents a conflict of interest for us because we may have a direct or indirect financial incentive to recommend an affiliated firm's services. While we believe that compensation charged by Paragon Tax Strategy and United Cloud Partners Services, which includes client service from Paragon Financial Services associated persons, is competitive, such compensation may be higher than fees charged by other firms providing the same or similar services. You are under no obligation to use the services of Paragon Tax Strategy or United Cloud Partners Services, whether affiliated or otherwise, and may obtain comparable services and/or lower fees through other firms.

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Item 4 Services, Fees, and Compensation

Paragon Financial Services is a registered investment adviser primarily based in Richmond, Virginia. We are organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of Virginia. We have been providing investment advisory services since 2012. Simon Woon and Vickie Woon are our principal owners.

As used in this brochure, the words "we", "our" and "us" refer to Paragon Financial Services and the words "you", "your" and "client" refer to you as a client or prospective client of our firm. Also, you may see the term Associated Person in throughout this brochure. Our Associated Persons are our firm's officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm.

We offer portfolio management services through a wrap-fee program ("Program") as described in this wrap fee program brochure to prospective and existing clients. We are the sponsor for the Program and LPL Financial, LLC is the custodian. A wrap-fee program is a type of investment program that provides clients with asset management and brokerage services for one all-inclusive fee. If you participate in our wrap fee program, you will pay our firm a single fee, which includes money management fees, certain transaction costs, and custodial and administrative costs. You are not charged separate fees for the respective components of the total services. There is, however, an annual custodial fee which LPL Financial, LLC charges separately for IRA accounts. We receive a portion of the wrap fee for our services. The overall cost you will incur if you participate in our wrap fee program may be higher or lower than you might incur by separately purchasing the types of securities available in the Program.

Prior to becoming a client under the Program, you will be required to enter into a separate written agreement with us that sets forth the terms and conditions of the engagement and describes the scope of the services to be provided, and the fees to be paid.

If you do not maintain at least \$250,000 in your account, you would not be eligible for the Wrap Fee Program and would incur transaction costs. However, in our sole discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable account balance and/or advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you, your spouse, joint accounts with your spouse, your minor children, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may make you eligible to participate in the Program and may also result in paying a reduced advisory fee.

Client Investment Process

We provide discretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management services in accordance with your individual investment objectives. If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Subject to a grant of discretionary authorization, we have the authority and responsibility to formulate investment strategies on your behalf. This authorization includes deciding which securities to buy and sell, when to buy and sell, and in what amounts, in accordance with your investment program, without obtaining your prior consent or approval for each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm and/or through trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account. You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

Assets for program accounts are held at LPL Financial, LLC as custodian. LPL Financial, LLC also acts as executing broker/dealer for transactions placed in Program accounts, and provides other administrative services as described throughout this Brochure. To compare the cost of the wrap fee program with non-wrap fee portfolio management services, you should consider the frequency of trading activity associated with our investment strategies and the brokerage commissions charged by LPL Financial, LLC and the advisory fees charged by investment advisers.

Changes in Your Financial Circumstances

In providing the contracted services, we are not required to verify any information we receive from you or from your other professionals (e.g. attorney, accountant, etc.) and we are expressly authorized to rely on the information you provide. Furthermore, unless you indicate to the contrary, we shall assume that there are no restrictions on our services, other than to manage your account in accordance with your designated investment objectives. It is your responsibility to promptly notify us if there are ever any changes in your financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising our previous recommendations and/or services.

The Program Fee

We charge a non-negotiable annual "wrap-fee" for participation in the Program depending upon the market value of your assets under our management. You are not charged separate fees for the different components of the services provided by the Program. Our firm pays all trade expenses of trades placed on your behalf. Our Program fee includes the fee we pay to any portfolio manager for their management of your account and LPL Financial, LLC's transaction or execution costs. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion. In special circumstances, and in our sole discretion, we may negotiate a lesser management fee based upon certain criteria (i.e., anticipated future earning capacity, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing client relationship, account retention, etc.).

Our annual fee for portfolio management services varies between 0.80% - 1.50% depending upon the market value of your assets under our management, the type and complexity of the asset management services provided, as well as the level of administration requested either directly or assumed by the client. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion.

*Certain legacy clients may be assessed a lower fee.

As a client, you should be aware that the wrap fee charged by our firm may be higher (or lower) than those charged by others in the industry, and that it may be possible to obtain the same or similar services from other firms at lower (or higher) rates. A client may be able to obtain some or all of the types of services available through our firm's wrap fee program on an individual basis through other firms and, depending on the circumstances, the aggregate of any separately paid fees may be lower or higher than the annual fees shown above.

Our annual portfolio management fee is billed and payable quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. For the initial quarter of portfolio management services, the first quarter's fees will be calculated on a pro rata basis, which means the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client.

You may withdraw account assets on notice to our firm, and subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, we design our portfolios as long-term investments and asset withdrawals may impair the achievement of your specific investment objectives.

We will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when the following requirements are met:

- You provide our firm with written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian.
- The qualified custodian agrees to send you a statement, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts dispersed from your account including the amount of the advisory fee paid directly to our firm.

We encourage you to reconcile the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian. If you find any inconsistent information, please call our main office number located on the cover page of this brochure.

Termination of Advisory Relationship

You may terminate the wrap fee program agreement upon 30-days' written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the wrap fee program agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

Upon termination of accounts held at LPL Financial, LLC, they will deliver securities and funds held in the account per your instructions unless you request that the account be liquidated. After the wrap fee program agreement has been terminated, transactions are processed at the prevailing brokerage rates/fees. You become responsible for monitoring your own assets and our firm has no further obligation to act upon or to provide advice with respect to those assets.

Wrap Fee Program Disclosures

- The benefits under a wrap fee program depend, in part, upon the size of the Account, the management fee charged, and the number of transactions likely to be generated in the Account. For example, a wrap fee program may not be suitable for Accounts with little trading activity. In order to evaluate whether a wrap fee program is suitable for you, you should compare the Program Fee and any other costs of the Program with the amounts that would be charged by other advisers, broker-dealers, and custodians, for advisory fees, brokerage and other execution costs, and custodial services comparable to those provided under the Program.
- In considering the investment programs described in this brochure, you should be aware that participating in a wrap fee program may cost more or less than the cost of purchasing advisory, brokerage, and custodial services separately from other advisers or broker-dealers.
- Our firm and Associated Persons receive compensation as a result of your participation in the Program. This compensation may be more than the amount our firm or the Associated Persons would receive if you paid separately for investment advice, brokerage, and other services. Accordingly, a conflict of interest exists because our firm and our Associated Persons have a financial incentive to recommend the Program.
- Similar advisory services may be available from other registered investment advisers for lower fees.

Additional Fees And Expenses

The Program Fee includes the costs of brokerage commissions for transactions executed through the Qualified Custodian (or a broker-dealer designated by the Qualified Custodian), and charges relating to the settlement, clearance, or custody of securities in the Account. The Program Fee does not include mark-ups and mark-downs, dealer spreads or other costs associated with the purchase or sale of securities, interest, taxes, or other costs, such as national securities exchange fees, charges for

transactions not executed through the Qualified Custodian, costs associated with exchanging currencies, wire transfer fees, or other fees required by law or imposed by third parties. The Account will be responsible for these additional fees and expenses.

The wrap program fees that you pay to our firm for portfolio management services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others.

Brokerage Practices

If you participate in the Program, you will be required to establish an account with LPL Financial, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC, an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer. If you do not direct our firm to execute transactions through LPL Financial, LLC, we reserve the right to not accept your account. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage. Since you are required to use LPL Financial, LLC we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions. We believe that LPL Financial, LLC provides quality execution services based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the ability to provide professional services, reputation, experience and financial stability.

Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits

We do not receive any soft dollar benefits from any broker-dealer.

Brokerage for Client Referrals

We do not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

Item 5 Account Requirements and Types of Clients

We offer investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations, and other business entities.

If you do not maintain at least \$250,000 in your account, you would not be eligible for the Wrap Fee Program and would incur transaction costs.

In general, we require a minimum of \$25,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. We may also combine account values for you, your spouse, joint accounts with your spouse, your minor children, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.

Item 6 Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation

We are the sponsor and portfolio manager for the Program.

Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees. Our fees are calculated as described above, and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.

Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

We will use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

Technical Analysis - involves studying past price patterns, trends, and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and attempt to gauge the direction of both the overall market and specific securities.

- **Risk:** The risk of technical analysis is it may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

Fundamental Analysis - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.

- **Risk:** The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

Long-Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

- **Risk:** Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost - "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.

Short-Term Purchases – securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

- **Risk:** Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a disproportionately higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are many factors that can affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term interest rate changes, cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of times.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio.

We may use short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Short-term trading is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use this strategy occasionally when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. This may

include buying and selling securities frequently in an effort to capture significant market gains and avoid significant losses. However, there is a risk that frequent trading can negatively affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

Also, we offer an investment strategy, which we call CompassPoints. It is a tactically managed investment approach based on quantitative research. There are different allocation strategies available to clients depending on their risk/client profile. Because we are tactical, we have the discretion to be as fully invested in a given asset class as your risk profile allows, yet as underinvested in a given asset classes as possible (which is 0%). From that point of view, there exists risk of missed upside opportunity in the asset classes where no exposure exist at a given time. When we are fully invested in a given asset class, there exists risk of increased volatility given the overweighed exposure (that is relative to traditional investment management solutions).

Tax Considerations

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you continuously consult with a tax professional prior to and throughout the investing of your assets.

Moreover, as a result of revised IRS regulations, custodians and broker-dealers will begin reporting the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the FIFO (First-In First-Out) accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, please provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Please note that decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

Risk of Loss

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

Proxy Voting

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder. In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

Item 7 Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers

As required, in order to provide the Program services, we will provide your private information to your account custodian, LPL Financial, LLC. We may also provide your private information to mutual fund companies and/or private managers. We will only share the information necessary in order to carry out our obligations to you in servicing your account. We share your personal account data in accordance with our privacy policy as described below.

Privacy Policy

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, insurance agencies and insurance companies, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure if you have any questions regarding this policy.

Item 8 Client Contact with Portfolio Managers

Without restriction, you should contact our firm or your advisory representative directly with any questions regarding your Program account.

Item 9 Additional Information

Disciplinary Information

We are required to disclose the facts of any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. We do not have any required disclosures under this item.

Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

We have other financial industry activities and affiliations described below because we have a relationship or arrangement that is material to our advisory business that we provide to clients.

● Registrations with Broker-Dealer

Although not considered a "related person" (since Paragon Financial Services and LPL Financial, LLC ("LPL") are not under common control or ownership) you should be aware that persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives with LPL, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the

Securities Investor Protection Corporation. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions through LPL and, therefore, you may pay higher advisory fees than if such transactions were placed through other custodians. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase securities products through any person affiliated with our firm.

● **Independent Insurance Agents**

We do not have any "affiliation" (as that term is defined by state and federal law) with any insurance company or agency since we are not under common control and ownership with any insurance company or agency. However, you should be aware that persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as independent insurance agents. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you and, therefore, you may pay higher advisory fees than if you purchased insurance products elsewhere. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

● **Preparation and Planning Coordination Services**

Associated persons of our firm who perform work for estate planning or tax preparation / planning clients that have chosen to engage Encore Estate Plans or Paragon Tax Strategy are salaried employees of Paragon Financial Services. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to Item 5 *Fees and Compensation* section of *Paragon Financial Services ADV Part 2A* firm brochure.

If you require tax preparation or tax planning services, we will recommend that you use the services of a CPA that is associated through Paragon Tax Strategy relationship with United Cloud Partners Services. Our advisory services are separate and distinct from the compensation paid for tax preparation and / or tax planning services to Paragon Tax Strategy or United Cloud Partners Services. United Cloud Partners Service, and its CPAs, is otherwise regulated by the professional organizations to which it belongs and must comply with the rules of those organizations. These rules may prohibit paying or receiving referral fees to or from investment advisers that are not members of the same organization.

Referral arrangements with our affiliate, Paragon Tax Strategy, presents a conflict of interest for us because we may have a direct or indirect financial incentive to recommend an affiliated firm's services. While we believe that compensation charged by Paragon Tax Strategy and United Cloud Partners Services, which includes client service from Paragon Financial Services associated persons, is competitive, such compensation may be higher than fees charged by other firms providing the same or similar services. You are under no obligation to use the services of Paragon Tax Strategy or United Cloud Partners Services, whether affiliated or otherwise, and may obtain comparable services and/or lower fees through other firms.

Code of Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Ethics that sets the standard of conduct expected to comply with applicable securities laws. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. We adhere strictly to these guidelines. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

Personal Trading Practices

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell the same securities that we recommend to you or securities in which you are already invested. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

Review of Accounts

Our current advisers of record are Simon Woon and Ryan Smith. Your adviser of record will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least annually. At your review, your adviser will ensure that the advisory services provided to you and/or the portfolio mix are consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted at your request based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- contributions and withdrawals,
- year-end tax planning,
- market moving events,
- security specific events, and/or,
- changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will provide you with additional or regular written reports in conjunction with account reviews. Reports we provide to you will contain relevant account and/or market-related information such as an inventory of account holdings and account performance, etc. In addition, you will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with providing investment advice to you nor do we compensate any individual or firm for client referrals.

Please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our relationship with LPL.

As disclosed under the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents, and are registered representatives with LPL, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section.

Block Trades

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. We may, but are not obligated to, combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account

performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion regarding factual and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs on any given day. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

Financial Information

We are not required to provide a balance sheet or other financial information to our clients because we do not require the prepayment of fees in excess of \$500 and six months or more in advance; we do not take custody of client funds or securities; and, we do not have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you. Moreover, we have never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

Trade Errors

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account.

Class Action Lawsuits

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit. Moreover, we do not determine whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf.

Item 10 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

We are a federally registered investment adviser; therefore, we are not required to respond to this item.

Neither our firm, nor any of our management persons have a material relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities.