

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



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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Central Valley Advisors, LLC dba O'Brien Wealth Management. If clients have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 916-414-8282. 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 #324974.

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**

O'Brien Wealth Management is required to notify clients of any information that has changed since the last annual update of this ADV Part 2A Appendix 1 Wrap Brochure ("Wrap Brochure") that may be important to them. Clients can request a fully copy of our Wrap Brochure or contact us with any questions that they may have about the changes.

Since our firm's initial filing as a registered investment adviser, we have not made any material changes to this Brochure.

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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 manages a wrap fee program where clients pay a single fee for investment advisory services and associated custodial transaction costs. Transaction fees will be paid by our firm based on a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account(s) or via individual transaction charges. Because our firm absorbs client transaction fees, an incentive exists to limit trading activities in client accounts. The overall cost you will incur if you participate in our wrap fee program may be higher or lower than you might incur by separately purchasing the types of securities available.

Our recommended custodian, Raymond James, does not charge transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds. Since we pay the transaction fees charged by the custodian to clients participating in our wrap fee program, this presents a conflict of interest because we are incentivized to recommend equities and exchange traded funds over other types of securities in order to reduce our costs.

As a fiduciary, we have adopted written policies and procedures designed to help mitigate such conflicts of interests. As a fiduciary, we will always act in our client's best interests.

### **Our Wrap Advisory Services**

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As part of our Wrap Fee Program and management services, 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 as necessary, rebalanced based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

If you participate in the Wrap Fee Program, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow us to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm. In our sole discretion, you may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased or sold for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account.

The maximum annual fee charged for this service will not exceed 2.00% of assets under management. 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. Our firm may, in its sole discretion, directly invoice clients and in such instances, advisory fees are due upon 15 days of the invoice date.

The annualized fee is billed monthly in arrears based on the average daily balance of the client's account(s). Fees are negotiable and will be deducted from client account(s). 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 Assets and all account disbursements, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm; and
- b) Clients will provide authorization permitting our firm to be directly paid by these terms. Our firm will send an invoice (or fee debiting instructions) directly to the custodian.

### **Brokerage Practices**

If you participate in the Program, you will be required to establish an account with Raymond James & Associates (RJA), member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, as the qualified custodian. If you do not direct our firm to execute transactions through RJA, we reserve the right to not accept your account. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage. Since you are required to use RJA, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions. We believe that RJA provides quality execution services based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the ability to provide professional services, reputation, experience and financial stability.

Evaluation of custodial relationships is based on many factors, including the level of services provided, the custodian's financial stability, and the cost of services provided by the custodian to our clients, which includes the yield on cash sweep choices, commissions, custody fees and other fees or expenses.

We do not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research. Also, we do not have any soft dollar arrangements.

As a registered investment adviser, we may have access to research products and services from your account custodian (RJA). These products may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers that utilize the service platforms of these firms, and are not to be paid for with soft dollars; however, the receipt of such research and services benefits our firm. To the extent our firm receives any research products and/or services from your acting custodian/broker-dealer, a conflict of interest arises in that such research and/or services might not directly benefit client accounts. In effort to mitigate this conflict of interest it is our firm's policy to use such research or services to assist in making investment decisions on behalf of client accounts or to assist with our overall responsibility for servicing client accounts, respectively. As a registered investment adviser our firm and representatives of our firm have a fiduciary duty to act in our client's best interest.

### **Aggregated Trades**

We combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for discretionary advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "aggregated trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner.

Generally, participating accounts will pay a fixed transaction cost regardless of the number of shares transacted. In certain cases, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs on any given day. In the event an order is only partially filled, the shares will be allocated to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner, typically in proportion to the size of each client's order. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in aggregated trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

### **General Wrap Fee Program Disclosures**

The benefits under a wrap fee program depend, in part, upon the size of the Account, the management fee charged, and the number of transactions likely to be generated in the Account. For example, a wrap fee program may not be suitable for Accounts with little trading activity. In order to evaluate whether a wrap fee program is suitable for you, you should compare the Program Fee and any other costs of the Program with the amounts that would be charged by other advisers, broker-dealers, and custodians, for advisory fees, brokerage and other execution costs, and custodial services comparable to those provided under the Program.

In considering the investment programs described in this Brochure, you should be aware that participating in a wrap fee program may cost more or less than the cost of purchasing advisory, brokerage, and custodial services separately from other advisers or broker-dealers.

Similar advisory services may be available from other registered investment advisers for lower fees.

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

In addition to our advisory fees above, clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen 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 and other fund expenses), distribution fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, 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 in writing at any time. Since fees are billed monthly in arrears there are no refunds upon termination.

### **Wrap Fee Program Recommendations:**

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

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2023, we manage approximately \$474,524,728 in client assets under management on a discretionary basis, and approximately \$12,691,989 on a non-discretionary basis.

## Item 5: Account Requirements & Types of Clients

Our firm typically 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. 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 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.

### 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 are utilized by our firm when formulating investment advice and/or managing client assets:

- **Charting:** In this type of technical analysis, our firm reviews charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.

- **Cyclical Analysis:** Statistical analysis of specific events occurring at a sufficient number of relatively predictable intervals that they can be forecasted into the future. Cyclical analysis asserts that cyclical forces drive price movements in the financial markets. Risks include that cycles may invert or disappear and there is no expectation that this type of analysis will pinpoint turning points, instead be used in conjunction with other methods of analysis.
- **Duration Constraints:** Our firm adhere to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis. The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.
- **Fundamental Analysis:** The analysis of a business's financial statements (usually to analyze the business's assets, liabilities, and earnings), health, and its competitors and markets. When analyzing a stock, futures contract, or currency using fundamental analysis there are two basic approaches one can use: bottom-up analysis and top-down analysis. The terms are used to distinguish such analysis from other types of investment analysis, such as quantitative and technical. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data, but with the goal of making financial forecasts. There are several possible objectives: (a) to conduct a company stock valuation and predict its probable price evolution; (b) to make a projection on its business performance; (c) to evaluate its management and make internal business decisions; (d) and/or to calculate its credit risk.; and (e) to find out the intrinsic value of the share.

When the objective of the analysis is to determine what stock to buy and at what price, there are two basic methodologies investors rely upon: (a) Fundamental analysis maintains that markets may misprice a security in the short run but that the "correct" price will eventually be reached. Profits can be made by purchasing the mispriced security and then waiting for the market to recognize its "mistake" and reprice the security.; and (b) Technical analysis maintains that all information is reflected already in the price of a security. Technical analysts analyze trends and believe that sentiment changes predate and predict trend changes. Investors' emotional responses to price movements lead to recognizable price chart patterns. Technical analysts also analyze historical trends to predict future price movement. Investors can use one or both of these different but complementary methods for stock picking. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

- **Quantitative Analysis:** The use of models, or algorithms, to evaluate assets for investment. The process usually consists of searching vast databases for patterns, such as correlations among liquid assets or price-movement patterns (trend following or mean reversion). The resulting strategies may involve high-frequency trading. The results of the analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.
- **Qualitative Analysis:** A securities analysis that uses subjective judgment based on unquantifiable information, such as management expertise, industry cycles, strength of research and development, and labor relations. Qualitative analysis contrasts with quantitative analysis, which focuses on numbers that can be found on reports such as balance sheets. The two techniques, however, will often be used together in order to examine



a company's operations and evaluate its potential as an investment opportunity. Qualitative analysis deals with intangible, inexact concerns that belong to the social and experiential realm rather than the mathematical one. This approach depends on the kind of intelligence that machines (currently) lack, since things like positive associations with a brand, management trustworthiness, customer satisfaction, competitive advantage and cultural shifts are difficult, arguably impossible, to capture with numerical inputs. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

- **Sector Analysis:** Sector analysis involves identification and analysis of various industries or economic sectors that are likely to exhibit superior performance. Academic studies indicate that the health of a stock's sector is as important as the performance of the individual stock itself. In other words, even the best stock located in a weak sector will often perform poorly because that sector is out of favor. Each industry has differences in terms of its customer base, market share among firms, industry growth, competition, regulation and business cycles. Learning how the industry operates provides a deeper understanding of a company's financial health. One method of analyzing a company's growth potential is examining whether the amount of customers in the overall market is expected to grow. In some markets, there is zero or negative growth, a factor demanding careful consideration. Additionally, market analysts recommend that investors should monitor sectors that are nearing the bottom of performance rankings for possible signs of an impending turnaround.
- **Technical Analysis:** A security analysis methodology for forecasting the direction of prices through the study of past market data, primarily price and volume. A fundamental principle of technical analysis is that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so their analysis looks at the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. Therefore, price action tends to repeat itself due to investors collectively tending toward patterned behavior – hence technical analysis focuses on identifiable trends and conditions. Technical analysts also widely use market indicators of many sorts, some of which are mathematical transformations of price, often including up and down volume, advance/decline data and other inputs. These indicators are used to help assess whether an asset is trending, and if it is, the probability of its direction and of continuation. Technicians also look for relationships between price/volume indices and market indicators. Technical analysis employs models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, such as the relative strength index, moving averages, regressions, inter-market and intra-market price correlations, business cycles, stock market cycles or, classically, through recognition of chart patterns. Technical analysis is widely used among traders and financial professionals and is very often used by active day traders, market makers and pit traders. The risk associated with this type of analysis is that analysts use subjective judgment to decide which pattern(s) a particular instrument reflects at a given time and what the interpretation of that pattern should be.

The following investment strategies are used 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:** 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.

There are several types of asset allocation strategies based on investment goals, risk tolerance, time frames and diversification. The most common forms of asset allocation are: strategic, dynamic, tactical, and core-satellite.

- Strategic Asset Allocation: The primary goal of a strategic asset allocation is to create an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Generally speaking, strategic asset allocation strategies are agnostic to economic environments, i.e., they do not change their allocation postures relative to changing market or economic conditions.
- Dynamic Asset Allocation: Dynamic asset allocation is similar to strategic asset allocation in that portfolios are built by allocating to an asset mix that seeks to provide the optimal balance between expected risk and return for a long-term investment horizon. Like strategic allocation strategies, dynamic strategies largely retain exposure to their original asset classes; however, unlike strategic strategies, dynamic asset allocation portfolios will adjust their postures over time relative to changes in the economic environment.
- Tactical Asset Allocation: Tactical asset allocation is a strategy in which an investor takes a more active approach that tries to position a portfolio into those assets, sectors, or individual stocks that show the most potential for perceived gains. While an original asset mix is formulated much like strategic and dynamic portfolio, tactical strategies are often traded more actively and are free to move entirely in and out of their core asset classes
- Core-Satellite Asset Allocation: Core-Satellite allocation strategies generally contain a 'core' strategic element making up the most significant portion of the portfolio,

while applying a dynamic or tactical 'satellite' strategy that makes up a smaller part of the portfolio. In this way, core-satellite allocation strategies are a hybrid of the strategic and dynamic/tactical allocation strategies mentioned above.

- **Long-Term Purchases:** Our firm 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 our firm could miss out on potential short-term gains that could have been profitable to your account, or it's possible that the security's value may decline sharply before our firm makes a decision to sell.
- **Margin Transactions:** Our firm may purchase 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 securities 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; (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; and (5) custodians charge interest on margin balances which will reduce your returns over time.

- **Options:** An option is a financial derivative that represents a contract sold by one party (the option writer) to another party (the option holder, or option buyer). The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a security or other financial asset at an agreed-upon price (the strike price) during a certain period of time or on a specific date (exercise date). Options are extremely versatile securities. Traders use options to speculate, which is a relatively risky practice, while hedgers use options to reduce the risk of holding an asset. In terms of speculation, option buyers and writers have conflicting views regarding the outlook on the performance of a:
  - *Call Option:* Call options give the option to buy at certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go up. Conversely, the option writer needs to provide the underlying shares in the event that the stock's market price exceeds the strike due to the contractual obligation. An option writer who sells a call option believes that the underlying stock's price will drop relative to the option's strike price during the life of the option, as that is how he will reap maximum profit. This is exactly the opposite outlook of the option buyer. The buyer believes that the underlying stock will rise; if this happens, the buyer will be able to acquire the stock for a lower price and then sell it for a profit. However, if the underlying stock does not close above the strike price on the expiration date, the option buyer would lose the premium paid for the call option.
  - *Put Option:* Put options give the option to sell at a certain price, so the buyer would want the stock to go down. The opposite is true for put option writers. For example, a put option buyer is bearish on the underlying stock and believes its market price will fall below the specified strike price on or before a specified date. On the other hand, an option writer who sells a put option believes the underlying stock's price will increase about a specified price on or before the expiration date. If the underlying

stock's price closes above the specified strike price on the expiration date, the put option writer's maximum profit is achieved. Conversely, a put option holder would only benefit from a fall in the underlying stock's price below the strike price. If the underlying stock's price falls below the strike price, the put option writer is obligated to purchase shares of the underlying stock at the strike price.

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:** A short sale is a transaction in which an investor sells borrowed securities in anticipation of a price decline and is required to return an equal number of shares at some point in the future. These transactions have a number of risks that make it highly unsuitable for the novice investor. This strategy has a slanted payoff ratio in that the maximum gain is limited, but the maximum loss is theoretically infinite. The following risks should be considered: (1) In addition to trading commissions, other costs with short selling include that of borrowing the security to short it, as well as interest payable on the margin account that holds the shorted security. (2) The short seller is responsible for making dividend payments on the shorted stock to the entity from whom the stock has been borrowed. (3) Stocks with very high short interest may occasionally surge in price. This usually happens when there is a positive development in the stock, which forces short sellers to buy the shares back to close their short positions. Heavily shorted stocks are also susceptible to "buy-ins," which occur when a broker closes out short positions in a difficult-to-borrow stock whose lenders are demanding it back. (4) Regulators may impose bans on short sales in a specific sector or even in the broad market to avoid panic and unwarranted selling pressure. Such actions can cause a spike in stock prices, forcing the short seller to cover short positions at huge losses.
- **Short-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, our firm may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). Our firm does this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that our firm believes will soon result in a price swing in the securities our firm purchase.
- **Trading:** Our firm purchase securities with the idea of selling them very quickly (typically within 30 days or less). Our firm do this in an attempt to take advantage of our predictions of brief price swings. Trading involves risk that may not be suitable for every investor and may involve a high volume of trading activity. Each trade generates a commission and the total daily commission on such a high volume of trading can be considerable. Active trading accounts should be considered speculative in nature with the objective being to generate short-term profits. This activity may result in the loss of more than 100% of an investment.

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

- **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.
- **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, 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.
- **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.
- **Risks Associated with Investing in Mutual Funds:** Mutual funds are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities, or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates on a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. The returns on mutual funds can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. In addition, while some

mutual funds are “no load” and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns.

- **Risks Associated with Investing in Exchange Traded Funds (ETF):** Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Investments in these securities are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. Detailed information about the risks associated with each ETF is provided in the relevant ETF’s prospectus.
- **Risks Associated with Investing in Buffer ETFs:** Buffer ETFs are also known as defined-outcome ETFs since the ETF is designed to offer downside protection for a specified period of time. These ETFs are modeled after options-based structured notes, but are generally cheaper, and offer more liquidity. Buffer ETFs are designed to safeguard against market downturns by employing complex options strategies. Buffer ETFs typically charge higher management fees that are considerably more than the index funds whose performance they attempt to track. Additionally, because buffer funds own options, they do not receive dividends from their equity holdings. Both factors result in the underperformance of the Buffer ETF compared to the index they attempt to track. Clients should carefully read the prospectus for a buffer ETF to fully understand the cost structures, risks, and features of these complex products.
- **Structured Notes:** Below are some specific risks related to the structured notes recommended by our firm:
  - *Complexity:* Structured notes are complex financial instruments. Clients should understand the reference asset(s) or index(es) and determine how the note’s payoff structure incorporates such reference asset(s) or index(es) in calculating the note’s performance. This payoff calculation may include leverage multiplied by the performance of the reference asset or index, protection from losses should the reference asset or index produce negative returns, and/or fees. Structured notes may have complicated payoff structures that can make it difficult for clients to accurately assess their value, risk and potential for growth through the term of the structured note. Determining the performance of each note can be complex and this calculation can vary significantly from note to note depending on the structure. Notes can be structured in a wide variety of ways. Payoff structures can be leveraged, inverse, or inverse-leveraged, which may result in larger returns or losses. Clients should carefully read the prospectus for a structured note to fully understand how the payoff on a note will be calculated and discuss these issues with our firm.
  - *Market risk.* Some structured notes provide for the repayment of principal at maturity, which is often referred to as “principal protection.” This principal protection is subject to the credit risk of the issuing financial institution. Many structured notes do not offer this feature. For structured notes that do not offer principal protection, the performance of the linked asset or index may cause clients to lose some, or all, of their principal. Depending on the nature of the linked asset or index, the market risk of the structured note may include changes in equity or commodity prices, changes in interest rates or foreign exchange rates, and/or market volatility.
  - *Issuance price and note value:* The price of a structured note at issuance will likely be higher than the fair value of the structured note on the date of issuance. Issuers now generally disclose an estimated value of the structured note on the cover page of the

offering prospectus, allowing investors to gauge the difference between the issuer's estimated value of the note and the issuance price. The estimated value of the notes is likely lower than the issuance price of the note to investors because issuers include the costs for selling, structuring, and/or hedging the exposure on the note in the initial price of their notes. After issuance, structured notes may not be re-sold on a daily basis and thus may be difficult to value given their complexity.

- *Liquidity*: The ability to trade or sell structured notes in a secondary market is often very limited, as structured notes (other than exchange-traded notes known as ETNs) are not listed for trading on securities exchanges. As a result, the only potential buyer for a structured note may be the issuing financial institution's broker-dealer affiliate or the broker-dealer distributor of the structured note. In addition, issuers often specifically disclaim their intention to repurchase or make markets in the notes they issue. Clients should, therefore, be prepared to hold a structured note to its maturity date or risk selling the note at a discount to its value at the time of sale.
  - *Credit risk*: Structured notes are unsecured debt obligations of the issuer, meaning that the issuer is obligated to make payments on the notes as promised. These promises, including any principal protection, are only as good as the financial health of the structured note issuer. If the structured note issuer defaults on these obligations, investors may lose some, or all, of the principal amount they invested in the structured notes as well as any other payments that may be due on the structured notes.
- **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.
  - **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.
  - **Options Risk**: Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than an investment in the underlying securities. Additionally, options have an expiration date, which makes them "decay" in value over the amount of time they are held and can expire worthless. Purchasing and writing put and call options are highly specialized activities and entail greater than ordinary investment risks.

- **Strategy Risk:** There is no guarantee that the investment strategies discussed herein will work under all market conditions and each investor should evaluate his/her ability to maintain any investment he/she is considering in light of his/her own investment time horizon. Investments are subject to risk, including possible loss of principal.

### **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)**

In order to provide the Program services, we will provide your private information to your account custodian. We will only share the information necessary in order to carry out our obligations to you in servicing your account. We share your personal account data in accordance with our privacy policy as described below.

### **Privacy Policy**

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

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about you to any non-affiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, third-party investment advisers, broker dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

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

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this policy.

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

Any questions or concerns about the management of client portfolios shall be directed to our firm.



## 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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Representatives of our firm are insurance agents/brokers. They offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest exists as these insurance sales create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation adviser and/or our supervised persons may earn. To mitigate this potential conflict, our firm will has adopted policies and procedures to ensure that we always act in the client's best interest.

Our firm has no other financial industry activities and affiliations to disclose.

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

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

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

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

#### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Neither our firm nor any persons associated with our firm has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this Brochure.

#### **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell the same securities that we recommend to you or securities in which you are already invested. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we may have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. In efforts to mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities. As a fiduciary, it is our firm's obligation to act in our client's best interest.

## **Review of Accounts**

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Our firm monitors client account holdings on a continuous basis and conducts account reviews at least annually. Accounts are reviewed by management personnel and/or the financial advisor(s) assigned to the account. Reviews may be conducted in person, over the phone, or via internet-based video conference call services. Additional reviews may be offered in certain circumstances. Triggering factors that may stimulate additional reviews include, but are not limited to, changes in economic conditions, changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives, or upon client request.

Clients will receive statements directly from their account custodian(s) at least quarterly.

## **Other Compensation**

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Our firm recommends that clients establish brokerage accounts with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (RJA), member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, as the qualified custodian. RJA provides us with access to its institutional trading and operations services, which typically are not available to retail customers. These services are generally available, without cost, to financial advisory firms who maintain a minimum threshold of client assets with RJA. RJA is a full-service registered broker-dealer and registered investment adviser. Our firm has no formal relationship with RJA for client referrals and receives no compensation from RJA (other than the services and arrangements described herein) for accounts opened by firm clients. On an informal basis, RJA occasionally may make referrals to our firm as a courtesy or accommodation. Nothing of value, monetary or otherwise, is given, paid, or received in exchange for such referrals.

Services provided by RJA to financial advisory firms include research (including mutual fund research, third-party research, and RJA proprietary research), brokerage, custody, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment. In addition, RJA makes available software and other technologies that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution, provide research, pricing information, quotation services, and other market data, assist with contact management, facilitate payment of fees to our firm from client accounts, assist with performance reporting, facilitate trade allocation, and assist with back-office support, record-keeping, and client reporting. RJA also provides access to financial planning software, practice management consulting support, best execution assistance, consolidated statements assistance, educational and industry conferences, marketing and educational materials, technological and information technology support, and RJA corporate discounts. Many of these services may be used to service all or a substantial number of accounts, including accounts not maintained at RJA.

RJA may also provide us with other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise, including assistance in the following areas: consulting, publications and presentations, information technology, business succession, and marketing. In addition, RJA may make available or arrange and/or pay for these types of services provided by independent third parties.

## **Client Referrals**

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In accordance with Rule 206 (4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, our firm provides cash or non-cash compensation directly or indirectly to unaffiliated persons for testimonials or

endorsements (which include client referrals). Such compensation arrangements will not result in higher costs to the referred client. In this regard, our firm maintains a written agreement with each unaffiliated person that is compensated for testimonials or endorsements in an aggregate amount of \$1,000 or more (or the equivalent value in non-cash compensation) over a trailing 12-month period in compliance with Rule 206 (4)-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and applicable state and federal laws. The following information will be disclosed clearly and prominently to referred prospective clients at the time of each testimonial or endorsement:

- Whether or not the unaffiliated person is a current client of our firm,
- A description of the cash or non-cash compensation provided directly or indirectly by our firm to the unaffiliated person in exchange for the referral, if applicable, and
- A brief statement of any material conflicts of interest on the part of the unaffiliated person giving the referral resulting from our firm's relationship with such unaffiliated person.

In cases where state law requires licensure of solicitors, our firm ensures that no solicitation fees are paid unless the solicitor is registered as an investment adviser representative of our firm. If our firm is paying solicitation fees to another registered investment adviser, the licensure of individuals is the other firm's responsibility.

### **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.

Clients will receive statements directly from their account custodian(s) at least quarterly.

### **Custody**

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Each client appoints, or will appoint, a qualified custodian (the "Custodian") to take possession of the cash, securities, and other assets in the client's account. As a result, our firm will not have access to the assets in the account or to the income produced and will not be responsible for any acts or omissions of the custodian. The custodian sends to the client, at least quarterly, a statement indicating all amounts disbursed from the account (including the amount of any fees paid to our firm pursuant to the client's authorization), all transactions occurring in the account during the period covered by the statement, and a summary of the account positions and portfolio values at the end of the period.

#### Disbursement Authorization

Pursuant to Rule 206(4)-2 (the "Custody Rule"), investment advisers are deemed to have custody over client funds or securities where the investment adviser has authority to transfer or disburse client funds. As a convenience and service for our clients, some clients may authorize our firm, through the client's acting custodian(s), to assist with such transfers and/or disbursements. In these instances, we are deemed to have custody over client accounts since we will have disbursement or money movement authority.

Consequently, we have taken steps to implement controls in efforts to comply with the SEC's Custody Guidance (SEC No-Action Letter dated February 21, 2017; SEC Custody Rule FAQ II.4; and IM Guidance Update No. 2017-01), including, but not limited to: (1) adhering to the seven conditions specific to Standing Letters of Authorization delineated in the SEC No-Action Letter; (2) providing disclosures in our Form ADV; and (3) adopting internal policies procedures. Since many of the seven conditions involve the qualified custodian's operations, we will collaborate closely with our clients' acting custodian(s) in efforts to ensure that the representations are being satisfied.

## **IRA Rollover Disclosures**

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

In conjunction with the advisory services offered, we may provide recommendations related to the rollover of funds from an employer sponsored retirement plan. A plan participant leaving employment has several options with respect to their employer sponsored retirement plans. Each choice offers advantages and disadvantages, depending on desired investment options and services, fees and expenses, withdrawal options, required minimum distributions, tax treatment, and the investor's unique financial needs and different retirement plans. The complexity of these choices may lead an investor to seek assistance from us.

When our firm or our Associated Person(s) recommends an investor roll over plan assets into an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), we and our Associated Person(s) may earn an asset-based fee as a result. In most cases, we do not receive an asset-based fee if assets are retained in the plan. Often, account fees and expenses will increase because fees will apply to assets rolled over to an IRA and ongoing services will be extended to these assets. Thus, while there is arguably an economic incentive to encourage an investor to roll over plan assets into an IRA, we cannot and do not place our interests ahead of yours.

A rollover may also result in the assessment of other levels of fees and expenses, including, but not limited to, investment-related expenses imposed by other service providers and mutual fund managers not affiliated with us, as well as other fees and expenses charged by the custodian, third-party administrator, and/or record-keeper. We make no representations or warranties relating to any costs or expenses associated with the services provided by any third parties, and you understand that these fees are in addition to the fee paid to us for the rollover advice.

In cases where we provide you with rollover advice as defined by the Department of Labor, which may also include setting up and/or completing the rollover transaction, we do not serve as a custodian, and we do not provide legal or tax advice to you. In addition, we do not have any responsibilities or potential liabilities in connection with assets not related to the rollover and investments that are not managed by us.

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. In accordance with various rules and regulations, we must act in your best interest and we must not put our interests ahead of your interests. Additionally, we must: meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice); never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice); avoid misleading statements

about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments; follow polices, and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest; charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and give you basic information about any conflicts of interest.

We rely on all information you provide to us, whether financial or otherwise, without independent verification. We request that you promptly notify us in writing of any material change in the financial and other information provided to us, and to promptly provide any such additional information as may be reasonably requested by us. Due to the volatile and unpredictable nature of financial markets, we do not guarantee any future performance, any specific level of performance, or the success of any recommendations or strategies that we may take or recommend for you, or the success of our overall recommendations. Investment recommendations are subject to various market, currency, economic, political, and business risks, and that investment decisions will not always be profitable.