# LIGHTHOUSE FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.

SEC # 801-78290

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Lighthouse Financial Advisors, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 732-747-6680. 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 Lighthouse Financial Advisors, Inc. also is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>.

References herein to Lighthouse Financial Advisors, Inc. as a "registered investment adviser" or any reference to being "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

#### **Item 2 Material Changes**

Since Lighthouse Financial Advisors, Inc.'s last annual amendment filing on March 15, 2022, this Brochure has not been materially updated.

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#### Item 4 Advisory Business

- A. Lighthouse Financial Advisors, Inc., LLC (the "Registrant") is a corporation formed in the State of New Jersey in May 1999, which became a registered investment adviser in June 1999. Robert B. Walsh, President, owns the majority of the Registrant.
- B. As discussed below, the Registrant offers to its clients comprehensive financial planning and investment advisory services, tax, estate planning, risk management, retirement planning, and business development services.

#### WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The client can engage the Registrant to provide holistic comprehensive financial planning and implementation services on a fixed, *fee only* basis ("Wealth Management Services"). This program is designed for clients seeking ongoing advice, education and implementation assistance, which also includes four to eight scheduled meetings during the initial year, and two to four scheduled meetings during future years. Additional faceto-face, email and/or phone consultations are included at no additional charge.

Wealth Management Services may include: discretionary or non-discretionary investment advisory services, tax preparation, tax planning, insurance review, budgeting & cash flow, inventory of assets and liabilities, analysis of financial goals, portfolio analysis, development of an asset allocation strategy, no-load mutual fund recommendations, retirement planning and estate plan reviews.

The goals and objectives of each client are discussed and/or documented in writing<sup>1</sup>. Financial plans including tax and investment strategies are created that reflect the stated goals and objectives. In some cases, clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis <u>must be willing to accept</u> that Registrant cannot effect any account transactions without obtaining prior consent to any such transaction(s) from the client. Thus, in the event that Registrant would like to make a transaction for a client's account, and client is unavailable, Registrant will be unable to effect the account transaction (as it would for its discretionary clients) <u>without first</u> obtaining the client's consent.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW SERVICES

On a limited basis, Registrant recommends a financial review session held over the course of a three-hour meeting in exchange for a single payment, for clients without complex financial objectives.

#### **RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

The Registrant also provides non-discretionary retirement plan consulting services, pursuant to which it assists sponsors of self-directed retirement plans with the selection and/or monitoring of investment alternatives (generally open-end mutual funds). The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless specifically documented, in writing, the Registrant is not responsible for ongoing monitoring or implementation of a client's financial plan. Generally, the Registrant will only agree to implement the investment aspect of a client's financial plan. Aspects of a financial plan involving estate planning and risk management will likely not be implemented by Registrant.

terms and conditions of the engagement shall be set forth in a Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement between the Registrant and the plan sponsor.

#### **TAX PREPARATION SERVICES**

<u>To the extent requested by the client</u>, Registrant *may* determine to provide tax preparation services on a stand-alone separate fee basis.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Limitations of Financial Planning and Non-Investment Consulting/Implementation Services. To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may provide financial planning and related consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. Registrant will generally provide such consulting services inclusive of its advisory fee set forth at Item 5 below (exceptions could occur based upon assets under management, extraordinary matters, special projects, stand-alone planning engagements, etc. for which Firm may charge a separate or additional fee). Brennan Guli is a licensed attorney; but under no circumstances will he provide legal advice to clients. The Registrant does not serve as a law firm, accounting firm, or insurance agency, and no portion of Registrant's services should be construed as legal, accounting, or insurance implementation services. Accordingly, Registrant does not prepare estate planning documents or sell insurance products. To the extent requested by a client, Registrant may recommend the services of other professionals for certain non-investment implementation purposes (i.e., attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, etc.). Clients are reminded that they are under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. The client retains absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and is free to accept or reject any recommendation made by Registrant or its representatives. If the client engages any unaffiliated recommended professional, and a dispute arises thereafter relative to such engagement, the client agrees to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

Non-Discretionary Service Limitations. Clients that determine to engage the Registrant on a non-discretionary investment advisory basis must be willing to accept that the Registrant cannot execute any account transactions without obtaining the client's consent. For instance, although the firm does not recommend market timing as an investment strategy, in the event of a market correction event where the firm cannot reach the client, a client may suffer investment losses or miss potential investment gains.

<u>Client Obligations</u>. In performing its services, Registrant shall not be required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals, and is expressly authorized to rely thereon. Moreover, it remains each client's responsibility to promptly notify the Registrant if there is ever any change in their financial situation or investment objectives so that the Registrant may review and revise its previous recommendations and/or services.

<u>Use of Mutual Funds</u>: While the Registrant may recommend allocating investment assets to mutual funds that are not available directly to the public, the Registrant may also recommend that clients allocate investment assets to publicly available mutual funds that the client could obtain without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser. However, if a client or prospective client determines to allocate investment assets to publicly available mutual funds without engaging Registrant as an investment adviser, the client or prospective client would not receive the benefit of Registrant's initial and ongoing investment advisory services. Other mutual funds, such as those issued by Dimensional

Fund Advisors ("DFA"), are generally only available through registered investment advisers. Registrant may allocate client investment assets to DFA mutual funds. Therefore, upon the termination of Registrant's services to a client, restrictions regarding transferability or additional purchases of, or reallocation among DFA funds will apply, and a client may incur tax consequences. Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above.

Please Note: Retirement Rollovers-Potential for Conflict of Interest: A client or prospective client leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). If Registrant recommends that a client roll over their retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by Registrant, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if Registrant will earn new (or increase its current) compensation as a result of the rollover. If Registrant provides a recommendation as to whether a client should engage in a rollover or not (whether it is from an employer's plan or an existing IRA), Registrant is acting as a fiduciary 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. No client is under any obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by Registrant, whether it is from an employer's plan or an existing IRA. Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the potential for conflict of interest presented by such rollover recommendation.

Socially Responsible Investing Limitations. Socially Responsible Investing involves the incorporation of Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") considerations into the investment due diligence process. There are potential limitations associated with allocating a portion of an investment portfolio in qualifying ESG securities (i.e., securities that have a mandate to avoid, when possible, investments in such products as alcohol, tobacco, firearms, oil drilling, gambling, etc.). The number of these securities may be limited when compared to those that do not maintain such a mandate. ESG securities could underperform broad market indices. Investors must accept these limitations, including potential for underperformance. Correspondingly, the number of ESG mutual funds and exchange traded funds are fewer when compared to those that do not maintain such a mandate. As with any type of investment (including any investment and/or investment strategies recommended and/or undertaken by Registrant), there can be no assurance that investment in ESG securities or funds will be profitable or prove successful. The Registrant does not maintain or advocate an ESG investment strategy but will seek to employ ESG if directed by a client to do so.

<u>Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets</u>: For clients who want exposure to cryptocurrencies and digital assets, including Bitcoin, the Registrant will advise the client to consider a potential investment in corresponding exchange traded securities, or an allocation to separate account managers and/or private funds that provide cryptocurrency exposure. Cryptocurrencies are digital assets that can be used to buy goods and services and use an online ledger with strong cryptography (i.e., a method of protecting information and communications through the use of codes) to secure online transactions. Unlike

conventional currencies issued by a monetary authority, cryptocurrencies are generally not controlled or regulated, and their price is determined by the supply and demand of their market. Because cryptocurrency is currently considered to be a speculative investment, the Registrant will not exercise discretionary authority to purchase a cryptocurrency investment for client accounts. Rather, a client must expressly authorize the purchase of the cryptocurrency investment. **Please Note**: The Registrant **does not** recommend or advocate the purchase of, or investment in, cryptocurrencies. The Registrant considers such an investment to be **speculative**. **Please Also Note**: Clients who authorize the purchase of a cryptocurrency investment must be prepared for the potential for **liquidity constraints**, **extreme price volatility and complete loss of principal**.

<u>Fiduciary Status</u>: Per the DOL: "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." Accordingly, relative to retirement accounts, "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."

Custodian Charges-Additional Fees. As discussed below at Item 12 below, when requested to recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for client accounts, Registrant generally recommends that Fidelity serve as the broker-dealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as Fidelity charge brokerage commissions, transaction, and/or other type fees for effecting certain types of securities transactions (i.e., including transaction fees for certain mutual funds, and mark-ups and mark-downs charged for fixed income transactions, etc.). The types of securities for which transaction fees, commissions, and/or other type fees (as well as the amount of those fees) shall differ depending upon the broker-dealer/custodian. While certain custodians, including Fidelity, generally (with the potential exception for large orders) do not currently charge fees on individual equity transactions (including ETFs), others do. Please Note: there can be no assurance that Fidelity will not change their transaction fee pricing in the future. Please **Also Note:** Fidelity may also assess fees to clients who elect to receive trade confirmations and account statements by regular mail rather than electronically. Tradeaways: When beneficial to the client, individual fixed-income and/or equity transactions may be effected through broker-dealers with whom Registrant and/or the client have entered into arrangements for prime brokerage clearing services, including effecting certain client transactions through other SEC registered and FINRA member broker-dealers (in which event, the client generally will incur both the transaction fee charged by the executing broker-dealer and a "trade-away" fee charged by Fidelity). The above fees/charges are in addition to Registrant's investment advisory fee at Item 5 below. Registrant does not receive any portion of these fees/charges. ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above.

Reporting Services. Registrant can also provide, for a separate fee, account reporting services, which can incorporate client investment assets that are not part of the assets that Registrant manages (the "Excluded Assets"). Unless agreed to otherwise, the client and/or their other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not Registrant, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the Excluded Assets. Unless also agreed to otherwise, Registrant does not provide investment management, monitoring or implementation services for the Excluded Assets. If the Registrant is asked to make a recommendation as to any Excluded Assets, the client is under absolutely no obligation to accept the recommendation, and Registrant shall not be responsible for any implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the Excluded Assets. The client can engage Registrant to provide investment management services for the Excluded Assets pursuant to the terms and conditions of the *Investment Advisory Agreement* between Registrant and the client.

**RightCapital**. In the event that the Registrant provides the client with access to an unaffiliated vendor's website such as *RightCapital* and the site provides access to information and/or concepts, including financial planning, the client, should not, in any manner whatsoever, infer that such access is a substitute for services provided by the Registrant. Rather, if the client utilizes any such content, the client does so separate and independent of the Registrant.

<u>Cash Positions</u>. Registrant continues to treat cash as an asset class. As such, unless determined to the contrary by Registrant, all cash positions (money markets, etc.) shall continue to be included as part of assets under management for purposes of calculating Registrant's advisory fee. At any specific point in time, depending upon perceived or anticipated market conditions/events (there being **no guarantee** that such anticipated market conditions/events will occur), Registrant may maintain cash positions for defensive purposes. In addition, while assets are maintained in cash, such amounts could miss market advances. Depending upon current yields, at any point in time, Registrant's advisory fee could exceed the interest paid by the client's money market fund. <u>ANY QUESTIONS</u>: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective may have regarding the above fee billing practice.

Cash Sweep Accounts. Account custodians generally require that cash proceeds from account transactions or cash deposits be swept into and/or initially maintained in the custodian's sweep account. The yield on the sweep account is generally lower than those available in money market accounts. To help mitigate this issue, Registrant shall generally purchase a higher yielding money market fund available on the custodian's platform with cash proceeds or deposits, unless Registrant reasonably anticipates that it will utilize the cash proceeds during the subsequent 30-day period to purchase additional investments for the client's account. Exceptions and/or modifications can and will occur with respect to all or a portion of the cash balances for various reasons, including, but not limited to, the amount of dispersion between the sweep account and a money market fund, an indication from the client of an imminent need for such cash, or the client has a demonstrated history of writing checks from the account. ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above.

<u>Other Assets</u>. To the extent that the Registrant provides advisory monitoring or review services for client investment assets for which the Registrant does not maintain custodian access or trading authority (including initial and ongoing consideration of such assets as part of the client's asset allocation), the Registrant may determine to include such assets in its advisory fee calculation per Item 5 below.

<u>Investment Risk</u>. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

<u>Disclosure Brochure</u>. A copy of the Registrant's written Brochure as set forth on Part 2A of Form ADV and Form CRS (Client Relationship Summary) shall be provided to each client prior to, or contemporaneously with, the execution of an agreement between the client and the Registrant.

- C. <u>Portfolio Activity</u>. Registrant has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the client's best interest. Registrant will review client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine if any changes are necessary based upon various factors, including, but not limited to, investment performance, market conditions, fund manager tenure, style drift, account additions/withdrawals, and/or a change in the client's investment objective. Based upon these factors, there may be extended periods of time when Registrant determines that changes to a client's portfolio are neither necessary, nor prudent. Clients remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 below during periods of account inactivity. The client may, at any time, impose reasonable restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's services.
- D. The Registrant does not participate in a wrap fee program.
- E. As of December 31, 2022, the Registrant managed \$567,389,875 of which it managed \$119,450,357 on a discretionary basis and \$447,939,518 on a non-discretionary basis.

#### **Item 5** Fees and Compensation

#### A. WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Before engaging the Registrant to provide investment Wealth Management Services, clients are required to enter into an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement and the fees and services to be provided.

The Registrant's negotiable annual Wealth Management Services fee is dependent on various objective and subjective factors, including the scope and complexity of the service being offered, the amount of assets under management, anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with the client and the qualifications of the professional(s) rendering the service(s). The Registrant generally requires a minimum annual Wealth Management Services fee of \$6,000. The annual Wealth Management Services fee shall not, at any time, exceed an amount equal to more than 2% of the client's assets under Registrant's advisement. Registrant shall generally price its advisory services based upon various objective and subjective factors. As a result, our clients could pay diverse fees based upon the type, amount and market value of their assets, the anticipated complexity of the engagement, the anticipated level and scope of the overall investment advisory services to be rendered,

negotiations. Additional factors affecting pricing can include related accounts, employee accounts, competition, and negotiations. As a result of these factors, similarly situated clients could pay diverse fees, and the services to be provided by Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees. All clients and prospective clients should be guided accordingly. <u>ANY QUESTIONS</u>: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions regarding advisory fees.

**First year**: The annual fee for the first year generally ranges between \$6,000 and \$60,000, which is based upon several objective and subjective factors including but not limited to assets, income, complexity, the scope of the services and the professional rendering the services. The annual fee is due quarterly, in advance, at the beginning of each quarter. For first years that are less than a calendar quarter, the Registrant will prorate the fee accordingly.

**Future Years**: Registrant's annual fee for ongoing Wealth Management Services may be reduced in future years, in the Registrant's sole discretion, with a minimum fee of \$6,000. These fees are billed in quarterly installments at the beginning of each quarter.

Add-ons, Credits, and Miscellaneous Adjustments: Upon review and a separate written agreement with the client, additional charges may be assessed for the preparation of an amended tax return prepared or for additional tax returns prepared for dependents of the client.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW SERVICES

Registrant charges \$900 for a three-hour financial review consultation, or \$720 if the financial review client is referred by an existing client. The fee is payable in two equal installments, one-half at the signing of the agreement and the other half at the time of the consultation. Clients may cancel the financial review services at any time by providing written notice. Upon cancellation, Registrant will present the client with an invoice for time spent, which is payable upon receipt.

#### RETIREMENT PLAN CONSULTING

Registrant's retirement plan consulting fee is negotiable, but based upon certain criteria including but not limited to: anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, the anticipated complexity of the engagement, negotiations with client, scope of the service(s) required, and the professional(s) rendering the service(s). As a result of these factors, similarly situated clients could pay diverse fees, and the services to be provided by Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees. All clients and prospective clients should be guided accordingly. ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions regarding advisory fees.

#### TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

To the extent requested by the client, Registrant may determine to provide tax preparation services on a stand-alone separate flat-fee basis ranging between \$200 and \$10,000 depending upon the complexity of the engagement. Registrant and the client will agree upon the specific fee before Registrant commences tax preparation services. Registrant reserves the right to reduce or waive tax preparation fees.

- B. Clients may elect to have the Registrant's advisory fees deducted from their custodial account. An addendum to Registrant's Wealth Management Agreement and the custodial/clearing agreement may authorize the custodian to debit the account for the amount of the Registrant's Wealth Management Services fee and to directly remit that management fee to the Registrant in compliance with regulatory procedures. In the limited event that the Registrant bills the client directly, payment is due upon receipt of the Registrant's invoice. The Registrant shall deduct fees and/or bill clients quarterly in advance, based upon agreed annual retainer incorporated into the Wealth Management Agreement.
- C. As discussed below, the Registrant may recommend the services of a brokerdealer/custodian for client investment management assets. Broker-dealers such as Fidelity charge brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e. transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity transactions, and mark-ups and mark-downs are charged for fixed income transactions). The types of securities for which transaction fees, commissions, and/or other type fees (as well as the amount of those fees) shall differ depending upon the broker-dealer/custodian (while certain custodians, including Fidelity, do not currently charge fees on individual equity transactions, others do). In addition to Registrant's investment management fee, brokerage commissions and/or transaction fees, clients will also incur, relative to all mutual fund and exchange traded fund purchases, charges imposed at the fund level (e.g. management fees and other fund expenses). When beneficial to the client, individual fixed-income and/or equity transactions may be effected through broker-dealers with whom Registrant and/or the client have entered into arrangements for prime brokerage clearing services, including effecting certain client transactions through other SEC registered and FINRA member broker-dealers (in which event, the client generally will incur both the transaction fee charged by the executing broker-dealer and a "tradeaway" fee charged by the custodian.
- D. Registrant's annual wealth management fee shall be prorated and paid quarterly, in advance. The Registrant generally requires a minimum Wealth Management Services fee of \$6,000 for the first year, but may, in its sole discretion, charge a lesser minimum fee based upon certain criteria including but not limited to: anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with client, etc. Similar advisory services may be available from other investment advisers for similar or lower fees. The Wealth Management Agreement between the Registrant and the client will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the Wealth Management Agreement. Upon termination, the Registrant shall refund the pro-rated portion of the advanced advisory fee paid based upon the number of days remaining in the billing quarter.
- E. Neither the Registrant nor any of its representatives accept compensation from the sale of securities or other investment products.

#### Item 6 Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

Registrant is not a party to any performance or incentive-related compensation arrangements with its clients.

#### **Item 7** Types of Clients

The Registrant's clients generally include: individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, non-profits, and business entities. Please see Item 5 above for information about the Registrant's minimum fees.

Registrant shall generally price its advisory services based upon various objective and subjective factors. As a result, our clients could pay diverse fees based upon the type, amount and market value of their assets, the anticipated complexity of the engagement, the anticipated level and scope of the overall investment advisory services to be rendered, negotiations. Additional factors affecting pricing can include related accounts, employee accounts, competition, and negotiations. As a result of these factors, similarly situated clients could pay diverse fees, and the services to be provided by Registrant to any particular client could be available from other advisers at lower fees. All clients and prospective clients should be guided accordingly. ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions regarding advisory fees.

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

- A. Registrant may utilize the following methods of security analysis:
  - <u>Fundamental</u> (analysis performed on historical and present data, with the goal of making financial forecasts)
  - <u>Technical</u> (analysis performed on historical and present data, focusing on price and trade volume, to forecast the direction of prices)
  - <u>Cyclical</u> (analysis performed on historical relationships between price and market trends, to forecast the direction of prices)

The Registrant may utilize the following investment strategies when offering investment advice given to clients:

- <u>Long Term Purchases</u> (securities held at least a year)
- Short Term Purchases (securities sold within a year)

<u>Investment Risk</u>. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended or undertaken by the Registrant) will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

Mutual Fund Risk. Mutual funds are operated by investment companies that raise money from shareholders and invests it in stocks, bonds, and/or other types of securities. Each fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. Mutual funds charge a separate management fee for their services, so the returns on mutual funds are reduced by the costs to manage the funds. While mutual funds generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market. Mutual funds that are sold through brokers are called load funds, and those sold to investors directly from the fund companies are called no-load funds. Mutual funds come in many varieties. Some invest aggressively for capital appreciation, while others are conservative and are designed to generate income for

shareholders. In addition, the client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

Exchange Traded Fund Risk. ETFs are marketable securities that are designed to track, before fees and expenses, the performance or returns of a relevant index, commodity, bonds or basket of assets, like an index fund. Unlike mutual funds, ETFs trade like common stock on a stock exchange. ETFs experience price changes throughout the day as they are bought and sold. In addition to the general risks of investing, there are specific risks to consider with respect to an investment in ETFs, including, but not limited to: (i) the price of an ETF may or may not fluctuate with the price of the underlying securities that make up the fund; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of marketwide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally.

Borrowing Against Assets/Risks. A client who has a need to borrow money could determine to do so by using:

- <u>Margin</u> The account custodian or broker-dealer lends money to the client. The custodian charges the client interest for the right to borrow money, and uses the assets in the client's brokerage account as collateral; and,
- <u>Pledged Assets Loan</u>- In consideration for a lender (i.e., a bank, etc.) to make a loan to the client, the client pledges investment assets held at the account custodian as collateral.

These above-described collateralized loans are generally utilized because they typically provide more favorable interest rates than standard commercial loans. These types of collateralized loans can assist with a pending home purchase, permit the retirement of more expensive debt, or enable borrowing in lieu of liquidating existing account positions and incurring capital gains taxes. However, such loans are not without potential material risk to the client's investment assets. The lender (i.e., custodian, bank, etc.) will have recourse against the client's investment assets in the event of loan default or if the assets fall below a certain level. For this reason, Registrant **does not** recommend such borrowing unless it is for specific short-term purposes (i.e., a bridge loan to purchase a new residence). Registrant **does not** recommend such borrowing for investment purposes (i.e., to invest borrowed funds in the market). Regardless, if the client was to determine to utilize margin or a pledged assets loan, the following economic benefits would inure to Registrant:

- o by taking the loan rather than liquidating assets in the client's account, Registrant continues to earn a fee on such Account assets; and,
- o if the client invests any portion of the loan proceeds in an account to be managed by Registrant, Registrant will receive an advisory fee on the invested amount; and.
- if Registrant's advisory fee is based upon the higher margined account value, Registrant will earn a correspondingly higher advisory fee. This could provide Registrant with a disincentive to encourage the client to discontinue the use of margin.

The Client must accept the above risks and potential corresponding consequences associated with the use of margin or a pledged assets loan.

Cybersecurity Risk. The information technology systems and networks that Registrant and its third-party service providers use to provide services to Registrant's clients employ various controls, which are designed to prevent cybersecurity incidents stemming from intentional or unintentional actions that could cause significant interruptions in Registrant's operations and result in the unauthorized acquisition or use of clients' confidential or nonpublic personal information. Clients and Registrant are nonetheless subject to the risk of cybersecurity incidents that could ultimately cause them to incur losses, including for example: financial losses, cost and reputational damage to respond to regulatory obligations, other costs associated with corrective measures, and loss from damage or interruption to systems. Although Registrant has established its systems to reduce the risk of cybersecurity incidents from coming to fruition, there is no guarantee that these efforts will always be successful, especially considering that Registrant does not directly control the cybersecurity measures and policies employed by third-party service providers. Clients could incur similar adverse consequences resulting from cybersecurity incidents that more directly affect issuers of securities in which those clients invest, broker-dealers, qualified custodians, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, or other financial institutions.

<u>Pandemic Risk</u>: Large-scale outbreaks of infectious disease can greatly increase morbidity and mortality over a wide geographic area, crossing international boundaries, and causing significant economic, social, and political disruption.

B. The Registrant's method of analysis and investment strategy does not present any significant or unusual risks. However, every method of analysis has its own inherent risks. To perform an accurate market analysis, the Registrant must have access to current/new market information. The Registrant has no control over the dissemination rate of market information; therefore, unbeknownst to the Registrant, certain analyses may be compiled with outdated market information, severely limiting the value of the Registrant's analysis. Furthermore, an accurate market analysis can only produce a forecast of the direction of market values. There can be no assurances that a forecasted change in market value will materialize into actionable and/or profitable investment opportunities.

The Registrant's primary investment strategies - Long Term Purchases and Short Term Purchases are fundamental investment strategies. However, every investment strategy has its own inherent risks and limitations. For example, longer term investment strategies require a longer investment time period to allow for the strategy to potentially develop. Shorter term investment strategies require a shorter investment time period to potentially develop but, as a result of more frequent trading, may incur higher transactional costs when compared to a longer term investment strategy. Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

C. Currently, the Registrant primarily recommends clients invest in assets among various individual equity (stocks), debt (bonds), and fixed income securities, mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs") on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis in accordance with the client's designated investment objective(s).

#### **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

The Registrant has not been the subject of a disciplinary action.

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

- A. Neither Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.
- B. Neither Registrant, nor its representatives, are registered or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or a representative of the foregoing.
- C. Registrant has no other relationship or arrangement with a related person that is material to its advisory business.
- D. The Registrant does not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation from investment advisors that it recommends or selects for its clients.

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

A. The Registrant maintains an investment policy relative to personal securities transactions. This investment policy is part of Registrant's overall Code of Ethics, which serves to establish a standard of business conduct for all of Registrant's Representatives that is based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty and trust, a copy of which is available upon request.

In accordance with Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Registrant also maintains and enforces written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material non-public information by the Registrant or any person associated with the Registrant.

- B. Neither the Registrant nor any related person of Registrant recommends, buys, or sells for client accounts, securities in which the Registrant or any related person of Registrant has a material financial interest.
- C. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities that are also recommended to clients. This practice may create a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. Practices such as "scalping" (i.e., a practice whereby the owner of shares of a security recommends that security for investment and then immediately sells it at a profit upon the rise in the market price which follows the recommendation) could take place if the Registrant did not have adequate policies in place to detect such activities. In addition, this requirement can help detect insider trading, "front-running" (i.e., personal trades executed prior to those of the Registrant's clients) and other potentially abusive practices.

The Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transactions and securities holdings of each of the Registrant's "Access Persons."

The Registrant's securities transaction policy requires that Access Person of the Registrant must provide the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee with a written report of their current securities holdings within ten (10) days after becoming an Access Person. Furthermore, Access Persons must provide the Chief Compliance Officer with a quarterly transaction report, detail all trades in the Access Person's account during the previous quarter; and on an annual basis, each Access Persons must provide the Chief Compliance Officer with a written report of the Access Person's current securities holdings.

D. The Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant *may* buy or sell securities, at or around the same time as those securities are recommended to clients. This practice creates a situation where the Registrant and/or representatives of the Registrant are in a position to materially benefit from the sale or purchase of those securities. Therefore, this situation creates a conflict of interest. As indicated above in Item 11C, the Registrant has a personal securities transaction policy in place to monitor the personal securities transaction and securities holdings of each of Registrant's Access Persons.

#### Item 12 Brokerage Practices

A. In the event that the client requests that Registrant recommend a broker-dealer/custodian for execution and/or custodial services, Registrant generally recommends that investment advisory accounts be maintained at Fidelity. Prior to engaging Registrant to provide investment management services, the client will be required to enter into a formal Investment Advisory Agreement with Registrant setting forth the terms and conditions under which Registrant shall advise on the client's assets, and a separate custodial/clearing agreement with each designated broker-dealer/custodian.

Factors that the Registrant considers in recommending Fidelity (or any other broker-dealer/custodian to clients) to clients include historical relationship with the Registrant, financial strength, reputation, execution capabilities, pricing, research, and service. Broker-dealers such as Fidelity can charge transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (*See* Item 4 above). To the extent that a transaction fee will be payable by the client to Fidelity, the transaction fee shall be in addition to Registrant's investment advisory fee referenced in Item 5 above.

To the extent that a transaction fee is payable, Registrant shall have a duty to obtain best execution for such transaction. However, that does not mean that the client will not pay a transaction fee that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where Registrant determines, in good faith, that the transaction fee is reasonable. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, transaction rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although Registrant will seek competitive rates, it may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible rates for client account transactions.

#### 1. Research and Additional Benefits

Although not a material consideration when determining whether to recommend that a client utilize the services of a particular broker-dealer or custodian, the Registrant receives from such broker-dealers or custodians (or another broker-dealer/custodian, investment platform, unaffiliated investment manager, mutual fund sponsor, or vendor) without cost (and/or at a discount) support services or products, certain of which assist the Registrant to better monitor and service client accounts maintained at

such institutions. Included within the support services that may be obtained by the Registrant may be investment-related research, pricing information and market data, software and other technology that provide access to client account data, compliance and/or practice management-related publications, discounted or gratis consulting services, discounted and/or gratis attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events, marketing support, computer hardware and/or software and/or other products used by Registrant in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations.

Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at a broker dealer/custodian as a result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by the Registrant to a broker dealer/custodian or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as a result of the above arrangement.

### The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement and the conflict of interest this arrangement creates.

- 2. The Registrant does not receive referrals from broker-dealers.
- 3. Registrant recommends that its clients utilize the brokerage and custodial services provided by Fidelity. The Firm generally does not accept directed brokerage arrangements (but could make exceptions). A directed brokerage arrangement arises when a client requires that account transactions be effected through a specific broker-dealer/custodian, other than one generally recommended by Registrant (i.e., Fidelity). In such client directed arrangements, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their account with that broker-dealer, and Firm will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers or be able to "batch" the client's transactions for execution through other broker-dealers with orders for other accounts managed by Registrant. As a result, client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case.

In the event that the client directs Registrant to effect securities transactions for the client's accounts through a specific broker-dealer, the client correspondingly acknowledges that such direction may cause the accounts to incur higher commissions or transaction costs than the accounts would otherwise incur had the client determined to effect account transactions through alternative clearing arrangements that may be available through Registrant. Higher transaction costs adversely impact account performance. Transactions for directed accounts will generally be executed following the execution of portfolio transactions for non-directed accounts.

## The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangement.

B. Transactions for each client account generally will be effected independently, unless Firm decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. The Registrant may (but is not obligated to) combine or "batch" such orders for

individual equity transactions (including ETFs) with the intention to obtain better price execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates, or to allocate more equitably among the Registrant's clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might have occurred had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and will be allocated among clients in proportion to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client account on any given day. In the event that the Registrant becomes aware that a Registrant employee seeks to trade in the same security on the same day, the employee transaction will either be included in the "batch" transaction or transacted after all discretionary client transactions have been completed. The Registrant shall not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of such aggregation.

#### **Item 13** Review of Accounts

- A. For those clients to whom Registrant provides Wealth Management services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Registrant's representatives. All investment supervisory clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to advise the Registrant of any changes in their investment objectives and/or financial situation. All clients (in person or via telephone) are encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with the Registrant on an annual basis.
- B. The Registrant *may* conduct account reviews on an other than periodic basis upon the occurrence of a triggering event, such as a change in client investment objectives and/or financial situation, market corrections and client request.
- C. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

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

- A. As indicated at Item 12 above, Registrant can receive from Fidelity (and others) without cost (and/or at a discount), support services and/or products. Registrant's clients do not pay more for investment transactions effected and/or assets maintained at Fidelity (or any other institution) as result of this arrangement. There is no corresponding commitment made by Registrant to Fidelity, or to any other entity, to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific mutual funds, securities or other investment products as the result of the above arrangement. <a href="#ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer">ANY QUESTIONS: Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer</a>, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above arrangements and the corresponding conflicts of interest presented by such arrangement.
- B. Registrant does not maintain solicitor arrangements/pay referral fee compensation to non-employees for new client introductions.

#### Item 15 Custody

The Registrant shall have the ability to have its advisory fee for each client debited by the custodian. Clients are provided, at least quarterly, with written transaction confirmation notices and regular written summary account statements directly from the broker-dealer/custodian and/or program sponsor for the client accounts. The Registrant may also provide a written periodic report summarizing account activity and performance.

To the extent that the Registrant provides clients with periodic account statements or reports, the client is urged to compare any statement or report provided by the Registrant with the account statements received from the account custodian. The account custodian does not verify the accuracy of the Registrant's advisory fee calculation.

#### **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

The client can engage the Registrant to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Before the Registrant assumes discretionary authority over a client's account, the client is required to execute a discretionary Wealth Management Agreement, naming the Registrant as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting the Registrant full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

Clients who engage the Registrant on a discretionary basis may, at any time, impose restrictions, in writing, on the Registrant's discretionary authority (i.e. limit the types/amounts of particular securities purchased for their account, exclude the ability to purchase securities with an inverse relationship to the market, limit or proscribe the Registrant's use of margin, etc.).

#### **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

- A. The Registrant does not vote client proxies. Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets.
- B. Clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact the Registrant to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation.

#### **Item 18** Financial Information

- A. Registrant does not solicit fees of more than \$1,200, per client, six months or more in advance.
- B. Registrant is unaware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet its contractual commitments relating to its discretionary authority over certain client accounts.
- C. Registrant has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.

<u>ANY QUESTIONS</u>: The Registrant's Chief Compliance Officer, Brennan Guli, remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client may have regarding the above disclosures and arrangements.