

Kaye Capital Management

SEC File Number: 801 – 57510

Brochure

Dated: November 29, 2023

713 Campus Square West
El Segundo, California 90245
www.kayecapital.com

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Kaye Capital Management (the “Registrant”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (310) 207-5293 or compliance@kayecapital.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 Kaye Capital Management is also available on the SEC’s website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

References herein to Kaye Capital Management as a “registered investment adviser” or any reference to being “registered” do not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 Material Changes

Since our last ADV Annual Amendment filing made on February 8, 2023, this Disclosure Brochure has been amended as follows:

- At Item 4 to revise disclosure language regarding restrictions applicable to certain mutual funds

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Item 4 Advisory Business

- A. Kaye Capital Management (the “Registrant”) is a corporation formed on January 17, 2003 in the State of California. The Registrant became registered as an Investment Adviser Firm in December 1997. The Registrant is principally owned by the Watten Family Trust and the Hilton Family Trust, for which Kenneth J. Watten and David W. Hilton serve as respective trustees. Mr. Watten and Mr. Hilton are also the Registrant’s Principals.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients (individuals, high net worth individuals, business entities, trusts, estates and charitable organizations, retirement plans, etc.) investment advisory services, retirement plan consulting, and, to the extent specifically requested by a client, financial planning, and related consulting services.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

The Registrant may be engaged to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a fee basis. The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee is based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the assets placed under the Registrant’s management generally between 0.50% and 1.50%.

The Registrant’s annual investment advisory fee shall include investment advisory services, and, to the extent specifically requested by the client, financial planning, and consulting services. In the event that the client requires extraordinary planning and/or consultation services (to be determined in the sole discretion of the Registrant), the Registrant may determine to charge for such additional services, the dollar amount of which shall be set forth in a separate written notice to the client. Registrant does not provide ongoing monitoring of its previously-provided financial planning and consulting recommendations, but remains available to review and revise the client’s financial plan on an annual basis at the client’s request.

If a client is accepted with less than \$120,000 under Registrant’s management, and such client elects to receive both investment advisory and financial planning and consulting services, the annual fee shall be broken into individual components for each service. If and when the assets of such clients exceed \$120,000, the client will be transitioned to Registrant’s asset-based fee schedule, and separate charges for financial planning services shall cease. See Item 5 below for more details. Registrant may waive or reduce this \$120,000 threshold at its sole discretion.

Clients who own variable annuities can also engage Registrant to manage their variable annuity subaccounts as part of their overall investment portfolio. A variable annuity is a deferred annuity that provides investment returns based on the performance of its “subaccounts.” Those subaccounts contain investment assets. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the value of the subaccounts that clients engage Registrant to manage would be included as part of Registrant’s calculation of its investment advisory fee described in Item 5. Registrant’s investment selection for the variable annuity subaccounts is limited to those made available by the variable annuity sponsor.

When Registrant deems it consistent with a client’s investment objectives and financial situation, clients may also be referred to Fidelity (“Fidelity”) for evaluation, purchase, or exchange of variable annuities. Any variable annuity sales activity is conducted by Fidelity staff who are appropriately licensed and/or registered to engage in such activity. Registrant’s associated persons will not earn or accept any commission compensation from such purchase or exchange. Registrant’s only compensation related to variable annuities will be limited to the asset-based fee

it earns from managing the investment subaccounts it is engaged to manage, as further described in Item 5 below. Note that variable annuities available will be limited to those products offered by Fidelity, and that variable annuities which differ in terms of features, benefits, drawbacks, fees, expenses, and other factors are available from other sources. Clients are not under any obligation to engage Registrant to provide any of the above services and are free to purchase variable annuities from the professional of their choosing. Registrant's variable annuity recommendation presents a conflict of interest if Registrant will thereafter be engaged to manage the subaccounts of that variable annuity for a fee. Registrant mitigates that conflict of interest by only recommending a variable annuity when it is consistent with the client investment objectives and financial situation, and by reminding clients that they are not under any obligation to purchase variable annuities or engage Registrant to manage variable annuity subaccounts.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may be engaged to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone separate fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$3,000 to \$10,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$300 to \$500 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). Prior to engaging the Registrant to provide planning or consulting services, clients are generally required to enter into a Financial Planning and Consulting Agreement with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement (including termination), describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the portion of the fee that is due from the client prior to Registrant commencing services.

If requested by the client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes, including the Registrant's representatives in their individual capacities as licensed insurance agents. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from the Registrant. If the client engages any professional (e.g., attorney, accountant, insurance agent, etc.), recommended or otherwise, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged professional(s), and not Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided.

Unless otherwise agreed, the Registrant does not provide ongoing monitoring of the client's financial plan or Registrant's previously provided planning recommendations. It remains the client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of requesting an evaluation of or revision to Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES

Trustee Directed Plans: Registrant may be engaged to provide discretionary or non-discretionary investment advisory services to workplace retirement plans, whereby the Registrant manages retirement plan assets consistent with the investment objective designated by the plan trustees. In such engagements, Registrant will serve as an investment fiduciary as that term is defined under Section 3(21) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended. In discretionary engagements, Registrant will also serve as an investment manager, as that term is defined under Section 3(38) of ERISA.

Participant Directed Retirement Plans: Registrant may also provide investment advisory and consulting services to participant directed retirement plans per the terms and conditions of a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement between Registrant and the plan. For such engagements, Registrant assists sponsors of self-directed retirement plans with the selection and/or monitoring of investment alternatives (generally open-end mutual funds) from which plan participants shall choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. In addition, to the extent requested by the plan sponsor, the Registrant may also provide participant education designed to assist participants in identifying the appropriate investment strategy for their retirement plan accounts. If the plan chooses to engage the Registrant in an ERISA Section 3(38) capacity, Registrant may provide the same services as described above, but may also: create specific asset allocation models that Registrant manages on a discretionary basis, which plan participants may choose in managing their individual retirement account; and/or modify the investment options made available to plan participants on a discretionary basis.

Client Retirement Plan Assets: If requested to do so, Registrant can provide investment advisory services relative to a client's 401(k) plan assets. In such event, Registrant shall allocate (or recommend that the client allocate) the retirement account assets among the investment options available on the 401(k) platform. Registrant's investment selection shall be limited to the investment alternatives available through the plan. Registrant will not receive any communications from the plan sponsor or custodian, and it shall remain the client's exclusive obligation to notify Registrant of any changes in investment alternatives, restrictions, etc. pertaining to the retirement account.

MISCELLANEOUS

Limitations of Financial Planning and Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services.

As indicated above, to the extent requested by a client, Registrant may provide financial planning and related consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Registrant does not serve as an attorney or accountant, and no portion of its services should be construed as legal or accounting services. Accordingly, Registrant does not prepare estate planning documents or tax returns. Unless otherwise agreed, Registrant's financial planning and consulting services do not include implementation of Registrant's recommendations. To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purpose (e.g., attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.), including representatives of Registrant in their separate individual capacities as licensed insurance agents. The client is under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation from Registrant and/or its representatives. If the client engages any professional, recommended or otherwise, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from the engaged professional. At all times, the engaged licensed professional(s), and not Registrant, shall be responsible for the quality and competency of the services provided. The recommendation by Registrant's representative that a client purchase an insurance commission product through Registrant's representatives in their separate and individual capacity as an insurance agent, presents a conflict of interest, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend insurance products based on commissions to be received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any insurance commission products through such a representative. Clients are reminded that they may purchase insurance products recommended by Registrant through the insurance agencies of their choosing.

Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis must be willing to accept that the Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. As a result, during periods of market volatility, the Registrant will be unable to effect any account transactions (as it would for its discretionary clients) without first obtaining the client's consent.

Sub-Advisory Arrangements. The Registrant may engage sub-advisers for the purpose of assisting the Registrant with the management of its client accounts. The sub-adviser(s) shall have discretionary authority for the day-to-day management of the assets that are allocated to it by the Registrant. The sub-adviser shall continue in such capacity until such arrangement is terminated or modified by the Registrant. The Registrant will render ongoing and continuous advisory services to the client relative to the monitoring and review of account performance, client investment objectives, and asset allocation. The investment advisory fee by any such sub-adviser is separate from and in addition to Registrant's investment advisory fee, as set forth in Item 5 below.

Retirement Rollovers. A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If the Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by the Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Registrant will earn a new (or increase its current) advisory fee as a result of the rollover. No client is under any obligation to rollover retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant.

ERISA / IRC Fiduciary Acknowledgment. When Registrant provides investment advice to a client regarding the client's retirement plan account or individual retirement account, it does so as a fiduciary within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") and/or the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"), as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way Registrant makes money creates some conflicts with client interests, so Registrant operates under a special rule that requires it to act in the client's best interest and not put its interests ahead of the client's.

Under this special rule's provisions, Registrant must:

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

Dimensional Fund Advisors. Certain mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional Fund Advisors ("DFA"), are generally only available through approved registered investment advisers. Registrant is one such approved investment adviser and may use or recommend DFA mutual funds in providing its advisory services. Upon the termination of Registrant's advisory services, the client

or the client's new adviser may maintain or sell out of DFA mutual fund positions but may be restricted in the ability to purchase additional DFA mutual fund shares.

Account Aggregation and Planning Platforms. Registrant may provide its clients with access to one or more online account aggregation and financial planning platforms, including those hosted by MoneyGuidePro and Orion Planning (each a "Platform"). The Platforms allow a client to view their complete asset allocation, including those assets that Registrant does not manage (the "Excluded Assets"). Registrant does not provide investment management, monitoring, or implementation services for the Excluded Assets. Unless otherwise specifically agreed to, in writing, Registrant's service relative to the Excluded Assets is limited to reporting only. Therefore, Registrant shall not be responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Rather, the client and/or their advisor(s) that maintain management authority for the Excluded Assets, and not Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for such investment performance. Without limiting the above, the Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. The client may choose to engage Registrant to manage some or all of the Excluded Assets pursuant to the terms and conditions of an Investment Advisory Agreement between Registrant and the client. The Platforms also provide access to certain information and applications, including financial planning concepts and functionality, which should not, in any manner whatsoever, be construed as services, advice, or recommendations provided by Registrant. Registrant shall not be held responsible for any adverse results a client may experience if the client engages in financial planning or other functions available on the Platforms without Registrant's assistance or oversight.

Periods of Portfolio Inactivity. The Registrant has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the client's best interest. As part of its investment advisory services, Registrant will review client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine if any changes are necessary based upon various factors, including, but not limited to, investment performance, fund manager tenure, style drift, account additions/withdrawals, and/or a change in the client's investment objective. Based upon these factors, there may be extended periods of time when the Registrant determines that changes to a client's portfolio are neither necessary nor prudent. Clients nonetheless remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 below during periods of account inactivity. Of course, as indicated below, there can be no assurance that investment decisions made by the Registrant will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

Cash Positions. Registrant considers cash and cash equivalents to be a material component of a client's investment allocation. Therefore, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being no guarantee that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), the Registrant may maintain cash and cash equivalent positions (such as money market funds, etc.) for defensive, liquidity, or other purposes. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all such cash positions are included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating the Registrant's advisory fee. Clients are advised that, at any given time, the fee charged by Registrant may exceed the yield earned on cash and cash equivalent positions.

Client Obligations. In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, each client is advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, or revising Registrant's previous recommendations and/or services.

- C. The Registrant shall provide investment advisory services specific to the needs of each client. Prior to providing investment advisory services, an investment adviser representative will ascertain each client's investment objective(s). Thereafter, the Registrant shall allocate and/or recommend that the client allocate investment assets consistent with the designated investment objective(s). The client may, at any time, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2022, the Registrant had \$413,751,431 in assets under management on a discretionary basis and \$74,744,497 in assets under management on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 Fees and Compensation

A.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES

If a client engages the Registrant to provide discretionary and/or non-discretionary investment advisory services on a fee basis, the Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value and type of assets placed under the Registrant's management (between 0.50% and 1.50%) as follows:

<u>Market Value of Portfolio</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
From \$0-\$250,000	1.50%
From \$250,001-\$750,000	1.00%
From \$750,001-\$1,500,000	0.80%
From \$1,500,001-\$4,000,000	0.70%
From \$4,000,001-\$6,500,000	0.60%
From \$6,500,001 and above	0.50%

To illustrate the above, a client placing \$500,000 under Registrant's management would pay an annual fee of 1.50% on the first \$250,000 and 1.00% on the remaining \$250,000.

If a client is accepted with less than \$120,000 under Registrant's management, and that client elects to receive both investment advisory and financial planning and consulting services, the annual fee shall be broken into individual components for each service. Such clients shall be subject to an annual investment management fee equal to 0.40% of assets placed under Registrant's management, as well as a \$1,200 annual financial planning fee, payable in equal monthly installments. If and when the assets of such clients exceed \$120,000 on a per quarter and annualized basis, the client will no longer incur separate financial planning fees and will, instead, become subject to Registrant's standard asset-based fee schedule shown above. Registrant may waive or reduce this \$120,000 threshold at its sole discretion.

Registrant, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee and/or charge a flat fee based upon certain criteria (i.e. anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, prior fee schedules, competition, negotiations with client, etc.). As result of the above, similarly situated clients could pay different fees. In addition, similar advisory services may be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES (STAND-ALONE)

The Registrant may be engaged to provide financial planning and/or consulting services (including investment and non-investment related matters, including estate planning, insurance planning, etc.) on a stand-alone fee basis. Registrant's planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$3,000 to \$10,000 on a fixed fee basis, and from \$300 to \$500 on an hourly rate basis, depending upon the level and scope of the service(s) required and the professional(s) rendering the service(s).

RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING

The Registrant may provide retirement plan consulting services, pursuant to which it assists sponsors of self-directed retirement plans with the selection and/or monitoring of investment alternatives (generally open-end mutual funds) from which plan participants shall choose in self-directing the investments for their individual plan retirement accounts. The Registrant's consulting fee shall be based upon a percentage (%) of the market value of the plan assets that the Registrant is consulting on, but will generally be between 0.10% and 1.00%. Registrant, in its sole discretion, may alternatively determine to charge a flat fee for retirement plan consulting services, which flat fees shall generally range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 on an annual basis.

- B. Registrant will generally debit its advisory fees directly from the client's custodial account. Both Registrant's Investment Advisory Agreement and the custodial/clearing agreement authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's investment advisory fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter.
- C. As discussed below, unless the client directs otherwise or an individual client's circumstances require, the Registrant shall generally recommend that *Fidelity* serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as *Fidelity* charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e., transaction fees may be charged for certain mutual funds) in accordance with *Fidelity's* brokerage commission/transaction fee schedule. *Fidelity* also generally assesses a per transaction fee and annual holdings fees for private investments. In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, and applicable brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and holding fees that may be assessed by the broker-dealer/custodian, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses).

Trade-away/Prime Broker Fees. Relative to its discretionary investment management services, when beneficial to the client, individual equity and/or fixed income transactions may be effected through broker-dealers other than the account custodian, in which event, the client generally will incur both the fee (commission, mark-up/mark-down) charged by the executing broker-dealer and a separate "trade-away" and/or prime broker fee charged by the account custodian (*Fidelity*).

- D. Registrant's annual investment advisory fee shall generally be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets on the last business day of the previous quarter. For account deposits of \$50,000 or more in the first sixty (60) days of a billing quarter, a prorated fee adjustment will be made at the next billing interval. No fee adjustments are made for account withdrawals, unless such withdrawal is completed in connection with an engagement termination, as described more fully below. Asset-based fee calculations include dividends, interest, and other

earnings that have accrued to the account, even if those earnings have not yet settled into the account at the time of fee calculation.

Clients who place less than \$120,000 under Registrant's management, and who elect to receive Registrant's financial planning and consulting services, will generally also incur a \$1,200 annual financial planning and consulting fee, payable on a monthly basis, in advance. This portion of the client's fee will be invoiced directly to the client by Registrant and will not be directly debited from the client's investment account.

The Investment Advisory Agreement between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement. For terminations becoming effective within the first sixty (60) days of a billing quarter, the Registrant shall refund a pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter. For terminations becoming effective within the last thirty (30) days of a billing quarter, no refund is provided for any prepaid fees.

Although these are Registrant's typical fee practices, other arrangements exist regarding the frequency, timing, and other aspects of Registrant's investment advisory fees. Clients are advised to consult their services agreement with Registrant for specific details.

- E. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

Neither the Registrant nor any supervised person of the Registrant accepts performance-based fees.

Item 7 Types of Clients

The Registrant's clients shall generally include individuals, business entities, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, and retirement plans. The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual fee of \$1,800 and a minimum asset level of \$120,000 for investment advisory services, which minimums Registrant may waive or reduce at its sole discretion. However, please see Item 5 above for information pertaining to services provided to clients with less than \$120,000 in assets under Registrant's management.

Item 8 Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

- A. The Registrant shall utilize the following methods of security analysis:
 - Charting - (analysis performed using patterns to identify current trends and trend reversals to forecast the direction of prices)
 - Fundamental - (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
 - Technical – (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)

The Registrant shall utilize the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice given to clients:

- Long Term Purchases (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

Investment Risk. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

- B. The Registrant's methods of analysis and investment strategies do not present any significant or unusual risks.

However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases and Short-Term Purchases - are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter-term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer-term investment strategy.

In addition to the fundamental investment strategies discussed above, Registrant's clients may also have access to margin and/or securities-based loans. These arrangements have a high level of inherent risk. (See discussion below).

Registrant does not generally recommend the use of margin loans or securities-based loans (collectively, "SBLs") as an investment strategy, in which the client would leverage borrowed assets as collateral for the purchase of additional securities. However, Registrant's clients may establish a margin account with the client's broker-dealer/custodian or their affiliated banks (each, an "SBL Lender") to access SBLs for financial planning and cash flow management purposes. For example, Registrant's clients may determine to borrow money on margin to pay bills or other expenses such as financing the purchase, construction, or maintenance of a real estate project. Unlike a traditional real estate-backed loan, an SBL has the potential benefit of enabling borrowers to access to funds in a shorter period of time, providing greater repayment flexibility, and may also result in the borrower receiving certain tax benefits. Clients interested in learning more about the potential tax benefits of borrowing money on margin should consult with an accountant or tax advisor.

The terms and conditions of each SBL are contained in a separate agreement between the client and the SBL Lender selected by the client, which terms and conditions may vary from client to client. Borrowing funds on margin is not suitable for all clients and is subject to certain risks, including but not limited to: increased market risk, increased risk of loss, especially in the event of a significant downturn; liquidity risk; the potential obligation to post collateral or repay the SBL if the SBL Lender determines that the value of collateralized securities is no longer sufficient to

support the value of the SBL; the risk that the SBL Lender may liquidate the client's securities to satisfy its demand for additional collateral or repayment / the risk that the SBL Lender may terminate the SBL at any time. Before agreeing to participate in an SBL program, clients should carefully review the applicable SBL agreement and all risk disclosures provided by the SBL Lender including the initial margin and maintenance requirements for the specific program in which the client enrolls, and the procedures for issuing "margin calls" and liquidating securities and other assets in the client's accounts. The following describes some of the risks associated with SBLs, which Registrant recommends that clients consider before participating in an SBL program:

1. Increased Portfolio Risk, Including the Risk for Potential Losses in the Event of a Downturn

Borrowing money on margin to pay bills or other expenses increases a client's level of exposure to market risk and volatility. The more money a client borrows on margin, the greater the market risk. This is especially true in the event of a significant downturn in the value of the assets used to collateralize the SBL. In some circumstances, clients may lose more money than they originally invested and borrowed. As the marginable investments in a client's portfolio provide the collateral for the SBL, the value of that collateral fluctuates according to market activity, while the amount the client borrows stays the same.

2. The Potential Obligation to Post Collateral or Repay the SBL if the SBL Lender Determines that the Value of Collateralized Securities is No Longer Sufficient to Support the Value of the SBL

The SBL requires a certain minimum value of equity to continue service of the SBL (the "Maintenance Requirement"). If the value of the client's portfolio securities decline in value, so does the value of the collateral supporting the SBL. If the value of the SBL collateral declines to an amount where it is no longer sufficient to support the borrower's line of credit or loan, the SBL Lender will issue a "Maintenance Call" (also referred to as a "margin call"). In that event, the client would be required to post additional collateral or repay the SBL within a specified period of time. The SBL Lender is also commonly entitled to increase its Maintenance Requirement at any time, without having to provide prior written notice to the borrower. As a result, borrowers are subject to risk of repayment of the loan and should be aware of such risks when foregoing a traditional mortgage to finance a real estate purchase.

3. The Risk that the SBL Lender may Liquidate the Client's Securities to Satisfy its Demand for Additional Collateral or Repayment

The SBL Lender commonly reserves the right to render the borrower's repayment immediately due, and/or terminate the SBL at any time without cause, at which point, the outstanding SBL balance would become immediately due and payable. However, if the borrower is unable to add additional collateral to their account or repay the loan with readily available cash, the SBL Lender can typically liquidate the borrower's securities and keep the cash to satisfy the Maintenance Call. When liquidating the securities of the borrower's investment portfolio, the SBL Lender usually reserves the right to decide which securities to sell to protect its interests and is not necessarily required to provide written notice of its intentions to liquidate. Accordingly, clients who borrow money through an SBL should be aware of this risk and that such risk is not limited to the margin in the client's account which could result in the client having to owe additional money or collateral to the SBL lender after the positions are liquidated. It is therefore possible that a client can lose more money than what the client originally invested into the portfolio.

4. Liquidity Risk

SBLs also have a significant effect on the liquidity of a client's portfolio. Namely, a security (whether an equity, mutual fund, or ETF) that is used as collateral for an SBL loses its liquidity as long as the SBL is outstanding. Decreased liquidity increases portfolio risk and restricts a client's access to their funds, which clients should strongly consider before using an SBL.

5. Risk of Margin as an Investment Strategy and Associated Conflict of Interest

Although Registrant does not recommend the use of margin as an investment strategy, in which the client would borrow money leveraged against securities it holds to purchase additional securities, clients choosing to do so would be subjected to the risks described above. In addition, if a client determines to use margin to purchase assets that Registrant will manage, Registrant would include the entire market value of the assets purchased on margin when computing its advisory fee, which would present a conflict of interest because it would result in an increased advisory fee. Another conflict of interest would arise if Registrant has an economic disincentive to recommend that the client terminate the use of margin. If Registrant recommends that a client apply for an SBL instead of selling securities that Registrant manages for a fee to meet liquidity purposes, the recommendation presents a conflict of interest because selling those securities (instead of leveraging those securities to access an SBL) would decrease Registrant's investment advisory fee.

- C. Currently, the Registrant primarily allocates client investment assets among various individual equity and fixed income securities, as well as mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

Risks associated with these asset types include:

1. Interest-rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
2. Market Risk: The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk may be caused by external factors independent of the fund's specific investments as well as due to the fund's specific investments. Additionally, each security's price will fluctuate based on market movement and emotion, which may, or may not be due to the security's operations or changes in its true value. For example, political, economic, and social conditions may trigger market events which are temporarily negative, or temporarily positive.
3. Inflation Risk: When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will not buy as much as a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
4. Reinvestment Risk: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e., interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.
5. Financial Risk: Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value.

6. **Market Risk (Systematic Risk):** Even a long-term investment approach cannot guarantee a profit. Economic, political, and issuer-specific events will cause the value of securities to rise or fall. Because the value of your portfolio will fluctuate, there is a risk that you will lose money.
7. **Unsystematic Risk:** Unsystematic risk is the company-specific or industry-specific risk in a portfolio. The combination of systematic (market risk) and unsystematic risk is defined as the portfolio risk that the investor bears. While the investor can do little to reduce systematic risk, he or she can affect unsystematic risk. Unsystematic risk may be significantly reduced through diversification. However, even a portfolio of well-diversified assets cannot escape all risk.
8. **Credit Risk:** Credit risk is the risk that the issuer of a security may be unable to make interest payments and/or repay principal when due. A downgrade to an issuer's credit rating or a perceived change in an issuer's financial strength may affect a security's value, and thus, impact performance. Credit risk is greater for fixed income securities with ratings below investment grade (BB or below by Standard & Poor's Rating Group or Ba or below by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.). Fixed income securities that are below investment grade involve higher credit risk and are considered speculative.
9. **Income Risk:** Income risk is the risk that falling interest rates will cause the investment's income to decline.
10. **Call Risk:** Call risk is the risk that during periods of falling interest rates, a bond issuer will call or repay a higher-yielding bond before its maturity date, forcing the investment to reinvest in bonds with lower interest rates than the original obligations.
11. **Purchasing Power Risk:** Purchasing power risk is the risk that your investment's value will decline as the price of goods rises (inflation). The investment's value itself does not decline, but its relative value does, which is the same thing. Inflation can happen for a variety of complex reasons, including a growing economy and a rising money supply. Rising inflation means that if you have \$1,000 and inflation rises 5 percent in a year, your \$1,000 has lost 5 percent of its value, as it cannot buy what it could buy a year previous.
12. **Political Risks:** Most investments have a global component, even domestic stocks. Political events anywhere in the world may have unforeseen consequences to markets around the world.
13. **Regulatory Risk:** Changes in laws and regulations from any government can change the market value of companies subject to such regulations. Certain industries are more susceptible to government regulation. Changes in zoning, tax structure or laws impact the return on these investments.
14. **Risks Related to Investment Term:** Securities do not follow a straight line up in value. All securities will have periods of time when the current price of the security is not what we believe it is truly worth. If you require us to liquidate your portfolio during one of these periods, you will not realize as much value as you would have had the investment had the opportunity to regain its value.

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as ETFs and mutual funds are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event, they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss. As such, a mutual fund or ETF client or investor may incur substantial tax liabilities even when the fund underperforms.

Shares of mutual funds are distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (e.g., sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per-share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual NAV fluctuates with intraday changes in the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares can differ significantly from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for indexed-based ETFs and more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies can cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their pro-rata NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. While clients and investors may be able to sell their ETF shares on an exchange, ETFs generally only redeem shares directly from shareholders when aggregated as creation units (usually 50,000 shares or more). Therefore, if a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

Unaffiliated Private Investment Funds. Registrant may also provide investment advice regarding unaffiliated private investment funds. Registrant, on a non-discretionary basis, may recommend that certain qualified clients consider an investment in unaffiliated private investment funds. Registrant's role relative to the private investment funds shall be limited to its initial and ongoing due diligence and investment monitoring services. If a client determines to become a private fund investor, the amount of assets invested in the fund(s) shall be included as part of "assets under management" for purposes of Registrant calculating its investment advisory fee. Registrant's clients are under absolutely no obligation to consider or make an investment in a private investment fund(s).

Private investment funds generally involve various risk factors, including, but not limited to, potential for complete loss of principal, liquidity constraints and lack of transparency, a complete discussion of which is set forth in each fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client for review and consideration. Unlike liquid investments that a client may own, private investment funds do not provide daily liquidity or pricing. Each prospective client investor will be required to complete a Subscription Agreement, pursuant to which the client shall establish that he/she is qualified for investment in the fund and acknowledges and accepts the various risk factors that are associated with such an investment.

Private Investment Valuation. In the event that the Registrant references private investment funds owned by the client on any supplemental account reports prepared by the Registrant, the value(s) for all private investment funds owned by the client shall reflect the most recent valuation provided by the fund sponsor. However, if subsequent to purchase, the fund has not provided an updated valuation, the valuation shall reflect the initial purchase price. If subsequent to purchase, the fund provides an updated valuation, then the statement will reflect that updated value. The updated value will continue to be reflected on the report until the fund provides a further updated value. As result

of the valuation process, if the valuation reflects initial purchase price or an updated value subsequent to purchase price, the current value(s) of an investor's fund holding(s) could be significantly more or less than the value reflected on the report. Unless otherwise indicated, the client's advisory fee shall be based upon the value reflected on the report.

Item 9 Disciplinary Information

The Registrant has not been the subject of any disciplinary actions.

Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

- A. Neither the Registrant nor its representatives are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither the Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. **Insurance Company and Licensed Insurance Agents.** Cogent Insurance Solutions is a licensed insurance agency which is partially owned by certain of Registrant's associated persons. Also, certain of Registrant's representatives, in their individual capacities, are licensed insurance agents, and as referenced in Item 4.B above, clients can engage these representatives to purchase insurance products on a commission basis.

The recommendation by the Registrant or its representatives that a client purchase an insurance commission product presents a conflict of interest, as the receipt of commissions may provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on commissions received, rather than on a particular client's need. No client is under any obligation to purchase any commission products through Cogent Insurance Solutions or from Registrant's representatives in their separate capacities as licensed insurance agents. Clients are reminded that they may purchase investment products recommended by Registrant through the insurance agencies and agents of their choosing.

- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects for its clients.

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

- A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's Representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. Practices such as “scalping” (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, “front-running” (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant’s clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant’s “Access Persons.” The Registrant’s securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person’s current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date the Registrant selects; provided, however that at any time that the Registrant has only one Access Person, he or she shall not be required to submit any securities report described above.

- D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11.C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant’s Access Persons.

Item 12 Brokerage Practices

- A. In the event that the client requests that the Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services (exclusive of those clients that may direct the Registrant to use a specific broker-dealer/custodian), Registrant generally recommends that investment management accounts be maintained at Fidelity. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal Investment Advisory Agreement with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall manage the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending Fidelity (or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients) include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Although the commissions and/or transaction fees paid by Registrant's clients shall comply with the Registrant's duty to obtain best execution, a client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where the Registrant determines, in good faith, that the commission/transaction fee is reasonable. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not

the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client account transactions. The brokerage commissions or transaction fees charged by the designated broker-dealer/custodian are exclusive of, and in addition to, Registrant's investment management fee. The Registrant's best execution responsibility is qualified if securities that it purchases for client accounts are mutual funds that trade at net asset value as determined at the daily market close.

1. Non-Soft Dollar Research and Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer/custodian, Registrant can receive from Fidelity (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, vendor, unaffiliated product/fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services and/or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at such institutions. Included within the support services that can be obtained by the Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

Certain of the above support services and/or products assist the Registrant in managing and administering client accounts. Others do not directly provide such assistance, but rather assist the Registrant to manage and further develop its business enterprise.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at Fidelity as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to Fidelity or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities, or other investment products as result of the above arrangement.

2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
3. The Registrant does not generally accept directed brokerage arrangements (when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Registrant will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction

costs adversely impact account performance. Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

- B. To the extent that the Registrant provides investment management services to its clients, the transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless the Registrant decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or “bunch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Registrant’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

Item 13 Review of Accounts

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides investment supervisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's Principal. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant may conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment advisory services may also receive a periodic report from the Registrant summarizing account activity and performance.

Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation

- A. As referenced in Item 12.A.1 above, the Registrant may receive an economic benefit from Fidelity. The Registrant, without cost (and/or at a discount), may receive support services and/or products from Fidelity.

Registrant’s clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at Fidelity as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to Fidelity or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities, or other investment products as result of the above arrangement.

- B. The Registrant does not compensate, directly or indirectly, any person, other than its representatives, for client referrals.

Item 15 Custody

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian. Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. Those clients to whom Registrant provides investment advisory services may also receive a periodic report from the Registrant summarizing account activity and performance.

To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian. The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

Item 16 Investment Discretion

The client can determine to engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to the Registrant assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute *Investment Advisory Agreement*, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at anytime, impose restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's discretionary authority. (i.e., limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

Item 17 Voting Client Securities

- A. The Registrant does not vote client proxies. Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the petition.
- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

Item 18 Financial Information

- A. The Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. The Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. The Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.