



**Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC**

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Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure

July 1, 2021

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC (“ACWM”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 970-361-3874 or [amaurer@averacap.com](mailto:amaurer@averacap.com). 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. ACWM is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration as an Investment Adviser with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about ACWM is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as an IARD number. The IARD number for ACWM is 315089.

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## ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES

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This section of the Brochure will address only those “material changes” that have been incorporated since our last delivery or posting of this document on the SEC’s public disclosure website (IAPD) [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

- There are no material changes to report as this is the Firm’s initial SEC filing.

If you would like another copy of this Brochure, please download it from the SEC Website as indicated above or you may contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Alex Maurer at 970-361-3874 or [amaurer@averacap.com](mailto:amaurer@averacap.com). We encourage you to read this document in its entirety.

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## ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS

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This Disclosure document is being offered to you by Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC (“ACWM” or “Firm”) about the investment advisory services we provide. It discloses information about our services and the way those services are made available to you, the client.

We are an investment management firm located in Grand Junction, Colorado. We specialize in investment advisory services for individuals, high net worth individuals, employee sponsored retirement plans, and government entities. Our Firm became a registered investment adviser in June 2021. Alex Maurer and Adam Camacho are Managing Members of the Firm.

We are committed to helping clients build, manage, and preserve their wealth, and to provide assistance that helps clients to achieve their stated financial goals. We will offer an initial complimentary meeting upon our discretion; however, investment advisory services are initiated only after you and ACWM execute an Investment Management Agreement.

### Investment Management Services

We manage advisory accounts on a discretionary and non-discretionary basis. For discretionary accounts, once we have determined a profile and investment plan with a client, we will execute the day to day transactions without seeking prior client consent. Account supervision is guided by the written profile and investment plan of the client. We may accept accounts with certain restrictions if circumstances warrant. We primarily allocate client assets among various equities, Exchanged Traded Funds (“ETFs”), mutual funds and debt securities in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

During personal discussions with clients, we determine the client’s objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review a client’s prior investment history, as well as family composition and background. Based on client needs, we develop a client’s personal profile and investment plan. We then create and manage the client’s investments based on that policy and plan. It is the client’s obligation to notify us immediately if circumstances have changed with respect to their goals.

Once we have determined the types of investments to be included in your portfolio and allocated them, we will provide ongoing investment review and management services. This approach requires us to periodically review your portfolio.

With our discretionary relationship, we will make changes to the portfolio, as we deem appropriate, to meet your financial objectives. We trade these portfolios based on the combination of our market views and your objectives, using our investment process. We tailor our advisory services to meet the needs of our clients and seek to ensure that your portfolio is managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. You will have

the ability to leave standing instructions with us to refrain from investing in particular industries or invest in limited amounts of securities.

If a non-discretionary relationship is in place, calls will be placed to the client presenting the recommendation made including a rebalancing recommendation and only upon your authorization will any action be taken on your behalf.

We do have limited authority to direct the Custodian to deduct our investment advisory fees from your accounts, but only with the appropriate written authorization from you.

Where appropriate, we provide advice about any type of legacy position held in client portfolios. Typically, these are assets that are ineligible to be custodied at our primary custodian. Clients will engage us to advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans).

You are advised and are expected to understand that our past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Certain market and economic risks exist that adversely affect an account's performance. This could result in capital losses in your account.

### **Financial Planning**

Through the financial planning process, our team strives to engage our clients in conversations around the family's goals, objectives, priorities, vision, and legacy – both for the near term as well as for future generations. With the unique goals and circumstances of each family in mind, our team will offer financial planning ideas and strategies to address the client's holistic financial picture, including estate, income tax, charitable, cash flow, wealth transfer and family legacy objectives. Our team partners with our client's other advisors (CPA, estate attorney, insurance broker, etc.) to ensure a coordinated effort of all parties toward the client's stated goals. Such services include various reports on specific goals and objectives or general investment and/or planning recommendations, guidance to outside assets and periodic updates.

Our specific services in preparing your plan may include:

- Review and clarification of your financial goals;
- Assessment of your overall financial position including cash flow, balance sheet, investment strategy, risk management and estate planning;
- Creation of a unique plan for each goal you have, including personal and business real estate, education, retirement or financial independence, charitable giving, estate planning, business succession and other personal goals;
- Development of a goal-oriented investment plan, with input from various advisors to our clients around tax suggestions, asset allocation, expenses, risk and liquidity

- factors for each goal. This includes IRA and qualified plans, taxable and trust accounts that require special attention;
- Design of a risk management plan including risk tolerance, risk avoidance, mitigation and transfer, including liquidity as well as various insurance and possible company benefits; and
  - Crafting and implementation of, in conjunction with your estate and/or corporate attorneys as tax advisor, an estate plan to provide for you and/or your heirs in the event of an incapacity or death.

A written evaluation of each client's initial situation or Financial Plan is provided to the client.

### **Employer Sponsored Retirement Plan Services**

Retirement Plan Advisory Services consists of helping employer plan sponsors to establish, monitor and review their company's retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include investment selection and monitoring, plan structure, and participant education. Pursuant to Section 402(c)(3) of ERISA, the client may appoint us as the Plan's "investment manager" with respect to the Plan's portfolio of investment options. Our firm acts as a "fiduciary" within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA with respect to the Plan.

When serving as an ERISA 3(21) investment adviser, the Plan Sponsor and our Firm share fiduciary responsibility. The Plan Sponsor retains ultimate decision-making authority for the investments and may accept or reject the recommendations in accordance with the terms of a separate ERISA 3(21) Plan Sponsor Investment Management Agreement between our Firm and the Plan Sponsor. Under the 3(21) agreement, our Firm can provide the following services to the Plan Sponsor:

- Review or Development of an Investment Policy Statement
- Perform Due Diligence on Money Managers
- Provide Initial Investment and Management Selection - Our Firm typically uses mutual funds/managed accounts/collective trusts/cash equivalents to structure portfolios designed to meet client objectives and risk profiles.
- Provide ongoing Performance Evaluation and Monitoring of Money Managers
- Make Investment Recommendations when necessary
- Retirement Plan Services Analysis - Our Firm will conduct an analysis of a client's retirement plan to evaluate the services currently provided to the client by third parties. The areas of analysis may include asset management services, record keeping, administration, customer service, participant education, etc. These services may also include a cost/benefit analysis, recommendation of alternative vendors, facilitation of the RFP process for solicitation of a new vendor, and/or

- assistance in fee negotiations with proposed vendors.
- Provide Employee Education Services - Our Firm will provide enrollment and educational services the content of the program will be generic in nature.

### ***Participant one-on-ones***

We can also be engaged to provide financial education to plan participants. The scope of education provided to participants will not constitute “investment advice” within the meaning of ERISA and participant education will relate to general principles for investing and information about the investment options currently in the plan.

As part of our investment advisory services, our Investment Adviser Representative (“IAR”) can make recommendations to plan participants regarding the rollover of employer sponsored retirement plan assets. In the case where an IAR recommends a retirement plan rollover into our individual wealth management advisory program, the IAR will earn a portion of the advisory fee. This presents a conflict of interest because IARs have an economic incentive to recommend you to rollover your retirement plan assets into our individual wealth management services at our Firm. Plan participants are under no obligation to rollover retirement plan assets to an IRA with our Firm and should carefully consider all relevant factors, such as penalty-free withdrawals, whether loans are permitted, legal protections, required minimum distributions, fees and expenses, service levels, available investment options, employer stock considerations and state taxes.

### **Consulting Services**

We also provide clients investment advice on a more-limited basis on one-or-more isolated areas of concern such as small business consulting, real estate, retirement planning, or any other specific topic. Additionally, we provide advice on non-securities matters about the rendering of estate planning, insurance, real estate, and/or annuity advice.

In these cases, you will be required to select your own investment managers, custodian and/or insurance companies for the implementation of consulting recommendations. If your needs include brokerage and/or other financial services, we will recommend the use of one of several investment managers, brokers, banks, custodians, insurance companies or other financial professionals. You must independently evaluate these firms before opening an account or transacting business, and you have the right to effect business through any firm you choose. Also note, you have the right to choose whether to follow the consulting advice that we provide.

### **Assets**

We do not have asset under management to report as this is the Firm’s initial SEC filing.

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## ITEM 5 - FEES AND COMPENSATION

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### Investment Management Fees and Compensation

Our Firm charges a fee as compensation for providing Investment Management services on your account. These services include advisory services, trade entry, investment supervision, and other account-maintenance activities. Our custodian charges transaction costs, custodial fees, redemption fees, retirement plan and administrative fees or commissions. See Additional Fees and Expenses below for additional details.

The fees for investment management are based on an annual percentage of assets under management and are applied to the household asset value on a pro-rata basis and billed monthly in arrears. The monthly fee will be calculated on the average daily balance of the account(s). The value will be determined as reported by the Custodian. Fees are assessed on all assets under management, including securities, cash and money market balances. There may be a possibility for price or account value discrepancies due to quarter-end transactions in an account. Dividends or trade date settlements may occur, and our third-party billing software may report a slight difference in account valuation at quarter end compared to what is reported on your Statement from the Custodian. Our firm has the ability to produce billing summaries, which can be provided upon request.

Our maximum investment advisory fees as a percentage of assets under management is 1.35%. If applicable, our firm may bill a flat advisory fee ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 depending on the level of engagement. The specific advisory fees are set forth in your Investment Advisory Agreement.

We may negotiate a lower advisory fee or have the right to waive the minimum fee. Fees may vary based on the size of the account, complexity of the portfolio, extent of activity in the account or other reasons agreed upon by us and you as the client. In certain circumstances, our fees and the timing of the fee payments may be negotiated. Our employees and their family related accounts are charged a reduced fee for our services.

Unless otherwise instructed by the Client, we will aggregate related client accounts for the purposes of determining the account size and annualized fee. The common practice is often referred to as “house-holding” portfolios for fee purposes and may result in lower fees than if fees were calculated on portfolios separately. Our method of house-holding accounts for fee purposes looks at the overall family dynamic and relationship. When applicable and noted in the Investment Management Agreement, legacy positions will also be excluded from the fee calculation.

The independent qualified custodian holding your funds and securities will debit your account directly for the advisory fee and pay that fee to us. You will provide written

authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian. Further, the qualified custodian agrees to deliver an account statement to you on a monthly basis indicating all the amounts deducted from the account including our advisory fees.

Either ACWM or you may terminate the Investment Advisory Agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. The management fee will be pro-rated to the date of termination, for the month in which the cancellation notice was given and the unearned fee refunded to your account as indicated in your Agreement. Upon termination, you are responsible for monitoring the securities in your account, and we will have no further obligation to act or advise with respect to those assets. In the event of client's death or disability, ACWM will continue management of the account until we are notified of client's death or disability and given alternative instructions by an authorized party.

### **Financial Planning Fees**

ACWM will negotiate the planning fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of your individual or family circumstances and the amount of your assets under our management. We will determine your fee for the designated financial advisory services based on a fixed fee or hourly arrangement described below.

Under our fixed fee arrangement, any fee will be agreed in advance of services being performed. The fee will be determined based on factors including the complexity of your financial situation, agreed upon deliverables, and whether or not you intend to implement any recommendations through ACWM. Fixed fees for financial plans range from \$500 to \$25,000. The specific fixed fee for your financial plan is specified in your planning agreement with ACWM.

Under our hourly arrangement, financial planning fees are billed at an hourly rate up to \$250.00 per hour depending on the complexity of the client's financial situation. Prior to beginning service, ACWM will provide an estimate of the approximate hours necessary to complete the plan. If we anticipate exceeding the estimated hours, your IAR will contact you to request authorization to provide additional services. Upon delivery of the plan and billing invoice, the hourly fees will be deducted from any retainer you paid, and any hourly fee balance remaining will be billed.

Typically, we complete a plan within a month and will present it to you within 90 days of the contract date, if you have provided us all information needed to prepare the financial plan. Fees are due upon execution of the Financial Planning Agreement. You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing us with written notice. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to you based on the agreed upon hourly rate (not to exceed \$250.00). Services provided up to date of termination but not yet paid to ACWM will be billed to you based on the hourly rate. We will not require prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six (6) or more months in advance of providing any services.

When both investment management or plan implementation and investment management services are offered, there is a conflict of interest since there is an incentive for us offering investment management services to recommend products or services for which ACWM receives compensation. However, ACWM will make all recommendations independent of such considerations and based solely on our obligations to consider your objectives and needs. As an investment management client, you have the right not to act upon any of our recommendations and not affect the transaction(s) through us if you decide to follow the recommendations.

### **Employer Sponsored Retirement Plan Services**

For Retirement Plan Advisory Services compensation, we charge an annual fee as negotiated with the client and disclosed in the Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans Investment Advisory Agreement. The compensation method is explained and agreed upon in advance before any services are rendered. Asset based fees will not exceed 1.00% annually.

Plan advisory services begin with the effective date of the Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans Investment Advisory Agreement, which is the date you sign the Employer Sponsored Retirement Plans Investment Advisory Agreement. For that calendar quarter, fees will be adjusted pro rata based upon the number of calendar days in the calendar quarter that the Agreement was effective. Our fee is billed in arrears on the last business day of the calendar quarter or month as outlined in the Agreement. For Plans where our fee is billed to the custodian, the fee is deducted directly from the participant accounts. Written authorization permitting us to be paid directly from the custodial account is outlined in the Agreement.

Either party may terminate the Investment Advisory Agreement at any time upon immediate notice. You are responsible to pay for services rendered until the termination of the Agreement.

### **Consulting Fees**

We provide consulting services for clients who need advice on a limited scope of work. We will negotiate consulting fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of the consulting project. Fees will be billed as services are rendered. Either party may terminate the agreement. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to you as described in the Agreement and our hourly rate described above.

### **Administrative Services Provided by Black Diamond**

We have contracted with Black Diamond to utilize its technology platforms to support data reconciliation, performance reporting, fee calculation, client relationship maintenance, quarterly performance evaluations, and other functions related to the administrative tasks of managing client accounts. Due to this arrangement, Black Diamond will have access to client accounts, but Black Diamond will not serve as an investment advisor to our clients

or bill the accounts. ACWM and Black Diamond are non-affiliated companies. Black Diamond charges our Firm an annual fee for each account administered by its software. Please note that the fee charged to the client will not increase due to the annual fee ACWM pays to Black Diamond. The annual fee is paid from the portion of the management fee retained by ACWM.

**Additional Fees and Expenses:**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to our Firm, clients may also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges may include securities, transaction fees, custodial fees, fees charged by the Independent Managers, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. ACWM’s brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below. Neither our Firm nor its supervised persons accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products. Further, our firm does not share in any of these additional fees and expenses outlined above.

**Non-Transaction Fee (NTF) Mutual Funds**

When selecting investments for our clients’ portfolios we might choose mutual funds on your account custodian’s Non-Transaction Fee (NTF) list. This means that your account custodian will not charge a transaction fee or commission associated with the purchase or sale of the mutual fund.

The mutual fund companies that choose to participate in your custodian’s NTF fund program pay a fee to be included in the NTF program. The fee that a mutual fund company pays to participate in the program is ultimately borne by the owners of the mutual fund including clients of our Firm. When we decide whether to choose a fund from your custodian’s NTF list or not, we consider our expected holding period of the fund, the position size and the expense ratio of the fund versus alternative funds. Depending on our analysis and future events, NTF funds might not always be in your best interest.

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**ITEM 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

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We do not charge advisory fees on a share of the capital appreciation of the funds or securities in a client account (so-called performance-based fees) nor engage side by side management.

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**ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS**

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We provide investment advice to individuals, high-net worth individuals, employee sponsored retirement plans, and government entities. Our minimum initial household

value for opening accounts is \$100,000; however, we may accept accounts for less than the minimum at our sole discretion.

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## ITEM 8 - METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

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Portfolio Strategy at ACWM may use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

- **Fundamental Analysis:** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors. Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. 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:** We use mathematical ratios and other performance appraisal methods in attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a model manager's investment acumen, idea generation, consistency of purpose and overall ability to outperform their stated benchmark throughout a full market cycle. Additionally, we perform periodic measurements to assess the authenticity of returns. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.
- **Asset Allocation:** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance. A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals. We manage client's assets under the provision that diversification and investor behavior to market environments are the predominant drivers to investment success. We focus our clients on constructing portfolios predicated on agreed to financial plans which details provisions for investment outperformance or underperformance. Relative performance to an index over an arbitrary period of time is not a financial planning objective. We ask our clients to plan to specific objectives. Such as retirement income, legacy, college funding, etc.
- **Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis:** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of

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

- **Model Manager Analysis:** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of Model Managers in attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the Model Manager's compliance and business enterprise risks.

### Risk of Loss

A client's investment portfolio is affected by general economic and market conditions, such as interest rates, availability of credit, inflation rates, economic conditions, changes in laws and national and international political circumstances. Investing in securities involve certain investment risks. Securities may fluctuate in value or lose value. Clients should be prepared to bear the potential risk of loss. We will assist Clients in determining an appropriate strategy based on their tolerance for risk.

Each Client engagement will entail a review of the Client's investment goals, financial situation, time horizon, tolerance for risk and other factors to develop an appropriate strategy for managing a Client's account. Client participation in this process, including full and accurate disclosure of requested information, is essential for the analysis of a Client's account(s). Our Firm shall rely on the financial and other information provided by the Client or their designees without the duty or obligation to validate the accuracy and completeness of the provided information. It is the responsibility of the Client to inform our Firm of any changes in financial condition, goals or other factors that may affect this analysis.

Our methods rely on the assumption that the underlying companies within our security allocations are accurately reviewed by the rating agencies and other publicly available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

Investors should be aware that accounts are subject to the following risks:

**Active Management Risk:** Due to its active management, a portfolio could underperform other portfolios with similar investment objectives and/or strategies.

**Allocation Risk:** A portfolio may use an asset allocation strategy in pursuit of its investment objective. There is a risk that a portfolio's allocation among asset

classes or investments will cause a portfolio to lose value or cause it to underperform other portfolios with a similar investment objective and/or strategy, or that the investments themselves will not produce the returns expected.

**Cybersecurity Risk.** Cybersecurity risks include both intentional and unintentional events at ACWM or one of its third-party counterparties or service providers, that may result in a loss or corruption of data, result in the unauthorized release or other misuse of confidential information, and generally compromise our Firm's ability to conduct its business. A cybersecurity breach may also result in a third-party obtaining unauthorized access to our clients' information, including social security numbers, home addresses, account numbers, account balances, and account holdings. Our Firm has established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cybersecurity breaches. However, there are inherent limitations in these plans and systems, including that certain risks may not have been identified, in large part because different or unknown threats may emerge in the future. As such, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because our Firm does not directly control the cybersecurity systems of our third-party service providers. There is also a risk that cybersecurity breaches may not be detected.

**Liquidity Risk:** The risk that exists when a security's limited marketability prevents it from being bought or sold quickly enough to avoid or minimize a loss. This risk is particularly relevant in the bond market, although it can also be a risk when transacting in small cap securities and certain other stocks.

**Market and Timing Risk:** Prices of securities may become more volatile due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as adverse economic conditions or outlooks, adverse investor sentiment, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, or changes in interest rates.

**Sector/Region Risk:** The risk that the strategy's concentration in equities or bonds in a specific sector or industry will cause the strategy to be more exposed to the price movements in and developments affecting that sector.

**Event Risk:** The possibility that an unforeseen event will negatively affect a company or industry, and thus, increase the volatility of the security.

Risks associated with our fixed income strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Asset-Backed Securities Risk:** Payment of principal and interest on asset-backed securities is dependent largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities. Further, some asset backed securities may not have the benefit of any security interest in the related assets. There is also the possibility that recoveries in the underlying collateral may not be available to support the payments on these securities. Downturns in the economy could cause the value of asset backed securities to fall, thus, negatively impacting account performance.

**Call Risk:** Some bonds give the issuer the option to redeem the bond before its maturity date. If an issuer exercises this option during a time of declining interest rates, the proceeds from the bond may have to be reinvested in an investment offering a lower yield and may not benefit from an increase in value as a result of declining rates. Callable bonds also are subject to increased price fluctuations during periods of market illiquidity or rising interest rates. Finally, the capital appreciation potential of a bond will be reduced because the price of a callable bond may not rise much above the price at which the issuer may call the bond.

**Corporate Debt Risk:** The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating, variable, or may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate. Corporate debt securities are subject to the risk of the issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligation. They also may be subject to price volatility due to interest rate sensitivity, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity. When interest rates rise, the value of a corporate debt security can be expected to decline. Debt securities with longer maturities tend to be more sensitive to interest rate movements than those with shorter maturities. A company default can reduce income and capital value of a corporate debt security. Moreover, market expectations regarding economic conditions and the likely number of corporate defaults may impact the value of these securities.

**Credit Default Risk:** The risk of loss of principal due to the borrower's failure to repay the loan or risk of liquidity from the decline in the borrower's financial strength.

**Duration Risk:** The risk associated with the sensitivity of a bond's price to a change in interest rates. The higher a bond's (or portfolio's) duration, the greater its sensitivity to interest rate changes.

**Government Securities Risk:** Not all U.S. government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. It is possible that the U.S. government would not provide financial support to certain of its agencies or instrumentalities if it is not required to do so by law. If a U.S. government agency or instrumentality defaults and the U.S. government does not stand behind the obligation, returns could be negatively impacted. The U.S. government guarantees payment of principal and timely payment of interest on certain U.S. government securities.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Prices of fixed income securities tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall and vice versa. The longer the effective maturity and duration of a strategy's portfolio, the more the performance of the investment is likely to react to interest rates.

**Municipal Bond Risk:** Investments in municipal bonds are affected by the municipal market as a whole and the various factors in the particular cities, states or regions in which the strategy invests. Issues such as legislative changes, litigation, business and political conditions relating to a particular municipal project, municipality, state or territory, and fiscal challenges can impact the value of municipal bonds. These matters can also impact the ability of the issuer to make payments. Also, the amount of public information available about municipal bonds is generally less than

that for corporate equities or bonds. Additionally, supply and demand imbalances in the municipal bond market can cause deterioration in liquidity and lack of price transparency.

**Performance of Underlying Managers:** We select the mutual funds and ETFs in the asset allocation portfolios. However, we depend on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy.

**Prepayment Risk:** Similar to call risk, this risk is associated with the early unscheduled repayment of principal on a fixed income security. When principal is returned early, future interest payments will not be paid. The proceeds from the repayment may be reinvested in securities at a lower, prevailing rate.

**Reinvestment Risk:** The risk that future cash flows, either coupons or the final return of principal, will need to be reinvested in lower-yielding securities.

**Securities Lending Risk:** Securities lending involves the risk that the fund loses money because the borrower fails to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The fund could also lose money if the value of the collateral provided for loaned securities, or the value of the investments made with the cash collateral, falls. These events could also trigger adverse tax consequences for the fund.

**State Risk:** Portfolios with state or region-specific customizations will be more sensitive to the events that affect that state's economy and stability. Portfolios with a higher concentration of bonds in a state or region may have higher credit risk exposure, especially if the percentage of assets dedicated to the state is invested in fewer issuers.

**Tax Liability Risk:** The risk that the distributions of municipal securities become taxable to the investor due to noncompliant conduct by the municipal bond issuer or changes to federal and state laws. These adverse actions would likely negatively impact the prices of the securities.

**Valuation Risk:** The lack of an active trading market and/or volatile market conditions can make it difficult to obtain an accurate price for a fixed income security. There are uncertainties associated with pricing a security without a reliable market quotation, and the resulting value may be very different than the value of what the security would have been if readily available market quotations had been available.

Risks associated with our equity strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Capitalization Risk:** Small-cap and mid-cap companies may be hindered as a result of limited resources or less diverse products or services. Their stocks have historically been more volatile than the stocks of larger, more established companies.

**Exchange-Traded Fund ("ETF") and Mutual Fund Risk:** Investments in ETFs and mutual funds have unique characteristics, including, but not limited to, the ETF or mutual fund's expense structure. Investors of ETFs and mutual funds held within Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC client accounts bear both their Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC portfolio's advisory expenses and, indirectly, the ETF's

or mutual fund's expenses. Because the expenses and costs of an underlying ETF or mutual fund are shared by its investors, redemptions by other investors in the ETF or mutual fund could result in decreased economies of scale and increased operating expenses for such ETF or mutual fund. Additionally, the ETF or mutual fund may not achieve its investment objective. Actively managed ETFs or mutual funds may experience significant drift from their stated benchmark.

**Structured Notes:** Structured products are designed to facilitate highly customized risk-return objectives. While structured products come in many different forms, they typically consist of a debt security that is structured to make interest and principal payments based upon various assets, rates, or formulas. Many structured products include an embedded derivative component. Structured products may be structured in the form of a security, in which case these products may receive benefits provided under federal securities law, or they may be cast as derivatives, in which case they are offered in the over-the-counter market and are subject to no regulation. Investment in structured products includes significant risks, including valuation, liquidity, price, credit, and market risks. One common risk associated with structured products is a relative lack of liquidity due to the highly customized nature of the investment. Moreover, the full extent of returns from the complex performance features is often not realized until maturity. As such, structured products tend to be more of a buy-and-hold investment decision rather than a means of getting in and out of a position with speed and efficiency. Another risk with structured products is the credit quality of the issuer. Although the cash flows are derived from other sources, the products themselves are legally considered to be the issuing financial institution's liabilities. The vast majority of structured products are from high-investment-grade issuers only. Also, there is a lack of pricing transparency. There is no uniform standard for pricing, making it harder to compare the net-of-pricing attractiveness of alternative structured product offerings than it is, for instance, to compare the net expense ratios of different mutual funds or commissions among broker-dealers.

**Foreign Securities Risk:** Investments in or exposure to foreign securities involve certain risks not associated with investments in or exposure to securities of U.S. companies. Foreign securities subject a portfolio to the risks associated with investing in the particular country of an issuer, including the political, regulatory, economic, social, diplomatic and other conditions or events (including, for example, military confrontations, war and terrorism), occurring in the country or region, as well as risks associated with less developed custody and settlement practices. Foreign securities may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of U.S. companies, and are subject to the risks associated with potential imposition of economic and other sanctions against a particular foreign country, its nationals or industries or businesses within the country. In addition, foreign governments may impose withholding or other taxes on income, capital gains or proceeds from the

disposition of foreign securities, which could reduce a portfolio's return on such securities.

**Frequent Trading Risk:** A portfolio manager may actively and frequently trade investments in a portfolio to carry out its investment strategies. Frequent trading of investments increases the possibility that a portfolio, as relevant, will realize taxable capital gains (including short-term capital gains, which are generally taxable at higher rates than long-term capital gains for U.S. federal income tax purposes), which could reduce a portfolio's after-tax return. Frequent trading can also mean higher brokerage and other transaction costs, which could reduce a portfolio's return. The trading costs and tax effects associated with portfolio turnover can adversely affect its performance.

**Issuer Risk:** The risk that an issuer of a security may perform poorly, and therefore, the value of its securities may decline. Poor performance may be caused by poor management decisions, competitive pressures, breakthroughs in technology, reliance on suppliers, labor problems or shortages, corporate restructurings, fraudulent disclosures, natural disasters or other events, conditions or factors.

**Market Risk:** When the stock market strongly favors a particular style of equity investing, some or all of Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC's equity strategies could underperform. The performance of clients' accounts could suffer when Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC's particular investment style(s) are out of favor. For example, Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC's large cap equity strategies could underperform when the market favors smaller capitalization stocks. Avera Capital Wealth Management, LLC's strategies with exposure to small/mid cap stocks could underperform when the market favors larger cap stocks. Additionally, growth securities could underperform when the market favors value securities.

**Sector Risk:** At times, a portfolio may have a significant portion of its assets invested in securities of companies conducting business in a related group of industries within an economic sector. Companies in the same economic sector may be similarly affected by economic, regulatory, political or market events or conditions, which make a portfolio more vulnerable to unfavorable developments in that economic sector than portfolios that invest more broadly. Generally, the more a portfolio diversifies its investments, the more it spreads risk and potentially reduces the risks of loss and volatility.

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## ITEM 9 - DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

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We do not have any, financial or other "disciplinary" item to report.

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## ITEM 10 - OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

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### Insurance

IARs of our Firm may act as agents appointed with various life, disability or other insurance companies, receive commissions, trails, or other compensation from the respective

product sponsors and/or as a result of effecting insurance transactions for clients. You have the right to decide whether or not to act on the insurance recommendations from our Firm's IARs. If you decide to act upon our insurance recommendations, you have the right to choose the insurance professional to use to purchase the insurance products through ACWM's IAR or any licensed insurance agent not affiliated with ACWM. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place your interests first and have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest.

Clients should be aware that the ability to receive additional compensation by our Firm and its management persons or employees creates conflicts of interest that impair the objectivity of the Firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Our Firm endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps, among others to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for the Firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to the Firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they have the right to decide to purchase recommended investment products from our employees.
- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete and relevant client background information, including the client's financial goals, objectives, and liquidity needs.
- the Firm conducts regular reviews of each client advisory account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are in the best interest of the client's needs and circumstances.
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed.
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by the Firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

Our Firm does not have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading adviser, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

Our firm nor any of its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

## **ITEM 11 - CODE OF ETHICS PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING**

Our Firm and persons associated with us are allowed to invest for their own accounts or to have a financial investment in the same securities or other investments that we recommend or acquire for your account and may engage in transactions that are the same as or different than transactions recommended to or made for your account. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to act in your best interest and have established policies to mitigate conflicts of interest.

We have developed and implemented a Code of Ethics that sets forth standards of conduct expected of our advisory personnel to mitigate this conflict of interest. The Code of Ethics addresses, among other things, personal trading, gifts, the prohibition against the use of inside information.

The Code of Ethics is designed to protect our clients to detect and deter misconduct, educate personnel regarding the firm's expectations and laws governing their conduct, remind personnel that they are in a position of trust and must act with complete propriety at all times, protect the reputation of ACWM, guard against violation of the securities laws, and establish procedures for personnel to follow so that we may determine whether their personnel are complying with the firm's ethical principles.

We have established the following restrictions in order to ensure our firm's fiduciary responsibilities:

1. A director, officer or employee of ACWM shall not buy or sell any securities for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is substantially derived, in whole or in part, by reason of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public on reasonable inquiry. No supervised employee of ACWM shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory client. Trades for supervised employees are traded alongside client accounts.
2. We maintain a list of all securities holdings of anyone associated with this advisory practice with access to advisory recommendations. These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by an appropriate officer/individual of ACWM.
3. We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority of the client's account.
4. We require that all supervised employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
5. Any supervised employee not in observance of the above may be subject to termination.

You may request a complete copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this Part 2; Attn: Chief Compliance Officer.

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## **ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

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### ***Investment Management Services***

Clients must maintain assets in an account at a “qualified custodian,” generally a broker-dealer or bank. We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Advisor Services (“Schwab”), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated, and unaffiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to.

While we recommend that clients use Schwab as custodian/broker, client must decide whether to do so and open accounts with Schwab by entering into account agreements directly with them. The Client opens the accounts with Schwab. The accounts will always be held in the name of the client and never in ACWM 's name.

### ***How We Select Brokers/Custodians***

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are, overall, most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others:

1. Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
2. Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
3. Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
4. Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds [ETFs], etc.)
5. Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
6. Quality of services
7. Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
8. Reputation, financial strength, and stability
9. Prior service to ACWM and our other clients
10. Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab)

### ***Client Brokerage and Custody Costs***

For our clients’ accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services. However, Schwab receives compensation by charging ticket

charges or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into clients' Schwab accounts. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of client trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see How We Select Brokers/Custodians).

***Products and Services Available to Us from Schwab***

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide ACWM 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; others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us. These are considered soft dollar benefits because there is an incentive to do business with Schwab. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to act in your best interest and have established policies in this regard to mitigate any conflicts of interest.

Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

***Services That Benefit Our Clients***

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which 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 our clients and their accounts.

***Services That May Not Directly Benefit Our Clients***

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit our clients or their accounts. 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 a 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:

1. Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
2. Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
3. Provide pricing and other market data

4. Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
5. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

### ***Services That Generally Benefit Only Us***

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

These services include:

1. Educational conferences and events
2. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
3. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
4. Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

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 are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions. We believe that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients.

Some of the products, services and other benefits provided by Schwab benefit ACWM and may not benefit our client accounts. Our recommendation or requirement that you place assets in Schwab's custody may be based in part on benefits Schwab provides to us, or our agreement to maintain certain Assets Under Management at Schwab, and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and execution services provided by Schwab. This is a conflict of interest. We believe this arrangement is in the client's best interest and have developed policies to mitigate this conflict.

We place trades for our clients' accounts subject to its duty to seek best execution and its other fiduciary duties. Schwab's execution quality may be different than other custodians.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

ACWM does not receive client referrals from any custodian or third party in exchange for using that custodian or third party.

### **Aggregation and Allocation of Transactions**

ACWM may aggregate transactions if we believe that aggregation is consistent with the duty to seek best execution for our clients and is consistent with the disclosures made to clients and terms defined in the client investment advisory agreement. No advisory client will be favored over any other client, and each account that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price (per custodian) for all transactions in that security on a given business day. ACWM aggregates trades of our personnel with those of client accounts.

If we do not receive a complete fill for an aggregated order, we will allocate the order on a pro-rata basis. If we determine that a pro-rata allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, we will base the allocation on other relevant factors, which may include:

1. When only a small percentage of the order is executed, with respect to purchase allocations, allocations may be given to accounts high in cash;
2. With respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash;
3. We may allocate shares to the account with the smallest order, or to the smallest position, or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings, relative to other portfolios with similar mandates;
4. We may allocate to one account when that account has limitations in its investment guidelines prohibiting it from purchasing other securities that we expect to produce similar investment results and that can be purchased by other accounts in the block;
5. If an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, we may reallocate shares to other accounts. For example, this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account's assets after an order is placed;
6. If a pro-rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a de minimis allocation in one or more accounts, we may exclude the account(s) from the allocation and disgorge any profits. Generally, de minimis allocations do not exceed 5% of the total allocation. Additionally, we may execute the transactions on a pro-rata basis.
7. We will document the reasons for any deviation from a pro-rata allocation.

### **Trade Errors**

We have implemented procedures designed to prevent trade errors; however, trade errors in client accounts cannot always be avoided. Consistent with our fiduciary duty, it is our policy to correct trade errors in a manner that is in the best interest of the client. In cases where the client causes the trade error, the client will be responsible for any loss resulting

from the correction. Depending on the specific circumstances of the trade error, the client may not be able to receive any gains generated as a result of the error correction. In all situations where the client does not cause the trade error, the client will be made whole and we will absorb any loss resulting from the trade error if the error was caused by the firm. If the error is caused by the custodian, the custodian will be responsible for covering all trade error costs. If an investment gain results from the correcting trade, the gain will be donated to charity. We will never benefit or profit from trade errors.

We do not routinely recommend, request or require that you direct us to execute transaction through a specified custodian. Additionally, we typically do not permit you to direct brokerage. We place trades for your account subject to our duty to seek best execution and other fiduciary duties.

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### ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

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#### **Account Reviews and Reviewers – Investment Supervisory Services**

Our Investment Adviser Representatives will monitor client accounts on a regular basis and perform annual reviews with each client. All accounts are reviewed for consistency with client investment strategy, asset allocation, risk tolerance and performance relative to the appropriate benchmark. More frequent reviews may be triggered by changes in an account holder's personal, tax or financial status. Geopolitical and macroeconomic specific events may also trigger reviews.

#### **Statements and Reports**

The custodian for the individual client's account will provide clients with an account statement at least quarterly. Reports may also be provided at every client meeting. Communication to clients will be done on an as needed basis with a minimum of 1 contact per calendar year. You are urged to compare the reports provided by ACWM against the account statements you receive directly from your account custodian.

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### ITEM 14 – CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

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ACWM does not receive or pay out compensation for client referrals.

We receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above under 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.

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## ITEM 15 – CUSTODY

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Custody, as it applies to investment advisors, has been defined by regulators as having access or control over client funds and/or securities. In other words, custody is not limited to physically holding client funds and securities. If an investment advisor has the ability to access or control client funds or securities, the investment advisor is deemed to have custody and must ensure proper procedures are implemented.

### **Deduction of Advisory Fees**

For all accounts, our Firm has the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts. Our Firm has established procedures to ensure all client funds and securities are held at a qualified custodian in a separate account for each client under that client's name. Clients, or an independent representative of the client, will direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address, and the way the funds or securities are maintained. Finally, account statements are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client, or the client's independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from ACWM. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact ACWM or the qualified custodian preparing the statement. Please refer to Item 5 for more information about the deduction of adviser fees.

### **Standing Letters of Authorization ("SLOAS")**

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

The SEC issued a no-action letter ("Letter") with respect to the Rule 206(4)-2 ("Custody Rule") under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of instruction ("SLOA") is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with our custodians:

- The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or

the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.

- The client authorizes the investment adviser, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
- The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
- The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.
- The investment adviser has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
- The investment adviser maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of the investment adviser or located at the same address as the investment adviser.
- The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

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#### **ITEM 16 – INVESTMENT DISCRETION**

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For discretionary accounts, prior to engaging ACWM to provide investment advisory services, you will enter a written Agreement with us granting the firm the authority to supervise and direct, on an on-going basis, investments in accordance with the client's investment objective and guidelines. In addition, you will need to execute additional documents required by the Custodian to authorize and enable ACWM, in its sole discretion, without prior consultation with or ratification by you, to purchase, sell or exchange securities in and for your accounts. We are authorized, in our discretion and without prior consultation with you to: (1) buy, sell, exchange and trade any stocks, bonds or other securities or assets and (2) determine the amount of securities to be bought or sold and (3) place orders with the custodian. Any limitations to such discretionary authority will be communicated to our Firm in writing by you, the client. The limitations on investment and brokerage discretion held by ACWM for you are:

1. For discretionary accounts, we require that we be provided with authority to determine which securities and the amounts of securities to be bought or sold.
2. Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall in writing as indicated on the investment advisory Agreement. You may change/amend these limitations as required.

In some instances, we may not have discretion. We will discuss all transactions with you prior to execution or you will be required to make the trades if in an employer sponsored account.

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### **ITEM 17 – VOTING YOUR SECURITIES**

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We will **not** vote proxies on your behalf. You are welcome to vote proxies or designate an independent third-party at your own discretion. You designate proxy voting authority in the custodial account documents. You must ensure that proxy materials are sent directly to you or your assigned third party. We do not take action with respect to any securities or other investments that become the subject of any legal proceedings, including bankruptcies. Clients can contact our office with questions about a particular solicitation by phone at 970-361-3874.

*Class Action Suits* - A class action is a procedural device used in litigation to determine the rights of and remedies, if any, for large numbers of people whose cases involve common questions of law and/or fact. Class action suits frequently arise against companies that publicly issue securities, including securities recommended by investment advisors to clients. With respect to class action suits and claims, you will have the responsibility for class actions or bankruptcies, involving securities purchased for or held in your account. We do not provide such services and are not obligated to forward copies of class action notices we may receive to you.

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### **ITEM 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

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We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for our most recent fiscal year. We are not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.