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March 12, 2024

### **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Aaron Wealth Advisors LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, contact us at 312-506-5780. 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 Aaron Wealth Advisors LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Our searchable IARD/CRD # is 298079.

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

## **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

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

Since our last annual updating amendment filed dated March 15, 2023, we have no material changes to report.

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## **Item 4 Advisory Business**

### **Description of Firm**

Aaron Wealth Advisors LLC is a registered investment adviser based in Chicago, Illinois. We are organized as a limited liability company ("LLC") under the laws of the State of Illinois. We have been providing investment advisory services since September 20, 2018. We are owned by Gary Evan Hirschberg.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we," "our," and "us" refer to Aaron Wealth Advisors LLC and the words "you," "your," and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

### **Portfolio Management Services**

We offer discretionary portfolio management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant us discretionary authority to manage your account. Subject to a grant of discretionary authorization, we have the authority and responsibility to formulate investment strategies on your behalf. Discretionary authorization will allow us to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without obtaining your approval prior to each transaction. We will also have discretion over the broker or dealer to be used for securities transactions, and over the commission rates to be paid. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm, a power of attorney, or trading authorization forms. 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.

We may also offer non-discretionary portfolio management services. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account. You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

Aaron Wealth Advisors has entered into a contractual relationship with Dynasty Financial Partners, LLC ("Dynasty"), which provides our firm with operational and back-office support including access to a network of service providers. Through the Dynasty network of service providers, we may receive preferred pricing on trading technology, reporting, custody, brokerage, compliance and other related services. Dynasty charges a "Platform Fee," for which, unless otherwise disclosed, the client will be charged, separate from and in addition to such client's annual investment management fee, as described in Item 5 below. In addition, Dynasty's subsidiary, Dynasty Wealth Management, LLC ("DWM") is an SEC registered investment adviser, that provides access to a range of investment services including: separately managed accounts ("SMA"), mutual fund and ETF asset allocation strategies, and unified managed accounts ("UMA") managed by external third-party managers (collectively, the "Investment Programs"). Aaron Wealth Advisors and its clients may separately engage the services of Dynasty and/or its subsidiaries to access the Investment Programs. Under the SMA and UMA programs, we will maintain the ability to select the specific, underlying third-party managers that will, in turn, have day-to-day discretionary trading authority over the requisite client assets.

DWM sponsors an investment management platform (the "Platform" or the "TAMP") that is available to the advisers in the Dynasty Network, such as Aaron Wealth Advisors. Through the Platform, DWM and Dynasty collectively provide certain technology, administrative, operations and advisory support services that allow advisers to manage their own portfolios and access independent third-party

managers that provide discretionary services in the form of traditional managed accounts and investment models. Advisers can allocate all or a portion of client assets among the different independent third-party managers via the Platform.

We will maintain the direct contractual relationship with each client and obtain, through such agreements, the authority to engage independent third-party managers, DWM and/or Dynasty, as applicable, for services rendered through the Platform in service of such client. We may delegate discretionary trading authority to DWM and/or independent third-party managers to effect investment and reinvestment of client assets with the ability to buy, sell or otherwise effect investment transactions and allocate client assets. If a client is participating in certain Investment Programs, DWM or the designated manager, as applicable, is also authorized without prior consultation of Aaron Wealth Advisors or the client to buy, sell, trade or allocate such client's assets in accordance with the client's designated portfolio and to deliver instructions to the designated broker-dealer and/or custodian of such client's assets.

### **Financial Consulting Services**

We offer financial consulting services that primarily involve advising clients on specific financial-related topics. The topics we address may include, but are not limited to, tax and estate planning, risk assessment/management, investment planning, financial organization, or financial decision making/negotiation. Additionally, we may advise on assets held at another custodian or private equity and real estate.

### **Mergers & Acquisitions Advisory Services**

We offer mergers and acquisitions advisory services to select individuals through our affiliate company, Aaron Wealth Consulting, LLC dba Aaron Wealth Liquidity Execution Group. This is an affiliate under common control and ownership which does not offer investment advisory or portfolio management services.

### **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in any wrap fee program.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on mutual fund shares, exchange traded funds, options contracts on securities, structured notes, limited partnerships and real estate.

Additionally, we may advise you on various types of investments based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship.

### **IRA Rollover Recommendations**

Effective December 20, 2021 (or such later date as the US Department of Labor ("DOL") Field Assistance Bulletin 2018-02 ceases to be in effect), for purposes of complying with the DOL's Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02 ("PTE 2020-02") where applicable, we are providing the following acknowledgment to you.

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

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

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

**Assets Under Management**

As of February 20, 2024, our regulatory assets under management for which we provide continuous management services are as follows: we provide continuous management services for \$1,667,330,967 in client assets managed on a discretionary basis, and \$284,698,554 in client assets managed on a non-discretionary basis which totals \$1,952,029,521 regulatory assets under management.

Aaron Wealth Advisors utilizes put writing and call writing strategies for a portion of our client base. In ADV filings prior to 2022, put and call writing strategies were not included in the calculation of regulatory assets under management. However, after consultation with and additional detail from various regulatory resources, the mandated notional value of option writing strategies is now included in the calculation of regulatory assets under management. The notional value trading limits of these option writing strategies are managed on a discretionary basis by Aaron Wealth Advisors and included in client AUM calculations when assessing fees for advisory services. This method will be used on a go-forward basis unless otherwise notated.

In some cases, Aaron Wealth Advisors is engaged by clients as an investment consultant. These contractual arrangements are for investment consulting services. Aaron Wealth Advisors acts on a non-discretionary basis, may or may not receive a fee, and does not provide continuous supervisory services for these specific engagements. However, because Aaron Wealth Advisors has an active contractual obligation to provide investment advice in the agreed upon framework, these assets are included in the calculation of our Assets Under Advisement.

Investment consultant engagements in which Aaron Wealth Advisors acts on a non-discretionary basis and provides continuous and regular supervisory services have been included in the calculation of Regulatory Assets Under Management.

The calculation for total client Assets Under Advisement and Management is as follows:

Total Regulatory Assets Under Management = \$1,952,029,521  
Non-Discretionary, Investment Consultant Assets = \$854,241,340  
Total Assets Under Advisement and Management = \$2,806,270,861

## Item 5 Fees and Compensation

### Portfolio Management Services

Our annual fee for portfolio management services will not exceed 1.25%. The fee is negotiable depending upon the market value of your assets under our management, the type and complexity of the asset management services provided, as well as the level of administration requested either directly or assumed by the client. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion.

Our annual fee is billed and payable on a pro-rata basis, quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of the assets being managed by us on the last day of the previous quarter. Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals in excess of \$50,000 during the quarter. If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the management fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. In the event the portfolio management agreement is terminated, the fee for the final billing period will be prorated through the effective date of termination, and the outstanding or unearned portion of the fee will be charged or refunded to you, as appropriate. Our management fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

Where it deems appropriate, the Firm may recommend the use of a third-party manager options strategy, including the Collateral Yield Enhancement Strategy ("CYES"), the Put Writing Strategy ("PWS") and the Call Writing Strategy ("CWS"), each an "Options Overlay Strategy" and, collectively, the "Options Overlay Strategies". The asset valuation methodology for the Options Overlay Strategies differs from that of the Firm's general policy, and such valuation will be provided by the third-party options manager. With respect to assets held in any Options Overlay Strategy, the annual fee for each of the Firm and the third-party manager will be calculated based upon the requisite client's notional exposure (the value of all underlying assets of the security at the current price) or adjusted notional exposure to such strategy, as follows. As noted above, all third-party manager fees are charged in addition to the Firm's annual advisory fee.

Accounts will be billed in advance based on the prior calendar quarter end Mandate Size. Accounts may be billed intra-quarter or in the subsequent quarter for contributions, withdrawals, or intra-quarter Mandate Size adjustments that are \$50,000 or greater.

As discussed above, we use Dynasty's TAMP services. TAMP-related charges are not included in the investment management fee you pay to Aaron Wealth Advisors. You will be charged, separate from and in addition to your investment management fee, any applicable Platform Fees as well as applicable independent manager fees. We do not receive any portion of the fees paid directly to Dynasty or the service providers made available through its platform, including the independent managers.

Each of the Platform Fee and independent manager fees are determined by the particular program(s) and manager(s) with which your assets are invested, and are calculated based upon a percentage of your assets under management, as applicable. The Platform Fee generally ranges from 0 - 0.45% annually, independent fixed income manager fees generally range from 0 - 0.90% annually, and independent equity manager fees generally range from 0 - 0.50% annually.

You will note the total fee reflected on your custodial statement will represent the sum of Aaron Wealth Advisor's investment management fee, Platform Fee(s) and independent manager fee(s), accordingly. You should review such statements to determine the total amount of fees associated with your requisite investments, and you should review your investment management agreement with Aaron Wealth Advisor to determine the investment management fee you pay to us.

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in your paying a reduced advisory fee.

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

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

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

Advisory fees charged by third-party manager(s) are separate from, and in addition to, our advisory fees. We will include assets managed by third-party manager(s) when calculating our advisory fee, which is based on the fee schedule set forth in the *Portfolio Management Services* section in this brochure. You will receive fee statements showing our fee and the third-party manager's fee. You should review your fee statements to determine the total amount of investment management fees associated with this program.

In limited circumstances, you may be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended third-party manager(s). In those cases, you may terminate your advisory relationship with the third-party manager according to the terms of your agreement with the third-party manager. You should review each third-party manager's brochure for specific information on their advisory fees and how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the third-party manager and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact these third-party manager(s) directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the third-party managers.

### **Financial Consulting Services**

The Firm generally charges a fixed fee for providing financial planning and consulting services under a standalone engagement. These fees are negotiable, depending upon the scope and complexity of the services and the professional rendering the financial planning and/or the consulting services. If the client engages us for additional investment advisory services, we may offset all or a portion of its fees for those services based upon the amount paid for the financial planning and/or consulting services.

Our Financial Consulting Services are negotiated on a case-by-case basis with a minimum fee of \$50,000. We will deduct the fee from an existing portfolio management account as agreed to in the financial consulting agreement. We will deduct our fee directly from the authorized account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.



You may terminate the financial consulting agreement upon written notice to our firm. If you have pre-paid financial consulting fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees. If financial consulting fees are payable in arrears, you will be responsible for a prorated fee based on services performed prior to termination of the financial consulting agreement.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds. 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 or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You will 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. Additionally, advisory fees charged by third-party managers are separate from, and in addition to, our advisory fees. When using third-party managers, DWM may also charge a program fee, which is separate and apart from our advisory fee. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, third-party managers, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this brochure.

## **Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

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

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

Aaron Wealth Advisors is a registered independent advisory firm dedicated to helping business owners, entrepreneurs, sophisticated individuals, multi-generational families, and family offices manage the complex business of their wealth.

In general, we require a minimum of \$10,000,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management.

We charge a minimum fee in the amount of \$50,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion we may waive the minimum fee.

We may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.

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

### Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

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

Modern Portfolio Theory - a theory of investment which attempts to maximize portfolio expected return for a given amount of portfolio risk, or equivalently minimize risk for a given level of expected return, by carefully diversifying the proportions of various assets.

Risk: Market risk is that part of a security's risk that is common to all securities of the same general class (stocks and bonds) and thus cannot be eliminated by diversification.

### Options Overlay Strategies

- The Collateral Yield Enhancement Strategy ("CYES"), is an index option-based overlay strategy seeking to generate incremental cash flow and improve risk-adjusted returns on existing portfolio holdings.
- The Put Writing Strategy ("PWS"), is a put option overlay strategy seeking to provide investors with equity-like exposure, struck at below-market levels (based on time-of-trade,) while seeking to generate incremental cash flow.
- The Call Writing Strategy ("CWS"), is a call option overlay strategy seeking to generate incremental cash flow for investors from the sale of calls struck at above-market levels (based on time-of-trade) which acts as short underlying equity exposure at and above the strike.

Risks: See the description of the specific option contracts listed below.

Long-Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

Risk: Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost - "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.

Short-Term Purchases - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

Risk: Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a disproportionately higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are many factors that can affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term interest rate changes, cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of time.

Margin Transactions - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.

**Risk:** If the value of the shares drops sufficiently, the investor will be required to either deposit more cash into the account or sell a portion of the stock in order to maintain the margin requirements of the account. This is known as a "margin call." An investor's overall risk includes the amount of money invested plus the amount that was loaned to them.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial information, liquidity needs and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio. **It is important that you notify us immediately with respect to any material changes to your financial circumstances, including for example, a change in your current or expected income level, tax circumstances, or employment status.**

### **Tax Considerations**

Tax efficiency may be a part of the overall strategy that we focus on for clients. However, regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Custodians and broker-dealers must report the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts. Through a program offered by your custodian, we have selected the "Tax Lot Optimizer" accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. This method focuses on taking losses first (short-term then long-term) and gains last (long-term then short-term). You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

### **Risk of Loss**

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

### **Other Risk Considerations**

When evaluating risk, financial loss may be viewed differently by each client and may depend on many different risks, each of which may affect the probability and magnitude of any potential losses. The following risks may not be all-inclusive, but should be considered carefully by a prospective client before retaining our services.

**Liquidity Risk:** The risk of being unable to sell your investment at a fair price at a given time due to high volatility or lack of active liquid markets. You may receive a lower price or it may not be possible to sell the investment at all.

**Credit Risk:** Credit risk typically applies to debt investments such as corporate, municipal, and sovereign fixed income or bonds. A bond issuing entity can experience a credit event that could impair or erase the value of an issuer's securities held by a client.

**Inflation and Interest Rate Risk:** Security prices and portfolio returns will likely vary in response to changes in inflation and interest rates. Inflation causes the value of future dollars to be worth less and

may reduce the purchasing power of a client's future interest payments and principal. Inflation also generally leads to higher interest rates which may cause the value of many types of fixed income investments to decline.

Horizon and Longevity Risk: The risk that your investment horizon is shortened because of an unforeseen event, for example, the loss of your job. This may force you to sell investments that you were expecting to hold for the long term. If you must sell at a time that the markets are down, you may lose money. Longevity Risk is the risk of outliving your savings. This risk is particularly relevant for people who are retired, or are nearing retirement.

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

We recommend various types of securities and we do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with the investment. A description of the types of securities we may recommend to you and some of their inherent risks are provided below.

Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds: Mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETF") 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 and ETFs 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 in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. ETFs differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors.

ETFs may have tracking error risks. For example, the ETF investment adviser may not be able to cause the ETF's performance to match that of the Underlying Index or other benchmark, which may negatively affect the ETF's performance. In addition, for leveraged and inverse ETFs that seek to track the performance of their Underlying Indices or benchmarks on a daily basis, mathematical compounding may prevent the ETF from correlating with performance of its benchmark. In addition, an ETF may not have investment exposure to all of the securities included in its Underlying Index, or its weighting of investment exposure to such securities may vary from that of the Underlying Index. Some ETFs may invest in securities or financial instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but which are expected to yield similar performance.

Options Contracts: Options are complex securities that involve risks and are not suitable for everyone. Option trading can be speculative in nature and carry substantial risk of loss. It is generally recommended that you only invest in options with risk capital. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset at a specific price on or before a certain date (the "expiration date"). The two types of options are calls and puts:

A call gives the holder the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. Calls are similar to having a long position on a stock. Buyers of calls hope that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.

A put gives the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. Puts are very similar to having a short position on a stock. Buyers of puts hope that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

Selling options is more complicated and can be even riskier.

The option trading risks pertaining to options buyers are:

- Risk of losing your entire investment in a relatively short period of time.
- The risk of losing your entire investment increases if, as expiration nears, the stock is below the strike price of the call (for a call option) or if the stock is higher than the strike price of the put (for a put option).
- European style options which do not have secondary markets on which to sell the options prior to expiration can only realize its value upon expiration.
- Specific exercise provisions of a specific option contract may create risks.
- Regulatory agencies may impose exercise restrictions, which stops you from realizing value.

The option trading risks pertaining to options sellers are:

- Options sold may be exercised at any time before expiration.
- Covered Call traders forgo the right to profit when the underlying stock rises above the strike price of the call options sold and continues to risk a loss due to a decline in the underlying stock.
- Writers of Naked Calls risk unlimited losses if the underlying stock rises.
- Writers of Naked Puts risk unlimited losses if the underlying stock drops.
- Writers of naked positions run margin risks if the position goes into significant losses. Such risks may include liquidation by the broker.
- Writers of call options could lose more money than a short seller of that stock could on the same rise on that underlying stock. This is an example of how the leverage in options can work against the option trader.
- Writers of Naked Calls are obligated to deliver shares of the underlying stock if those call options are exercised.
- Call options can be exercised outside of market hours such that effective remedy actions cannot be performed by the writer of those options.
- Writers of stock options are obligated under the options that they sold even if a trading market is not available or that they are unable to perform a closing transaction.
- The value of the underlying stock may surge or ditch unexpectedly, leading to automatic exercises.

Other option trading risks are:

- The complexity of some option strategies is a significant risk on its own.
- Option trading exchanges or markets and option contracts themselves are open to changes at all times.
- Options markets have the right to halt the trading of any options, thus preventing investors from realizing value.
- Risk of erroneous reporting of exercise value.
- If an options brokerage firm goes insolvent, investors trading through that firm may be affected.

- Internationally traded options have special risks due to timing across borders.

Risks that are not specific to options trading include market risk, sector risk and individual stock risk. Option trading risks are closely related to stock risks, as stock options are a derivative of stocks.

Risk Disclosure (Type of Investments) – Digital Assets – We may invest client accounts in and/or advise clients on the purchase of virtual currencies, crypto-currencies, and digital coins and/or tokens ("Digital Assets"). This advice or investment may be in actual digital coins/tokens/currencies or via investment vehicles such as exchange traded funds (ETFs) or separately managed accounts (SMAs). The investment characteristics of Digital Assets generally differ from those of traditional securities, currencies, commodities (ex. Gold or Silver). Digital Assets are not backed by a central bank or a national, international organization, any hard assets, human capital, or other form of credit. Rather, Digital Assets are market-based: a Digital Asset's value is determined by (and fluctuates often, according to) supply and demand factors, its adoption in the traditional commerce channels, and/or the value that various market participants place on it through their mutual agreement or transactions.

Price Volatility of Digital Assets – A principal risk in trading Digital Assets is the rapid fluctuation of market price. The value of client portfolios relates in part to the value of the Digital Assets held in the client portfolio and fluctuations in the price of Digital Assets could adversely affect the value of a client's portfolio. There is no guarantee that a client will be able to achieve a better than average market price for Digital Assets or will purchase Digital Assets at the most favorable price available. The price of Digital Assets achieved by a client may be affected generally by a wide variety of complex factors such as supply and demand; availability and access to Digital Asset service providers (such as payment processors), exchanges, miners or other Digital Asset users and market participants; perceived or actual security vulnerability; and traditional risk factors including inflation levels; fiscal policy; interest rates; and political, natural and economic events.

Digital Asset Service Providers – Service providers that support Digital Assets and the Digital Asset marketplace(s) may not be subject to the same regulatory and professional oversight as traditional securities service providers. Further, there is no assurance that the availability of and access to virtual currency service providers will not be negatively affected by government regulation or supply and demand of Digital Assets. Accordingly, companies or financial institutions that currently support virtual currency may not do so in the future.

Custody of Digital Assets – Under the Advisers Act, SEC registered investment advisers are required to hold securities with "qualified custodians," among other requirements. Certain Digital Assets may be deemed to be securities. Many Digital Assets do not currently fall under the SEC definition of security and therefore many of the companies providing Digital Assets custodial services fall outside of the SEC's definition of "qualified custodian". Accordingly, clients seeking to purchase actual digital coins/tokens/currencies may need to use nonqualified custodians to hold all or a portion of their Digital Assets.

Government Oversight of Digital Assets – Regulatory agencies and/or the constructs responsible for oversight of Digital Assets or a Digital Asset network may not be fully developed and subject to change. Regulators may adopt laws, regulations, policies or rules directly or indirectly affecting Digital Assets their treatment, transacting, custody, and valuation.

Custody – For Clients invested through the Eaglebrook SMA platform, the digital assets are custodied at Gemini Trust Company, LLC ("Gemini"). Client account data and asset values reported through the client portal will come directly from the client's individually titled accounts at Gemini.

Gemini's offline storage systems use multi-signature technology, role-based governance protocols, and multiple layers of biometric access controls and physical security to safeguard customer assets. Gemini employs mandatory whitelisting which enhances account-level security.

The custody infrastructure at Gemini's geographically distributed, 24/7 access-controlled secured facilities is designed so that it cannot be accessed by anyone without the proper credentials. The hardware security modules ("HSMs") storing private keys are never connected to the internet and are kept air-gapped inside safes in locked cages. Gemini's HSMs have achieved the highest levels of the U.S. government's security ratings.

Bonds: Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return.

Municipal Securities: Municipal securities, while generally thought of as safe, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the governmental entity that issues the bond; the stability of the revenue stream that is used to pay the interest to the bondholders; when the bond is due to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

Structured Products: A structured product, also known as a market-linked product, is generally a pre-packaged investment strategy based on derivatives, such as a single security, a basket of securities, options, indices, commodities, debt issuances, and/or foreign currencies, and to a lesser extent, swaps. Structured products are usually issued by investment banks or affiliates thereof. They have a fixed maturity, and have two components: a note and a derivative. The derivative component is often an option. The note provides for periodic interest payments to the investor at a predetermined rate, and the derivative component provides for the payment at maturity. Some products use the derivative component as a put option written by the investor that gives the buyer of the put option the right to sell to the investor the security or securities at a predetermined price. Other products use the derivative component to provide for a call option written by the investor that gives the buyer of the call option the right to buy the security or securities from the investor at a predetermined price. A feature of some structured products is a "principal guarantee" function, which offers protection of principal if held to maturity. However, these products are not always Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insured; they may only be insured by the issuer, and thus have the potential for loss of principal in the case of a liquidity crisis, or other solvency problems with the issuing company. Investing in structured products involves a number of risks including but not limited to: fluctuations in the price, level or yield of underlying instruments, interest rates, currency values and credit quality; substantial loss of principal; limits on participation in any appreciation of the underlying instrument; limited liquidity; credit risk of the issuer; conflicts of interest; and other events that are difficult to predict.

Limited Partnerships: A limited partnership is a financial affiliation that includes at least one general partner and a number of limited partners. The partnership invests in a venture, such as real estate development or oil exploration, for financial gain. The general partner does not usually invest any capital, but has management authority and unlimited liability. That is, the general partner runs the business and, in the event of bankruptcy, is responsible for all debts not paid or discharged. The limited partners have no management authority and confine their participation to their capital investment. That is, limited partners invest a certain amount of money and have nothing else to do with

the business. However, their liability is limited to the amount of the investment. In the worst-case scenario for a limited partner, he/she loses what he/she invested. Profits are divided between general and limited partners according to an arrangement formed at the creation of the partnership.

Real Estate: Real estate is increasingly being used as part of a long-term core strategy due to increased market efficiency and increasing concerns about the future long-term variability of stock and bond returns. In fact, real estate is known for its ability to serve as a portfolio diversifier and inflation hedge. However, the asset class still bears a considerable amount of market risk. Real estate has shown itself to be very cyclical, somewhat mirroring the ups and downs of the overall economy. In addition to employment and demographic changes, real estate is also influenced by changes in interest rates and the credit markets, which affect the demand and supply of capital and thus real estate values. Along with changes in market fundamentals, investors wishing to add real estate as part of their core investment portfolios need to look for property concentrations by area or by property type. Because property returns are directly affected by local market basics, real estate portfolios that are too heavily concentrated in one area or property type can lose their risk mitigation attributes and bear additional risk by being too influenced by local or sector market changes.

Other Investments: Certain advisory clients of Aaron Wealth Advisors, LLC are holders of convertible debt interests in our firm ("AWA Convertible Debt"). We note that a conflict of interest exists for the firm to recommend AWA Convertible Debt to our advisory clients because the receipt of proceeds from the offering benefits the firm and its owners. The Firm does not recommend AWA Convertible Debt to its advisory clients in its capacity as their investment adviser. We further note that a conflict of interest exists for the Firm to prefer AWA Convertible Debt holders relative to the firm's other investment advisory clients. The Firm has policies and procedures in place to ensure that no preference is given to AWA Convertible Debt holders relative to its other advisory clients.

## **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

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

## **Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

### **Dynasty Financial Partners Program**

We maintain a business relationship with Dynasty Financial Partners, LLC ("Dynasty"). Dynasty offers operational and back-office core service support including access to a network of service providers. Through the Dynasty network of service providers, we have access to discounts on trading technology, transition support, reporting, custody, brokerage, compliance, and other related consulting services.

While we believe this open architecture structure for operational services best serves the interests of our advisory clients, this relationship may potentially present certain conflicts of interest due to the fact that Dynasty retains a portion of the platform or other third-party fees paid by our firm or clients for the services referenced above. In light of the foregoing, we seek at all times to ensure that any material conflicts are addressed on a fully-disclosed basis and handled in a manner that is aligned with our clients' best interests. We do not receive any portion of the fees paid directly to Dynasty, its affiliates or the service providers made available through Dynasty's platform. In addition, we review all such relationships, including the service providers engaged through Dynasty, on an ongoing basis in an effort to ensure clients are receiving competitive rates in relation to the quality and scope of the services provided.



Dynasty's subsidiary, Dynasty Wealth Management, LLC ("DWM"), a registered investment adviser, also provides access to a range of investment services, including sponsorship of an investment management platform (the "Platform") that is available to its Network Advisers, such as our firm. This Platform is offered in connection with Folio Dynamix, Inc. ("Folio"). By and through Dynasty's contractual relationship with Folio, it sponsors an advisory platform that provides certain technology, administrative, operations and advisory support services that allow advisers to manage their own portfolios and/or allocate client assets among certain third-party managers (each a "Platform Manager"). Advisers can allocate all or a portion of client assets via the Platform. There is no form of legal partnership, agency, affiliated or similar relationship between Folio and Dynasty. We may receive more advantageous pricing as assets managed via the Platform increase, which may pose a potential conflict of interest with clients. We will maintain discretion to select the Platform Manager(s) and/or the individual investments within client portfolios we manage via the Platform, as applicable. Each Platform Manager will maintain discretion over the day-to-day trading within the client account(s) we have allocated to it.

### **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

Based on your needs and suitability, we may recommend that you use third-party managers available through DWM's Platform. DWM charges a Platform Fee with respect to each client participating in its program.

### **Insurance Products**

Aaron Wealth has an affiliated company, Aaron Insurance Advisors, LLC, which works with insurance brokers and agents on behalf of our clients to meet their insurance needs. In its capacity as Aaron Insurance Advisors, LLC may receive separate, yet customary compensation for insurance product sales. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through our firm, any associated employee, or referred insurance company.

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

### **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**

Aaron Wealth and its Supervised Persons may buy or sell securities that may be recommended by Aaron Wealth to Clients. This practice may create a situation where Aaron Wealth and/or its Supervised Persons and its affiliates are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a potential conflict of interest. In addition, the Code of

Ethics requirements are designed to detect insider trading, "front-running" (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of Aaron Wealth's clients) and other potentially abusive practices. As disclosed in the Description of our Code of Ethics above, with respect to personal securities, Aaron Wealth governs the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of its Access Persons. Aaron Wealth's securities transaction policy requires that an Access Person of Aaron Wealth provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Additionally, each Access Person must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings at least once each twelve (12) month period thereafter on a date in which the CCO selects.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

We recommend the brokerage and custodial services of Charles Schwab ("Schwab" or "custodian"). Your assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. In recognition of the value of the services the Custodian provides, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are, overall, the most favorable compared to other available providers and their services. We consider various factors, including:

- Capability to buy and sell securities for your account itself or to facilitate such services.
- The likelihood that your trades will be executed.
- Availability of investment research and tools.
- Overall quality of services.
- Competitiveness of price.
- Reputation, financial strength, and stability.
- Existing relationship with our firm and our other clients.

### **Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits**

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements.

### **Economic Benefits**

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

In addition, we receive benefits from Schwab to be used toward qualifying third-party service providers for research, marketing, compliance, technology and software platforms and other services or products in connection with transitioning client accounts to Schwab. Schwab pays the approved providers directly on behalf of our firm. This benefit creates a conflict of interest in that we have a financial incentive to recommend Schwab's brokerage and custody services to our clients. Notwithstanding the

benefits we receive from Schwab, we believe that Schwab provides quality execution services based on several factors, including, but not limited to, the ability to provide professional services, reputation, experience and financial stability.

### **Schwab Advisor Services**

Schwab Advisor Services (formerly called Schwab Institutional) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide us and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us.

#### Services that Benefit You

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

#### Services that May Not Directly Benefit You

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or some substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

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

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

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

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. These services may give us an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of Schwab's services (based on the factors discussed above – see "The Custodian and Broker We Use") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us. We do not believe that maintaining our client's assets at Schwab for services presents a material conflict of interest.

**Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

**Directed Brokerage**

Clients may direct us to use a particular broker for custodial or transaction services on behalf of the client's portfolio. In directed brokerage arrangements, the client is responsible for negotiating the commission rates and other fees to be paid to the broker. When a client directs brokerage, we may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of client transactions, and this practice may cost clients more money and result in a certain degree of delay in executing trades for their account(s) and otherwise adversely impact management of their account(s). Thus, when directing brokerage business, you should consider whether the commission expenses, execution, clearance, and settlement capabilities that you will obtain through your broker are adequately favorable in comparison to those that we would otherwise obtain for you.

**Block Trades**

Transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. When we combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for discretionary advisory accounts that we managed and execute at the same time, this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading". We will aggregate client transactions where possible and when in the best interest of our clients. 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 block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

We do not block trade for non-discretionary accounts. Accordingly, non-discretionary accounts may pay different costs than discretionary accounts pay. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we may not be able to buy and sell the same quantities of securities for you and you may pay higher commissions, fees, and/or transaction costs than clients who enter into discretionary arrangements with our firm.

**Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Your Adviser will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least on a semi-annual basis, to ensure the advisory services provided to you are consistent with your investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to contributions and withdrawals, year-end tax planning, market moving events, security specific events, and/or, changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will provide you with additional written reports in conjunction with account reviews. Reports we provide to you will contain relevant account and/or market-related information such as an inventory of account holdings and account performance, etc. You will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

## **Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

### **Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. - Institutional**

In addition, we receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors whose clients maintain their accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see *Item 12 - Brokerage Practices*). The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients. Refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our relationship with your account custodian.

Dynasty has assisted our firm in negotiating or facilitating payments from Schwab in the form of credits to be applied toward qualifying third-party service provider expenses incurred in relation to transition costs or the provision of core services. This may include, but is not limited to, support of our research, marketing, technology or software platforms. In some instances, Dynasty may serve in an administrative capacity to support the disbursement of these funds furnished by the custodian.

The Advisor engages independent solicitors to provide client referrals. If a client is referred to us by a solicitor, this practice is disclosed to the client in writing by the solicitor and the Advisor pays the solicitor out of its own funds—specifically, the Advisor generally pays the solicitor a portion of the advisory fees earned for managing the capital of the client or investor that was referred. The use of solicitors is strictly regulated under applicable federal and state law. The Advisor's policy is to fully comply with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3, under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and similar state rules, as applicable.

## **Item 15 Custody**

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

### **Standing Letters of Authorization**

With respect to third party standing letters of authorization ("SLOA"), where a client may grant Aaron Wealth Advisors the authority to direct custodians to disburse funds to one or more third party accounts, we are deemed to have limited custody. However, we are not required to comply with the surprise examination requirement of the Custody Rule, if we are otherwise in compliance with the seven representations noted in the no-action letter issued by the SEC on February 21, 2017, (the "SEC no-action letter"). Pursuant to Rule 206(4)-2 (the "Custody Rule"), we have taken steps to have controls and oversight in place to support the SEC no-action letter. Where the Adviser acts pursuant to a SLOA, we believe we are making a good faith effort to comply with the representations noted in the SEC's no-action letter. Additionally, since many of those representations involve the qualified custodian's operations, we will collaborate closely with our custodians to ensure that the representations are being met.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement and the appropriate trading authorization forms.

You may grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s), the broker or dealer to be used for each transaction, and over the commission rates to be paid without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify 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. Refer to the *Advisory Business* section in this Brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

We generally vote proxy ballots for our clients using a proxy voting service to help fulfill our voting obligations, some clients may choose to retain voting responsibility. Unless otherwise instructed by you, we will undertake to vote proxies for your account. In the event you wish to direct our firm on voting a particular proxy, you should contact our main office at the phone number on the cover page of this brochure with your instructions.

We must make proxy voting decisions solely in the best interests of our clients and will place our clients' interests above our own interests. Conflicts of interest between you and our firm, or a principal of our firm, regarding certain proxy issues could arise. If we determine that a material conflict of interest exists, we will take the necessary steps to resolve the conflict before voting the proxies. For example, we may disclose the existence and nature of the conflict to you, and seek direction from you as to how to vote on a particular issue; we may abstain from voting, particularly if there are conflicting interests for you; or we will take other necessary steps designed to ensure that a decision to vote is in your best interest and was not the product of the conflict. We have engaged a third-party vendor to provide us with access to a selection of proxy voting recommendations and research. Votes are cast through the third-party vendor's system which provides access to proxy voting recommendations and historical voting information.

We keep certain records required by applicable law in connection with our proxy voting activities. You may obtain information on how we voted proxies and/or obtain a full copy of our proxy voting policies and procedures by making a written or oral request to our firm.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

We have not filed a bankruptcy petition at any time in the past ten years.

## **Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

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

## **Item 20 Additional Information**

### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account.

### **Class Action Lawsuits**

We engage an unaffiliated third-party vendor to determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation. Some clients may choose to retain this responsibility. We offer this service to assist clients reduce the risk of a missed settlement or investor notification. We take no action ourselves to make such determinations nor obtain such information. In the event that any litigation results in the recovery of damages on your behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by you, the third-party vendor will receive compensation by retaining a portion of the recovery. More specifically, the third-party vendor will receive 20% of the amount awarded as their contingency fee, which is paid out of the client's portion of the class action settlement. We receive no part of the recovery and there are no additional fees or charges to you for our engaging the third-party vendor. In the event you wish to process your own class action settlements or litigations, you should contact our main office at the phone number on the cover page of this brochure with your instructions.

### **IRA Rollover Considerations**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may recommend that you withdraw the assets from your employer's retirement plan and roll the assets over to an individual retirement account ("IRA") that we will manage on your behalf. If you elect to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an asset-based fee as set forth in the agreement you executed with our firm. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on our behalf have an incentive to recommend a rollover to you for the purpose of generating fee-based compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm.

Many employers permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of:

1. Leaving the funds in your employer's (former employer's) plan.
2. Moving the funds to a new employer's retirement plan.
3. Cashing out and taking a taxable distribution from the plan.
4. Rolling the funds into an IRA rollover account.

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and before making a change we encourage you to speak with your CPA and/or tax attorney.

If you are considering rolling over your retirement funds to an IRA for us to manage here are a few points to consider before you do so:

1. Determine whether the investment options in your employer's retirement plan address your needs or whether you might want to consider other types of investments.
  - a. Employer retirement plans generally have a more limited investment menu than IRAs.
  - b. Employer retirement plans may have unique investment options not available to the public such as employer securities, or previously closed funds.
2. Your current plan may have lower fees than our fees.
  - a. If you are interested in investing only in mutual funds, you should understand the cost structure of the share classes available in your employer's retirement plan and how the costs of those share classes compare with those available in an IRA.
  - b. You should understand the various products and services you might take advantage of at an IRA provider and the potential costs of those products and services.
3. Our strategy may have higher risk than the option(s) provided to you in your plan.
4. Your current plan may also offer financial advice.
5. If you keep your assets titled in a 401k or retirement account, you could potentially delay your required minimum distribution beyond age 72.
6. Your 401k may offer more liability protection than a rollover IRA; each state may vary.
  - a. Generally, federal law protects assets in qualified plans from creditors. Since 2005, IRA assets have been generally protected from creditors in bankruptcies. However, there can be some exceptions to the general rules so you should consult with an attorney if you are concerned about protecting your retirement plan assets from creditors.
7. You may be able to take out a loan on your 401k, but not from an IRA.
8. IRA assets can be accessed any time; however, distributions are subject to ordinary income tax and may also be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty unless they qualify for an exception such as disability, higher education expenses or the purchase of a home.
9. If you own company stock in your plan, you may be able to liquidate those shares at a lower capital gains tax rate.
10. Your plan may allow you to hire us as the manager and keep the assets titled in the plan name.

It is important that you understand the differences between these types of accounts and to decide whether a rollover is best for you. Prior to proceeding, if you have questions contact your investment adviser representative, or call our main number as listed on the cover page of this brochure.