

Item 1: Cover Page
Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure
Effective Date: October 2023



**5775 Jean Road, Suite 210,
Lake Oswego, OR 97035**
www.theretirementadvocates.com

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Opportunus Wealth Management LLC dba Retirement Advocates ("Retirement Advocates"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (253) 254-5078 and/or info@opportunuswealth.com.

The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or by any state securities authority. Additional information about our firm is also available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov by searching CRD #300141.

Retirement Advocates registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2: Material Changes

Retirement Advocates will provide a summary of any material changes to this brochure to our clients at least annually within 120 days of our fiscal year end. Furthermore, we will provide our clients with other interim disclosures about material changes as necessary.

Since our last amendment filed on March 01, 2023, our firm has the following material change to disclose:

- Our firm has transitioned from a Large Advisory Firm to a Pension Consulting Firm. For more information or questions regarding this transition, please reach out to Opportunus Wealth Management LLC.
- Effective September 4, 2023, our firm will no longer be recommending TD Ameritrade as a qualified custodian due to the merger between TD Ameritrade & Charles Schwab. Going forward, our firm's recommended qualified custodian's are now Charles Schwab and Altruist Financial, LLC. Please see Items 4, 12, & 14 within Opportunus Wealth Management LLC's Form ADV 2A for more information. For additional information or questions, please reach out to Opportunus Wealth Management, LLC.
- Our firm now offers clients the ability to utilize Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™, an automated, online investment management platform used by independent investment advisers, sponsored by Schwab. Please see Item 4 within Opportunus Wealth Management, LLC's Form ADV 2A and reach out to Opportunus Wealth Management, LLC for more information.
- Our firm has updated our fee schedule for our Portfolio Management Services to now disclose that our firm charges on a monthly or quarterly basis. Please see Item 5 within Opportunus Wealth Management, LLC's Form ADV 2A, Form CRS or reach out to Opportunus Wealth Management, LLC for more information.

If you would like a copy of our current Form ADV Part 2A and/or 2B, please contact us by telephone at (253) 254-5078 or by email at info@opportunuswealth.com.

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Item 4: Advisory Business

Opportunus Wealth Management LLC dba Retirement Advocates ("Retirement Advocates") is a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Washington. Garrett Dastrup is the principal owner of Opportunus Wealth Management LLC. Clients are assigned to a specific adviser, and that adviser is responsible for managing that client's account(s).

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of the investment advisory services listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this Disclosure Brochure, the words "we," "our," and "us" refer to Retirement Advocates and the words "you," "your," and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

Types of Advisory Services

Retirement Plan Consulting Services

Retirement Advocates provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring, and reviewing the company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education. Retirement Plan Consulting services typically include:

- Establishing an Investment Policy Statement – Our firm will assist in the development of a statement that summarizes the investment goals and objectives along with the broad strategies to be employed to meet the objectives.
- Investment Options – Our firm will work with the plan sponsor to evaluate existing investment options and make recommendations for appropriate changes.
- Asset Allocation and Portfolio Construction – Our firm will develop strategic asset allocation models to aid participants in developing strategies to meet their investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation, and tolerance for risk.
- Investment Monitoring – Our firm will monitor the performance of the investments and notify the client in the event of over/underperformance and in times of market volatility.

In providing services for retirement plan consulting, Retirement Advocates does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets"). All retirement plan consulting services shall be in compliance with the applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans ("Plan") governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointment to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) or 3(38) of ERISA as designated by the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

Under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and other applicable federal and state securities laws, Retirement Advocates has a fiduciary duty, as an investment adviser, to act in the best interest of the client. While Retirement Advocates may have specific responsibilities under ERISA to disclose its

ERISA fiduciary services separately from its non-ERISA fiduciary services, this does not affect Retirement Advocates' investment adviser fiduciary duty to the Client.

Types of Investments

Retirement Advocates offers advice on mutual funds, collective investment trusts, and stable value/fixed accounts offered by various recordkeepers and our custodian.

Tailored Services

Retirement Advocates provides clients with tailored qualified plan solutions based on client needs and objectives that are identified during the initial and ongoing consultations. Clients may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or type of securities and must provide such stated restrictions to our firm in writing or within an Investment Policy Statement (IPS).

Wrap Fee Program

Retirement Advocates does not sponsor or manage wrap fee portfolio management programs.

Assets Under Management

Our firm has \$56,150,640 in assets under management on a discretionary basis, as well as \$241,067,320 in assets under advisement in retirement plan assets.

Item 5: Fees & Compensation

Advisory Fees

The following information describes how Retirement Advocates is compensated for the advisory services we provide to our clients. The specific manner in which fees are charged and the compensation we receive may differ between clients depending on the individual advisory agreement with each client. Fees may be negotiated with each client based on a variety of factors, such as the amount of assets being managed, future deposits to the accounts under management, the level and type of services provided, and the nature of the relationship with the client.

Our Retirement Plan Consulting services are billed on an hourly or flat fee basis or a fee based on the percentage of plan assets under management. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee charged, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with the client. The maximum hourly fee to be charged will not exceed \$750. Our flat fees will not exceed \$75,000. Fees based on a percentage of managed plan assets will not exceed 1%. The fee-paying arrangements for Retirement Plan Consulting service will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be detailed in the signed consulting agreement. Our firm bills on cash unless otherwise noted and directed by the client in writing.

Our fees for retirement plan consulting services generally consist of annual asset-based management fees (typically ranging from 0.10% - 1.00% of the market value of the plan's account per annum). Asset-based fees for retirement plan consulting services are charged quarterly in arrears and are pro-rated for partial billing periods.

The specific fee structure and rates applicable to the client's account will vary based upon a number of factors we consider relevant, such as the geographic location of the client, complexity of the engagement, type of qualified or non-qualified plan, type and frequency of participant education, number and location of participants if education is provided, whether ERISA 3(21) or ERISA 3(38) investment fiduciary services are selected, the size of the plan, and/or other factors we deem relevant. Negotiation of pricing for new 401(k) relationships is aided case-by-case by using third-party 401(k) cost benchmarking services to assist the plan sponsor in evaluating the range of potential advisory services, narrowing the desired services based on need, and then determining the range of marketplace pricing observed by the benchmarking vendors for same-sized 401(k) plans. Multiple third-party cost benchmarking services, when available, may be employed in order to help a new 401(k) client triangulate and document an appropriate fee. Other types of qualified plans other than 401(k)s are priced on a negotiated basis on the basis of scope of work and expected frequency of meetings.

Retirement Accounts

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.

As part of our advisory services to you, we may recommend that you withdraw or "roll over" assets from an employer's retirement plan to an individual retirement account ("IRA") that we may advise on and which may therefore result in additional advisory fees payable to us. This type of recommendation represents a conflict of interest for our firm. If we make this type of recommendation, you are under no obligation to follow such advice. Alternatively, you may have the options of (1) maintaining your retirement plan as is, (2) rolling over your account to the employer's new retirement plan, (3) taking a taxable distribution, or (4) rolling over your account to a new IRA. It is important to understand the advantages and disadvantages of each approach, which will depend on individual financial circumstances. Prior to proceeding with any such action, we encourage you to contact us and your independent legal and/or tax professionals for more information.

Additional Fees and Expenses

As part of our investment advisory services, we will recommend and monitor a list of funds for your qualified retirement plan. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You may also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through whom your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. 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. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this Disclosure Brochure.

Our firm does not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products. Retirement Advocates does not reasonably expect to receive any compensation, direct or indirect, for services rendered other than the compensation described in the Disclosure Brochure.

Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management

"Qualified Client" pursuant to CCR 260.234 as defined in paragraph (d) of Rule 205-3 (17 CFR 275.205-3(d)) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (Section 80b-1 et seq.):

- (i) A natural person who or a company that immediately after entering into the contract has at least \$1,100,000 under the management of the investment adviser;*
- (ii) A natural person who or a company that the investment adviser entering into the contract (and any person acting on his behalf) reasonably believes, immediately prior to entering into the contract, either:*
 - (A) Has a net worth (together, in the case of a natural person, with assets held jointly with a spouse) of more than \$2,200,000, at the time the contract is entered into; or*
 - (B) Is a qualified purchaser as defined in section 2(a)(51)(AA) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-2(51)(A)) at the time the contract is entered into; or*
- (iii) A natural person who immediately prior to entering into the contract is:*
 - (A) An executive officer, director, trustee, general partner or person serving in similar capacity, of the investment adviser; or*
 - (B) An employee of the investment adviser (other than an employee performing solely clerical, secretarial or administrative functions with regard to the investment adviser) who, in connection with his or her regular functions or duties, participates in the investment activities of such investment adviser, provided that such employee has been performing such functions and duties for or on behalf of the investment adviser, or substantially similar functions or duties for or on behalf of another company for at least 12 months.*

Performance based fees can only be assessed to clients with at least \$1,100,000 under management with our firm or a net worth of at least \$2,200,000. A performance fee is a fee based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the managed assets of a client.

In addition to an investment management fee of up to 1%, our firm charges up to 20% of the net profits (i.e., profits after our management fee has been deducted) achieved for the previous quarter's account management. The performance fee is payable only if the net profits in the client account(s) exceed the performance calculation of the previous year. Both the management and performance fee are negotiated and agreed upon when the advisory agreement is signed. At our discretion, our firm may waive all or any portion of the performance fee or may agree with a client to other changes to the performance fee by written agreement only.

In charging performance fees to some client accounts, our firm faces a conflict of interest as our firm can potentially receive greater fees from client accounts having a performance-based compensation structure than from accounts only charged an advisory fee. As a result, there exists an incentive to take additional risk, direct the best investment ideas to, or to allocate or sequence trades in favor of, the account that pays a performance fee. Our firm has taken important steps to ensure that our performance-based accounts are not favored over our client's non-performance fee-based accounts.

Performance based and non-performance based accounts are periodically reviewed and compared at least on a quarterly basis. In the event that our firm finds performance-based accounts are being

unduly (i.e., consistently) favored over non-performance based accounts, our firm would take action to address the situation on a case-by-case basis. This could include allowing non-performance based accounts to trade before performance based accounts to the extent practicable, or if the problem persists, not allowing new performance based accounts, waiving our performance based fees or cancelling our performance based fee arrangements altogether and in some cases, termination of firm personnel.

Our firm also makes use of block trades and allocations made based on client's risk tolerance, investment objectives and restrictions. Our firm will review block trade allocations to detect whether profitable trades are being disproportionately allocated to performance-based accounts, while unprofitable trades are being disproportionately allocated to pure-fee based accounts with no performance fee. If a problem is detected in the allocation of block trades, our firm will take measures as previously described above.

Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements

Retirement Advocates provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors and pension funds.

Retirement Advocates currently does not require a minimum account size for opening or servicing a qualified plan. Rather, Retirement Advocates conducts a client selection process based on a number of factors to verify it is a good mutual fit between the firm and prospective client.

Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss

The following methods of analysis and investment strategies may be utilized in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets, provided that such methods and/or 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.

General Risks of Owning Securities

The prices of securities held in client accounts and the income they generate may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world. These include events directly involving the issuers of securities held as underlying assets of mutual funds in a client's account, conditions affecting the general economy, and overall market changes. Other contributing factors include local, regional, or global political, social, or economic instability and governmental or governmental agency responses to economic conditions. Finally, currency, interest rate, and commodity price fluctuations may also affect security prices and income.

The prices of, and the income generated by, most debt securities held by a client's account may be affected by changing interest rates and by changes in the effective maturities and credit ratings of these securities. For example, the prices of debt securities in the client's account generally will decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. In addition, falling interest rates may cause an issuer to redeem, "call" or refinance a security before its stated maturity, which may result in our firm having to reinvest the proceeds in lower yielding securities. Longer maturity debt securities generally have higher rates of interest and may be subject to greater price fluctuations than shorter maturity debt securities. Debt securities are also subject to credit risk, which is the possibility

that the credit strength of an issuer will weaken and/or an issuer of a debt security will fail to make timely payments of principal or interest and the security will go into default.

The guarantee of a security backed by the U.S. Treasury or the full faith and credit of the U.S. government only covers the timely payment of interest and principal when held to maturity. This means that the current market values for these securities will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. Investments in securities issued by entities based outside the United States may be subject to increased levels of the risks described above. Currency fluctuations and controls, different accounting, auditing, financial reporting, disclosure, regulatory and legal standards and practices could also affect investments in securities of foreign issuers. Additional factors may include expropriation, changes in tax policy, greater market volatility, different securities market structures, and higher transaction costs. Various administrative difficulties, such as delays in clearing and settling portfolio transactions, or in receiving payment of dividends can increase risk. Finally, investments in securities issued by entities domiciled in the United States may also be subject to many of these risks.

Methods of Analysis

For participant-directed retirement plans of all types, we will develop the plan's investment policy statement, and in the case of participant-directed plans under ERISA Section 3(21), recommend the investment list to the plan's investment committee, or select the plan's investment list under Section 3(38) if applicable, including stock funds, bond funds, cash management options and either time- or risk-based fund-of-fund options such as target date (or target risk) mutual funds to be used as the plan's qualified default investment alternative. We will use the Scorecard System Methodology™ developed by Retirement Plan Advisory Group, Inc. ("RPAG"), a third-party service provider, to develop an objective system for documenting funds that should continue to be held, watch-listed, or eliminated, including a quantifiable and objective method for documenting decisions. Typically, a participant-directed plan will hold 20-35 investment options.

For employer-directed retirement plans, we will develop the plan's investment policy statement, asset allocation, and recommend fund managers consistent with the client's goals, funding objectives and risk tolerance. Similar to participant-directed services, we will use the Scorecard System Methodology™ to develop an objective system for documenting funds that should continue to be held, watch-listed, or eliminated, including a quantifiable and objective method for documenting decisions.

Securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities are purchased and/or sold, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While our firm is alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our firm's analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

Mutual Fund and/or Exchange Traded Fund ("ETF") Analysis: Analysis of the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. The underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF are also reviewed in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in another fund(s) in the Client's portfolio. The funds or ETFs are monitored in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as our firm does not control the underlying

investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the Client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the Client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the Client's portfolio.

Investment Strategies & Asset Classes

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.

Asset Allocation: The implementation of an investment strategy that attempts to balance risk versus reward by adjusting the percentage of each asset in an investment portfolio according to the investor's risk tolerance, goals, and investment time frame. Asset allocation is based on the principle that different assets perform differently in different market and economic conditions. A fundamental justification for asset allocation is the notion that different asset classes offer returns that are not perfectly correlated, hence diversification reduces the overall risk in terms of the variability of returns for a given level of expected return. Although risk is reduced as long as correlations are not perfect, it is typically forecast (wholly or in part) based on statistical relationships (like correlation and variance) that existed over some past period. Expectations for return are often derived in the same way.

An asset class is a group of economic resources sharing similar characteristics, such as riskiness and return. There are many types of assets that may or may not be included in an asset allocation strategy. The "traditional" asset classes are stocks (value, dividend, growth, or sector-specific [or a "blend" of any two or more of the preceding]; large-cap versus mid-cap, small-cap or micro-cap; domestic, foreign [developed], emerging or frontier markets), bonds (fixed income securities more generally: investment-grade or junk [high-yield]; government or corporate; short-term, intermediate, long-term; domestic, foreign, emerging markets), and cash or cash equivalents. Allocation among these three provides a starting point. Usually included are hybrid instruments such as convertible bonds and preferred stocks, counting as a mixture of bonds and stocks. Other alternative assets that may be considered include: commodities: precious metals, nonferrous metals, agriculture, energy, others.; Commercial or residential real estate (also REITs); Collectibles such as art, coins, or stamps; insurance products (annuity, life settlements, catastrophe bonds, personal life insurance products, etc.); derivatives such as long-short or market neutral strategies, options, collateralized debt, and futures; foreign currency; venture capital; private equity; and/or distressed securities.

Debt Securities (Bonds): Issuers use debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero-coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In

general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. Bonds with longer rates of maturity tend to have greater interest rate risks.

Certain additional risk factors relating to debt securities include: (a) When interest rates are declining, investors must reinvest their interest income and any return of principal, whether scheduled or unscheduled, at lower prevailing rates.; (b) Inflation causes tomorrow's dollar to be worth less than today's; in other words, it reduces the purchasing power of a bond investor's future interest payments and principal, collectively known as "cash flows." Inflation also leads to higher interest rates, which in turn leads to lower bond prices.; (c) Debt securities may be sensitive to economic changes, political and corporate developments, and interest rate changes. Investors can also expect periods of economic change and uncertainty, which can result in increased volatility of market prices and yields of certain debt securities. For example, prices of these securities can be affected by financial contracts held by the issuer or third parties (such as derivatives) relating to the security or other assets or indices. (d) Debt securities may contain redemption or call provisions entitling their issuers to redeem them at a specified price on a date prior to maturity. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a lower interest rate market, the account would have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in decreased income to investors. Usually, a bond is called at or close to par value. This subjects investors that paid a premium for their bond risk of lost principal. In reality, prices of callable bonds are unlikely to move much above the call price if lower interest rates make the bond likely to be called.; (e) If the issuer of a debt security defaults on its obligations to pay interest or principal or is the subject of bankruptcy proceedings, the account may incur losses or expenses in seeking recovery of amounts owed to it.; (f) There may be little trading in the secondary market for particular debt securities, which may affect adversely the account's ability to value accurately or dispose of such debt securities. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the value and/or liquidity of debt securities.

Our firm attempts to reduce the risks described above through diversification of the client's portfolio and by credit analysis of each issuer, as well as by monitoring broad economic trends and corporate and legislative developments, but there can be no assurance that our firm will be successful in doing so. Credit ratings for debt securities provided by rating agencies reflect an evaluation of the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk. The rating of an issuer is a rating agency's view of past and future potential developments related to the issuer and may not necessarily reflect actual outcomes. There can be a lag between the time of developments relating to an issuer and the time a rating is assigned and updated.

Exchange Traded Funds: An ETF is a type of Investment Company (usually, an open-end fund or unit investment trust) whose primary objective is to achieve the same return as a particular market index. Most ETFs are designed to track an index, so their performance is close to that of an index mutual fund, but they are not exact duplicates. A tracking error, or the difference between the returns of a fund and the returns of the index, can arise due to differences in composition, management fees, expenses, and handling of dividends. ETFs benefit from continuous pricing; they can be bought and sold on a stock exchange throughout the trading day. Because ETFs trade like stocks, you can place orders just like with individual stocks - such as limit orders, good-until-canceled orders, stop loss orders etc. They can also be sold short. Traditional mutual funds are bought and redeemed based on their net asset values ("NAV") at the end of the day. ETFs are bought and sold at the market prices on the exchanges, which resemble the underlying NAV but are independent of it. However, arbitrageurs will ensure that ETF prices are kept close to the NAV of the underlying securities. Although an investor can buy as few as one share of an ETF, most buy in board lots. Anything bought in less than a board lot will increase the cost to the investor. Anyone can buy any ETF no matter where in the

world it trades. This provides a benefit over mutual funds, which generally can only be bought in the country in which they are registered.

One of the main features of ETFs are their low annual fees, especially when compared to traditional mutual funds. The passive nature of index investing, reduced marketing, and distribution and accounting expenses all contribute to the lower fees. However, individual investors must pay a brokerage commission to purchase and sell ETF shares; for those investors who trade frequently, this can significantly increase the cost of investing in ETFs. That said, with the advent of low-cost brokerage fees, small or frequent purchases of ETFs are becoming more cost efficient.

Equity Securities: Equity securities represent an ownership position in a company. Equity securities typically consist of common stocks. The prices of equity securities fluctuate based on, among other things, events specific to their issuers and market, economic and other conditions. For example, prices of these securities can be affected by financial contracts held by the issuer or third parties (such as derivatives) relating to the security or other assets or indices. There may be little trading in the secondary market for particular equity securities, which may adversely affect Our firm 's ability to value accurately or dispose of such equity securities. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the value and/or liquidity of equity securities. Investing in smaller companies may pose additional risks as it is often more difficult to value or dispose of small company stocks, more difficult to obtain information about smaller companies, and the prices of their stocks may be more volatile than stocks of larger, more established companies. Clients should have a long-term perspective and, for example, be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in value.

Fixed Income: Fixed income is a type of investing or budgeting style for which real return rates or periodic income is received at regular intervals and at reasonably predictable levels. Fixed-income investors are typically retired individuals who rely on their investments to provide a regular, stable income stream. This demographic tends to invest heavily in fixed-income investments because of the reliable returns they offer. Fixed-income investors who live on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk of inflation eroding their spending power.

Some examples of fixed-income investments include treasuries, money market instruments, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds, and international bonds. The primary risk associated with fixed-income investments is the borrower defaulting on his payment. Other considerations include exchange rate risk for international bonds and interest rate risk for longer-dated securities. The most common type of fixed-income security is a bond. Bonds are issued by federal governments, local municipalities, and major corporations. Fixed-income securities are recommended for investors seeking a diverse portfolio; however, the percentage of the portfolio dedicated to fixed income depends on your own personal investment style. There is also an opportunity to diversify the fixed-income component of a portfolio. Riskier fixed-income products, such as junk bonds and longer-dated products, should comprise a lower percentage of your overall portfolio.

The interest payment on fixed-income securities is considered regular income and is determined based on the creditworthiness of the borrower and current market rates. In general, bonds and fixed-income securities with longer-dated maturities pay a higher rate, also referred to as the coupon rate, because they are considered riskier. The longer the security is on the market, the more time it has to lose its value and/or default. At the end of the bond term, or at bond maturity, the borrower returns the amount borrowed, also referred to as the principal or par value.

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.

The benefits of investing through mutual funds include: (a) Mutual funds are professionally managed by an investment adviser who researches, selects, and monitors the performance of the securities purchased by the fund; (b) Mutual funds typically have the benefit of diversification, which is an investing strategy that generally sums up as "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Spreading investments across a wide range of companies and industry sectors can help lower the risk if a company or sector fails. Some investors find it easier to achieve diversification through ownership of mutual funds rather than through ownership of individual stocks or bonds.; (c) Some mutual funds accommodate investors who do not have a lot of money to invest by setting relatively low dollar amounts for initial purchases, subsequent monthly purchases, or both.; and (d) At any time, mutual fund investors can readily redeem their shares at the current NAV, less any fees and charges assessed on redemption.

Mutual funds also have features that some investors might view as disadvantages: (a) Investors must pay sales charges, annual fees, and other expenses regardless of how the fund performs. Depending on the timing of their investment, investors may also have to pay taxes on any capital gains distribution they receive. This includes instances where the fund went on to perform poorly after purchasing shares.; (b) 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.; and (c) 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 the fund might not calculate until many hours after the investor placed the order. In general, mutual funds must calculate their NAV at least once every business day, typically after the major U.S. exchanges close.

When investors buy and hold an individual stock or bond, the investor must pay income tax each year on the dividends or interest the investor receives. However, the investor will not have to pay any capital gains tax until the investor actually sells and makes a profit. Mutual funds are different. When an investor buys and holds mutual fund shares, the investor will owe income tax on any ordinary dividends in the year the investor receives or reinvests them. Moreover, in addition to owing taxes on any personal capital gains when the investor sells shares, the investor may have to pay taxes each year on the fund's capital gains. That is because the law requires mutual funds to distribute capital gains to shareholders if they sell securities for a profit and losses cannot be used to offset these gains.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”): REITs primarily invest in real estate or real estate-related loans. Equity REITs own real estate properties, while mortgage REITs hold construction, development and/or long-term mortgage loans. Changes in the value of the underlying property of the trusts, the creditworthiness of the issuer, property taxes, interest rates, tax laws, and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment all can affect the values of REITs. Both types of REITs are dependent upon management skill, the cash flows generated by their holdings, the real estate market in general, and the possibility of failing to qualify for any applicable pass-through tax treatment or failing to maintain any applicable exemption status afforded under relevant laws.

Risk of Loss

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

Capital Risk: Capital risk is one of the most basic, fundamental risks of investing; it is the risk that you may lose 100% of your money. All investments carry some form of risk and the loss of capital is generally a risk for any investment instrument.

Company Risk: When investing in stock positions, there is always a certain level of company or industry specific risk that is inherent in each investment. This is also referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that the company will perform poorly or have its value reduced based on factors specific to the company or its industry. For example, if a company’s employees go on strike or the company receives unfavorable media attention for its actions, the value of the company may be reduced.

Credit Risk: Credit risk can be a factor in situations where an investment’s performance relies on a borrower’s repayment of borrowed funds. With credit risk, an investor can experience a loss or unfavorable performance if a borrower does not repay the borrowed funds as expected or required. Investment holdings that involve forms of indebtedness (i.e. borrowed funds) are subject to credit risk.

Currency Risk: Fluctuations in the value of the currency in which your investment is denominated may affect the value of your investment and thus, your investment may be worth more or less in the future. All currency is subject to swings in valuation and thus, regardless of the currency denomination of any particular investment you own, currency risk is a realistic risk measure. That said, currency risk is generally a much larger factor for investment instruments denominated in currencies other than the most widely used currencies (U.S. dollar, British pound, German mark, Euro, Japanese yen, French franc, etc.).

Economic Risk: The prevailing economic environment is important to the health of all businesses. Some companies, however, are more sensitive to changes in the domestic or global economy than others. These types of companies are often referred to as cyclical businesses. Countries in which a large portion of businesses are in cyclical industries are thus also very economically sensitive and carry a higher amount of economic risk. If an investment is issued by a party located in a country that experiences wide swings from an economic standpoint or in situations where certain elements of an investment instrument are hinged on dealings in such countries, the investment instrument will generally be subject to a higher level of economic risk.

Equity (Stock) Market Risk: Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. If you held common stock, or common stock equivalents, of any given issuer, you would generally be exposed to greater risk than if you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer.

ETF & Mutual Fund Risk: When investing in an ETF or mutual fund, you will bear additional expenses based on your pro rata share of the ETF's or mutual fund's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. Clients will also incur brokerage costs when purchasing ETFs.

Financial Risk: Financial risk is represented by internal disruptions within an investment or the issuer of an investment that can lead to unfavorable performance of the investment. Examples of financial risk can be found in cases like Enron or many of the dot com companies that were caught up in a period of extraordinary market valuations that were not based on solid financial footings of the companies.

Fixed Income Securities Risk: Typically, the values of fixed-income securities change inversely with prevailing interest rates. Therefore, a fundamental risk of fixed-income securities is interest rate risk, which is the risk that their value will generally decline as prevailing interest rates rise, which may cause your account value to likewise decrease, and vice versa. How specific fixed income securities may react to changes in interest rates will depend on the specific characteristics of each security. Fixed-income securities are also subject to credit risk, prepayment risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. Credit risk is the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of a bond to decline.

Inflation Risk: Inflation risk involves the concern that in the future, your investment or proceeds from your investment will not be worth what they are today. Throughout time, the prices of resources and end-user products generally increase and thus, the same general goods and products today will likely be more expensive in the future. The longer an investment is held, the greater the chance that the proceeds from that investment will be worth less in the future than what they are today. Said another way, a dollar tomorrow will likely get you less than what it can today.

Interest Rate Risk: Certain investments involve the payment of a fixed or variable rate of interest to the investment holder. Once an investor has acquired or has acquired the rights to an investment that pays a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest, changes in overall interest rates in the market will affect the value of the interest-paying investment(s) they hold. In general, changes in prevailing interest rates in the market will have an inverse relationship to the value of existing, interest paying investments. In other words, as interest rates move up, the value of an instrument paying a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest will go down. The reverse is generally true as well.

Legal/Regulatory Risk: Certain investments or the issuers of investments may be affected by changes in state or federal laws or in the prevailing regulatory framework under which the investment instrument or its issuer is regulated. Changes in the regulatory environment or tax laws can affect the performance of certain investments or issuers of those investments and thus, can have a negative impact on the overall performance of such investments.

Liquidity Risk: Certain assets may not be readily converted into cash or may have a very limited market in which they trade. Thus, you may experience the risk that your investment or assets within your investment may not be able to be liquidated quickly, thus, extending the period of time by which you may receive the proceeds from your investment. Liquidity risk can also result in unfavorable pricing when exiting (i.e. not being able to quickly get out of an investment before the price drops significantly) a particular investment and therefore, can have a negative impact on investment returns.

Market Risk: The value of your portfolio may decrease if the value of an individual company or multiple companies in the portfolio decreases or if our belief about a company's intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies perform, the value of your portfolio could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, in response to changes in the market, and you could lose money. Investment risks include price risk as may be observed by a drop in a security's price due to company specific events (e.g. earnings disappointment or downgrade in the rating of a bond) or general market risk (e.g. such as a "bear" market when stock values fall in general). For fixed-income securities, a period of rising interest rates could erode the value of a bond since bond values generally fall as bond yields go up. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Market Timing Risk: Market timing can include high risk of loss since it looks at an aggregate market versus a specific security. Timing risk explains the potential for missing out on beneficial movements in price due to an error in timing. This could cause harm to the value of an investor's portfolio because of purchasing too high or selling too low.

Operational Risk: Operational risk can be experienced when an issuer of an investment product is unable to carry out the business it has planned to execute. Operational risk can be experienced as a result of human failure, operational inefficiencies, system failures, or the failure of other processes critical to the business operations of the issuer or counter party to the investment.

Past Performance: Charting and technical analysis are often used interchangeably. Technical analysis generally attempts to forecast an investment's future potential by analyzing its past performance and other related statistics. In particular, technical analysis often times involves an evaluation of historical pricing and volume of a particular security for the purpose of forecasting where future price and volume figures may go. As with any investment analysis method, technical analysis runs the risk of not knowing the future and thus, investors should realize that even the most diligent and thorough technical analysis cannot predict or guarantee the future performance of any particular investment instrument or issuer thereof.

Item 9: Disciplinary Information

Retirement Advocates does not have any legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

Retirement Advocates is not a registered broker-dealer and does not have an application pending to register as a broker-dealer.

Retirement Advocates is not a registered futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor and does not have an application pending to register as such.

Retirement Advocates does not have any material arrangements with other investment advisers that would be material to its advisory clients.

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

Code of Ethics: 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 demand 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.

To prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts¹. 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.

Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests: Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys, or sells securities for client accounts in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients: Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. 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.

Trading Securities At or Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities: 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. 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.

¹ 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.

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.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

Clients are free to select the broker of their choice, and in fact, our firm works with multiple broker-dealers as a result of client choice, all within the regulations of the SEC and the state agencies and per the rules and limited power of attorney (LPOA) agreements of the various brokers.

If our firm is directed by the client to use a specific broker-dealer our ability to negotiate commissions (where applicable), obtain volume discounts, or obtain best execution may not be as favorable as might otherwise be obtained. Most favorable execution of transactions may not always be achieved at any broker-dealer. Our firm may direct client brokerage outside of recommended custodians.

Our firm has no formal or informal soft-dollar arrangements and does not receive any soft-dollar benefits. Neither our firm nor any related person participates in any broker-dealer or custodian referral programs. Our firm has no relationships, arrangements, or conflicts of interest with its broker-dealers.

Constructing portfolios and rebalancing portfolios toward a target allocation are the primary drivers of trading activity on behalf of our clients. We rank these drivers as more important than the opportunity to aggregate simultaneous trades across clients. Because all client accounts are unique, only rarely might multiple clients require the same security trade on a given day.

Item 13: Review of Accounts

Retirement Plan Consulting clients receive reviews of their retirement plans for the duration of the service. We provide quarterly investment reports to qualified plan clients and meet with the owner(s), board members, or committees at least on an annual basis depending on the needs of each client and the respective plan participants.

Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation

We do 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.

Item 15: Custody

While our firm does not maintain physical custody of client assets (which are maintained by a qualified custodian, as discussed above), we are deemed to have custody of certain client assets if given the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts, as further described below under "Third Party Money Movement." All our clients receive account statements directly from their qualified custodian(s) at least quarterly upon opening of an account. We urge our clients to carefully review these statements. Additionally, if our firm decides to send its own account statements to clients, such statements will include a legend that recommends the client compare the account statements received from the qualified custodian with those received from our firm. Clients are encouraged to

raise any questions with us about the custody, safety or security of their assets and our custodial recommendations.

Item 16: Investment Discretion

If you engage Retirement Advocates to perform discretionary portfolio management services, you must first sign our advisory agreement before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf. Discretionary authorization enables our firm to exercise discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify, in writing, investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security.

Retirement plan consulting services are non-discretionary in nature. The client always makes the ultimate investment decision, and we will not take any action with respect to the client's investments without the client's prior consent.

Item 17: 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 18: Financial Information

Our firm does not have any financial condition or impairment that would prevent us from meeting our contractual commitments to you. We do not: (1) take physical custody of client funds or securities; (2) serve as trustee or signatory for client accounts; and, (3) require the prepayment of more than \$500 in fees six or more months in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement with this Disclosure Brochure.

Our firm has never filed a bankruptcy petition.