

**Item 1: Cover Page**  
**Part 2A Appendix 1 of Form ADV: Wrap Fee Program Brochure**  
**October 2023**

**Orin Green Financial Wrap Program**

**Sponsored By:**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Orin Green Financial, LLC dba Orin Green Financial. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (858) 634-3232. 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 our firm is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching CRD #285670.

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of our firm and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Clients are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise clients for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Orin Green Financial is required to make clients aware of information that has changed since the last annual update to the Wrap Brochure ("Wrap Brochure") and that may be important to them. Clients can then determine whether to review the brochure in its entirety or to contact us with questions about the changes.

Since our last annual amendment filed on March 16, 2022, we have the following material changes to report:

- Due to the recent merger, our firm no longer recommends TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade") as a qualified custodian. Instead, our firm now recommends the services of Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. ("Schwab") as our firm's new qualified custodian. Please see Items 12, 14 & 15 within our firm's Form ADV Part 2A, Items 4 & 9 within our firm's Wrap Brochure or reach out to Orin Green Financial for more information.

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## Item 4: Services, Fees & Compensation

Our firm manages assets for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizons. As a fiduciary it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing the client. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication. Working with clients to understand their investment objectives while educating them about our process, facilitates the kind of working relationship we value.

Our firm sponsors and offers a wrap fee program, which allows clients to pay a single fee for investment advisory services and associated custodial transaction costs. Transaction costs will be paid by our firm via individual transaction charges. Because our firm absorbs client transaction fees, an incentive exists to limit trading activities in client accounts.

Additionally, our firm may recommend certain illiquid investment for clients. Due to these investments, this creates a conflict of interest within a wrap fee account as certain illiquid investments cannot be regularly traded and clients may incur transaction costs.

Our recommended custodian, Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. ("Schwab") recently eliminated transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds. Our firm pays the transaction fees charged by Schwab to clients participating in our wrap fee program, so we may have an incentive to recommend equities and exchange traded funds over other types of securities with transaction costs. One of the benefits to clients of exchange traded funds is that they typically have lower internal costs than most mutual funds, and our firm believes it's acting in our clients' best interest utilizing both institutional mutual funds as well as exchange traded funds.

### Our Wrap Advisory Services

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#### Wrap Asset Management:

As part of our Wrap Asset Management service, a portfolio is created, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Portfolios will be designed to meet a particular investment goal, determined to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

#### Fee Schedule

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 1.50%. Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the time-weighted daily average value of the account(s) during the quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter. In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

- a) The client's independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly showing the market values for each security included in the account(s) and all account disbursements, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm;
- b) Clients will provide authorization permitting our firm to be directly paid by these terms. Our firm will send an invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If our firm sends a copy of our invoice to the client, legend urging the comparison of information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian will be included.

### **Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management:**

As part of our Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management service clients will be provided asset management and financial planning or consulting services. This service is designed to assist clients in meeting their financial goals through the use of a financial plan or consultation. Our firm conducts client meetings to understand their current financial situation, existing resources, financial goals, and tolerance for risk. Based on what is learned, an investment approach is presented to the client, consisting of individual stocks, bonds, ETFs, options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives. Upon client request, our firm provides a summary of observations and recommendations for the planning or consulting aspects of this service.

### **Fee Schedule**

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 2.00%. Fees to be assessed will be outlined in the advisory agreement to be signed by the client. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly in arrears based on the time-weighted daily average value of the account(s) during the quarter. Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter. In rare cases, our firm will agree to directly invoice. As part of this process, Clients understand the following:

- a) The client's independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly showing the market values for each security included in the account(s) and all account disbursements, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm;
- b) Clients will provide authorization permitting our firm to be directly paid by these terms. Our firm will send an invoice directly to the custodian; and
- c) If our firm sends a copy of our invoice to the client, legend urging the comparison of information provided in our statement with those from the qualified custodian will be included.

### **Other Types of Fees & Expenses:**

In addition to our advisory fees above, clients may also pay holding charges imposed by the custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees, distribution fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, wire transfer fees and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions). Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

**Termination and Refunds:**

Either party may terminate the advisory agreement signed with our firm for Wrap Asset Management or Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management services in writing at any time. Upon notice of termination, we will charge pro-rata advisory fees for services rendered up to the point of termination. If advisory fees cannot be deducted, our firm will send an invoice for due advisory fees to the client.

**Wrap Fee Program Recommendations**

Our firm does not recommend or offer the wrap program services of other providers.

**Item 5: Account Requirements & Types of Clients**

Our firm has the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit-Sharing Plans; &
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types.

Our firm does not impose requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us.

**Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection & Evaluation****Selection of Portfolio Managers**

Our firm's investment adviser representatives ("IARs") act as portfolio manager(s) for this wrap fee program. A conflict arises in that other investment advisory firms may charge the same or lower fees than our firm for similar services. Our IARs are subject to individual licensing requirements as imposed by state securities boards. Our firm is required to confirm or update each IAR's Form U4 on an annual basis. IAR supervision is conducted by our Chief Compliance Officer or management personnel.

Our firm does not utilize outside portfolio managers. All accounts are managed by our in-house licensed investment adviser representatives ("IARs") of our firm. Prior to becoming licensed with our firm, each IARs industry experience, licensure, outside business activities, client complaints (if any), disciplinary or regulatory history (if any) and financial well-being will be reviewed. Each IAR will then have a Form U4 and ADV Part 2B on file with our firm.

Performance returns of wrap portfolios are reviewed at least annually. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives and appropriately positioned based on market conditions. If these standards fall below the client objectives, our firm will discuss the review with the portfolio manager for proactive action to realign the investment strategy.

**Advisory Business:**

Information about our wrap fee services can be found in Item 4 of this brochure. Our firm offers individualized investment advice to our Wrap Asset Management and Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients. Each Wrap Asset Management and Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management client may place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of complexity this would entail in managing the account.

**Participation in Wrap Fee Programs:**

Our firm only offers wrap fee accounts to our clients, which are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance, etc.

**Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management:**

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

**Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss:**

The following methods of analysis may be utilized by our firm when formulating investment advice and/or managing client assets:

*Fundamental Analysis:* Fundamental analysis considers the economic, financial, and other qualitative/quantitative factors that may impact the price of a security. Fundamental analysis attempts to measure its intrinsic value as compared to its current price. Risks may include using incorrect assumptions, financial misreporting and/or failure by management to disclose key, material events, and unforeseen micro/macroeconomic factors that may cause the price of a security to diverge from its intrinsic value.

The following investment strategies may be used in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

*Asset Allocation:* We generally focus on identifying an appropriate allocation of securities, maturities, and market sectors suitable for the client's investment goals and risk tolerance. While asset allocation is recognized by professional investment advisers as a prudent approach, a risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the client's actual allocation will change over time due to market movements in the various sectors, which, if not corrected, may no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

*Fixed Income Portfolio Management Investment Strategies:* Broadly speaking, the disciplined process we employ is based on investing in a manner that is consistent with a client's asset allocation strategy. This consistency will help ensure such determinants to total fixed income return as duration, sector allocation and term are fully incorporated into the client's fixed income portion of their portfolio.

*Long-Term Purchases:* We may buy securities for your account and hold them for a relatively long time (more than a year) in anticipation that the security's value will appreciate over a long horizon. The risk of this strategy is that we could miss out on potential short-term gains that could have been profitable to your account or it is possible that the security's value may decline sharply before we make a decision to sell.

*Margin Transactions:* We may purchase stocks, mutual funds and/or other securities for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings. Margin accounts and transactions are risky and not necessarily appropriate for every client. The potential risks associated with these transactions are (1) You can lose more funds than are deposited into the margin account; (2) the forced sale of securities or other assets in your account; (3) the sale of securities or other assets without contacting you; and (4) you may not be entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your account(s) are liquidated or sold to meet a margin call.

*Option Transactions:* We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset. The two types of options are calls and puts. A call gives the holder the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We may buy a call if we believe that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires. A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We may buy a put if we believe that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires. We may use options to "hedge" a purchase of the underlying security; in other words, we will use an option purchase to limit the potential upside and downside of a security we have purchased for your portfolio. We may also write "covered calls," in which we sell an option on security you own. In this strategy, you receive a fee for making the option available, and the person purchasing the option has the right to buy the security from you at an agreed-upon price. We may use a "spreading strategy," in which we purchase two or more option contracts (for example, a call option that you buy and a call option that you sell) for the same underlying security. This effectively puts you on both sides of the market, but with the ability to vary price, time and other factors. The potential risks associated with these transactions are that (1) all options expire. The closer the option gets to expiration, the quicker the premium in the option deteriorates; and (2) Prices can move very quickly. Depending on factors such as time until expiration and the relationship of the stock price to the option's strike price, small movements in a stock can translate into big movements in the underlying options.

*Short Sales:* We may borrow shares of a stock for your portfolio from someone who owns the stock on a promise to replace the shares on a future date at a certain price. Those borrowed shares are then sold. On the agreed-upon future date, we buy the same stock and return the borrowed shares to the original owner. We engage in short selling based on our belief that the stock will go down in price after we have borrowed the shares. If we are correct and the stock price has gone down since the shares were borrowed from the original owner, the client account realizes the profit. The two primary perceived risks of short selling are that the in the long term, markets trend upward and short selling can expose investors to potentially unlimited risk. Due to the "upside gap", sellers risk not being able to react until after a significant loss has already been incurred.

*Third-Party Money Manager Analysis:* We may examine the experience, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to successfully invest over a period of time. We monitor the



manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

*Alternative Investments:* Hedge funds, commodity pools Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"), Business Development Companies ("BDCs"), and other alternative investments involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Alternative investments may lack transparency as to share price, valuation and portfolio holdings. Complex tax structures often result in delayed tax reporting. Compared to mutual funds, hedge funds and commodity pools are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees. Alternative investment managers typically exercise broad investment discretion and may apply similar strategies across multiple investment vehicles, resulting in less diversification.

*Exchange Traded Funds:* An ETF is a type of Investment Company (usually, a closed-end fund or unit investment trust) whose primary objective is to achieve the same return as a particular market index. An ETF is similar to an index mutual fund in that it will primarily invest in securities of companies that are included in a selected market index. Unlike traditional mutual funds, which can only be redeemed at the end of a trading day, ETFs trade throughout the day on an exchange. Like stock mutual funds, the prices of the underlying securities and the overall market may affect ETF prices. Similarly, factors affecting a particular industry segment may affect ETF prices that track that particular sector.

*Mutual Funds:* A mutual fund is a company that pools money from many investors and invests the money in a variety of differing security types based the objectives of the fund. The portfolio of the fund consists of the combined holdings it owns. Each share represents an investor's proportionate ownership of the fund's holdings and the income those holdings generate. The price that investors pay for mutual fund shares is the fund's per share net asset value (NAV) plus any shareholder fees that the fund imposes at the time of purchase (such as sales loads). Investors typically cannot ascertain the exact make-up of a fund's portfolio at any given time, nor can they directly influence which securities the fund manager buys and sells or the timing of those trades. With an individual stock, investors can obtain real-time (or close to real-time) pricing information with relative ease by checking financial websites or by calling a broker or your investment adviser. Investors can also monitor how a stock's price changes from hour to hour—or even second to second. By contrast, with a mutual fund, the price at which an investor purchases or redeems shares will typically depend on the fund's NAV, which is calculated daily after market close.

*Structured Products:* Structured products are designed to facilitate highly customized risk-return objectives. While structured products come in many different forms, they typically consist of a debt security that is structured to make interest and principal payments based upon various assets, rates or formulas. Many structured products include an embedded derivative component. Structured products may be structured in the form of a security, in which case these products may receive benefits provided under federal securities law, or they may be cast as derivatives, in which case they are offered in the over-the-counter market and are subject to no regulation.

Investing in structured products includes significant risks, including valuation, liquidity, price, credit and market risks. The relative lack of liquidity due to the highly customized nature of the investment. Moreover, the full extent of returns from the complex performance features is often not realized until maturity. As such, structured products tend to be more of a buy-and-hold investment decision rather than a means of getting in and out of a position with speed and efficiency.

Another risk with structured products is the credit quality of the issuer. Although the cash flows are derived from other sources, the products themselves are legally considered to be the issuing financial institution's liabilities. The vast majority of structured products are from high-investment-grade issuers only. Also, there is a lack of pricing transparency. There is no uniform standard for pricing, making it harder to compare the net-of-pricing attractiveness of alternative structured product offerings than it is, for instance, to compare the net expense ratios of different mutual funds or commissions among broker-dealers.

**Please Note:** Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the market may decrease, and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that you understand the risks associated with investing in the market, are appropriately diversified in your investments, and ask any questions you may have.

#### **Voting Client Securities:**

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

### **Item 7: Client Information Provided to Portfolio Manager(s)**

All accounts are managed by our in-house licensed IARs. The IAR selected to manage the client's account(s) or portfolio(s) will be privy to the client's investment goals and objectives, risk tolerance, restrictions placed on the management of the account(s) or portfolio(s) and relevant client notes taken by our firm. Please see our firm's Privacy Policy for more information on how our firm utilizes client information.

### **Item 8: Client Contact with Portfolio Manager(s)**

Clients are always free to directly contact their portfolio manager(s) with any questions or concerns about their portfolios or other matters.

## Item 9: Additional Information

### Disciplinary Information

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There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

### Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

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Our firm has no financial industry activities or affiliations to disclose.

### Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions & Personal Trading

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As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demands the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts<sup>1</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client. Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day unless included in a block trade.

## **Review of Accounts**

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Our management personnel or financial advisors review accounts on at least an annual basis for our Wrap Asset Management and Wrap Comprehensive Portfolio Management clients. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Written reports may be provided to clients when appropriate or upon request. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when clients are contacted. Our firm may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

## **Selection of a Brokerage Firm**

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### **Custodian & Brokers Used**

Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets (although our firm may be deemed to have custody of client assets if give the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts. See *Item 15 Custody*, below). Client assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. Our firm recommends that clients use the Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. Our firm is independently owned and operated, and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when instructed. While our firm recommends that clients use Schwab as custodian/broker, clients will decide whether to do so and open an account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. Our firm does not open the account. Even though the account is maintained at Schwab, our firm can still use other brokers to execute trades, as described in the next paragraph.

### **How Brokers/Custodians Are Selected**

Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. A wide range of factors are considered, including, but not limited to:

- combination of transaction execution services along with asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- capability to execute, clear and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
- capabilities to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- breadth of investment products made available (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), etc.)
- availability of investment research and tools that assist in making investment decisions
- quality of services
- competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate them
- reputation, financial strength and stability of the provider

- prior service to our firm and our other clients
- availability of other products and services that benefit our firm, as discussed below (see *"Products & Services Available from Schwab"*)

### **Custody & Brokerage Costs**

Schwab generally does not charge a separate fee for custody services, but may be compensated by charging commissions or other fees to clients on trades that are executed or that settle into the Schwab account. In addition to possible commissions, Schwab charges a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that our firm has executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into a Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation paid to the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize client trading costs, our firm has Schwab execute most trades for the accounts.

### **Products & Services Available from Schwab**

Schwab Advisor Services is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like our firm. They provide our firm and clients with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help manage or administer our client accounts while others help manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (our firm does not have to request them) and at no charge to our firm. The availability of Schwab's products and services is not based on the provision of particular investment advice, such as purchasing particular securities for clients. Here is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

#### **Services that Benefit Clients**

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which our firm might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by firm clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit clients and their accounts.

#### **Services that May Not Directly Benefit Clients**

Schwab also makes available other products and services that benefit our firm but may not directly benefit clients or their accounts. These products and services assist in managing and administering our client accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's and that of third parties. This research may be used to service all or some substantial number of client accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provides access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitates trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts;
- provides pricing and other market data;
- facilitates payment of our fees from our clients' accounts; and
- assists with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

## **Services that Generally Benefit Only Our Firm**

Schwab also offers other services intended to help manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, Schwab will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to our firm. Schwab may also discount or waive fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide our firm with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment for our personnel.

Irrespective of direct or indirect benefits to our client through Schwab, our firm strives to enhance the client experience, help clients reach their goals and put client interests before that of our firm or associated persons.

### **Our Interest in Schwab's Services.**

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits our firm because our firm does not have to produce or purchase them. Our firm does not have to pay for these services, and they are not contingent upon committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody.

In light of our arrangements with Schwab, a conflict of interest exists as our firm may have incentive to require that clients maintain their accounts with Schwab based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our firm rather than based on client interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions. As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of Schwab as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend Schwab and have determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

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. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions. Our firm believes that the selection of Schwab as a custodian and broker is the best interest of our clients. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of Schwab's services, and not Schwab's services that only benefit our firm.

### **Client Referrals**

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Our firm does not pay referral fees (non-commission based) to independent solicitors (non-registered representatives) for the referral of their clients to our firm in accordance with Rule 206 (4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

## **Financial Information**

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Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.
- Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.