

# **Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC**

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## **FORM ADV PART 2A - APPENDIX 1 WRAP FEE PROGRAM BROCHURE**

This Wrap Fee Program brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, contact us at 337-232-1141. 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 Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov), or [www.summit-financial.com](http://www.summit-financial.com).

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

## Item 2 Summary of Material Changes

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

Since the filing of our last annual updating amendment, dated March 29, 2022 we have made the following changes to the Appendix 1.

1. We have enhanced our disclosures under Item 4 to disclose that we implement investment advice on behalf of certain clients in held-away accounts that are maintained at independent third-party custodians. These held-away accounts are often 401(k) accounts, 529 plans and other assets that are not held at our primary custodian(s). For certain clients, we charge an advisory fee for services provided to the held-away accounts mentioned above in Item 4, just as we do with client accounts held at our primary custodians(s). The specific fee schedule charged by us is provided in the client's investment advisory agreement with us.

On September 19, 2023 we filed an amendment to disclose the following:

On August 31, 2023, funds affiliated with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC ("CD&R") and Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point") completed an acquisition of Focus Financial Partners Inc. ("Focus Inc."). This transaction resulted in funds affiliated with CD&R collectively becoming majority owners of Focus Inc. and funds affiliated with Stone Point collectively becoming owners of Focus Inc. Because Summit Financial Wealth Advisors is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., the CD&R and Stone Point funds are indirect owners of Summit Financial Wealth Advisors. Item 9 has been revised to reflect this new ownership structure.

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## Item 4 Services, Fees, and Compensation

### Description of Firm

Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC ("Summit Financial," "we," "us" or the "Company") is a registered investment adviser with offices in Lafayette, Louisiana; Monroe, Louisiana; Shreveport, Louisiana and Ruston, Louisiana. Summit Financial succeeded to the advisory business of its predecessor, Summit Financial of Louisiana, Inc., which was originally founded in 2010.

### Our Management

We are managed by David R. Daniel, Todd F. Lambert, Michael E. Pharr, Suzette Broussard, and Wesley Gatreux ("Summit Principals"), pursuant to a management agreement between Southern Asset Management ("Management Company") and Summit Financial. The Summit Principals serve as officers of Financial and are responsible for the management, supervision and oversight of Financial.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we", "our" and "us" refer to Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC and the words "you", "your" and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our Company. Also, you may see the term Associated Person throughout this brochure. As used in this brochure, our Associated Persons are our Company's officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our Company.

### Client Investment Process

We offer discretionary portfolio management services through our Wrap Program. Under the Wrap Program, clients pay a single fee for our investment advice and for brokerage transactions executed through the wrap program broker. The Wrap Program is not open to new clients.

Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for this service, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather to develop a strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and/or to make investments on your behalf. As part of our portfolio management services, we will customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives. Each client's portfolio is individually managed and may or may not be similar to another client with the same objectives. We will also invest your assets using a predefined strategy, or we may invest your assets according to one or more model portfolios developed by our firm. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, or select a model portfolio, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis, and will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances.

If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow our firm to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm, a limited power of attorney, or trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account.

Cetera Advisors Network, LLC, ("Cetera"), a securities broker-dealer that is not affiliated with our firm, which clears through Pershing LLC, serves as the executing broker/dealer for transactions placed in Program accounts, and provides other administrative services as described throughout this Brochure. To compare the cost of the wrap fee program with non-wrap fee portfolio management services, you should consider the frequency of trading activity associated with our investment strategies and the brokerage commissions charged by Cetera and the advisory fees charged we charge for our services on a standalone basis.

### **Changes in Your Financial Circumstances**

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

### **The Program Fee**

We charge an annual "wrap-fee" for participation in the Program depending upon the market value of your assets under our management. Our Program fee includes the advisory fee for management of your account and transaction and execution costs for trades executed at Cetera Advisors Network, the Program Broker. If you participate in our wrap fee program, you will pay us a single fee, which includes our money management fees, certain transaction costs, and custodial and administrative costs. We receive a portion of the wrap fee for our services. The overall cost you will incur if you participate in our wrap fee program may be higher or lower than you might incur by separately purchasing the types of securities available in the program. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion. In special circumstances, and in our sole discretion, we may negotiate a lesser management fee based upon certain criteria (i.e., anticipated future earning capacity, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing client relationship, account retention, etc.).

### **The Portfolio Management Fee**

The annual Program fee is billed and payable quarterly in advance based on the average daily balance for the calendar previous quarter. Fees will be assessed pro rata in the event the Wrap Fee agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter. The first quarterly fee will be based on the account value at the time the account is created. On an annualized basis, our fee for wrap fee program services, subject to negotiation, ranges from 1.00% to 2.00%. Cash, accrued interest and the value of any securities purchased on margin are included for billing purposes, unless we determine otherwise, in our discretion.

### **Withdrawal of Assets**

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

### **Payment of Fees**

We will deduct the wrap fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

### **Termination of Advisory Relationship**

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

### **Wrap Fee Program Disclosures**

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

As a fiduciary, we have duties of care and of loyalty to you and are subject to obligations imposed on us by the federal and state securities laws. As a result, you have certain rights that you cannot waive or limit by contract. Nothing in our agreement with you should be interpreted as a limitation of our obligations under the federal and state securities laws or as a waiver of any unwaivable rights you possess.

### **Financial Solutions**

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions with the assistance of our affiliate, Focus Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC ("FTCS"). FTCS is compensated by sharing in the revenue earned by such third-party institutions for serving our clients. For non-mortgage loans, FTCS will receive up to 0.50% annually of outstanding loan balances. For mortgage loans, FTCS will receive a one-time payment of up to 1.00% of the mortgage loan amount, up to 0.50% annually of outstanding loan balances, or a combination of the two. FTCS's earned revenue is indirectly paid by our clients through an increased interest rate charged by the financial institutions or, for cash balances, a lowered yield. FTCS shares up to 25% of this earned revenue with us when we are licensed to receive such revenue or when no such license is required. The amount of revenue earned by FTCS for these financial solutions will vary over time in response to market conditions, including the interest rate environment, and other factors such as the volume and timing of loan closings. The amount of revenue earned by FTCS for a particular financial solution will also differ from the amount of revenue earned by FTCS for other types of financial solutions.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

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

Custodian, costs associated with exchanging currencies, wire transfer fees, or other fees required by law or imposed by third parties. The Account will be responsible for these additional fees and expenses.

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

We implement investment advice on behalf of certain clients in held-away accounts that For certain clients, we charge an advisory fee for services provided to the held-away accounts just as we do with client accounts held at our primary custodians(s). The specific fee schedule charged by us is provided in the client's investment advisory agreement with us. are maintained at independent third-party custodians. These held-away accounts are often 401(k) accounts, 529 plans and other assets that are not held at our primary custodian(s).

### **Brokerage Practices**

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

### **Economic Benefits/Soft Dollars**

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements where we receive products or services from broker-dealers in connection with client securities transactions.

On occasion Schwab will reimburse clients for transfer of accounts and/or ACAT fees incurred when accounts are transferred to Schwab from another custodian broker/dealer. This is a benefit to the client. We do not receive any compensation from Schwab from this benefit.

We have entered into an agreement with Schwab to receive a reimbursement of technology expenses when we transfer client accounts from other custodians to Schwab. We therefore have an additional incentive to encourage clients to transfer assets to our firm. The technology services for which we are reimbursed will generally be used in servicing all clients' account. You should be aware that the receipt of this benefit by our firm is considered to create a conflict of interest. We mitigate this conflict by disclosing it to you. In addition, we believe that enhancing our technology services has the potential to improve the service we provide to client accounts.

As a registered investment adviser, we have access to the Schwab's and Pershing's institutional platforms. As such, we will also have access to research products and services from Schwab and Pershing. These products may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers that utilize the institutional services platforms of these firms, and are not considered to be paid for with soft dollars. However, you should be aware that the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction or set of transactions may be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.



**Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

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

We offer investment advisory services to individuals (other than high net worth individuals), high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans (but not the plan participants), charitable organizations and corporations or other businesses not listed above.

In general, we require a minimum of \$50,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. The Wrap Fee Program is only available to existing clients and will not be offered to new clients.

**Item 6 Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation**

We are the sponsor and sole portfolio manager for the Program and do not select other independent managers. Refer to *Services, Fees, and Compensation* for additional disclosures on costs associated with your participation in the Program.

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

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

We invest assets in equity securities of individual companies, equity and fixed income mutual funds, ETFs and in individual bonds. We typically manage accounts in accordance with investment models we have designed to suit our clients' investment objectives, risk tolerance and account size. We have an investment committee which meets formally on approximately a quarterly basis, and more often as needed. The investment committee selects and approves the contents of our models.

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

- Charting Analysis - involves the gathering and processing of price and volume information for a particular security. This price and volume information is analyzed using mathematical equations. The resulting data is then applied to graphing charts, which is used to predict future price movements based on price patterns and trends.
- Fundamental Analysis - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.
- Technical Analysis - involves studying past price patterns and trends in the financial markets to predict the direction of both the overall market and specific stocks.
- Cyclical Analysis - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends.



- Long Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.
- Short Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.
- Margin Transactions - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.
- Option Writing - a securities transaction that involves selling an option. An option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. When an investor sells an option, he or she must deliver to the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. The seller pays the buyer a premium (the market price of the option at a particular time) in exchange for writing the option.

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

The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that charts may not accurately predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day to day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy. The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance. The risk of cyclical analysis is that economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long term expansions and contractions. The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

Long term purchases may also be affected by unforeseen long term changes in the company in which you are invested or in the overall market. Short term trading generally involves a greater degree of risk than long term trading due to market volatility over a short period of time.

We may use short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Short-term trading is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use this strategy occasionally when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. However, frequent trading can negatively affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

We may use margin transactions and option writing in limited circumstances when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. However, engaging in these types of transactions are not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy.

### **Risk of Loss**

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

### **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

Investing in equity securities generally involves becoming an owner in the issuer company and participating fully in its economic risks. The value of equity securities of public and private, listed and unlisted companies and equity derivatives generally varies with the performance of the issuer and movements in the equity markets. As a result, clients may suffer losses if they invest in equity instruments of issuers whose performance diverges from our expectations or if equity markets generally move in a single direction.

An issuer of bonds has agreed to return the face value of the security to the holder at maturity. Most bonds pay investors a fixed rate of interest income. While bonds are generally considered more conservative than equity investments, they carry risks that include the risk that the issuer will default on payment of principal, fluctuation in interest rates, inflation and counterparties' inability to meet contractual obligations.

The mutual funds, ETFs and third party money managers that the Company frequently invests client assets with or recommends to clients generally own securities and therefore also involve the risk of loss that is inherent in investing in securities of individual companies. The extent of the risk of ownership of fund shares generally depends on the type and number of securities held by the fund. Mutual funds are subject to the individual risks described in their prospectuses. For example, mutual funds invested in fixed income securities are subject to the same interest rate, inflation, and credit risks associated with the fund's underlying bond holdings. Risks also may be significantly increased if a mutual fund pursues an alternative investment strategy. An investment in an alternative mutual fund involves special risks such as risk associated with short sales, leveraging the investment, potential adverse market forces, regulatory changes, and potential illiquidity. Investing in alternative strategies presents the opportunity for significant losses. Returns on mutual fund investments are reduced by management fees and expenses. All mutual funds, including "no load" funds, incur transaction costs, expenses, and other fees that are passed through by the mutual fund and ultimately paid by the fund shareholders. Generally, this information is referred to in the fund Prospectus, or in other information as may be requested or obtained from the fund, such as the fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI). Mutual fund shares fluctuate in value, rising and falling in price depending on the performance of the underlying securities in the fund. The Net Asset Value ("NAV") of a mutual fund indicates its value or price per share.

An ETF's risks include declining value of the securities held by the ETF, adverse developments in the specific industry or sector that the ETF tracks, capital loss in geographically focused funds because of unfavorable fluctuation in currency exchange rates, differences in generally accepted accounting principles, or economic or political instability, tracking error, which is the difference between the return of the ETF and the return of its benchmark and trading at a premium or discount, meaning the difference between the ETF's market price and NAV. While ETFs may provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased for funds concentrated in a particular sector of the market, or that primarily invest in small cap or speculative companies, use leverage (i.e., borrow money), or concentrate in a particular type of security rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. ETFs can be bought and sold throughout the day and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. During times of extreme market volatility, ETF pricing may lag versus the actual underlying asset values and there is no guarantee this relationship will resolve itself. ETFs also are subject to the individual risks described in their prospectus.

Although many mutual funds and ETFs may provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if a mutual fund or ETF is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular

type of security. One of the main advantages of mutual funds and ETFs is that they give individual investors access to professionally managed, diversified portfolios of equities, bonds and other securities.

Although the goal of diversification is to combine investments with different characteristics so that the risks inherent in any one investment can be balanced by assets that move in different cycles or respond to different market factors, diversification is not always successful in reducing correlation among asset classes and does not eliminate the risk of loss. In some circumstances, price movements may be highly correlated across securities and funds. A specific fund may not be diversified, and a client portfolio may not be diversified. Additionally, when diversification is a client objective, there is risk that the strategies that the Company uses may not be successful in achieving the desired level of diversification. There is also risk that the strategies, resources, and analytical methods that the Company uses to identify mutual funds and ETFs will not be successful in identifying investment opportunities.

### **Cybersecurity**

The computer systems, networks and devices used by our Company and service providers to us and our clients to carry out routine business operations employ a variety of protections designed to prevent damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons and security breaches. Despite the various protections utilized, systems, networks, or devices potentially can be breached. A client could be negatively impacted as a result of a cybersecurity breach. Cybersecurity breaches can include unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices; infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code; and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes, or website access or functionality. Cybersecurity breaches may cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to a client; impediments to trading; the inability by us and other service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs; as well as the inadvertent release of confidential information. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity breaches affecting issuers of securities in which a client invests; governmental and other regulatory authorities; exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, and other financial institutions; and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred by these entities in order to prevent any cybersecurity breaches in the future.

### **COVID**

The transmission of COVID and efforts to contain its spread have resulted in border closings and other travel restrictions and disruptions, market volatility, disruptions to business operations, supply chains and customer activity and quarantines. With widespread availability of vaccines, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has revised its guidance, travel restrictions have started to lift, and businesses have reopened. However, the COVID pandemic continues to evolve and the extent to which our investment strategies will be impacted will depend on various factors beyond our control, including the extent and duration of the impact on economies around the world and on the global securities and commodities markets. Volatility in the U.S. and global financial markets caused by the COVID pandemic may continue and could impact our firm's investment strategies.

Although currently there has been no significant impact, the COVID outbreak, and future pandemics, could negatively affect vendors on which our firm and clients rely and could disrupt the ability of such vendors to perform essential tasks.

**Third Party Money Managers ("MM")**

We recommend certain third party money manager ("MM") to manage a portion of certain clients' assets. In these situations, we conduct due diligence of such managers, but the success of such recommendations relies to a great extent on the MMs' ability to successfully implement their investment strategies. In addition, we do not have the ability to supervise the MMs on a day-to-day basis.

**Proxy Voting**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

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

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

**Privacy Notice**

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

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys. We are an affiliate of Focus Financial Partners, LLC and we and other affiliates of Focus share certain of your personal information with an unaffiliated third party for the purpose of aggregating it and providing summary information based on this data to our parent company Focus.

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

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

**Former Clients:** If you decide to close your account(s) we will adhere to our privacy policies, which may be amended from time to time.

**Changes to Our Privacy Policy:** If we make any substantive changes in our privacy policy that would permit or require additional disclosures of your private information, we will provide written notice to you, and you will be given an opportunity to direct us as to whether such disclosure is acceptable.

**Questions:** If you have questions about this privacy notice or have a question about the privacy of your private information call our main number 337-232-1141 and ask to speak to the Chief Compliance Officer.

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

Without restriction, you should contact our firm or your advisory representative directly with any questions regarding your Program account. You should contact your advisory representative with respect to changes in your investment objectives, risk tolerance, or requested restrictions placed on the management of your Program assets.

## **Item 9 Additional Information**

### **Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Certain of our Company's advisory personnel are also registered representatives of Cetera Advisors Network, LLC, ("Cetera"), a securities broker-dealer that is not affiliated with Summit Financial. The broker-dealer association enables them, in their capacity as registered representatives, to continue to receive trails and service accounts of clients they have at Cetera, certain of the Company's personnel receive 12b-1 trails for legacy positions in annuity, variable insurance, 529 plans and C shares of mutual funds. They also receive brokerage compensation for any C shares of mutual funds purchased in brokerage accounts; and for purchases of bonds held in brokerage accounts. The receipt of brokerage compensation by advisory personnel presents a conflict of interest because registered representatives have an incentive to recommend securities transactions for the purpose of being compensated for product sales rather than solely based on a client's needs. The Company addresses these conflicts of interest through disclosure and by striving to act in clients' best interests. We seek to recommend brokerage transactions for brokerage customers who are also our advisory clients only when we believe that by doing so, the total cost to the client will be less than if the investment were held in an advisory account. Our Company's advisory personnel do not charge both advisory fees and brokerage compensation and advisory compensation on the same client assets (e.g., they do not "double dip").

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate from our advisory fees. Please see the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm.

### **Disciplinary Information**

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



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

Summit Financial Wealth Advisors is part of the Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus LLC") partnership. Specifically, we are a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Operating, LLC ("Focus Operating"), which is, directly and indirectly, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus LLC. Focus Financial Partners Inc. ("Focus Inc.") is the sole managing member of Focus LLC and has 100% of its governance rights. Accordingly, all governance is conducted through the voting rights and the Board of Directors at Focus Inc. Focus Inc. is the managing member of and owns, directly and indirectly, approximately 99% of the economic interests in Focus LLC.

Focus Inc. is majority-owned, indirectly and collectively, by funds affiliated with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC ("CD&R"). Funds affiliated with Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point") are indirect owners of Focus Inc. Because we are an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Inc., CD&R and Stone Point funds are indirect owners of Summit Financial Wealth Advisors.

Focus LLC also owns other registered investment advisers, broker-dealers, pension consultants, insurance firms, business managers and other firms (the "Focus Partners"), most of which provide wealth management, benefit consulting and investment consulting services to individuals, families, employers, and institutions. Some Focus Partners also manage or advise limited partnerships, private funds, or investment companies as disclosed on their respective Form ADVs.

### ***Focus Treasury & Credit Solutions***

We offer clients the option of obtaining certain financial solutions from unaffiliated third-party financial institutions with the assistance of our affiliate, Focus Treasury & Credit Solutions, LLC ("FTCS"), a wholly owned subsidiary of our parent company, Focus Financial Partners, LLC. These third-party financial institutions are banks and non-banks (the "Network Institutions") that offer credit and cash management solutions to our clients. Certain other unaffiliated third parties provide administrative and settlement services to facilitate FTCS's cash management solutions. FTCS acts as an intermediary to facilitate our clients' access to these credit and cash management solutions.

FTCS receives a portion of the revenue earned by the Network Institutions for providing services to our clients. For non-mortgage loans, FTCS will receive up to 0.50% annually of outstanding loan balances. For mortgage loans, FTCS will receive a one-time payment of up to 1.00% of the mortgage loan amount, up to 0.50% annually of outstanding loan balances, or a combination of the two. FTCS's earned revenue is indirectly paid by our clients through an increased interest rate charged by the Network Institutions for credit solutions or reduced yield paid by the Network Institutions for cash management solutions. For clients of certain affiliates of Focus Financial Partners, LLC, FTCS has agreed to waive the earned revenue that it receives, which results in a lower interest rate on lending solutions or a higher yield on cash management solutions for those clients. The amount of revenue earned by FTCS for these financial solutions will vary over time in response to market conditions, including the interest rate environment, and other factors such as the volume and timing of loan closings. The amount of revenue earned by FTCS for a particular financial solution will also differ from the amount of revenue earned by FTCS for other types of financial solutions. FTCS in turn shares up to 25% of this earned revenue with us when we are licensed to receive such revenue or when no such license is required. Such fees are also revenue for our common parent company, Focus Financial Partners, LLC. Accordingly, we have a conflict of interest when recommending FTCS's services to clients because of the compensation to us and to our affiliates, FTCS and Focus. We mitigate this conflict by: (1) fully and fairly disclosing the material facts concerning the above arrangements to our clients, including in this Brochure; and (2) offering FTCS solutions to clients on a strictly nondiscretionary and fully disclosed basis, and not as part of any discretionary investment services.

Additionally, we note that clients who use FTCS's services will receive product-specific disclosure from the Network Institutions and other unaffiliated third-party intermediaries that provide services to our clients.

We have an additional conflict of interest when we recommend FTCS to provide credit solutions to our clients because our interest in continuing to receive investment advisory fees from client accounts gives us a financial incentive to recommend that clients borrow money rather than liquidating some or all of the assets we manage.

### **Credit Solutions from FTCS**

For FTCS credit solutions, the interest rate of the loan is ultimately determined by the lender, although in some circumstances FTCS may have the ability to influence the lender to lower the interest rate of the loan. As noted above, FTCS's earned revenue is indirectly paid by you through an increased interest rate charged by the lender. The final rate may be higher or lower than the prevailing market rate. We can offer no assurances that the rates offered to you by the lender are the lowest possible rates available in the marketplace.

Clients retain the right to pledge assets in accounts generally, subject to any restrictions imposed by clients' custodians. While the FTCS program facilitates secured loans through Network Institutions, clients are free instead to work directly with institutions outside the FTCS program. Because of the limited number of participating Network Institutions, clients may be limited in their ability to obtain as favorable loan terms as if the client were to work directly with other banks to negotiate loan terms or obtain other financial arrangements.

Clients should also understand that pledging assets in an account to secure a loan involves additional risk and restrictions. A Network Institution has the authority to liquidate all or part of the pledged securities at any time, without prior notice to clients and without their consent, to maintain required collateral levels. The Network Institution also has the right to call client loans and require repayment within a short period of time; if the client cannot repay the loan within the specified time period, the Network Institution will have the right to force the sale of pledged assets to repay those loans. Selling assets to maintain collateral levels or calling loans may result in asset sales and realized losses in a declining market, leading to the permanent loss of capital. These sales also may have adverse tax consequences. Interest payments and any other loan-related fees are borne by clients and are in addition to the advisory fees that clients pay us for managing assets, including assets that are pledged as collateral. The returns on pledged assets may be less than the account fees and interest paid by the account. Clients should consider carefully and skeptically any recommendation to pursue a more aggressive investment strategy in order to support the cost of borrowing, particularly the risks and costs of any such strategy. More generally, before borrowing funds, a client should carefully review the loan agreement, loan application, and other forms and determine that the loan is consistent with the client's long-term financial goals and presents risks consistent with the client's financial circumstances and risk tolerance.

### **Cash Management Solutions from FTCS**

For FTCS cash management solutions, as stated above, certain third-party intermediaries provide administrative and settlement services in connection with the program. Those intermediaries each charge a fixed basis point fee on total deposits in the program. Before any interest is paid into client accounts, the Network Institutions and certain unaffiliated third-party service providers take their fees out, and the net interest is then credited to clients' accounts. The fees debited by the Network Institutions include FTCS's earned revenue. Engaging FTCS, the Network Institutions, and these other intermediaries to provide cash management solutions does not alter the manner in which we treat cash for billing purposes.



Clients should understand that in rare circumstances, depending on interest rates and other economic and market factors, the yields on cash management solutions could be lower than the aggregate fees and expenses charged by the Network Institutions, the intermediaries referenced above, and us. Consequently, in these rare circumstances, a client could experience a negative overall investment return with respect to those cash investments. Nonetheless, it might still be reasonable for a client to participate in the FTCS cash management program if the client prefers to hold cash at the Network Institutions rather than at other financial institutions (e.g., to take advantage of FDIC insurance).

### **IRA Rollover Recommendations**

For purposes of complying with the DOL's Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02 ("PTE 2020-02") where applicable, we are providing the following acknowledgment to you. When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

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

We benefit financially from the rollover of your assets from a retirement account to an account that we manage or provide investment advice, because the assets increase our assets under management and, in turn, our advisory fees. As a fiduciary, we only recommend a rollover when we believe it is in your best interest.

### **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We recommend that certain clients use a third party adviser ("MM") based on your needs and suitability. We will not receive compensation from the MM for recommending that you use their services.

### **Description of Our Code of Ethics**

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All of our Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Our Code of Ethics also requires that certain persons associated with our firm submit reports of their personal account holdings and transactions to a qualified representative of our firm who will review these reports on a periodic basis. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

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

**Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm have the ability to buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. We may also combine our orders to purchase securities with your orders to purchase securities ("block trading"). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section in this brochure for information on our block trading practices.

A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To eliminate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our Associated Persons nor we shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

**Block Trades**

We combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion regarding factual and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

**Review of Accounts**

Investment adviser representatives of our firm will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least annually and upon your request to ensure that the advisory services provided to you are consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

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

We will not provide you with additional or regular written reports in conjunction with account reviews. In addition, you will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

**Other Compensation**

Summit Financial's parent company, Focus holds partnership meetings and other industry and best-practices conferences which typically include Summit Financial, other- Focus firms and external attendees. These meetings are first and foremost intended to provide training or education to personnel of Focus firms, including Summit Financial. However, these meetings do provide sponsorship opportunities for asset managers, asset custodians, vendors and other third-party service providers. Sponsorship fees allow these companies to advertise their products and services to Focus firms, including Summit Financial. Although participation of Focus personnel in these meetings is not preconditioned on the achievement of a sales target for any conference sponsor, this practice could nonetheless be deemed to be a conflict of interest as the marketing and education activities conducted, and the access granted, as such meetings and conference could cause Summit Financial to focus on such conference sponsors in the course of its duties. Focus attempts to mitigate any such

conflict by allocating the sponsorship fees only to defraying the cost of the meeting or future meetings and not as revenue for itself or any affiliate, including Summit Financial. Conference sponsorship fees are not dependent on assets placed with any specific provider, or the revenue generated by asset placement.

The following entities have provided conference sponsorship to Focus from January 1, 2022 to March 1, 2023:

- Orion Advisor Technology, LLC
- TriState Capital Bank
- StoneCastle Network, LLC
- Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
- BlackRock, Inc.
- Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC
- Fidelity Institutional Asset Management LLC

You can access a more recently updated list of recent conference sponsors on Focus' website through the following link: <https://focusfinancialpartners.com/conference-sponsors/>

Summit Financial has arrangements in place with certain third parties, called solicitors, under which such solicitors refer clients to us in exchange for a percentage of the advisory fees we collect from such referred clients. Such compensation creates an incentive for the solicitors to refer clients to us, which is a conflict of interest for the solicitors. Rule 206(4)-1 of the Advisers Act addresses this conflict of interest by, among other things, requiring disclosure of whether the solicitor is a client or a non-client and a description of the material conflicts of interest and material terms of the compensation arrangement with the solicitor. Accordingly, we require solicitors to disclose to referred clients, in writing: whether the solicitor is a client or a non-client; that the solicitor will be compensated for the referral; the material conflicts of interest arising from the relationship and/or compensation arrangement; and the material terms of the compensation arrangement, including a description of the compensation to be provided for the referral.

### **Custody**

As paying agent for our firm, your independent custodian will directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other independent, qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the independent, qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

### **Asset Transfer Authority**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may effect third party asset transfers for client accounts without client written consent per transaction for client accounts. An adviser with authority to conduct third party asset transfers has access to the client's assets, and therefore has custody of the clients' assets in any related accounts.

### **Financial Information**

We are not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not:

- require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, or
- take custody of client funds or securities, or

- have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you.

## **Item 10 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

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