

# SVB ASSET MANAGEMENT

## Form ADV Brochure

**SVB Asset Management**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of SVB Asset Management. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 212-461-5761 or at [cherie.harris@firstcitizens.com](mailto:cherie.harris@firstcitizens.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about SVB Asset Management is also available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

SVB Asset Management is an investment adviser registered with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “**Advisers Act**”). Registration with the SEC does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the SEC of an investment adviser’s skill or expertise. Moreover, registration does not imply that a registered adviser has achieved a certain level of skill, competency, sophistication, expertise or training in providing advisory services to its clients.

**Item 2**  
**Material Changes**

The following is a summary of material and/or other updates made to the brochure since it was last updated on March 31, 2023:

- The Contact Information listed on the **Cover Page** of this brochure has been updated to reflect the change in Chief Compliance Officer.
- **Item 4 – Advisory Business:** AUM has been updated to reflect numbers as of June 30, 2023 which mirrors our most recent ADV Part 1 amendment.

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#### **Item 4**

##### **Advisory Business**

SVB Asset Management is an investment adviser registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**SEC**”) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the “**Advisers Act**”). SVB Asset Management was incorporated in the state of California in April 2002 and became registered as an investment adviser with the SEC in January 2003.

SVB Asset Management is a wholly-owned, non-bank subsidiary of First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company (“**FCB**”), which in turn, is a wholly owned subsidiary of First Citizens BancShares Inc., a publicly traded company (NASDAQ: FCNCA). Previously, SVB Asset Management was owned by Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, N.A. (“**SVBB**”), a full-service FDIC-operated ‘bridge bank’ chartered by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency as a national bank, and prior, Silicon Valley Bank (“**SVB**”), which was closed by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation. Upon the closure of SVB, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “**FDIC**”), as the appointed receiver, transferred substantially all of the assets of SVB to SVBB on March 13, 2023.

SVB Asset Management’s clients are primarily companies in the innovation economy within the technology and life science/healthcare industries. The technology clients tend to be in the industries of hardware (such as semiconductors, communications, data storage, and electronics); and software and internet (such as infrastructure software, cybersecurity, applications, software services, digital content and advertising technology); and energy and resource innovation. The life science and healthcare clients tend to be in the industries of biotechnology, medical devices, healthcare information technology and healthcare services. SVB Asset Management’s clients are of various sizes and stages, from venture-backed to publicly held companies.

SVB Asset Management provides discretionary investment management services for all clients, managing clients’ portfolios based on their investment policies, strategies, and objectives. The eligible investments SVB Asset Management buys and sells on behalf of its clients are comprised of, but not limited to, government securities, money market instruments, corporate and municipal bonds, structured and mortgage products, repurchase agreements (“repo”), reverse repo, commercial paper, certificates of deposit and other fixed income short duration securities, according to the individual investment policy of the client. SVB Asset Management primarily utilizes the Corporate Cash Management Strategy, the Total Return Strategy and ESG Strategy which are discussed in greater detail in Item 8 (Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss) below.

Advisory services are tailored for each client based not only on the investment strategies identified above, but also on the client’s investment policy and objectives, as well as any liquidity needs. Clients may also impose reasonable restrictions or limitations on the securities in which their assets are invested.

In order to meet certain strategic investment objectives of a client, SVB Asset Management may invest a client’s assets as specifically directed by the client. However, these non-discretionary, or client-directed arrangements are subject to the acceptance of SVB Asset Management as determined in its sole discretion.

As of June 30, 2023, SVB Asset Management managed \$44,429,541,243 of client assets on a discretionary basis.

## **Item 5**

### **Fees and Compensation**

#### **Account Fees**

SVB Asset Management charges clients a management fee based upon the value of the assets under management and does not have performance-based account fees. The maximum fee schedule does not exceed 25 basis points.

Management fees are calculated monthly by first determining the average balance of assets under management for the month in all SVB Asset Management accounts belonging to the client. To determine the average balance for each client account, the daily ending market value plus accrued interest for each day of the month is totaled and divided by the number of days in the month.

The average monthly balance dictates the relevant management fee tier and corresponding rate as shown on each client's fee schedule. The rate is then applied to the average balance minus balances held in cash and money market mutual funds for the month to determine the management fee. SVB Asset Management does not charge a management fee for balances held in cash and money market mutual funds.

Fees, as calculated by SVB Asset Management, are accrued daily and deducted directly from clients' accounts monthly at or around the twenty-fifth (25th) calendar day of the following month, and are payable in arrears, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon in writing. Upon termination of any account, any accrued but unpaid account fees through the date of termination of the account will become immediately due and payable.

The fees described above are subject to change and may vary based on specific, separately negotiated client situations, which may depend on various factors, including but not limited to market conditions, client investment objectives, the value of the assets under management, and the client's relationship with SVB Asset Management and its affiliates. In negotiating the fees, it is possible that not all factors will be considered equally, resulting in higher fees for some clients as compared to others. SVB Asset Management may, in its sole discretion, waive or otherwise change the fee structure for certain clients, as determined on a case-by-case basis. Certain clients of SVB Asset Management may also receive products or services from an SVB Asset Management affiliate at a discounted rate, or otherwise have fees and/or expenses for such products and services waived.

Fees for non-discretionary, or client-directed assets, if any, are separately negotiated with each client on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to the terms and conditions as provided under a separate addendum.

SVB Asset Management does not charge any transaction or transfer-related fees, additional commissions, trading spreads, premiums, or other similar fees that would be in addition to the fees described below. The price or yield of securities acquired by SVB Asset Management on behalf of clients is the net purchase cost and no additional charges are applied.

### **Custodial and Brokerage Fees**

Assets managed by SVB Asset Management are held in custody by third party custodians and clients may be subject to fees for custodial and other services charged by such third party custodians.

The primary custodian for client assets is U.S. Bank Institutional Trust & Custody ("**U.S. Bank**"). The annual fee typically charged to clients for assets held in custody by U.S. Bank is based on a percentage of the value of such assets held. The client's relationship with U.S. Bank is governed by a separate agreement, and all fees charged in connection with the custodial relationship should be disclosed by U.S. Bank.

Client assets may be held in custody with third party custodians other than U.S. Bank, subject to agreement by SVB Asset Management. Such assets may be subject to the custodial fees (including any minimum requirements), as charged by those custodians.

Clients do not incur any brokerage fees or costs. For more information, see Item 12 (Brokerage Practices) below.

### **Compensation**

SVB Asset Management receives compensation from certain third party fund distributors ("**Fund Distributors**") for performing certain services on behalf of the Fund Distributors with respect to clients' investments in the affiliated funds. Under these arrangements, SVB Asset Management will typically receive a fee, based on the average balance of client assets directed into those funds in exchange for providing services on their behalf to clients, such as delivering certain communications to clients about the funds, providing customer identification programs, providing account information, responding to client inquiries, and providing other client services. These services are provided to the Fund Distributors, not to clients, and fees are paid directly to SVB Asset Management by the Fund Distributors, not by their affiliated funds or by clients.

Because SVB Asset Management charges different levels of fees to clients and receives different levels of compensation from Fund Distributors, SVB Asset Management may be incentivized to dedicate increased resources and invest in more profitable investment opportunities for which SVB Asset Management receives higher total compensation. These compensation arrangements may present certain conflicts of interest, as they may incentivize SVB Asset Management to recommend funds for which Fund Distributors provide greater compensation, instead of on client needs. To address this, SVB Asset Management routinely reviews the terms, including yields, offered by funds that are subject to a compensation arrangement. If SVB Asset Management determines that any of these funds are not aligned with its clients' investment policies or objectives, the firm will consider making alternative recommendations to clients as it deems appropriate. Clients do have the option to purchase investment products that SVB Asset Management recommends through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with SVB Asset Management.

SVB Asset Management has compensation arrangements with all of the money market funds it makes available to clients, as follows:

- Funds managed by Morgan Stanley Investment Management (“**MSIM**”) – The firm earns up to 0.1425% per annum (based on the average daily balance of the market value of any client assets directed by SVB Asset Management into MSIM funds).
- Funds managed by U.S. Bancorp Asset Management, Inc. (“**USB**”) (previously operating under the name FAF Advisors, Inc.) – The firm earns up to 0.10% per annum (based on the average daily balance of the market value of any client assets directed by SVB Asset Management into USB funds). USB is affiliated with U.S. Bank, our primary custodian.

The above fees are payable by the Fund Distributors to SVB Asset Management on a monthly basis, in arrears.

SVB Asset Management personnel do not receive any direct compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products in client accounts. SVB Asset Management sales personnel discuss both SVB Asset Management and FCB products and services with clients, and may receive incentive compensation related to such products and services. In determining the amount, if any, of incentive compensation for its advisory personnel, including sales personnel, SVB Asset Management will consider a variety of factors. The amount of assets under management attributed to each individual employee and referrals of business to FCB are among a variety of factors taken into consideration by SVB Asset Management in awarding incentive compensation to its employees. Such incentive compensation is not guaranteed and is generally paid on a discretionary basis after considering overall employee performance.

#### **Item 6**

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

SVB Asset Management does not charge any performance-based fees (or fees based on a share of capital gains).

#### **Item 7**

##### **Types of Clients**

SVB Asset Management’s clients are primarily companies in the innovation economy, specifically in the technology and life science/healthcare industries. The technology clients tend to be in the industries of hardware (such as semiconductors, communications, data storage, and electronics); and software and internet (such as infrastructure software, cybersecurity, applications, software services, digital content and advertising technology); and energy and resource innovation. The life science and healthcare clients tend to be in the industries of biotechnology, medical devices, healthcare information technology and healthcare services.

SVB Asset Management’s clients are of various sizes and stages, from venture backed to publicly held companies. SVB Asset Management works closely with its clients to carry out their investment objectives, which are typically focused on capital preservation, liquidity management and achievement of a competitive return.

SVB Asset Management generally requires a minimum investment balance of \$30 million to open an account. SVB Asset Management may waive or reduce these minimum requirements at its discretion.

## **Item 8**

### **Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

#### **Method of Analysis**

SVB Asset Management employs an experienced and seasoned team, dedicated to portfolio management, credit research and investment analysis. SVB Asset Management utilizes both top-down and bottom-up portfolio management approaches. The top-down approach involves analysis of macro-economic and market trends by the collective SVB Asset Management team, consisting of portfolio managers, credit analysts and other senior members of management. The team meets on a regular basis to formulate general asset allocation recommendations and target investment strategies based on the macro-economic outlook and market conditions, while incorporating overall portfolio performance and risks. The bottom-up approach involves individual security analysis from a credit and trading perspective, along with ongoing management of each client portfolio against the broader team's recommendations, customized based on the client's specific objectives, risk tolerance and selected investment strategy.

SVB Asset Management's investment process includes quantitative and qualitative analysis using its own and third-party proprietary systems and methods. SVB Asset Management may also use widely available public information and economic data to determine overall portfolio positioning. The team thoroughly performs due diligence, researches, and analyzes all investments recommended to clients. The credit research generally includes, among other things, conducting extensive credit analysis of the issuer and the applicable industry or sector, as well as reviewing selected financial publications, corporate rating agency reports, prospectuses, certain issuer filings with the SEC or press releases, independent third-party research and other material items that might be relevant. Investments are subject to ongoing credit surveillance.

#### **Investment Strategy**

Depending on its clients' needs, SVB Asset Management offers three primary investment strategies:

- **Corporate Cash Management Strategy** – The emphasis is on a “buy-and-hold” approach with primary investment objectives of: (i) preserving capital, (ii) maintaining adequate liquidity, and (iii) generating current income. Each client portfolio is customized to manage the client's overall investment objectives, as the firm seeks to structure investments to fit the client's business needs. The client investment performance is generally benchmarked against indices with durations between three and twelve months. Examples of these indices may include the Merrill Lynch 3-Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index, Merrill Lynch 6-Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index and the Merrill Lynch 1-Year U.S. Treasury Note Index.
- **Total Return Strategy** – The emphasis is primarily to seek opportunities to grow the value of the client's portfolios, subject to each client's investment needs, risk tolerance, and overall objectives, and is suitable for clients that may have minimal short-term cash needs and may seek to maximize total return on their portfolios, while still focusing on capital preservation and liquidity management for their corporate cash. Client assets are actively managed to seek longer-term performance above an agreed-upon benchmark, and thus, trading may occur more frequently resulting in higher portfolio turnover rates. The client investment performance is generally benchmarked against indices with longer durations, although shorter indices may also be used, typically one-to-three years, one-to-five years,



or one-to-seven years. Examples of these indices may include the Merrill Lynch 1-3 Year U.S. Corporate and Government Index, the Merrill Lynch 1-5 Year U.S. Corporate and Government Index, and the Merrill Lynch 1-7 Year U.S. Corporate and Government Index.

- **ESG Strategy** - An environmental, social, and governance (“**ESG**”) focused investment strategy provides the opportunity to engage in socially responsible investing, aligning corporate values with the investment portfolio. ESG investing also enables clients to invest in companies that we have identified as being well positioned to generate value in a sustainable way. An ESG strategy through SVB Asset Management focuses on companies that SVB Asset Management believes to be highly rated from an ESG standpoint, leveraging comprehensive and robust frameworks from reputable third-party scoring providers. Portfolio positioning reflects SVB Asset Management’s broad investment strategy, current investment themes, client objectives and risk tolerance, while filtering SVB Asset Management’s approved corporate credit list further to include issuers meeting a threshold level according to their third-party ESG scores.

Client portfolios are managed based upon their investment policies, which generally include their investment objectives, as well as any reasonable investment restrictions or limitations. SVB Asset Management will also consult with its clients to determine their desired benchmark for returns unless it is specified in the investment policy. The benchmark serves as a starting point to design an investment portfolio and as a guide toward how the portfolio should be managed on an ongoing basis.

## **Risks**

All investments are subject to various risks that are borne by investors, including risk of principal loss. Such risks depend on the type of investment securities, as well as the investment strategy employed. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Collateral Risk:** The impairment of the value of the collateral underlying certain asset-backed securities or repurchase agreements may adversely affect the value of the securities.
- **Concentration Risk:** It is possible for a portfolio to become too concentrated from a security type, sector, issuer, or duration standpoint. This scenario could occur, but is not limited to, when excess cash is withdrawn from a portfolio. This could expose the portfolio to higher portfolio volatility than a more diversified portfolio might experience.
- **Counterparty Risk:** The counterparties with whom SVB Asset Management invests with or may do business with, or where securities have been entrusted for custodial purposes, may encounter financial and/or operational difficulties, which may impact their ability to fulfill trades, maintain or otherwise service clients’ security positions.
- **Credit Risk:** The market value of the securities (including collateral held in connection with repurchase agreement transactions), may decline as a result of certain credit events, such as if the issuer or guarantor defaults on its obligations in any material manner, or if the issuer’s credit rating is materially downgraded. The credit quality of securities may be lowered due to the following reasons, including, but not limited to: (i) changes to an issuer’s financial conditions, (ii) adverse headline risk specific to the issuer and/or sector, and (iii)

general market risk impacting the issuer. Should the credit quality of an issuer be adversely impacted, it may lead to greater price volatility of a security and impact its liquidity. Additionally, for client accounts in which funds are held in certificates of deposit of FDIC insured institutions, the standard deposit insurance amount is, as of the date of this brochure, \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each account ownership category. Clients need to consider all other deposits held in an FDIC insured bank in addition to FDIC insured investments through SVB Asset Management to determine the availability of FDIC insurance.

- **Cybersecurity Risk:** Due to the increased use of technology in our business and the financial services industry in general, we are susceptible to cybersecurity risks, such as operational, financial, and information security risks, which include, but are not limited to, theft, misuse, unauthorized access to accounts or other data, destruction or corruption of data, and causing disruption to systems, networks, devices and applications relating to our operating systems or that of our service providers. Such cybersecurity issues could result in financial losses, an inability to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, compliance and remediation costs, reimbursement, or other costs or expenses. Although we employ certain measures to mitigate this risk, there can be no guarantee that such measures will be effective in preventing cybersecurity risk or an attack from occurring.
- **ESG Risk:** Strategies that select securities based on ESG or similar criteria may forgo certain market opportunities available to strategies or products that do not use these criteria. Because ESG investment criteria may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-financial reasons, a portfolio may forgo some market opportunities available to portfolios that do not use these criteria or may be required to sell a security when it might otherwise be disadvantageous to do so. This may cause the portfolio to underperform the relevant market or other portfolios that do not use an ESG investment strategy. In addition, ESG screening limits the number of investment opportunities, and as a result a portfolio utilizing an ESG strategy could have higher single-issuer concentrations than a portfolio without an ESG focus. There are also risks that the issuers identified by SVB Asset Management's ESG investment criteria do not operate as expected when addressing ESG issues or that issuers selected by SVB Asset Management's ESG screening methodology may not exhibit favorable ESG characteristics. An issuer's ESG performance or our assessment of an issuer's ESG performance could vary over time, which could cause the portfolio to be temporarily invested in securities that do not comply with the portfolio's approach towards considering ESG characteristics. There are significant differences in interpretations of what it means for an issuer to have positive ESG characteristics. While we believe our evaluation of ESG characteristics is reasonable, the portfolio decisions we make may differ with other investors or advisers views. The securities selected by SVB Asset Management for its ESG investment strategy may differ from the securities selected by other advisers offering an ESG strategy, and an SVB Asset Management ESG portfolio could underperform the ESG portfolios of other advisers. In making investment decisions, we rely on information and data that could be incomplete or erroneous, which could cause SVB Asset Management to incorrectly assess an issuer's ESG characteristics. The third-party scoring providers may differ in the data they provide for a given security or between industries or may only take into account one of many ESG-related components of an issuer. Furthermore, data availability and reporting with respect to ESG criteria may not

always be available or may become unreliable. Financial Services Industry Risk: A portion of client assets is invested in the obligations of banks and other financial services companies. As such, these investments are subject to various risks generally associated with the financial services industry, such as credit risk, interest rate risk, and industry-related regulatory developments.

- Interest Rate Risk: The underlying value of the securities, specifically debt securities, may decline as interest rates rise.
- Liquidity Risk: Clients may not be able to sell the securities in a timely manner at a desired price due to adverse market conditions.
- Market Risk: Market events including external factors, such as geopolitical, economic and social conditions, may impact the price of a security.
- Money Market Fund Risk: Although money market funds seek to preserve the value of clients' investment at \$1.00 per share, the share price may trade above or below \$1.00 as a result of, but not limited to, changes in credit quality, interest rates, general market risk, large client purchases or redemptions, redemption restrictions or pressures, and other similar events. The SEC has amended relevant rules to attempt to address potential instabilities that could be caused by money market funds. These amendments are:
  - Establish three categories of money market funds: retail, government, and institutional.
  - Restrict who can invest in retail money market funds.
  - Continue to seek a stable \$1.00 net asset value ("**NAV**") for retail and government funds but require institutional prime and municipal funds to have floating NAVs like other mutual funds.
  - Allow certain funds to impose liquidity fees and temporarily suspend withdrawals (known as gates) in certain circumstances.
- No Assurance of Investment Returns or Principal Preservation: SVB Asset Management cannot assure clients that investments will generate any returns or that principal balances will be preserved. Investments in securities (including money market funds) are generally subject to a variety of risks, including interest rate risk, credit risk and general market risk, and therefore any actual returns that are generated are inherently unpredictable. The firm cannot provide any assurance or guarantee that principal balances will be preserved or that client investments will generate returns that will be commensurate with clients' expectations, their investment objectives or investment strategies.
- Portfolio Management Risk: Each client portfolio is subject to management risk, especially actively managed client portfolios under the Total Return Strategy where trading activity typically occurs more frequently than under the Corporate Cash Management Strategy. SVB Asset Management may engage in more frequent trading for its Total Return Strategy in order to manage duration, sector diversification, yield curve and credit quality with the goal of outperforming its stated benchmark. In general, regardless of the investment strategy, all clients' portfolios are subject to the risk that SVB Asset Management will make investment decisions that will not produce the desired results and may have an adverse

effect on clients' investment portfolio performance. In some cases, certain investments may be unavailable, or certain investments may not be selected by SVB Asset Management or sold prematurely by SVB Asset Management because of market conditions or for any other reason, when in retrospect, holding those investments could have been beneficial to the portfolio.

- **Prepayment Risk and Extension Risk:** The principal on mortgage-backed securities, other asset-backed securities or any debt security with an embedded call option may be prepaid at any time, which could reduce yield and market value. The rate of prepayments tends to increase as interest rates decline, which could cause the average maturity of the portfolio to shorten. Extension risk may result from a rise in interest rates, which may make mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and other callable debt securities more volatile.
- **Price Volatility Risk:** The value of client portfolios is subject to change based on the market pricing of investments.
- **Reinvestment Risk:** Future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return.
- **U.S. Government Securities Risk:** Securities such as U.S. Treasury and Ginnie Mae bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States as to timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity. Notwithstanding the full faith and credit backing, circumstances could arise that may reduce such securities' value. Securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies, such as Fannie Mae, Federal Home Loan Bank and Freddie Mac, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, although they do provide certain guarantees and have special authority to borrow from the U.S. Treasury. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will provide financial support to its agencies if it is not obligated by law to do so. U.S. government securities also remain subject to market risk and interest rate risk.

Client investments may also be subject to other risks specific to certain securities, which are further described in the underlying prospectus or other disclosure statement from the issuer of those securities. Clients should carefully review all available disclosures of any securities.

Additionally, despite the affiliation with FCB, client assets managed by SVB Asset Management are **not bank deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency, entity, or person and may lose value.**

## **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

There are no legal or disciplinary events relating to SVB Asset Management or any management person that are required to be disclosed under this Item.

**Item 10****Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

SVB Asset Management is not registered, and does not have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer.

Neither SVB Asset Management nor any of its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or a commodity trading advisor.

SVB Asset Management is affiliated with SVB Investment Services Inc. (“**SVBIS**”), an SEC-registered broker-dealer and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“**FINRA**”). The types of advisory services and the client mandates that SVB Asset Management provides and offers are not expected to conflict or overlap materially with SVBIS’s services and mandates. Nevertheless, certain inherent conflicts of interest may arise from SVB Asset Management’s affiliation with SVBIS, including conflicting investment strategies.

SVB Asset Management is affiliated with SVB Wealth LLC (“**SVBW**”), an investment adviser registered with the SEC. The types of advisory services and the client mandates that SVB Asset Management provides and offers are not expected to conflict or overlap materially with SVBW’s services and mandates. Nevertheless, certain inherent conflicts of interest exist due to SVB Asset Management’s affiliation with SVBW, including conflicting investment strategies.

SVB Asset Management is also affiliated with the following entities; First Citizens Asset Management, Inc., First Citizens Investor Services, Inc., First Citizens Institutional Asset Management LLC (formerly CIT Asset Management), and First Citizens Capital Securities LLC (formerly CIT Capital Securities LLC).

SVB Asset Management may also introduce clients to FCB, the parent of SVB Asset Management. Such introductions are not part of any discretionary investment advisory services to a client, and SVB Asset Management receives no direct compensation for such introductions. Due to SVB Asset Management’s relationship with FCB, the firm may have an indirect financial interest in making such introductions.

In addition, FCB provides a variety of support services to SVB Asset Management including human resources, compliance, middle office, information technology, facilities, finance, legal and administrative support. SVB Asset Management does not believe such support services create a material conflict of interest with clients. SVB Asset Management may refer clients to FCB for banking products such as personal or business loans, cash sweep accounts and other products, and FCB may also invest in or otherwise have an ownership interest in certain SVB Asset Management clients. Clients who use FCB or affiliated products or services will be subject to the fees associated with such service charged by FCB or its affiliates. SVB Asset Management, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of FCB, may have an indirect interest to refer clients to FCB’s banking products and other affiliated business groups. In addition, FCB may refer its clients to SVB Asset Management for investment advisory services.

**Other**

SVB Asset Management provides clients monthly account statements through an electronic reporting platform provided by a third-party provider, Clearwater Analytics, LLC (“**Clearwater**”). In addition, U.S. Bank mails hard copy statements to SVB Asset Management clients on a quarterly basis. Clients do not currently bear any of the costs for the Clearwater reporting platform, except in instances when a client has established a direct relationship with Clearwater.

As noted above, SVB Asset Management earns compensation for client assets directed to money market funds managed by USB, an affiliate of our primary custodian, U.S. Bank. SVB Asset Management does not take such compensation into consideration in recommending USB funds to clients.

**Item 11****Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

SVB Asset Management has established and implemented a Code of Ethics (the “**Code**”) pursuant to Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act, which applies to all supervised persons, including employees of SVB Asset Management (“**Covered Persons**”). The Code sets forth a standard of business conduct expected of all persons covered under the Code, including ethical standards and prohibitions of fraudulent, deceptive or manipulative conduct.

The Code emphasizes and implements fundamental governing principles that SVB Asset Management personnel must adhere to in the course of their work for SVB Asset Management, including the duty to act at all times in the clients’ best interests and the requirement to avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest.

The Code sets forth prohibitions against the use of material non-public information. Covered Persons are prohibited from trading for themselves or others in any security while in possession of material non-public information relating to the issuer of such security, as well as disclosing such to anyone else. The Code also covers, among other things, policies on gifts and entertainment events, actual or potential conflicts of interest, and the protection of the confidentiality of client information and privacy.

Moreover, the Code covers prohibitions on insider trading and restrictions on personal securities transactions of employees. SVB Asset Management requires Covered Persons to receive prior written approval of certain personal transactions, such as purchasing securities through an initial public offering, a limited offering or private placement. SVB Asset Management also prohibits Covered Persons from trading in the securities of clients that are publicly traded. Exceptions to this policy may be granted upon request and on a limited basis after review and approval by the Chief Compliance Officer or President and CEO of SVB Asset Management.

Covered Persons may personally invest in the same or similar securities that are purchased on behalf of clients. The firm does not believe these personal investments pose any material conflict of interest issues for SVB Asset Management or its clients. Since SVB Asset Management buys and sells fixed income securities and money market funds on behalf of its clients, which have characteristics, such as large issue size and market liquidity, the firm does not believe such transactions for its clients results in market movements that could benefit, through front running



or shadowing, Covered Persons for their personal accounts. SVB Asset Management does not allocate investments to any Covered Persons.

SVB Asset Management's policies require that Covered Persons disclose their personal securities holdings on a routine basis. The Compliance Department reviews these holdings for potential conflicts of interest and to ensure that the personal interests of Covered Persons do not interfere with clients' interests.

A copy of the Code of Ethics is available upon request to any client or prospective client. Requests should be directed to the contact listed on the cover page of this brochure.

SVB Asset Management may have an incentive to provide greater time, resources and investment opportunities that may be more favorable or turn out to become more favorable, to larger size clients who may pay a larger fee amount or to clients that have a significant relationship with SVB Asset Management and/or its affiliates.

#### **Other Activities of SVB Asset Management and its Affiliates**

SVB Asset Management may restrict its investment decisions and activities on behalf of clients in various circumstances, including, among other things, as a result of applicable regulatory requirements or potential reputational risk. As a result, SVB Asset Management might not engage in transactions for a client account in consideration of its activities outside of the client account. For example, SVB Asset Management may restrict or limit the amount of a client's investment in an investment opportunity that has limited availability so that other client accounts may be able to acquire an interest in the investment opportunity. In addition, SVB Asset Management and its employees are not permitted to obtain or use material non-public information in effecting purchases and sales in public securities transactions for client accounts. SVB Asset Management may also limit an activity or transaction on behalf of a client account, and may limit its exercise of rights on behalf of the client account, for reputational or other reasons. SVB Asset Management may restrict its activities on behalf of particular client accounts and not others, based upon its reasonable discretion.

### **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

#### **Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions**

SVB Asset Management is authorized to determine, without specific client consent, the broker or dealer to execute portfolio transactions. The broker-dealers are selected primarily based on availability, pricing, reputation, integrity, financial strength and stability, efficiency of execution and error resolution, in addition to other relevant factors.

SVB Asset Management does not maintain any arrangements in which the firm utilizes research, research-related products, or other services obtained from broker-dealers or third-parties on a soft-dollar commission basis. SVB Asset Management derives its research through paid subscribed services, as well as through generally available public sources. The firm may also receive information from broker-dealers, some of whom execute transactions on behalf of SVB Asset Management. However, transactions are executed using reasonable best efforts to ascertain the best market price or yield for all securities bought and sold in the market, and not

with any particular broker-dealer based on any research or related products and services it may provide to the firm.

SVB Asset Management does not charge any brokerage costs, transaction or transfer-related fees, additional commissions, trading spreads, premiums, or other similar fees. The price or yield of securities acquired by SVB Asset Management on behalf of clients is the net purchase cost. Clients may not direct their transactions to be executed by a particular broker-dealer, unless approved by SVB Asset Management. When directing their own trade, a client may not achieve the most favorable execution of its transactions and it may result in more costs to the client. SVB Asset Management does not select or recommend a particular broker-dealer based upon client referrals from that broker-dealer or other third parties.

### **Aggregation and Allocation of Clients' Orders**

SVB Asset Management may engage in trade aggregation practices among multiple clients to obtain more favorable pricing, to achieve trading efficiencies, and/or to obtain some benefit for clients as determined by SVB Asset Management. Such aggregation practices may result in more or less favorable execution of transactions for certain clients.

SVB Asset Management supervises trades and portfolio allocations for fairness among client accounts and account performance, and regularly conducts reviews of its trading practices and allocations.

Allocations of aggregated orders are determined at SVB Asset Management's sole discretion and are based on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Each client's investment policy, objectives, restrictions or other client-provided instructions;
- Each client's particular liquidity needs;
- Any need to rebalance or adjust the investment composition of the portfolio;
- The size and nature of the potential allocation;
- The extent the client's portfolio has been fully invested; and
- The availability of the subject securities.

Allocations are determined in good faith based on the foregoing and done in a manner that is not reasonably expected to result in an improper disadvantage or advantage to one participating client over another. Typically, allocations are not made on a pro-rata basis; however pro-rata allocations may arise in certain instances. Allocations that are not made on a pro-rata basis are done based on investment policy suitability and the timing of the execution request by a portfolio manager.

Should there be a lack of supply of a particular security for eligible portfolios, the transactions will be allocated in the manner as described above.



### **Item 13**

#### **Review of Accounts**

Client accounts that have fixed income positions are internally reviewed by an SVB Asset Management Portfolio Manager on a continuous basis. Periodic reviews may include, among other things, a review of overall performance of investments, a review of asset allocation changes in the portfolio, portfolio duration, a determination of actual and expected liquidity needs of the account, a review for upcoming maturities and reinvestment planning. Account reviews may occur more frequently where there are changes in a client's liquidity needs, certain market events, as well as for client accounts under the Total Return Strategy, to ensure the portfolio is consistent with SVB Asset Management's investment strategy and each client's specific investment needs and objectives.

Clients have access to their monthly account statements through an electronic reporting platform provided by Clearwater. In addition, U.S. Bank mails hard copies of custodial statements to SVB Asset Management clients on a quarterly basis.

### **Item 14**

#### **Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

SVB Asset Management receives fees from certain Fund Distributors for client assets placed into the affiliated funds of these third parties, as described in Item 5 above.

Neither SVB Asset Management, nor any of its affiliates or employees, pay referral fees to independent persons or firms for introducing clients to it. However, certain personnel of FCB may refer clients to SVB Asset Management. While FCB personnel do not receive any direct compensation for referrals made to SVB Asset Management, these referrals are among a variety of factors taken into consideration by FCB in awarding incentive compensation to its employees. Such incentive compensation is not guaranteed and is generally paid on a discretionary basis by FCB.

### **Item 15**

#### **Custody**

Client assets are held in custody by U.S. Bank (or other custodian designated by the client) under a separate custody agreement.

Clients have access to monthly account statements through an electronic reporting platform provided by Clearwater, in addition to hard copy quarterly statements mailed by U.S. Bank. Clients should carefully review these statements on a regular basis and compare the account statements from both Clearwater and U.S. Bank. Clients should report any errors or discrepancies in the statements to SVB Asset Management immediately.

**Item 16  
Investment Discretion**

SVB Asset Management maintains discretionary investment authority to manage assets on behalf of substantially all of its clients pursuant to a discretionary account agreement, which is entered into between SVB Asset Management and each client. Under this agreement, SVB Asset Management is granted complete and unlimited discretionary trading authorization on the assets of the client's account, subject to any reasonable restrictions or limitations imposed by the client and/or their investment policy.

On a case-by-case basis, SVB Asset Management may invest a client's assets as specifically directed by the client. Such transactions are subject to the acceptance of SVB Asset Management as determined in SVB Asset Management's sole discretion.

**Item 17  
Voting Client Securities**

SVB Asset Management does not expect to trade individual equity securities and primarily trades in fixed income, commercial paper or cash equivalent securities on behalf of client accounts and as such we do not expect to receive any proxies related to assets held in client accounts. Unless SVB Asset Management and a client have otherwise agreed, SVB Asset Management will typically vote any proxies it receives relating to assets held in client accounts, other than those received for non-discretionary or client-directed assets. When voting client proxies, SVB Asset Management evaluates and votes client proxies in a manner consistent with what the firm believes is in the client's best interests, voting in a manner that maximizes shareholder value for all clients, and voting all client proxies the same way for each client, absent qualifying restrictions from a client.

SVB Asset Management's senior management may from time to time determine that refraining from voting a client proxy is in a client's best interest, such as when the cost of voting a client proxy exceeds the expected benefit to the client.

Should SVB Asset Management determine that a material conflict of interest exists in the voting of a client proxy, the matter will be reviewed by SVB Asset Management's senior management who will determine whether to give the affected clients an opportunity to vote their proxies themselves or to address the voting issue through other objective means such as voting in a manner consistent with a predetermined voting policy or receiving an independent third-party voting recommendation.

Clients may obtain information regarding how SVB Asset Management voted proxies for their account(s) or request a copy of the firm's proxy voting policy. Such requests should be directed to the contact listed on the cover page of this brochure.

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

SVB Asset Management:

- Does not solicit prepayment or accept prepayment of fees from its clients;
- Has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years;
- Has discretionary authority over client accounts, however, there are no financial conditions that are likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments to its clients.