## Item 1 - Cover Page

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March 25, 2025

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Kingdom Financial Group, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (623) 974-0300. 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 Kingdom Financial Group, LLC is also available on the Internet at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>. You can view information on this website by searching for Kingdom Financial Group, LLC's name or by using its CRD number: 155676.

\*Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## Item 2 - Material Changes

The following changes have occurred since our last annual amendment dated July 30, 2024:

- In Item 4 we have added IQ Wealth as business name that may offer our advisory services through
- In Item 8 we have added private securities as an investment strategy that could be offered to certain clients
- In Item 8 we have added additional risks that should be considered by clients
- In Item 10 we have added disclosure regarding use of artificial intelligence for note taking purposes
- In Item 14 we had added disclosure regarding referral arrangements that we have entered into

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent disclosure brochures within 120 days after our firm's fiscal year ends. Our firm's fiscal year ends on December 31, so you will receive the summary of material changes no later than April 30 each year. At that time, we will also offer or provide a copy of the most current disclosure brochure. We may also provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

## Item 3 - Table of Contents

lt	em 1 - Cover Page	1
	Item 2 – Material Changes	2
	Item 3 – Table of Contents	3
	Item 4 – Advisory Business	5
	Ownership	5
	General Description of Primary Advisory Services	5
	Financial Planning Services (Plans and Consulting)	5
	Use of Third-Party Money Managers	5
	Newsletters	5
	Seminars and Workshops	5
	Specialization	5
	Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments.	6
	Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status	6
	Tailor Advisor Services to Individual Needs of Clients	6
	Wrap-Fee Program versus Portfolio Management Program	6
	Client Assets Managed by Advisor	7
	Item 5 – Fees and Compensation	7
	Newsletters	7
	Seminars	7
	Financial Planning Services	7
	Consultation Services	9
	Referrals to Third Party Money Managers	9
	Additional Compensation	11
	Comparable Services	11

Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management	11
Item 7 – Types of Clients	11
Minimum Investment Amounts Required	11
Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of LossMethods of Analysis	11
Investment Strategies	12
Risk of Loss	12
Item 9 – Disciplinary Information	14
Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations	15
Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation in Client Transactions and Personal Trading	17
Item 12 – Brokerage Practices	17
Item 13 – Review of Accounts	17
Account Reviews	17
Account Reports	18
Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation	18
Client Referrals	18
Other Compensation	18
Item 15 – Custody	19
Item 16 – Investment Discretion	19
Item 17 – Voting Client Proxies	19
Item 18 – Financial Information	19

## Item 4 - Advisory Business

## **Ownership**

Kingdom Financial Group, LLC (sometimes referred to as "Advisor" or "we") are an investment advisor registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission since July 2, 2018. Kingdom Financial Group, LLC was previously registered at the state level since January 26, 2011. We are an S Corp formed under the laws of the State of Arizona. The principal owners are Steven D. Fullerton and Stephanie E. Fullerton. When offering our services, we may use the doing business name IQ Wealth Advisory, LLC.

## **General Description of Primary Advisory Services**

We offer personalized investment advisory services including financial plans and consultations, seminars, newsletters, and referrals to third party money managers. The following are brief descriptions of our primary services. A detailed description is provided in **Item 5**, **Fees and Compensation**, so that clients and prospective clients (sometimes referred to as "you") can review the services and description of fees more thoroughly.

## Financial Planning Services (Plans and Consulting)

Financial planning can be described as helping individuals determine and set their long-term financial goals through investments, tax planning, asset allocation, risk management, retirement planning and other areas. The role of a financial planner is to find ways to help clients understand their overall financial situation and help them set financial objectives.

We provide advisory services in the form of comprehensive and modular financial plans. These services do not involve the active management of client accounts. Instead, comprehensive planning services focus on a client's overall financial situation. Modular planning services focus on specific areas of client concern and may not take other important issues into consideration.

We also provide consulting services to clients wanting advice on a specific area or concern. These consultations can last for one meeting or several meetings, depending upon the client's needs and requested services.

## Use of Third-Party Money Managers

We offer advisory services by referring clients to outside, or unaffiliated, money managers that are registered or exempt from registration as investment advisors. Third-party money managers are responsible for continuously monitoring client accounts and making trades to client accounts when necessary.

#### Newsletters

We offer informative and educational newsletters to clients on a complementary basis.

## Seminars and Workshops

We hold seminars and workshops to educate the public on different types of investments and the different services we offer. The seminars are educational in nature and no specific investment or individual tax advice is given. We do not charge a fee for attendance for these seminars.

## Specialization

We do not specialize in any of our offered services.

## Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments.

We limit our investment advice to the following types of investments:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issues
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- United States government securities
- Option contracts on securities
- Option contracts on commodities
- Futures contracts on tangibles
- Futures contracts on intangibles
- Variable life insurance
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares

## Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status

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

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- o 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:
- o Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- o Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

#### **Tailor Advisor Services to Individual Needs of Clients**

Our services are always provided based on the specific needs of the individual client. Clients are given the ability to impose restrictions on their accounts, including specific investment selections and sectors. However, we will not enter into an investment advisor relationship with anyone whose investment objectives may be considered incompatible with our investment philosophy or strategies or where the prospective client seeks to impose unduly restrictive investment guidelines.

## Wrap-Fee Program versus Portfolio Management Program

In traditional management programs, advisory services are provided for a fee, but transaction services are billed separately on a per-transaction basis. A wrap fee program is a program under which the client pays a single fee that covers both receipt of investment advice and the execution of securities transactions. We serve as portfolio manager to a wrap fee program sponsored by AEWM, which is also available to our clients. In the AEWM program, the advisory fee paid by the client includes custody, trades, management expertise and reporting in a bundled format. A client's total cost of each of the services provided through wrap fee programs could be different if purchased separately. Cost factors may include the client's ability to:

- 1. Obtain the services provided within the programs separately from any of the mutual fund sponsors,
- 2. Invest and rebalance the selected mutual funds without the payment of a transaction charge, and

3. Obtain performance reporting comparable to those provided within each program.

When comparing costs, the combination of multiple mutual fund investments, advisory services, custodial and brokerage services available through each program may not be available separately. Clients may be required to have multiple accounts, sign numerous documents and incur various fees. If an account is not actively traded or the client qualifies for reduced sales charges, the fees in these programs may be more expensive than if utilized separately.

We believe the charges and fees offered within each fee-based program are competitive and reasonable when compared to alternative programs available through other firms and/or investment sources. However, we make no guarantee that the aggregate cost of a particular program is lower than that which may be available elsewhere.

If you participate in a third-party wrap program, it will be on a discretionary basis. The strategies implemented are based on clients' individual investment objectives. For complete details regarding the AE Wealth wrap fee program, please refer to the AE Wealth Wrap Fee Program Brochure (Form ADV, Part 2A Appendix) which can be found by accessing AE Wealth's Disclosure Documents at <a href="https://aewealthmanagement.com/disclosures">https://aewealthmanagement.com/disclosures</a>. All other disclosure documentation made available by AE Wealth will be available there as well.

## **Client Assets Managed by Advisor**

As of December 31, 2024, the firm has a total of \$340,595,756 in discretionary assets under management. The firm did not have any non-discretionary assets under management.

## Item 5 - Fees and Compensation

In addition to the information provided in **Item 4**, **Advisory Business**, this section provides details regarding our services along with descriptions of each service's fees and compensation arrangements.

#### **Newsletters**

We offer monthly and/or quarterly newsletters to clients at no charge. These newsletters are delivered by both U.S. mail and e-mail and are informational and educational in nature. No specific investment advice or recommendations are given. Prospective clients can also request to receive the newsletters.

#### **Seminars**

We offer seminars that are educational and informational in nature. No specific investment advice or recommendations are given to participants. There is no charge to attend these seminars.

## **Financial Planning Services**

We offer comprehensive and modular financial planning services. Comprehensive services can include, but are not limited to:

- Personal planning (family records, budgets, personal liability, etc.)
- Cash flow and management
- Retirement planning
- Business planning
- Estate planning
- o Education planning
- Tax planning
- Risk management
- Insurance analysis

- Investment analysis
- Benefit plans
- Disability and long-term care
- Stock option analysis

You can also elect to focus on a more specific area of concern. However, focusing on one or more specific areas may not take other important issues into consideration that could impact our analysis and recommendations as well as your objectives.

Our investment advisor representatives (referred to as "representatives") meet with you to gather the information and documents needed to perform an analysis and review of your situation as well as your objectives and goals. One or more meetings may be needed to gather all needed information and determine the services best suited to help meet your needs. We rely on the information you provide to us. Therefore, it is very important that the information you provide is complete and accurate. We are not responsible for verifying the information you supply.

Our services do not include legal or tax advice. You are urged to work closely with an attorney, accountant, or other professionals regarding your financial and personal situation.

Our estate planning service representative has restricted access to client information and only requires limited client information to perform the services unless contracted separately to do so.

After gathering the needed information and documents, our representatives do a suitability analysis. This means they look at your willingness and ability to take on certain levels of risk when making an investment or using one or more types of investment products or asset allocation strategies. We want your investments to work both sensibly and prudently toward your financial goals and objectives.

Once the suitability study is completed, our representatives then forward all information to AE Wealth Management (AEWM) an unaffiliated investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission<sup>1</sup>. We may also send them suggestions about suitable areas of investment recommendations or allocations. AEWM prepares the requested analysis and then sends it back to us. We review it, present it to you in either an oral or a written format and discuss the analyses and recommendations with you. You will generally receive the plan within one week once we have received all the required information and documentation from you.

If you request a comprehensive plan, it will focus on your overall financial situation and cover several or all the areas previously noted, as may be needed by you. If you request a modular (segmented) plan, it will focus only on one or more specific area(s) of concern to you. If you request a modular (segmented) plan, you should be aware that other important issues may not be taken into consideration when developing the analyses and recommendations.

If you also elect to contract with us for advisory services provided through referrals to third party money managers, there is no charge for the requested financial plan. However, if you do not also contract to create a referred account, then there is a fixed fee charged for the requested plan that ranges from \$250 to \$5,000. The fixed fee is negotiable based upon the actual services you request us to provide and the complexity of your personal and financial situation. There is a retainer due at the time you sign the agreement for services equal to one-quarter (25%) of the quoted fixed fee. The remainder of the fee is due at the time we present the plan to you. We provide you with a detailed billing invoice.

You have sole discretion about whether or not to contract for our services. In addition, you have sole discretion about whether or not to implement any financial planning recommendations made by our representatives. If you do decide to implement the recommendations, you are responsible for taking any actions or implementing any transactions required. You are free to select any broker/dealer and/or insurance agent to implement our recommendations. You should be aware that some of our representatives may also be independently licensed insurance agents. If you elect to follow our

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

recommendations regarding insurance products and select one of our representatives to implement the recommendations, he or she could receive commissions. This is a potential conflict of interest since the representative could earn advisory fees in his or her capacity as an investment advisor representative and could also earn commissions on insurance products sold in his or her capacity as an independently licensed insurance agent. Please see **Item 10**, **Other Financial Activities and Affiliations**, for additional discussion on this conflict of interest.

Either you or we can terminate advisory services at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Termination is effective upon receiving that notice. If services are terminated within five business days of signing the client agreement, we will return all your prepaid fees. If services are terminated after five business days have passed but before presentation of the plan, we will retain all your prepaid fees. Depending upon the percentage of the plan that has already been prepared at the time of termination, you may also owe additional, prorated fees. We will send you a billing invoice detailing the fees charged and any amounts that may be due. No fees will be refunded after the plan has been presented.

## **Consultation Services**

You can also request advice on one or more specific areas of concern, and these consultations can be a one-time event or involve several meetings. If you also elect to contract with us for advisory services provided through referrals to third party money managers, there is no charge for the requested consultations. However, if you do not also contract to create a referred account, then there is an hourly charge for these consultations of \$250 per hour. This rate is negotiable based upon the actual services you ask us to provide and the complexity of your situation. We will provide you with an estimate of the time we believe will be needed to complete the requested services. If the time needed exceeds our estimate, we will request permission from you to continue. You have the final determination whenthe consultations are completed. There is a retainer due at the time you sign the agreement for services. This retainer is equal to two hours of time at the quoted hourly rate. The remainder of the fee is due at the time the consultations are completed. We provide you with a detailed billing invoice.

You have sole discretion about whether or not to contract for our services. In addition, you have sole discretion about whether or not to implement any recommendations made or advice given by our representatives. If you do decide to implement, you are responsible for taking any actions or implementing any transactions required. You are free to select any broker/dealer and/or insurance agent to implement our recommendations and advice. You should be aware that some of our representatives may also be independently licensed insurance agents. If you elect to follow our recommendations regarding insurance products and select one of our representatives to implement the recommendations, he or she could receive commissions. This is a potential conflict of interest since the representative could earn advisory fees in his or her capacity as an investment advisor representative and could also earn commissions on insurance products sold in his or her capacity as an independently licensed insurance agent. Please see Item 10, Other Financial Activities and Affiliations, for additional discussion on this conflict of interest.

Services terminate upon completion of the investment consultations contracted for. Either you or we can terminate advisory services at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Termination is effective upon receiving that notice. If services are terminated within five business days of signing the client agreement, we will return all your prepaid fees. If services are terminated after five business days have passed but before estimated time of completion, we will retain all your prepaid fees and additional fees may be due depending upon the additional time spent on the consultations. We will send you a billing invoice detailing the fees charged and any amounts that may be due.

## **Referrals to Third Party Money Managers**

We act as solicitor and refer clients to unaffiliated third-party investment advisors offering asset management and other investment advisory services. We perform due diligence when selecting the third-party money managers recommended. Each solicitation arrangement is performed pursuant to a written solicitation agreement and is in compliance with SEC Rule 206(4)-3 and applicable state securities rules and regulations.

Through this service, we assist you in identifying your risk tolerance and investment objectives and then

recommend money managers relative to those objectives and tolerances. You select a recommended third-party investment advisor based on your needs and enter into an agreement directly with the selected advisor. That advisor provides the asset management services. Advisor's representatives are available to answer questions regarding your account. Our representatives also act as the communication conduit between you and the third-party investment advisor selected. At least annually, we contact you to see if you have any changes to your instructions, account restrictions, investment goals, financial circumstances, or investment limitations/risk tolerances.

Third party managed programs generally have account minimum requirements and these minimum requirements vary from investment advisor to investment advisor. Account minimums are generally higher on fixed income accounts than equity-based accounts. A complete description of the third-party investment advisor's services, fee schedules and account minimums are disclosed in the third-party investment advisor's Disclosure Brochure that is provided to you at the time you sign an agreement for services and establish an account. The type and frequency of reports you receive will also depend on the third-party investment advisor you select.

Third-party investment advisers may take discretionary authority to determine the securities to be purchased and sold for your account. We have discretionary authority and are responsible for selecting investments or implementing trades in your accounts.

When we refer you to a third-party money manager, we receive a portion of the fee (a solicitor/referral fee)charged and collected by the third-party investment advisor. The actual fee charged to you varies depending on the third-party investment advisor selected. However, the third-party money manager takes our solicitor/referral fee into consideration when determining the total fee it charges you. The third-party money manager also considers other factors when determining the fee, such as the amount of assets you have under management and the number of your accounts. You do not pay us directly for referring you to the third-party money manager. All fees are calculated and collected by the selected third-party investment advisor and that investment advisor is responsible for paying us our portion of the total fee charged to you.

You may incur additional charges including but not limited to, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees. We do not receive any portion of such commissions or fees. We are only compensated by the solicitor/referral fees described above, and do not receive any other compensation in connection with your account.

As stated in Item 4, Kingdom utilizes a Sub-Advisor to assist with back-office / operations functions. This relationship includes certain economic benefits. *Kingdom* obtains investment research for its own model portfolios, technology, account billing, trading, and client service support through its Sub-Advisor contracts. Based upon the total client assets under management that *Kingdom* brings to a Sub-Advisor, *Kingdom* is provided with certain additional economic benefit for doing so. With specific regard to AEWM, *Kingdom* may receive various services from other investment managers retained or otherwise made available by the Sub-Advisor and the cost of such services may be paid by the Sub-Advisor, thus creating an incentive for *Kingdom* to use the Sub-Advisor.

Services provided through AEWM's managed account program are offered through a wrap fee program. Through the wrap fee program, you will only pay fees based on assets under management and you will not pay a separate commission, ticket charge, or custodian fee, for the execution of transactions in your account. AEWM and our firm will receive a portion of the fee as compensation for services.

Any third-party investment advisers we recommended must be registered or exempt from registration in the state where you reside. Our representatives may have a conflict of interest by only offering those third-party investment advisors that have agreed to pay us a portion of their advisory fee. There may be other third-party managed programs that may be suitable to you and that may be more or less costly. No guarantees can be made that your financial goals or objectives will be achieved. Further, no guarantees of performance can be offered. Investments involve risk, including the possible loss of principal.

## **Additional Compensation**

Our representatives may also be independently licensed insurance agents and sell insurance products to any client. They can earn commissions when selling these products. This is a potential conflict because they may recommend the purchase of an insurance product resulting in a commission being paid to them in addition to advisory fees being paid to us.

## **Comparable Services**

We believe our fees for advisory services are reasonable with respect to the services provided and the fees charged by other investment advisors offering similar services. However, lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

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

Performance-based fees are defined as fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets held in a client's account. We do not receive performance-based fees.

## Item 7 - Types of Clients

We generally provide investment advice to the following types of clients.

o Individuals including high net worth individuals

#### **Minimum Investment Amounts Required**

If you contract for financial planning and/or consultation services without also contracting for referrals to third party money manager services, you are charged a fee. For financial plans, there is a minimum fee of \$250. For consultations, there is a minimum 2-hour charge at the quoted rate.

We also require clients to have a minimum of \$25,000 to establish an account when they are referred to a third-party money manager. However, we may grant an exception to this minimum, considering your specific needs, our current relationship with you and anticipated future services or accounts.

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

### **Methods of Analysis**

Advisors generally use one or more of the following methods of analysis when considering a client's situation and developing recommendations:

- Charting: a technical analysis that charts the pattern of stocks, bonds, and commodities
  to help determine buy and sell recommendations. Analysts using charting believe that
  recurring patterns oftrading can help them forecast future price movements.
- Fundamental: a method of evaluating stocks based on fundamental factors such as revenues, earnings, future growth, return on equity, profit margin, etc. to determine a company's underlying value and potential for future growth.
- Technical: a method of evaluating securities by analyzing a stock's market activity generally theprice and volume. Technical analysts use charts or computer programs to identify and project price trends. Most analysis is done on a short or intermediate term, but some analysts also predict long- term cycles based on charts or other data. Technical analysis is not concerned with the financial position of a company.
- Cyclical: an analysis of recurring periods of expansion and contraction that can impact a company's profitability and cash flow. Cyclical stocks tend to rise quickly when the economy

turns upand fall quickly when the economy turns down (i.e., housing, automobiles, telecommunications, paper,etc.) Non-cyclical industries (i.e., food, insurance, drugs, health care, etc.) are not as directly impacted by economic changes.

We do not use any specific method of analysis when analyzing a client's financial situation. Rather, we outsource our financial planning services to AE Wealth Management (AEWM) and rely on their research and analytical methods when developing recommendations. In addition, we refer clients to AE Wealth Management (AEWM) and rely on them for asset management services and investment product selection.

## **Investment Strategies**

Advisors generally use one or more of the following investment strategies when implementing investment advice to clients:

- o Long term purchases (investments held at least a year)
- Short term purchases (investments sold within a year)
- Trading (investments sold within 30 days)
- Short sales (borrowing securities in anticipation of a price decline and returning an equal number of securities at some future time)
- Margin transactions (Investor pays for part of the purchase and borrows the rest from a brokerage firm, e.g., investor buys \$5,000 worth of stock in a margin account by paying for \$2,500 and borrowing \$2500 from a brokerage firm. Clients cannot borrow stock from Advisor)
- Option writing (including covered options, uncovered options or spreading strategies) (Note: options are contracts giving the purchaser the right to buy or sell a security, such as stocks, at afixed price within a specific period of time)

## Non-Traded securities / Private placements

Under certain circumstances, we may recommend an allocation to select private placements or other non-traded investment vehicles (vehicles), where the investments inside the vehicle are managed by a third-party. The third-party manager may charge fees which are discrete from those agreed to between the client and Kingdom Financial. Furthermore, the private placement or non-traded investment vehicle may have little to no liquidity such that an investor may be required to maintain their investment until such time that the manager of the investment liquidates the fund/vehicle and returns capital to investors. These types of investments may not be suitable for all clients.

### **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear, including the loss of your original principal. You should also be aware that past performance of any security is not necessarily indicative of future results. Therefore, do not assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. We do not provide any representation or guarantee that client goals will be achieved.

Investing in securities involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments, there may be varying degrees of risk:

Risk of Loss. Securities investments are not guaranteed, and clients may lose money on investments. As with any investment, our investment recommendations are subject to market risk—the possibility that security prices will decline over short or extended periods of time. As a result, the value of client accounts will fluctuate with the market, and clients could lose money over short or long periods of time. Clients should recognize whenever they determine to invest in the securities markets, the entire investment is at risk. Clients should not invest money if they are unable to bear the risk of total loss of their investments.

- Economic Risk. The prevailing economic environment is important to the health of all businesses and security markets. Some companies, however, are more sensitive to changes in the domestic or global economy than others. These types of companies are often referred to as cyclical businesses. Countries in which a large portion of businesses are in cyclical industries are thus also very economically sensitive and carry a higher amount of economic risk. If an security issuer is located in a country that experiences wide economic swings, or in situations where certain elements of an investment instrument interact with such countries, the investment instrument will generally be subject to a higher level of economic risk.
- o Financial Risk. Financial risk represents internal disruptions within an investment or the issuer that can lead to unfavorable performance of the investment. Examples of financial risk can be found in cases like Enron or many of the "dot com" companies that had weak balance sheets despite initial strong market performance..
- o Market Risk. The value of a client's portfolio may decrease if the value of an individual company or multiple companies in the portfolio decreases. Further, regardless of how well individual companies perform, the value of a client's portfolio could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of clients' investments may fall, potentially sharply, in response to changes in the market, and clients could lose money. Investment risks include price risk as may be observed by a drop in a security's price due to company specific events (e.g., earnings disappointment or downgrade in the rating of a bond) or general market risk (e.g., such as a "bear" market when stock values fall in general). For fixed-income securities, a period of rising interest rates could cause security prices to fall.
- Political & Regulatory Risks Investments may be subject to risks resulting from a particular political party or regulatory agency. For example, Exploration and Production companies may face additional government and or regulatory oversight that either restricts their ability to develop resources or makes the future development of resources uneconomical.
- Equity (Stock) Market Risk. Common stocks are susceptible to fluctuations and to volatile increases/decreases in value as their issuers' confidence in or perceptions of the market change. Investors holding common stock (or common stock equivalents) of any issuer are generally exposed to greater risk than if they hold preferred stock or debt obligations of the issuer.
- Company Risk. There is always a certain level of company or industry specific risk when investingin stock positions. This is referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that a company may perform poorly or that its value may be reducedbased on factors specific to it or its industry (e.g., employee strike, unfavorable media attention).
- Options Risk. Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than investingin the underlying securities. Purchasing and writing put or call options (the right to sell or buy a specified amount of an underlying asset at a set price within a set time) are highly specialized activities and involve greater than ordinary investment risk.
- Fixed Income Risk. Investing in bonds involves the risk that the issuer will default on the bond andbe unable to make payments. In addition, individuals depending on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk that inflation will erode their spending power.
   Fixed-income investors receive set, regular payments that face the same inflation risk.
- ETF and Mutual Fund Risk. ETF and mutual fund investments bear additional expenses basedon a pro-rata share of operating expenses, including potential

duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities held by the ETF or mutual fund. Clients also incur brokerage costs when purchasingETFs.

- Management Risk. Client investments also vary with the success and failure of Advisor's investment strategies, research, analysis, and determination of portfolio securities. If Advisor's strategies do not produce the expected returns, the value of a client's investments will decrease.
- Cybersecurity Risk, Kingdom Financial's information and technology systems could become vulnerable to damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltrations by unauthorized persons and security breaches, spyware, usage errors by its professionals, power outages and catastrophic events such as fires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Although Kingdom Financial has implemented various measures to manage these risks, including, but not limited to, creating redundant systems at all times, if these systems are compromised, become inoperable for extended periods of time, or cease to function properly, Kingdom Financial could potentially have to make a significant investment to fix or replace them. The failure of these systems and/or disaster recovery plans for any reason could cause significant interruptions in our operations and result in a failure to maintain the security, confidentiality, or privacy of sensitive data, including personal information relating to clients. Such a failure could harm Kingdom Financial's reputation or subject us to legal claims and otherwise affect our business and financial performance. Kingdom Financial has taken steps to mitigate these risks by retaining the services of cybersecurity specialists who are experts at monitoring, managing, and mitigating the risks of cyberattacks. This monitoring is implemented seven days a week, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.
- Liquidity Risk. Privately held real estate, private equity investments, individual fixed income securities, thinly- traded equity securities, non-traded securities, and other alternative investment products often entail accepting liquidity risk. Liquidity risk is the inability to liquidate/exit an investment and/or liquidation in a timely manner without potentially incurring a significant monetary penalty in order to access their funds.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Investing in securities and other investments involve a risk of loss that each Client should understand and be willing to bear. Clients are reminded to discuss these risks with the Advisor.

#### Item 9 - Disciplinary Information

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

On June 20, 2024, while neither admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law, Kingdom Financial entered into a consent order with the Securities Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission settling an administrative action . In this matter, the Arizona Corporation Commission found that Kingdom Financial violated A.R.S. § 44-3201(A)(6). In particular, the Arizona Corporation Commission found that Kingdom Financial had 3 investment adviser representatives (IAR's), that were formally licensed as IAR's prior to joining Kingdom Financial, performed investment advisory services while their IAR application for Kingdom Financial was pending. Kingdom Financial consented to cease and desist from committing or causing future violations, to an administrative penalty of \$3,000.Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable legal or disciplinary events to disclose.

## Item 10 - Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

We do not have a related person that is:

- A broker/dealer, municipal securities dealer or government securities dealer or broker
- An investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-endinvestment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or "hedge fund," and offshore fund)
- A investment adviser or financial planner
- A futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor
- A banking or thrift institution
- o A lawyer or law firm Accountant or accounting firm
- A pension consultant
- A real estate broker or dealer
- A sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

Stephanie Elaine Fullerton is a Shareholder of Fullerton Financial Planning 401k Plan, a defined benefit pension plan. Stephanie Elaine Fullerton is a Shareholder of Financial planning for Seniors, Inc. DBA Fullerton Financial Planning, a financial planning company utilizing the DBA of Fullerton Financial Planning.

Kingdom uses Artificial Intelligence to assist with some back-office operations of the Firm. Kingdom uses an Al platform to assist with note taking. This Al platform will transcribe and summarize meeting notes for record-keeping and documentation purposes when added to a Firm online meeting.

Kingdom Financial has an affiliated tax preparation service, Fullerton Tax Prep, which Kingdom may refer clients to for their tax preparation requirements. Any fees for the tax preparation service provided by Fullerton Tax Prep will be in addition to the fees that are being charged for its advisory services. As a Kingdom Financial client, you are not required to use Fullerton Tax Prep and are free to use any tax preparation service.

#### Insurance Products Sales

Our representatives can sell other products or provide services outside of their role as investment adviser representatives with us. Due to the firm's financial planning philosophy, it is common for our financial professionals to recommend that clients utilize insurance products (for example, a fixed index annuity ("FIA")) as part of the client's overall financial plan in lieu of separately managed accounts (specifically, in lieu of cash and fixed income asset classes). You should be aware that there are a number of conflicts of interests that are present due to our planning philosophy and recommendations to utilize insurance products in this nature.

As an estimate, our financial professionals that are registered as investment advisor representatives spend approximately 50% of their time on insurance sales and services and 50% of their time on investment advisory services. Please refer to Item 5 – Fees and Compensation and Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation for more details.

You may therefore work with your financial professional in both their capacity as an investment adviser representative of Kingdom Financial Group, as well as in their capacity as an insurance agent. As such, your Kingdom Financial Group financial professional, in their dual capacity as an IAR and insurance agent, may advise you to purchase insurance products (general disability insurance, life insurance, annuities, and other insurance products to you), and then assist you in implementing the recommendations by selling you those same products.

When acting as an insurance agent, in exchange for selling you those products, the financial professional will typically be paid a commission. This recommendation that a client purchase an insurance product through them as

an insurance agent presents a conflict of interest, as the receipt of commissions is an incentive to recommend products that could potentially be based on commissions rather than your personal needs and objectives.

Furthermore, commissions may vary by product, and each individual product may have different commission rates, encouraging the financial professional to recommend products that may pay higher commissions over the products that make the most sense for you.

In addition, insurance products may also have different payment schedules depending on the nature of the product, and the timing of the payments likely differ from that of the advisory options offered by Kingdom Financial Group. This timing difference has the potential to create a conflict of interest since some financial professionals may have the incentive to recommend a product that pays commissions now, over an advisory product that pays fees over a relatively longer period. As an example, all other variables held equal, a 5% commission paid by an insurance company upon sale of a \$100,000 annuity product, may be more attractive to a financial professional than a one percent (1%) advisory fee charged on a \$100,000 account paid over a period of five (5) years, despite the overall pre-tax compensation paid to the financial professional being equal.

There could be other conflicts present as well. Kingdom Financial Group utilizes the services of Advisors Excel, a third-party insurance marketing organization ("IMO") to select the appropriate product for our clients. The purpose of the IMO is to assist us in finding the insurance product that best fits the client's situation, although the IMO and insurance carrier may also offer special bonus or incentive compensation to our firm and our investment adviser representatives when they act in their separate capacities as insurance agents when they meet certain overall sales goals by placing annuities and/or other insurance products through the IMO. This could create a conflict of interest for Kingdom Financial Group and our financial professionals to utilize the products recommended by the IMO.

In addition, each of the individual insurance carriers that our financial professionals work with may also separately provide incentive-based bonuses or awards in exchange for sales-related production over specific periods of time. which is a conflict of interest. They may also provide indirect compensation by providing marketing assistance, business development tools, technology, back office/operations support, business succession planning, business conferences, and incentive trips. These incentive programs do not directly affect fees paid by the client. Although some of these services can benefit a client, other services obtained by our IARs such as marketing assistance. business development, and incentive trips, will not benefit an existing client and is a conflict of interest. At times, our financial professionals receive expense reimbursement for travel and/or marketing expenses from distributors of investment and/or insurance products. Travel expense reimbursements are a result of attendance at due diligence and/or investment training events hosted by product sponsors. Marketing expense reimbursements are the result of informal expense sharing arrangements in which product sponsors will underwrite costs incurred for marketing, such as client appreciation events, advertising, publishing, and seminar expenses. Although receipt of these travel and marketing expense reimbursements are not predicated upon specific sales guotas, the product sponsor reimbursements are made by those sponsors for which sales have been made or for which it is anticipated sales will be made. This creates a conflict of interest in that there is an incentive to recommend certain products and investments based on the receipt of this compensation instead of what is in the best interest of clients.

Advisors Excel is also a related company of AE Wealth Management. Advisors Excel provides affiliate members such as our firm, Kingdom Financial Group, with marketing assistance and business development tools to acquire new clients, technology with the goal of improving the client experience and our firm's efficiency, back office and operations support to assist in the processing of our insurance (through Advisors Excel) and investment advisory services (through AE Wealth Management) for clients, and business succession planning for our firm. Although some of these services may directly benefit a client, other services obtained by us from Advisors Excel such as marketing assistance and business development may not benefit an existing client. There could be a conflict of interest when we use the sub- adviser and financial planning services of AE Wealth Management because we may be influenced to use AE Wealth Management based upon our relationship and services provided and support of Advisors Excel.

We have taken a number of steps to manage these types of conflict of interests. We attempt to control for these sales-related conflicts by always basing investment decisions on the individual needs of clients. As a fiduciary, we expect and require that each investment adviser representative only recommend insurance and annuities when in the best interest of the client. If you have any questions or concerns about annuity recommendations made during

the financial planning process, we encourage you to immediately bring it to the attention either the Compliance Officer or the CCO.

Finally, you should be aware that there are other insurance products that are offered by other insurance agents other than those recommended by our financial professionals. You are under no obligation to implement any insurance or annuity transaction through Kingdom Financial Group.

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

According to the *Investment Advisers Act of 1940*, an investment advisor is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is an investment advisor's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts. In addition, an investment advisor has a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interest of each of its clients. Both we and our representatives have a fiduciary duty to all clients. We have established a Code of Ethics which all associated persons must read. They must then execute an acknowledgment stating that they understand and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our fiduciary duty to clients and the fiduciary duty of our representatives to clients are considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics and represent the expected basis for all dealings with clients. We have the responsibility to make sure that the interests of clients are placed ahead of us or our associated persons' own investment interests. All associated persons will conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner. All associated persons will always comply with all federal and state securities laws. Full disclosure of all material facts and potential conflicts of interest will be provided to clients prior to services being conducted.

All associated persons have a responsibility to avoid circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect their duty of complete loyalty to clients. This section is only intended to provide current clients and potential clients with a description of our Code of Ethics. If current clients or potential clients wish to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy may be requested from any of our associated persons and a copy will be provided promptly.

We do not recommend investment products. However, both we and our representatives may buy or sell investment products for our personal accounts. Some of these products may be identical to products recommended by AE Wealth Management (AEWM) or Sterling Capital when we refer clients to that investment adviser as a result of the existing solicitor arrangement or as a result of outsourcing our financial planning services to that investment advisor. We do not buy or sell securities for our personal accounts where our decision is derived, in whole or in part, by information obtained as a result of our employment unless the information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry. We are now and will continue to be in compliance with *The Insider Trading and Securities Fraud Enforcement Act of 1988*.

## Item 12 - Brokerage Practices

We refer clients to AE Wealth Management, LLC for their asset management services and do not receive a solicitor/referral fee as a result of this relationship. We do not receive any research, soft dollar benefits or any other products or services from AE Wealth Management, LLC. Clients are not obligated to establish an account with AE Wealth Management, LLC and are free to select any broker/dealer or investment advisor to implement their securities and investment transactions.

## Item 13 - Review of Accounts

## **Account Reviews**

Financial planning and consulting accounts terminate upon presentation of the plan or completion of the consultation. However, we recommend that you have your financial situation reviewed and updated at least yearly. If you wish to undertake a review and update, a new client agreement will be required, and

additional fees may be charged.

Accounts at third party money managers are reviewed at least quarterly, usually when we receive copies of statements from the money manager. Our representatives conduct reviews on their own accounts. Although the calendar is the main triggering factor, account reviews are also conducted due to:

- o Client request
- o Change in client circumstances, account holdings or investment objectives
- Unusual economic conditions
- o Changes in geopolitical environment.

Absent specific client instruction, accounts are reviewed to be sure portfolio holdings are accurate, investment products are still suitable and account performance continues to work toward the client's goals and objectives.

## **Account Reports**

Financial planning clients do not receive any reports other than the financial plan originally contracted for. Clients with accounts at third party money managers receive statements from the account custodian at least quarterly. We do not provide any additional position reports, performance reports or account statements.

## Item 14 - Client Referrals and Other Compensation

#### **Client Referrals**

Kingdom Financial has entered into agreements with various parties (Referring Parties) to refer clients to Kingdom Financial. If a referred client enters into an investment advisory agreement with Kingdom Financial, a cash referral fee is paid to the referring party, which is based upon a percentage of the client advisory fees that are generated. The referral agreements between any referring party and Kingdom Financial will not result in any charges to clients in addition to the normal level of advisory fees charged.

When a client is referred to us by a referring party, the referring party provides the client with a copy of our Firm Brochure as required by the *Investment Advisers Act of 1940*. The client will also complete a Solicitor's Disclosure Statement document. If the referring party is an unaffiliated registered investment adviser firm, then the client will also receive a copy of the referring party's Form ADV Part 2 Firm Brochure. If a referred client enters into an investment advisory agreement with Kingdom Financial, a referral fee is paid to the referring party. The referral relationship will not result in clients being charged any fees over and above the normal advisory fees charged for the advisory services provided. The referral agreements between Kingdom Financial and referring parties are in compliance with state and federal securities rules regarding paid solicitor arrangements.

## Other Compensation

As disclosed under the "Fees and Compensation" section in this Brochure, our financial professionals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents and earn commission based compensation for selling insurance products. In addition, these persons receive certain benefits from AEWM, including sales awards and trips, based on the volume of insurance business referred to Advisors Excel, an affiliate of AEWM. Our representatives who are licensed insurance agents also receive certain benefits from insurance carriers.

These practices present conflicts of interest because our representatives who are licensed insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products, as well as insurance products through specific carriers, to you based on the receipt of these benefits. For information on how we address the conflicts associated with the sale of insurance products, please refer to the "Fees and Compensation" and "Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations" sections of this Brochure. For additional

discussion on other compensation either we or our representatives receive, please refer to Additional Compensation under Item 5, Fees and Compensation, and Item 10, Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

## Item 15 - Custody

Custody has been defined as having access or control over client funds and/or securities but does **not** include the ability to execute transactions in client accounts. 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 for purposes of the *Investment Advisers Act* of 1940 and must ensure proper procedures are implemented. Our procedures do **not** result in our maintaining custody of client funds and securities.

Although we do not have custody, we have 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 direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address and the manner in which 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. Clients should carefully review those statements. When clients have questions about their account statements, they should contact us or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

### Item 16 - Investment Discretion

We provide asset management services and any other advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to accepting discretionary authority over a Client's account, Client executes and Investment Advisory Agreement, naming KFG as Client's attorney in fact, granting KFG full authority to execute buy, sell, or otherwise effect securities transactions in Client's name in Client's discretionary account. KFG may accept any reasonable limitation or restriction to such authority on the account placed by Client. All limitations and restrictions must be provided to KFG in writing.

## Item 17 - Voting Client Proxies

We do not vote proxies or accept proxy materials on behalf of clients. All proxy materials are sent directly to clients from the product sponsor, custodian, or transfer agent. Clients have the ultimate responsibility for making all proxy-voting decisions.

#### Item 18 - Financial Information

This item is not applicable to our brochure. 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.



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# Form ADV Part 2A Appendix 1 Wrap Fee Program Brochure

Date of Brochure: March 29th, 2024

This Wrap Fee Program Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of AE Wealth Management, LLC (also referred to as we, us, AEWM and AE Wealth Management throughout this disclosure brochure). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact AE Wealth Management Compliance at 866-363-9595 or compliance@ae-wm.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.

Additional information about AE Wealth Management is also available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

\*Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

## Item 2 – Material Changes

This section discusses material changes that have been made to this Brochure since the last annual amendment. Throughout the brochure, all of the various named entities, advisers, and managers have been shortened to acronyms in an attempt to make the document easier to read. The last amendment was on October 31, 2023, and since that time, the following material changes have been made:

## Item 4 – Services, Fees, and Compensation

- Added language clarifying potential limitations to Sponsor-chosen recordkeepers for Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") plans.
- Added language describing a program in which the client may participate in a Self-Directed Brokerage Account as part of their employer-sponsored retirement plan.
- Added language clarifying an instance in which AEWM may be unable to convert a mutual fund share class to the lowest cost share class when there are limitations to share class eligibility, custodian restrictions, or additional fees/taxes that the conversion would trigger.

## <u>Item 6 – Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation</u>

 Added or amended language describing the different risks of loss for "Cryptocurrency," "Liquidity Risk," "Options Risk," "Private Investments Risk," "Securities Lending," and "Structured Notes Risk."

## Item 3 – Table of Contents

## **Table of Contents**

Item 2 – Material Changes	2
Item 3 – Table of Contents	3
Item 4 – Services, Fees, and Compensation	5
General Description of Our Firm	
Description of Advisory Services	5
Model Portfolio Solutions	
Direct Asset Management Services	6
Third-Party Advisor Program	6
Fees and Compensation for Asset Management Services	8
Treatment of Mutual Fund Share Classes	10
Treatment of No Transaction Fee Securities	11
Best Interest and Investment Strategy	11
Brokerage Recommendations	12
Charles Schwab	12
Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services	13
Directed Brokerage	14
Soft Dollar Benefits	14
Training Assistance Received from Service Providers	14
Block Trading Policy	15
Additional Compensation, Economic, and Non-Economic Benefits	15
Item 5 – Account Requirements and Types of Clients	
Minimum Account Size	15
Types of Accounts	15
Item 6 - Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation	16
General Description of Other Advisory Services	17
Financial Planning & Consulting Services	17
ERISA Retirement Plan Services	18
Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts	19
Disclosure Regarding Rollover Recommendations	19
Client-Directed Accounts	20
Tailor Advisory Services to Individual Needs of Clients	21
Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management	21
Methods of Analysis	21
Investment Strategies	23
Risk of Loss	24
Voting Client Securities	30
Item 7 - Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers	30
Item 8 - Client Contact with Portfolio Managers	
Item 9 - Additional Information	
Disciplinary Information	_

Registration of Management Persons with a Broker-Dealer	31
Related Broker-Dealers	31
Registered Representative of a Broker-Dealer	31
Related Investment Advisers	32
Related Insurance Marketing Organizations	32
Insurance Agents	33
Certified Public Accountants	
Code of Ethics Summary	33
Affiliate and Employee Personal Securities Transactions Disclosure	34
Account Reviews	34
Account Statements and Reports	34
Client Referrals and Other Compensation	
Strategic Sponsors Program	36
Financial Information	36

## Item 4 – Services, Fees, and Compensation

## General Description of Our Firm

AE Wealth Management, LLC ("AEWM") is an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Kansas. AEWM filed its initial application to become registered as an investment adviser on February 17, 2016.

The principal owners of AEWM are DDC Holdings, LLC, the Karlun M. Callanan 2016 Irrevocable Trust A, and Jennifer A. Foster 2016 Irrevocable Trust A. David Callanan and Cody Foster are the primary owners of DDC Holdings LLC. David Callanan is the trustee of the Karlun M. Callanan 2016 Irrevocable Trust A and Cody Foster is the trustee of the Jennifer A. Foster 2016 Irrevocable Trust A.

## **Description of Advisory Services**

The AEWM investment advisory services described in this disclosure brochure are provided to you through an appropriately licensed and qualified individual who is an investment adviser representative ("IAR"). Your IAR typically is not an employee of AEWM; rather, they are typically an independent contractor of AEWM. Your IAR is typically limited to providing services and charging asset management fees in accordance with the descriptions detailed in this brochure. Your IAR is generally allowed to set investment management fees within a range prescribed by AEWM. As a result, the rates actually charged by two different AEWM IARs may vary for similar services.

AEWM offers multiple types of advisory services designed to meet the unique needs of our clients. Below are descriptions of the primary advisory services we offer. A written investment advisory services agreement detailing the exact services we will provide to you and the fees you will be charged will be executed prior to the commencement of any services.

## Model Portfolio Solutions

AEWM offers model portfolio selection services, which allows us to exercise discretion to implement a specialized investment strategy that is managed either by AEWM, a third-party portfolio provider (individually, a "Strategist" and collectively "Strategists"), or a third-party investment manager (individually, a "Third-Party Manager" and collectively "Third-Party Managers"). Additionally, IARs that meet certain requirements are allowed to develop their own model portfolios (individually, an "Advisor Managed Model" and collectively "Advisor Managed Models") and offer them to clients or other independent advisers. These models are approved by the AEWM Chief Investment Officer prior to being available and are reviewed on a periodic basis. An IAR will assist you in completing a client profile questionnaire and review the information you provide. We will then select the model portfolio(s) that aligns with your disclosed financial circumstances, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. AEWM will exercise its discretionary authority to implement the selected model portfolio(s) and to trade your account based on information and/or signals provided by the manager(s) of the model portfolio(s). In some instances, we will recommend a Third-Party Manager that has discretionary authority for the day-to-day management of the assets allocated to it by AEWM or by you in separately managed accounts. The Third-Party Manager will directly trade the securities it selects for the account based on the applicable investment strategy. These managers also consider each client's investment objectives, financial situation, and/or reasonable restrictions placed on the investment of the client's assets when implementing the trades.

We will be available to answer questions that you may have regarding your account. We will have the ability to select the model portfolio(s) as well as the ability to reallocate funds from or to the model portfolio(s) and funds in other accounts over which you have granted us discretionary authority. There may be other model portfolios not recommended by our firm that are suitable for you and that may be less costly than models recommended by our firm. No guarantees can be made that your financial goals or objectives will be achieved through the Model Portfolio Solutions program or by a recommended/selected model portfolio. Further, no guarantees of performance can ever be offered by our firm. Please refer to sections Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss of *Item 6 – Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation* for more details.

## **Direct Asset Management Services**

When direct asset management services are utilized, AEWM, in coordination with your IAR, will individually select the securities held in your account on a discretionary basis. We will have the ability to buy or sell securities on your behalf without your prior permission for each transaction. Nevertheless, you will have the ability to impose restrictions on the management of your account, including the ability to instruct us not to purchase certain securities.

We will need to obtain certain information from you regarding your financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance so that we may manage your account according to those factors. As part of this process, an IAR will assist you in completing a client profile questionnaire and review the information you provide. You will be responsible for notifying us of any updates regarding your financial situation, investment objectives, or risk tolerance and whether you wish to impose or modify any existing investment restrictions.

The financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance for each client of AEWM is unique. As a result, advice to another client or actions taken for them or for our personal accounts can differ from the advice we provide to you or the actions we take for you. We are not obligated to buy, sell, or recommend to you any security or other investment that we may buy, sell, or recommend for any other clients or for our own accounts.

Conflicts can arise in the allocation of investment opportunities among accounts that we manage. We strive to allocate investment opportunities believed to be appropriate for your account(s) and other accounts advised by our firm among such accounts equitably and consistent with the best interests of all accounts involved. However, there can be no assurance that a particular investment opportunity that comes to our attention will be allocated in any particular manner. If we obtain material, non-public information about a security or its issuer, we may not lawfully use or disclose this information. We will also not allow our clients to use this information.

## Third-Party Advisor Program

AEWM also provides services to other registered investment advisory firms (each, a "Third-Party Registered Investment Adviser" or "TPRIA") as a sub-adviser pursuant to a written agreement under our Third-Party Registered Investment Adviser Program ("TPRIA Program"). TPRIA Program accounts are not managed by AEWM. Rather, TPRIA Program accounts are managed by one or more third-party investment advisers with which you have a discretionary investment advisory services agreement.

AEWM does not provide oversight or supervision of the TPRIA and the TPRIA is solely responsible for complying with all federal and state rules and regulations. If you are an investment advisory client of a

TPRIA "(TPRIA Program Client") based on a written investment advisory services agreement between you and your TPRIA, you will typically complete a form or otherwise provide information to your TPRIA to enable the identification of your financial situation, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. You will typically provide information to your TPRIA regarding your investment experience, anticipated need for liquidity, potential timing of the need for retirement funds, and other investment needs and parameters. This information will assist you and your TPRIA in selecting which risk and/or return strategy or strategies is/are most closely aligned with your investment goals. For example, you and your TPRIA may choose to invest in one or more model portfolios or other investment products managed by your TPRIA, AEWM, or other Third-Party Managers or Strategists. As part of the TPRIA Program, AEWM provides related administrative services including, but not limited to, account opening, fund transfers, and securities trading as directed by the TPRIA; access to services that facilitate the management and administration of model portfolios offered by a Third-Party Manager; access to various financial planning, account monitoring and reporting tools; and conducting client billing/fee deduction on the TPRIA's behalf.

Your TPRIA remains responsible for providing advice, monitoring your selected strategy, and recommending any changes to you throughout the duration of your relationship. AEWM's responsibility is to implement the strategy chosen by you and your TPRIA. AEWM does not advise you about potential changes to your strategy.

In these cases, AEWM does not make investment decisions on behalf of these accounts but may provide a portfolio or strategy that your TPRIA may use to invest your accounts. Your TPRIA is solely responsible for their investment advisory relationship with you in accordance with your investment advisory services agreement and your TPRIA's disclosure documents. Your TPRIA is responsible for ensuring that it complies with all applicable statutes, regulations, and rules. Furthermore, your TPRIA is solely responsible for assessing whether any instructions provided to AEWM regarding the selection of a model portfolio or strategy administered by or through AEWM, the purchase of a security, or the sale of a security meet the appropriate standards.

In our role as a sub-adviser, AEWM will not provide you with individualized investment advice or recommendations or review any advice or recommendation made to you by your TPRIA. AEWM does not review your financial situation, risk tolerance, or investment objective information when implementing a strategy you and your TPRIA have selected.

Your TPRIA may provide additional or other services to you which are not described in this brochure. You should read and review your TPRIA's investment advisory services agreement and your TPRIA's ADV Part 2A Brochure(s) for information regarding services provided by your TPRIA.

Products available to TPRIAs through AEWM require discretionary authority to trade securities, cash, or other investment vehicles. These products include, and are not limited to, model portfolios managed by AEWM or by a Third-Party Manager or Strategist and administered by AEWM. If you are a client of a TPRIA and you have instructed your TPRIA to invest in one of these products, your TPRIA must have discretionary authority to conduct these transactions. In addition, your TPRIA must have discretionary authority sufficient to carry out transactions required to administer your account in accordance with your agreement with the TPRIA. These transactions include, but are not limited to, fee billing, trade correction, and other general account maintenance. Your TPRIA must delegate this authority to AEWM such that we can administer your account in accordance with its agreement with your TPRIA. Otherwise, we will execute trades on your account only upon instructions provided by your TPRIA.

From time to time, the Third-Party Manager or Strategist of a model portfolio may add, remove, or change the composition and relative allocation of the individual securities or other investment vehicles within a model portfolio to maintain consistency with the stated discipline or strategy for the model portfolio (a "Rebalancing Event"). Rebalancing Events generally require the trading of such securities or other investment vehicles for all accounts invested in the model portfolio and do not constitute individual investment advice or a recommendation to you. AEWM will utilize discretion, as described above, to administer a Rebalancing Event.

## Fees and Compensation for Asset Management Services

Fees for services provided through our wrap fee program are charged based on a percentage of assets under management, billed in arrears (at the end of the billing period) on a monthly calendar basis and calculated based on the average daily balance of the account for the current billing period. Fees are prorated (based on the number of days service is provided during the initial billing period) for your account opened at any time other than the beginning of the billing period. Under the average daily balance method, each day's balance for the month is summed then divided by the number of days in the month, to compute the average daily balance. The average daily balance is then multiplied by the monthly portion of the annual fee to determine the monthly fee due. Cash placed in a model will be included in the billing; non-modelized cash will not. The services under this program continue in effect until terminated by either party by providing written notice of termination to the other party. Any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded by AEWM to you.

Fees for investment management services are negotiable by your IAR based upon the type of client, the complexity of the client's situation, the composition of the client's account (i.e., equities versus mutual funds), the potential for additional account deposits, the relationship of the client with the IAR, the total amount of assets under management for the client, and the portfolio(s) chosen. AEWM may offer and make available an advisory fee discount for IARs, employees of IARs, employees of AEWM, and employees of Advisors Excel when accounts are managed by AEWM. Advisors Excel, an insurance marketing organization under common control and ownership with AEWM, is further described in the Related Insurance Marketing Organizations section of *Item 9 - Additional Information*.

Based upon the above negotiability factors, your IAR is allowed to set the fee for investment advisory services up to a maximum amount of 2.5% annually. The fee charged to each client includes a portion attributable to AEWM and a portion attributable to the manager of the selected model portfolio (if applicable). Typically, the Strategist's fee will range from 0.00% to 0.75% annually. A typical distribution for an annual fee of 1.75% would include an allocation of 1.35% to AEWM (including the asset based custodial fee), and an allocation of 0.01% to 0.50% to the manager of the selected model portfolio (Strategist). The proceeding is for illustrative purposes only. The actual annual fee charged by AEWM will be specified in your investment advisory services agreement. When your IAR manages their own model portfolios, a portion of your investment advisory fee is not allocated to a Strategist. However, AEWM does not require your IAR to lower your overall fee in such circumstances. As a result, your IAR is incentivized to select model portfolios that they manage in lieu of model portfolios managed by Third-Party Managers or Strategists. We address this conflict of interest by disclosing it to you in this brochure and requiring IARs to make investment recommendations that are in each client's best interest. The rationale for not requiring your IAR to lower your fees is that your IAR incurs expenses related to the management of these Advisor Managed Models.

Additionally, your IAR has an incentive to use certain models when using AEWM Direct Indexing

products since AEWM waives account fees charged to the IAR for accounts exclusively using those models in their benchmarking. These fee waivers are not available when choosing AE Direct Flex with Tax Harvesting, one of the AEWM Direct Indexing products. AEWM does not require your IAR to lower your overall fee in such circumstances.

AEWM believes that its annual fee is reasonable in relation to services provided and the fees charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. However, our annual fee may be higher than that charged by other investment advisers offering similar services/programs. In addition to our compensation, you may also incur charges imposed at the mutual fund level (e.g., advisory fees and other fund expenses).

In most circumstances, investment advisory fees will be deducted from your account and paid directly to our firm by the qualified custodian(s) of your account. You must authorize the qualified custodian(s) of your account to deduct fees from your account and pay such fees directly to AEWM. If more convenient for you, you have the authority to require that AEWM charge your IAR's investment advisory fees to a single, designated account. However, keep in mind that your custodian will rely on AEWM's instructions to charge the designated account and will have no responsibility to confirm those instructions with you or verify the amount or timing of investment advisory fees charged to the designated account. Additionally, collecting a fee for a taxable account out of a non-taxable account typically constitutes a taxable event and may be subject to a penalty. Please consult with a tax advisor in the event you wish to charge all fees to a single advisory account.

You should review your account statements received from the qualified custodian(s) and verify that appropriate investment advisory fees are being deducted. The qualified custodian(s) will not verify the accuracy of the investment advisory fees deducted. AEWM has discretion to bill you for fees incurred instead of deducting the fees from your account.

Either AEWM or you may terminate the investment advisory services agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. If services are terminated at any time other than the last business day of the month, fees for the final billing period will be determined on a pro rata basis using the number of days services are actually provided during the final period. 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 a client's death or disability, AEWM will continue management of the account until we are notified of the client's death or disability, at which point we will then freeze the account until we have received the appropriate documentation to update the account or transfer it to the client's beneficiaries. If at some point the account is again in good order, we will resume management.

If you are an investment advisory client of AEWM, asset management services are only offered through a wrap fee program. Therefore, you will generally only pay fees based on assets under management and, in most circumstances, you will not pay a separate commission, ticket charge, or custodial fee for the execution of transactions in your account. If there is a low number of trades/transactions in your account(s) that is managed by AEWM, it is likely that the wrap fee will accrue more expenses than an account that is charged on a transactional basis.

If you are a TPRIA Program Client, your TPRIA will determine whether its services are provided on a wrap fee or non-wrap fee basis. If services are provided on a non-wrap fee basis, you will pay separate commissions, ticket charges, and custodian fees for the execution of transactions in your account, in addition to your investment advisory fee. A portion of your investment advisory fee is paid to AEWM as

compensation for AEWM's TPRIA Program services. For more information about your TPRIA's investment advisory fee, please review your TPRIA investment advisory services agreement.

In addition to the fees described above, you may incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than AEWM in connection with investments made through your account. These fees include, but are not limited to, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund (e.g. 12b-1 trails), index fund, or exchange-traded fund which shall be disclosed on the fund's prospectus, mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, surrender charges, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, regulatory fees assessed by the SEC and/or FINRA, fees (such as a commission or markup) for trades executed away from our custodians at another broker-dealer, wire transfer fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. The markups and markdowns, bid-ask spreads, and selling concessions are related to your custodian acting as a principal. Principal transactions contrast with transactions in which the custodian acts as your agent in affecting trades. Markups and markdowns and bid-ask spreads are not separate fees but are reflected in the net price at which a trade order is executed. You will also pay costs imposed by third parties, such as transfer taxes, odd-lot differentials, certificate delivery fees, reorganization fees, and any other fees required by law. AEWM management fees are separate and distinct from fees and expenses charged by investment company securities recommended to you. A description of these fees and expenses is available in each investment company security's prospectus. Additionally, you can find more information on these fees on our custodian's websites. For fee information for Fidelity, click <u>here</u>. For fee information for Schwab, click <u>here</u>.

Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

## **Treatment of Mutual Fund Share Classes**

Mutual funds often offer multiple share classes with differing internal fee and expense structures. AEWM endeavors to identify and utilize the share class with the lowest internal fee and expense structure for each mutual fund. However, instances occur in which the lowest cost share class is not used. These instances include but are not limited to:

- Instances in which a certain custodian has a share class available that has a lower internal fee and expense structure than is available for the same mutual fund at other custodians: In such instances, AEWM will select the lowest cost share class available at the custodian that holds your account even though a lower cost share class is available at another custodian.
- Instances in which the custodian that holds your account offers others a share class with a lower internal fee and expense structure than what is available to AEWM at the same custodian: In such instances, AEWM will select the lowest cost share class that the custodian makes available. This situation sometimes occurs because the custodian places conditions on the availability of the lower cost share class that AEWM has determined are not appropriate to accept due to additional costs imposed by said conditions.
- Instances in which a share class with a lower internal fee and expense structure becomes available after the share class you hold was purchased: AEWM periodically monitors for this circumstance. However, a share class with a lower internal fee may become available between the time of your purchase and AEWM's next review. If during that review AEWM determines a lower share class is available, we request the custodian convert the mutual fund share to the lower class.
- Instances in which a share class with a lower internal fee and expense structure than the share

class you currently hold is available at your custodian, but there are limitations as it relates to share class eligibility, custodian restrictions, or additional fees/taxes that the conversion would trigger:: AEWM cannot convert to a share class with a lower internal fee and expense structure if the account is ineligible (e.g., the fund company only allows certain types of registration types to use the share class or the account doesn't meet the investment minimum for the share class) or if the fund company won't accept a conversion if the share amount is too small. AEWM also cannot convert to a lower internal fee and expense structure if the custodian will not allow it (e.g., custodial restrictions). Also, AEWM does not convert to a share class with a lower internal fee and expense structure if the conversion will cause a taxable event or other expense/cost to you that negates the advantage of the lower cost share class.

- Instances in which a Strategist selects a share class for inclusion in a model that is not the lowest cost share class available: Whenever possible, AEWM works with Strategists to ensure they are selecting the lowest cost share class available for inclusion in their model portfolios. However, certain Strategists make their investment selections without any input from AEWM. In such cases, AEWM implements the models as directed by the Strategist and does not screen for the lowest mutual fund share class available.
- <u>Instances in which you are a TPRIA Program Client</u>: In such circumstances, AEWM implements the mutual fund selection instructions provided by your TPRIA and does not screen for the lowest mutual fund share class available.
- <u>Instances in which you make your own investment selections in a Client-Directed Account</u>: In such circumstances, AEWM does not screen for the lowest mutual fund share class available.

## **Treatment of No Transaction Fee Securities**

Certain securities qualify for no transaction fee pricing (i.e., \$0.00 commissions) with our custodians. If you receive services on a wrap fee basis and participate in transactions that qualify for no transaction fee pricing, please know that AEWM does not require your IAR to lower their fee. AEWM may receive favorable pricing on specific securities offered at our custodians for the trading of ETFs and individual equities. For services you receive through our wrap fee programs, we may compensate the custodian(s) for their custodial services with a portion of the fee that we charge you. Depending on the products you hold in your account. AEWM sometimes does not incur custodial service fees from the custodian. In the event AEWM does not incur custodial fees, no additional discounts are applied to the fees you pay AEWM. Additionally, an investment in a no transaction fee mutual fund does not necessarily mean that the investment is in that mutual fund's lowest share class, nor will it necessarily be the lowest cost option when comparing funds and classes.

## Best Interest and Investment Strategy

Our investment advice is based on your financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance. IARs will assist clients in determining their objective(s), investment strategy, and investment suitability, prior and subsequent to opening an asset management account. Accordingly, we will need to obtain certain information from you to determine your financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance. As part of this process, we will assist you in completing a detailed client profile questionnaire and review the information you provide. You will be responsible for notifying us of any updates regarding your financial situation, investment objectives, or risk tolerance, and whether you wish to impose or modify any existing investment restrictions.

The financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance for each client of AEWM is unique. As

a result, we may give advice to another client or take actions for them or for our personal accounts that is different from the advice we provide to you or actions taken for you. We are not obligated to recommend to you (or select for you if discretionary authority is granted by you) a Strategist and corresponding model portfolio that we are recommending/selecting for other clients or our personal accounts.

## **Brokerage Recommendations**

To utilize our asset management services, AEWM will require that you establish or maintain a brokerage account with Charles Schwab ("Schwab") through their Institutional Platforms or with Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services and/or its affiliate, National Financial Services, LLC (collectively "Fidelity"). Schwab and Fidelity are members of FINRA/SIPC/NFA. Schwab and Fidelity are independent and unaffiliated registered broker-dealers, will act solely in their broker-dealer capacity and not as an investment adviser to you, and are chosen by AEWM to maintain custody of clients' assets and to affect trades for their accounts. Schwab and Fidelity have no discretion over your account and will act solely on instructions it receives from AEWM.

The primary factor in suggesting a broker-dealer or custodian is that the services of the recommended firm are provided in a cost-effective manner. While quality of execution at the best price is an important determinant, best execution does not necessarily mean lowest price and it is not the sole consideration. The trading process of any broker-dealer and Third-Party Manager chosen or suggested by AEWM must be efficient, seamless, and straight-forward. Overall custodial support services, trade correction services, and statement preparation are some of the other factors determined when suggesting a broker-dealer.

## Charles Schwab

Charles Schwab provides us with access to their institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to retail investors. We compensate Schwab for their custodial services with a portion of the fee that we charge you. Schwab offers certain securities, including specified equities, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, on a no-transaction-fee basis. To the extent purchases/sells of securities in your account qualify for no-transaction fee pricing, Schwab reduces the fee assessed to AEWM for custodial services. However, AEWM does not lower the investment advisory fee charged to you in a corresponding manner.

Services that we receive from Schwab include, but are not necessarily limited to: receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk; access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; the ability to have investment advisory fees deducted directly from client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; and access to mutual funds that generally require significantly higher minimum initial investments or are generally only available to institutional investors.

Schwab also makes available to us (or offsets the cost of) other products and services that benefit our firm but have no impact on clients' accounts. Some of these other products and services assist us in managing and administering clients' accounts. These include software and other technology that:

• Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmation and account statements).

- Provide research, pricing information, and other market data.
- Facilitate payment of the firm's fees from its clients' accounts.
- Assist with back-office functions, record keeping, and client reporting.

Many of these services generally may be used to service all or a substantial number of our accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. Schwab is also providing other services intended to help our firm manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services may include:

- Educational conference and events.
- · Consulting on technology and business needs.
- Publications and conferences on practice management.
- Information technology.
- Business succession.
- Regulatory compliance.
- Marketing consulting and support.

These additional benefits are provided at no cost to AEWM or the client. As a fiduciary, we endeavor to act in your best interest. Our recommendation that you maintain your assets in accounts at Schwab will be based in part on the benefit to us in the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Schwab. This creates a conflict of interest.

The President of AEWM serves on the Schwab Institutional Advisor Panel ("Panel"). The Panel consists of a number of independent investment advisers who inform and provide feedback to Charles Schwab Institutional ("CSI") on issues relevant to the independent adviser community. The President has been appointed to serve on the Panel for a three-year term by CSI. Charles Schwab does not compensate the President for serving on the Panel, but CSI pays or reimburses the President for travel, lodging, and meal expenses the President incurs in attending in person Panel meetings. The potential benefits received by the President or its personnel by serving on the Panel do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to CSI.

## Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services

Fidelity provides us with access to their institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to retail investors. The services from Fidelity include brokerage, custody, research, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

We compensate Fidelity for its custodial services with a portion of the fee that we charge you. Fidelity offers certain securities, including specified equities, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, on a -o transaction-fee basis. To the extent purchases/sells of securities in your account qualify for notransaction fee pricing, Fidelity reduces the fee assessed to AEWM for custodial services. However, AEWM does not lower the investment advisory fee charged to you in a corresponding manner.

Fidelity also makes available other products and services that benefit us but may not benefit our clients' accounts. Some of these other products and services assist us in managing and administering client accounts. These include software and other technology that:

- Provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmation and account statements).
- Facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts).
- Provide research, pricing information, and other market data.
- Facilitate payment of our fees from client accounts.
- Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting.

Many of these services generally may be used to service all, or a substantial number, of our accounts, including accounts not maintained at Fidelity. Fidelity also makes available other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business. These services may include:

- Educational conference and events.
- Consulting, publications and conferences on practice management.
- Information technology.
- Business succession and transition assistance.
- Regulatory compliance.
- Marketing consulting and support.
- Assistance with client paperwork and other items related to transitions to AEWM.

In addition, Fidelity may make available, arrange and/or pay for these types of services rendered to us by independent or related third parties. These additional benefits are provided at no cost to AEWM or the client. As a fiduciary, we endeavor to act in your best interest. Our recommendation that you maintain your assets in accounts at Fidelity will be based in part on the benefit to us in the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Fidelity. This creates a conflict of interest.

## **Directed Brokerage**

Clients should understand that not all IARs require the use of a particular broker-dealer or custodian. Some IARs allow their clients to select whichever broker-dealer the client decides. By requiring clients to use a particular broker-dealer, AEWM may not achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions and the practice requiring the use of specific broker-dealers may cost clients more money than if the client used a different broker-dealer or custodian. However, for compliance and operational efficiencies, AEWM has decided to require our clients to use broker-dealers and other qualified custodians chosen by AEWM.

## Soft Dollar Benefits

Except as described above, AEWM does not receive "soft dollar" benefits, which are research products or services in exchange for commissions generated by transactions in client accounts.

## Training Assistance Received from Service Providers

AEWM receives payments from certain service providers to partially offset the costs of providing training events related to investment products, investment management, and compliance topics for IARs associated with AEWM. Such service providers include (but are not limited to) custodians, such as Schwab and Fidelity, as well as mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, and unit investment trust providers, such as Wisdom Tree and First Trust. Investment products offered by such mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, and unit investment trust providers may be directly recommended or included in model

portfolios recommended to clients of AEWM.

## **Block Trading Policy**

With respect to our asset management services, we may elect to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. This process is referred to as aggregating orders, batch trading, or block trading and is used by our firm when AEWM believes such action may prove advantageous to clients. If and when we aggregate client orders, allocating securities among client accounts is done on a fair and equitable basis. Typically, the process of aggregating client orders is done in order to achieve better execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate orders among clients on a more equitable basis in order to avoid differences in prices and transaction fees or other transaction costs that might be obtained when orders are placed independently.

AEWM uses the average price allocation method for transaction allocation. Under this procedure, AEWM will calculate the average price and transaction charges for each transaction included in a block order and assign the average price and transaction charge to each allocated transaction executed for the client's account.

## Additional Compensation. Economic, and Non-Economic Benefits

Our IARs can sell securities in their separate capacities as registered representatives of a broker-dealer, if appropriately registered. In addition, they may sell insurance products in their capacities as independent insurance agents for sales commissions, if appropriately licensed. Please refer to *Item 9 – Additional Information* to read more about our ability to offer strictly commission-based services through broker-dealers and our insurance activities.

When managing accounts through programs outlined in this disclosure brochure, some of the advice offered by our IARs may involve investments in mutual fund products. Load and no-load mutual funds may pay annual distribution charges sometimes referred to as 12b-1 fees. However, AEWM and our IARs, when holding mutual funds in our Direct Asset Management Services Program or Model Portfolio Solutions program, generally do not receive any portion of the 12b-1 fees paid. Additionally, neither AEWM nor your IAR receive other compensation, such as commissions, loads, and trails in these transactions.

You are never obligated to the broker-dealer(s) affiliated with our IARs and you are never obligated to purchase investment products through our investment advisor representatives. You have the option to purchase investment products through other brokers or advisers that are not affiliated with AEWM.

## *Item 5 – Account Requirements and Types of Clients*

## **Minimum Account Size**

AEWM's guidelines typically require a minimum of \$10,000 to open an account. Exceptions may be granted to this minimum if approved by both your IAR and AEWM.

## **Types of Accounts**

AEWM generally provides investment advice to the following types of clients:

Individuals

- High net worth individuals
- Retirement and profit-sharing plans
- Trusts, estates, or charitable organizations
- Corporations and business entities

You are required to execute a written investment advisory services agreement with AEWM in order to establish a client arrangement with AEWM.

The TPRIA Program is offered exclusively through TPRIAs, and as such, AEWM accepts any Client for whom the TPRIA deems the TPRIA Program appropriate.

As of February 29, 2024, we have regulatory assets under management in the amount of \$27,082,623,331.97 which we manage on a discretionary basis. We currently do not manage any client assets on a non-discretionary basis. Additionally, we have \$1,529,652,927.47 in assets under administration. While we provide administrative services regarding these assets under administration, we are not currently providing continuous investment management services to these assets. Accordingly, we have total platform assets of \$28,612,276,259.44.

## Item 6 – Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation

AEWM reviews each third-party portfolio manager (individually, a "Strategist" and collectively "Strategists") before selecting them to be included in our program. We also conduct periodic reviews to ensure that the Strategist is still suitable for our programs. We call these processes "due diligence." In order to assist us in conducting our due diligence and selection of both Strategists and specific Model Portfolios, we may utilize the services of a third-party diligence provider. If a third-party diligence provider is used, our Chief Investment Officer conducts periodic diligence on the provider. Each Strategist is evaluated based on information provided by the Strategist including descriptions of its investment process, asset allocation strategies employed, sample portfolios to review securities selections, and the Strategist's Form ADV Part 2A Disclosure Brochure (if applicable).

We often request, but do not require, that Strategists adhere to GIPS/CFA Institute standards, and every attempt is made to obtain performance information that is calculated on a uniform and consistent basis. Certain Strategists may provide information that does not entirely conform to these requirements. In most cases, performance data approved for client viewing will have been calculated based on a uniform and consistent standard. In the rare instance where this is not possible, the affected performance data should clearly indicate by specific disclosure that it was not calculated based on the uniform standard.

Each Strategist recommended by AEWM is screened and selected using a number of criteria, including but not limited to:

- Compelling business/investment reason to add Strategist or particular investment strategy.
- Consistent, repeatable investment process of Strategist.
- Consistent performance compared to peers or appropriate benchmark.
- Stable firm and investment team.

Factors that determine the change of a Strategist may include the following:

- Performance.
- Change of ownership.

- Strategic or tactical change away from a particular sector or asset class.
- Costs.

We rely on information obtained from the following sources when researching each Strategist:

- Strategist's Form ADV and accompanying documents.
- Strategist's website and other publicly available information.
- SEC website.
- Third-Party due diligence information (if applicable).

Additionally, IARs that meet certain requirements are allowed to develop Advisor Managed Models and offer them to clients or other independent advisers. These models are approved by the AEWM Chief Investment Officer prior to being available and are reviewed on a periodic basis.

## General Description of Other Advisory Services

The following are descriptions of the other primary advisory services of AEWM. For additional details, please refer to our Form ADV Part 2A disclosure brochure. Please understand that a written investment advisory services agreement, which details the exact terms of the service, must be signed by you and AEWM before we can provide you with the services described below.

## Financial Planning & Consulting Services

AEWM offers financial planning services, which involves preparing a written financial plan that can cover specific or multiple topics. We provide full, written financial plans, which typically address one or more of the following topics: investment planning, retirement planning, insurance planning, tax planning, education planning, portfolio review, and asset allocation. However, our tax planning services are not a substitute for working with a Certified Public Accountant (individually, a "CPA" and collectively "CPAs"). When providing financial planning and consulting services, the role of your IAR is to find ways to help you understand your overall financial situation and help you set financial objectives. Your IAR will rely on information provided by you. Therefore, issues and information not provided will not be taken into consideration when your IAR develops their analysis and recommendations under a written financial plan.

We also offer consultations to discuss financial planning issues when you do not need a written financial plan. We offer a one-time consultation, which covers mutually agreed upon areas of concern related to investments or financial planning. We also offer "as-needed" consultations, which are limited to consultations in response to a particular investment or financial planning issue raised or request made by you. Under an "as-needed" consultation, it will be incumbent upon you to identify those particular issues for which you are seeking our advice or consultation on.

Our financial planning and consulting services do not involve implementing any transaction on your behalf or the active and ongoing monitoring or management of your investments or accounts. You have the sole responsibility for determining whether to implement our financial planning and consulting recommendations. To the extent that you would like to implement any of our investment recommendations through AEWM or retain us to actively monitor and manage your investments, you must execute a separate written investment advisory services agreement with AEWM.

# ERISA Retirement Plan Services

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") is the law governing the operation of employee benefit plans. AEWM provides investment advisory and consulting services to Plan Sponsors of ERISA plans under Sections 3(21) and 3(38) of ERISA ("3(21) Service" and "3(38) Service," respectively, collectively the "Services"). When providing services to a Plan Sponsor, the Plan Sponsor is the client. We provide services only to the Plan Sponsor or to the Plan Sponsor with respect to the Plan Sponsor's responsibilities to the Plan and not, as part of these services, to any Plan Participant(s). Services provided to Plan Sponsors will be outlined in a separate written agreement between AEWM and the Plan Sponsor.

Under the 3(21) Service, AEWM acknowledges that, to the extent the services to a Plan, subject to ERISA, constitute "investment advice" to the Plan for compensation, AEWM will be deemed a "fiduciary" as such term is defined under Section 3(21)(A)(ii). AEWM provides ongoing investment monitoring and investment recommendation services or other agreed upon services in the agreement with the Plan Sponsor. Accordingly, we acknowledge our fiduciary status only with respect to the provision of services described in the agreement. Under the 3(21) Service, AEWM does not have investment discretion and does not have the power to manage, acquire, or dispose of any plan assets and is not an "investment manager" as defined in Section 3(38) of ERISA. Additionally, the Plan Sponsor retains ultimate decision-making authority for the investments and may accept or reject the recommendations of AEWM under this service.

Under the 3(38) Service, the AEWM Investment Department selects a diverse line-up of investment options across a range of asset classes to be offered to Plan Participants in accordance with Section 3(38) of ERISA. The AEWM Investment Department provides asset allocation risk-based model portfolios for the Plan. The AEWM Investment Department will manage the model portfolio development, construction, and maintenance, and make updates as needed. Under the 3(38) Service, AEWM's IARs may provide general enrollment and investment education to Plan Participants, but do not provide specific individualized investment advice within the meaning of ERISA to Plan Participants with respect to their Plan assets. Additionally, AEWM offers the 3(38) Service to Plan Sponsors as a standalone service.

In accordance with Section 3(38) of ERISA, AEWM has discretion to choose a "Qualified Default Investment Alternative" ("QDIA"). A QDIA is a default investment option chosen by a plan fiduciary for Plan Participants who fail to make an election regarding investment of their account balances. Unless unavailable with the recordkeeper, AEWM will utilize target-date asset allocation investment options for the 3(38) Services QDIA. Under the 3(21) Services, AEWM may recommend, but does not choose, a QDIA to the Plan Sponsor.

Under either Service, AEWM may assist the Plan Sponsor with Plan Participant enrollment and Plan education. If the services selected by the Plan Sponsor include enrollment and investment education to Plan Participants, the services do not include any individualized investment advice within the meaning of ERISA to Plan Participants with respect to their Plan assets. AEWM does not select the recordkeeper, but merely recommends the funds or investment vehicles offered by, or available through, the recordkeeper selected by the Plan Sponsor. The Sponsor-chosen recordkeeper may require that their proprietary funds be used for certain asset categories. It may limit the fund choices for plans of certain sizes. And it may not credit the plan for certain fees that it receives from third parties. If you have questions about this, please contact your Plan Sponsor and/or the Plan Recordkeeper. Additionally, as

it pertains to these Services, AEWM does not offer qualified tax or legal advice. AEWM does not hold itself out as a tax advisor and does not provide such services, therefore AEWM recommends consulting with a tax advisor if you have tax-related questions.

# Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts

Your employer may offer you the opportunity to participate in a "Self-Directed Brokerage Account" ("SDBA") as part of your employer-sponsored retirement plan. This SDBA would be an account separate from your plan account as originated under the employer-sponsored plan. The term "self-directed" usually indicates that you as a Participant makes the investment decisions for the account. Often these SDBAs provide you the opportunity to access mutual funds and other investment options beyond the standard investment options offered through your employer-sponsored retirement plan, so long as the investments are within the guidelines of the employer/Sponsor. This type of account requires a more "hands-on approach" because it is the responsibility of the Participant to actively manage this portion of the portfolio. However, the Participant also has the authority to designate an agent/IAR to have limited trading authority over the assets in the Account. An agent's trading authority is also limited to the guidelines set by the employer who sponsors the plan. As with any type of investment, there are risks related to directing your own brokerage account. Please pay careful attention to any disclosures you receive or agreements you enter into with respect to your responsibilities and risks in managing your SDBA. For these Accounts, AEWM conducts supervisory reviews and oversight on AEWM-registered IAR transactions and recommendations, only. Please also be advised that your employer and/or Plan Sponsor may charge you additional fees and/or transaction charges to participate in this program. If you have questions regarding the fees you will be charged, please contact your employer or your Plan Sponsor.

#### Disclosure Regarding Rollover Recommendations

When a client or prospect leaves an employer, they typically have five options regarding their existing retirement plan: (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) rollover to a brokerage (self-directed) Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"); (iv) roll over the assets to an advisory IRA; or (v) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). Clients contemplating rolling over retirement funds to an IRA for AEWM to manage are encouraged to first speak with their CPA or tax attorney.

There is a financial incentive for your IAR to recommend that you roll over your assets into one or more accounts, because the enrollment will generate compensation based on the increase in your IAR's total assets under management. We address these financial compensation conflicts by including the disclosure of the conflicts in this brochure and by requiring your IAR to recommend investment advisory programs, investment securities, and services that are in the best interest of each client based upon the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, financial situation, and cost, among other factors. As fiduciaries of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way AEWM makes money creates some conflicts with your interests. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Furthermore, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an account managed by us.

# **Client-Directed Accounts**

As an administrative convenience to you, you may designate one or more accounts to hold investment products that you desire not to be managed by AEWM but be visible to AEWM for reporting purposes ("Client-Directed Account"). To open a Client-Directed Account, you must have an online trading account with the Custodian and direct your IAR to establish the account as a Client-Directed Account.

AEWM's services related to the Client-Directed Account are limited to including investment products in reporting provided to you by AEWM or the Custodian and processing account maintenance requests such as, but not limited to, money movement requests, address changes, and systematic distributions, at your direction, with the custodian. AEWM will not make recommendations, direct trades, or utilize investment discretion on the Client-Directed Account. You shall provide all trade requests directly to the Custodian subject to the terms of your agreement with the Custodian. You are solely responsible for monitoring and directing trades in the Client-Directed Account, including, but not limited to, the choice of mutual fund share class and the fees associated with such share class choice. Client-Directed Accounts are not subject to the supervision, management, or oversight practices AEWM provides in relation to its managed accounts as otherwise set forth in AEWM's disclosure documents.

AEWM neither manages nor advises on Client-Directed Accounts. The investment products available to a Client-Directed Account are limited to those made available by AEWM for non-managed accounts. Certain investment products are only available in AEWM-managed accounts and are not available in a Client-Directed Account. As a result, if, for example, you own mutual funds in a Client-Directed Account, you may pay more for those mutual funds than you would if the funds were held in an AEWM-managed account.

Your accounts with the Custodian, including the Client-Directed Account, are cash trading accounts. Cash trading accounts are subject to certain laws, rules, and regulations that generally require that the account has sufficient cash available to pay for any trade on the settlement date. Failure to have sufficient cash in the account on the settlement date can result in one or more of the following violations: a good faith violation, a freeriding violation, and/or a cash liquidation violation. Such violations in any of your accounts, including the Client-Directed Account, could result in temporary or long-term trading restrictions on all of your accounts, including your accounts managed by AEWM. Other situations can also result in trading or account restrictions being placed on your accounts, including but not limited to potential fraud, violation of anti-money laundering rules or regulations or OFAC sanction control laws, or an incorrect mailing address on file for you.

The existence of any trading restriction on any of your accounts will render both you and AEWM unable to trade any of your accounts. As such, AEWM will be unable to initiate trades or conduct other activities that may be required to manage your managed accounts according to your advisory plan and/or instructions. If this occurs, your managed accounts may be converted to non-managed.

Because the Client-Directed Account is not managed by AEWM, you will be solely responsible for the consequences of any violation and for remediating any violation if remediation is available. AEWM does not assume any obligation to notify you of a violation or trading restriction caused by you, or to execute any transaction in the Client-Directed Account to remediate a violation or restriction. However, AEWM may, under certain circumstances, undertake to remediate a violation or restriction subject to a separate written agreement between you and AEWM.

You will not pay asset-based investment advisory fees for Client-Directed Accounts. You will pay an

annual administrative fee, paid in monthly installments, as set forth in the Fee Schedule. This annual administrative fee is independent from transactional fees initiated by the Custodian. Transactions directed by you in the Client-Directed Account may be subject to transaction and/or other fees in accordance with your agreement with the Custodian.

# Tailor Advisory Services to Individual Needs of Clients

AEWM's asset management services are always provided based on your individual needs. IARs will assist clients in determining their objective(s), investment strategy, and investment suitability prior and subsequent to opening an asset management account. Accordingly, we will need to obtain certain information from you to determine your financial situation, investment objectives, and risk tolerance. As part of this process, your IAR will assist you in completing a detailed client profile questionnaire and review the information you provide. When we provide asset management services, you are given the ability to impose restrictions on the accounts we manage for you, including specific investment selections and sectors. You will be responsible for notifying us of any updates regarding your financial situation, investment objectives, or risk tolerance and whether you wish to impose or modify any existing investment restrictions.

We will not enter into an investment adviser relationship with a prospective client whose investment objectives may be considered incompatible with our investment philosophy or strategies or where the prospective client seeks to impose unduly restrictive investment guidelines.

### Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

Performance-based fees are defined as fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets held in a client's account. AEWM does not have a performance-based fees program and does not permit performance-based fees to be charged.

### Methods of Analysis

AEWM uses the following methods of analysis in formulating investment advice:

<u>Cyclical</u> – The Cyclical Method analyzes investments which are sensitive to business cycles and whose performance is strongly tied to the overall economy. For example, cyclical companies tend to make products or provide services that are in lower demand during downturns in the economy and in higher demand during upswings. Examples include the automobile, steel, and housing industries. The stock price of a cyclical company will often rise just before an economic upturn begins and fall just before a downturn begins. Investors in cyclical stocks try to make the largest gains by buying the stock at the bottom of a business cycle, just before a turnaround begins.

While most economists and investors agree that there are cycles in the economy that need to be respected, the duration of such cycles is generally unknown. An investment decision to buy at the bottom of a business cycle may actually turn out to be a trade that occurs before or after the bottom of the cycle. If done before the bottom, then downside price action can result prior to any gains. If done after the bottom, then some upside price action may be missed. Similarly, a sell decision meant to occur at the top of a cycle may result in missed opportunity or unrealized losses.

Fundamental - The Fundamental Method evaluates a security by attempting to measure its

intrinsic value by examining related economic, financial, and other qualitative and quantitative factors. Fundamental analysts attempt to study everything that can affect the security's value, including macroeconomic factors (like the overall economy and industry conditions) and individually specific factors (like the financial condition and management of a company). The end goal of performing fundamental analysis is to produce a value that an investor can compare with the security's current price in hopes of figuring out what sort of position to take with that security (underpriced = buy, overpriced = sell or short). Fundamental analysis is considered to be the opposite of technical analysis. Fundamental analysis is about using real data to evaluate a security's value. Although most analysts use fundamental analysis to value stocks, this method of valuation can be used for just about any type of security.

The risk associated with fundamental analysis is that it is somewhat subjective. While a quantitative approach is possible, fundamental analysis usually entails a qualitative assessment of how market forces interact with one another in their impact on the investment in question. It is possible for those market forces to point in different directions, thus necessitating an interpretation of which forces will be dominant. This interpretation may be wrong and could therefore lead to an unfavorable investment decision.

<u>Technical</u> – The Technical Method evaluates securities by analyzing statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices and volume. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns that can suggest future activity. Technical analysts believe that the historical performance of stocks and markets are indications of future performance.

Technical analysis is even more subjective than fundamental analysis in that it relies on proper interpretation of a given security's price and trading volume data. A decision might be made based on a historical move in a certain direction that was accompanied by heavy volume; however, that heavy volume may only be heavy relative to past volume for the security in question, but not compared to the future trading volume. Therefore, there is the risk of a trading decision being made incorrectly since future trading volume is an unknown. Technical analysis is also done through observation of various market sentiment readings, many of which are quantitative. Market sentiment gauges the relative degree of bullishness and bearishness in a given security, and a contrarian investor utilizes such sentiment advantageously. When most traders are bullish, then there are very few traders left in a position to buy the security in question, so it becomes advantageous to sell it ahead of the crowd. When most traders are bearish, then there are very few traders left in a position to sell the security in question, so it becomes advantageous to buy it ahead of the crowd. The risk in utilization of such sentiment technical measures is that a very bullish reading can always become more bullish, resulting in lost opportunity if the money manager chooses to act upon the bullish signal by selling out of a position. The reverse is also true in that a bearish reading of sentiment can always become more bearish, which may result in a premature purchase of a security.

Charting is a set of techniques used in technical analysis in which charts are used to plot price movements, volume, settlement prices, open interest, and other indicators, in order to anticipate future price movements. Users of these techniques, called chartists, believe that past trends in these indicators can be used to extrapolate future trends. Charting is likely the most subjective analysis of all investment methods since it relies on proper interpretation of chart patterns. The risk of reliance upon chart patterns is that the next day's data can always negate the

conclusions reached from prior days' patterns. Also, reliance upon chart patterns bears the risk of a certain pattern being negated by a larger, more encompassing pattern that has not yet shown itself.

To conduct analysis, AEWM gathers information from financial newspapers and magazines, inspection of corporate activities, research materials prepared by others, investment research software, corporate rating services, timing services, annual reports, prospectuses and filings with the SEC, and company press releases. There are risks involved with any method of analysis that may be used.

### **Investment Strategies**

AEWM may employ the following investment strategies when managing client assets and/or providing investment advice:

<u>Direct Indexing</u> -- Direct indexing is the process by which an investor invests in an investment portfolio comprised of individual securities intended to replicate the performance of one or more investment indexes, strategies, or models (individually a "Benchmark" and when the portfolio contains securities that reference more than one Benchmark, a "Blended Benchmark"). The inputs include but are not limited to preferences, which may include individual or lists of companies chosen for the portfolio; a desired Benchmark or a relative allocation between Benchmarks ("Blended Benchmark"); and investment strategy constraints, such as security exposure, turnover, and trade thresholds and tax considerations.

Direct Indexing Products do not contain all constituent securities of the Benchmark, may contain alternative securities, or may contain securities in different weights or allocations than the Benchmark. As a result, the portfolios will not track the Benchmark exactly, and the gains or losses of the portfolio may be greater or less than the gains or losses experienced by the Benchmark. This difference is known as "tracking error." AEWM will take reasonable efforts to mitigate tracking error within a set target range by rebalancing the portfolio through the purchase and sale of constituent securities but cannot guarantee that it will always be able to successfully mitigate tracking error. Any restrictions placed by the client on securities that may be held in a portfolio and the budget for realized capital gains on transactions in the account may increase tracking error and decrease the effectiveness of rebalancing. AEWM cannot guarantee that the dividend yield in any portfolio will accurately track the benchmark.

In taxable accounts, a strategy of tax loss harvesting is often employed in direct indexing accounts. But tax-loss harvesting involves certain risks, including that the new investment could have higher costs or perform worse than the original investment and could introduce portfolio tracking error into accounts. There may also be unintended tax implications. AEWM does not hold itself out as an accountant or tax advisor and does not provide such services. Therefore, AEWM recommends consulting with a tax advisor before engaging in direct indexing for the purpose of tax loss harvesting.

Options Trading. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. The two types of options are calls and puts. A call gives the holder the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. A put gives the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. AEWM writes call options to supplement certain direct indexing and strategic indexing strategies. AEWM also contracts with a Strategist to utilize

options strategies. Options are complex securities that involve risks and are not suitable for everyone. AEWM does not allow investment in individual options contracts outside of a model.

Strategic asset allocation. A strategic asset allocation strategy calls for setting target allocations and then periodically rebalancing the portfolio back to those targets as investment returns skew the original asset allocation percentages. The concept is akin to a "buy and hold" strategy, rather than an active trading approach. Of course, the strategic asset allocation targets may change over time as the client's goals and needs change and as the time horizon for major events such as retirement and college funding grow shorter.

Style-based investing. There are various "style-based" investing strategies. The value investing strategy involves selecting stocks that trade for less than their intrinsic values. Value investors typically seek stocks of companies that they believe the market has undervalued. They believe the market overreacts to good and bad news, resulting in stock price movements that do not correspond with the company's long-term fundamentals. The result is an opportunity for value investors to profit by buying when the price is deflated. Often, value investors select stocks with lower-than-average price-to-book or price-to-earnings ratios and/or high dividend yields. The risks associated with value-investing include incorrectly analyzing and overestimating the intrinsic value of a business, concentration risk, under performance relative to major benchmarks, macro-economic risks, investing in value traps i.e. businesses that remain perpetually undervalued, and lost purchasing power on cash holdings in the case of inflation. Growth investing is a strategy focused on increasing an investor's capital by typically investing in young or small companies whose earnings are expected to increase at an above-average rate companied to their industry sector or the overall market. This can be a popular strategy, but because these companies are still new, investing in them imposes a fairly high risk.

<u>Tactical asset allocation</u>. A tactical asset allocation strategy allows for a range of percentages in each asset class (such as Stocks = 40-50%). The ranges establish minimum and maximum acceptable percentages that permit the investor to take advantage of market conditions within these parameters. Certain tactical strategies may also trade frequently, which may cause tax implications. However, AEWM does not hold itself out as an accountant or tax advisor and does not provide such services. Therefore, AEWM recommends consulting with a tax advisor as it relates to this investment strategy.

#### Risk of Loss

Investing in securities (including stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, etc.) always involves risk of loss. Depending on the different types of investments utilized, there are varying degrees of risk. Accordingly, you should be prepared to bear investment loss including the loss of your original principal. Further, past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, you should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable.

Because of the inherent risk of loss associated with investing, our firm is unable to represent, guarantee, or even imply that our services and methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to market corrections or declines. There are certain additional risks associated with investing in securities through our investment management program, as described below:

Alternative Investments Risk - Alternative investments typically do not correlate to the stock

market, which means they can be used to add diversification to a portfolio and help mitigate volatility. Alternative Investments can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and the lack of a secondary trading market. These investments may lack transparency as to share price, valuation, and portfolio holdings. Complex tax structures often result in delayed tax reporting. Compared to mutual funds, private funds are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees. Alternative investments encompass a broad array of strategies, each with its own unique return and risk characteristics to be considered on a case-specific basis.

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

Collateralized Loan Obligation ("CLO") Risk – A CLO is a single security backed by a pool of debt. That pool of debt often consists of a bundle of corporate loans that are ranked below investment grade. CLOs are securities subject to credit, liquidity, and interest rate risks. The investor will receive scheduled debt payments from the underlying loans, assuming most of the risk if the borrowers of those loans default. A CLO usually has multiple "tranches." Each tranche is a piece of the CLO, and the order of the tranches dictates in what order the investors will be paid when the underlying loan payments are made. The tranches also dictate the associated risk since investors who are paid last have the highest overall risk of loss. Those paid first have less risk and are therefore paid smaller interest payments—whereas those paid last receive higher interest payments to compensate for the risk.

<u>Cryptocurrency</u> – Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that is used as an alternative payment method or speculative investment. Cryptocurrency is not backed by real assets or tangible securities, are traded between consenting parties with no broker, and most are tracked on decentralized, digital ledgers with blockchain technology. Cryptocurrency is subject to, and has experienced, rapid surges and collapses in values. In addition to the market risk associated with speculative assets, cryptocurrency investment carries a number of other risks. As a result, investment in cryptocurrency is considered to be a more volatile investment. Although AEWM does not allow for direct cryptocurrency investment, some models on AEWM's platform may have an underlying cryptocurrency investment or component.

Cybersecurity Risk – With the increased use of technologies to conduct business, AEWM is susceptible to operational, information security, and related risks. In general, information and cyber-incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events and arise from external or internal sources. Cyber-attacks include unauthorized access to digital systems (such as through "hacking" or malicious software coding) for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information; corrupting data, equipment, or systems; or causing operational disruption. Cyber-attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial of service attacks on websites (making network services unavailable to intended users). Cyber-incidents may cause disruptions and affect business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, impediments to trading, the inability to transact business, destruction to equipment and systems, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other

compensation costs, or additional compliance costs. AEWM follows its security protocol in its Information Security Management System Policies in the event a cybersecurity event occurs.

<u>Duration Risk</u> – Duration is a way to measure a bond's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The duration of a bond is determined by its maturity date, coupon rate, and call feature. Duration is a method to compare how different bonds will react to interest rate changes. If a bond has a duration of five (5) years, it means that the value of that security will decline by approximately five percent (5%) for every one percent (1%) increase in interest rates.

<u>Emerging Markets Risk</u> – The risks associated with foreign investments are heightened when investing in emerging markets. The governments and economies of emerging market countries may show greater instability than those of more developed countries. Such investments tend to fluctuate in price more widely and to be less liquid than other foreign investments.

ETF, Closed-end Fund, and Mutual Fund Risk – When investing in an ETF or mutual fund, you will bear additional expenses based on your pro rata share of the ETF's or mutual fund's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. If the ETF, closed-end fund or mutual fund fails to achieve its investment objective, the account's investment in the fund may adversely affect its performance. Because the value of ETF shares depends on the demand in the market, your IAR may not be able to liquidate the holdings at the most optimal time, adversely affecting performance. Closed-end funds not publicly offered provide only limited liquidity to investors. And, generally, closed-end funds are not required to buy back their shares from investors upon request. Spot Bitcoin ETFs pose an additional layer of risk due to the potential volatility of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Equity (Stock) Market Risk — Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. If you held common stock, or common stock equivalents, of any given issuer, you would generally be exposed to greater risk than if you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer. And because the value of investment portfolios will fluctuate, there is the risk that you will lose money and your investment may be worth more or less upon liquidation.

<u>Fixed Income Risk</u> – When investing in bonds, there is the risk that the issuer will default on the bond and be unable to make payments. Further, individuals who depend on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk that inflation will erode their spending power. For some fixed-income products, investors receive set, regular payments that face the same inflation risk. Fixed income instruments purchased by a client are subject to the risk that as interest rates rise, the market values of bonds decline. This results in a more pronounced effect on the securities with longer durations. Fixed income securities are also subject to reinvestment risk, which refers to the possibility an investor will be unable to reinvest cash flows (i.e., coupon payments or interest) in a new security at a rate comparable to their current rate of return.

<u>International Investing Risk</u> – International investing, especially in emerging markets, involves special risks, such as currency exchange and price fluctuations and political and economic risks.

<u>Interval Fund Risk</u> – Interval funds are classified as closed-end funds, but they are distinct because the shares do not trade on the secondary market, but instead periodically the fund offers to buy back a percentage of outstanding shares at net asset value. This results in the funds being largely illiquid. There is no guarantee that investors will be able to sell their shares at any given time or in the desired amount. Additionally, repurchase is done on a pro-rata basis; therefore, there is no guarantee you can redeem the number of shares you want during a given redemption.

<u>Lack of Diversification Risk</u> – Concentrated portfolios, including portfolios with a concentration in one asset class, typically result in increased risk and volatility and decreased diversification, which could result in losses.

Liquidity Risk – Liquidity is how easily an asset or security can be bought or sold in the market and converted to cash. Generally, the less liquid an asset is, the greater the risk that if an investor needed to sell the asset quickly, the asset will be sold at a loss. Simple assets tend to be more liquid than complex assets. An asset tends to be more liquid if it represents a standardized product or security and there are many traders interested in making a market in that product or security. Some investments, like Qualified Opportunity Zone Funds, are considered private investments and are illiquid because there is no public market that currently exists for the investment type. Therefore, the inability to quickly sell or liquidate this investment carries a higher risk for a loss in the investment. The same goes for investment properties sold or exchanged in an Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 exchange ("1031 exchange") in which one property is swapped for a like-kind property in order to defer capital gains taxes. This is a tax strategy which often combines the 1031 swap with a Delaware Statutory Trust in which the property is held for several years, per the United States Internal Revenue Service. Due to this strategy's required "holding" period, this private investment poses a liquidity risk. As it pertains to these types of strategies, AEWM does not offer qualified tax or legal advice. Additionally, AEWM does not hold itself out as a tax advisor and does not provide such services. Therefore, AEWM recommends consulting with a tax advisor if you have tax-related questions.

<u>Management Risk</u> – Your investment with a registered investment adviser varies with the success and failure of its investment strategies, research, analysis, and determination of portfolio securities. If our investment strategies do not produce the expected returns, the value of the investment will decrease.

<u>Margins Risk</u> – A margin transaction occurs when an investor uses borrowed assets by using other securities as collateral to purchase financial instruments. The effect of purchasing a security using margin is to magnify any gains or losses sustained by the purchase of the financial instruments on margin. Margin trading involves interest charges and risks, including the potential to lose more than deposited or the need to deposit additional collateral in a falling market. A margin account is required with AEWM's call writing overlay strategy for our AE Direct Flex and specific Strategic Index Models.

Non-Investment Grade Bonds – Commonly known as "junk bonds," non-investment grade bonds are "below investment grade quality" (rated below Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or below BBB- by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group and Fitch Ratings or, if unrated, reasonably determined by the Firm to be of comparable quality). Junk bonds represent bonds issued by companies that are financially struggling and have a higher risk of defaulting or not

paying their interest payments or repaying the principal to investors. Investing in non-investment grade bonds can be speculative.

Non-Traded Business Development Companies — Non-traded business development companies ("non-traded BDC(s)") are a closed-end investment company that invests in small-and medium-sized businesses. Non-traded BDCs are not traded on an exchange. Therefore, they are subject to other types of risk, such as high-net-worth requirements, higher initial investments, higher sales commissions and fee structures, limited liquidity, longer-term investment horizons, and redemption limits and suspensions. BDCs are limited to accredited investors, and they generally invest in companies that are still developing and/or may be in financial distress. As a result, the companies that a BDC invests in are more likely to go out of business or default on their debts. Additionally, BDCs often use leverage or debt to increase the potential for higher returns. However, leverage can also potentially increase losses. And finally, in addition to charging management fees, the fund manager may also charge a performance fee.

Options Risk - Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than an investment in the underlying securities. Purchasing and writing put and call options are highly specialized activities and entail greater than ordinary investment risks. Options, like other securities, carry no guarantees, and investors should be aware that it is possible to lose all of your initial investment, and sometimes more. Since options derive their value from an underlying asset, which may be a stock or securities index, any risk factors that impact the price of the underlying asset will also indirectly impact the price and value of the option. Extreme market volatility near an expiration date can cause price changes resulting in the option expiring worthless. In addition, options can be purchased or sold in covered or uncovered (or naked) strategies. A covered strategy is one in which the seller of a call option holds a long position/currently owns the underlying assets of the options contract. An uncovered, or naked, strategy, is one in which the seller of a call or put option does not hold a long position/currently own the underlying securities. Selling a naked option can be an extremely risky strategy and should be used by experienced traders who understand how to manage their notational exposure and risk. Individual options contracts outside of a model are not available through AEWM.

Private Investments Risk – A private investment is a financial asset outside public market assets, meaning they are not listed on an exchange. Investors often access private investments through a private investment fund. A private investment fund is an investment company that doesn't solicit capital from retail investors or the public. Hedge funds and private equity funds are two of the most common types of private investment funds. Private equity investing often has high investment minimums and they may also have higher liquidity risks since private equity investors are expected to invest their funds with the firm for several years, on average. Investors often utilize private investments to diversify their portfolio and reduce overall risk exposure across specific sectors. However, because there is no major public exchange for these investments, a fund manager may find it difficult to liquidate the investments in a fund in times of economic stress. AEWM generally limits investments in private funds, but the firm does allow high net worth clients to invest in certain private investments

Publicly Traded Business Development Companies – Business Development Companies ("BDC(s)") are a type of closed-ended fund that provide retail investors a way to invest in small

and medium-sized private companies and, to a lesser extent, other investments, including public companies. BDCs are complex and are associated with unique risks. Publicly traded BDCs can be bought and sold on national securities exchanges. BDCs are not limited to qualified investors. However, BDCs generally invest in companies that are developing and/or financially distressed. As a result, the companies that a BDC invests in are more likely to go out of business or default on their debts. Additionally, BDCs often use leverage or debt to increase the potential for higher returns. However, leverage can also potentially increase losses.

Reinvestment Risk – Reinvestment risk is the risk that future interest and principal payments may be reinvested at lower yields due to declining interest rates.

REITs and Real Estate Risk – Real estate investment trusts (REITs) are popular investment vehicles that pay dividends to investors. The value of an investment in REITs may change in response to a change in the real estate market. REITs may subject an investment to additional risks such as decline in the value of real estate, changes in interest rates may result in lack of available mortgage funds or other capital and financing limits, extended vacancies of properties, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, and changes in zoning laws and regulations. When traded like shares of stock on exchanges, REITs can give exposure to diversified real estate holdings.

<u>Securities Lending</u> – Securities lending is the act of loaning shares of stock, commodities, derivative contracts, or other securities to other investors or firms. For receipt of these securities, the borrower is required to put up collateral—whether cash, other securities, or a letter of credit—for the lender to hold until the agreement is terminated and/or the securities are liquidated. Generally, the lender receives a lending fee based on a designated interest rate multiplied by the market value of the securities on loan. The interest rate paid is based on the relative value of the individual securities in the securities-lending market and are subject to change based on market conditions and borrowing demand. Loaned securities are sometimes considered "hard to borrow" because of short selling, scarcity of available lending supply, or corporate events that affect liquidity in a security. Securities lending also exposes a lender to the risk of borrower or counterparty default.

<u>Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies</u> – Publicly traded companies are often segmented by their market capitalization—the total value of their shares in the market. Small-cap investing is often used when an investor is focused on growth opportunities. Though they historically outperform large-cap stocks, small-cap stocks are riskier. Prices of small-cap stocks are often more volatile than prices of large-cap stocks. The same can be said for some medium-cap stocks. Additionally, the risk of bankruptcy or insolvency for smaller companies is higher than for larger companies.

<u>Structured Notes Risk</u> – Structured notes are complex instruments consisting of a bond component and an imbedded derivative component that adjusts the security's risk-return profile. There are both principal-at-risk and principal-protected notes. Principal-protected notes offer full principal protection, subject to the credit risk of the issuer, even if the market is down at the note's maturity. Principal-at-risk notes offer no principal protection, and an investor can lose some or all of their invested principal at maturity. A structured note will result in loss of principal if the reference asset declines by more than the stated buffer or barrier level, either at maturity, or on a scheduled observation date. Structured notes are classified as senior unsecured debt

and are therefore subject to the risk of default. They lack liquidity, are not listed on securities exchanges, and do not participate in dividends. Typically, the issuer will maintain a secondary market; but there is no obligation to do so. Therefore, there may be little to no secondary market available. To the extent a secondary market may exist, a sale in the secondary market prior to maturity may result in a significant discount in the sale price of the note resulting in a loss of principal. Structured notes are also subject to credit and call risks. The credit risk involves a situation where, if the issuer were to default on its payment obligations, you may not receive any amount owed under the structured note and you could lose your entire principal investment. Certain notes may be callable automatically or at the option of the issuer. If a note is called, the investor will not receive any interest payments that would have been payable for the remainder of the term of the note. Depending on the nature of the linked asset or index, the market risk of the structured note may include changes in equity or commodity prices, changes in interest rates or foreign exchange rates, or market volatility. After issuance, structured notes may not be re-sold on a daily basis and thus may be difficult to value given their complexity.

### **Votina Client Securities**

AEWM does not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Therefore, it is your responsibility to vote all proxies for securities held in your Account. You will receive proxies directly from the qualified custodian or transfer agent; we will not provide you with the proxies. Although we do not vote client proxies, AEWM may provide limited clarifications of the issues presented based on AEWM's understanding of the issues presented in the proxy-voting materials. If you have a question about a particular proxy, feel free to contact the custodian or transfer agent directly.

In situations when you engage a TPRIA to manage your portfolio, where permissible, you may grant your TPRIA discretion to vote proxies with respect to any securities purchased or held in your account. In such cases, all proxy and legal proceedings information and documents received by AEWM relating to the securities in a TPRIA Program account will be forwarded to your TPRIA. AEWM will not have or accept the authority to vote proxies on behalf of TPRIA Program clients.

# Item 7 – Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers

Our associated IARs are responsible for gathering all information provided by you. We will interview and work with you to gather all information needed relative to your investment objectives and needs in order to provide management services. You are responsible for promptly contacting your IAR to notify us of any changes to your financial situation that will impact or materially influence the way we manage your accounts. We do not share your information with our Strategists.

# Item 8 - Client Contact with Portfolio Managers

If a client has any questions for the outside Strategists, these will be directed to AEWM who will make inquiries with the Strategist. It is the policy of AEWM to provide for open communications between the IARs and clients. You are encouraged to contact your IAR whenever you have questions about the management of your account(s).

### Item 9 - Additional Information

### **Disciplinary Information**

On September 1, 2021, AEWM entered into a consent order with the Securities Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission settling an administrative action. In this matter, the Arizona Corporation Commission found that AEWM violated A.R.S. § 44-3241(A)(2). In particular, the Arizona Corporation Commission found that AEWM failed to disclose to 240 investment advisory clients (households) that their co-adviser's IAR had various unreported disclosures, and misled clients regarding the reason for the co-adviser's rebranding of their firm. AEWM consented to cease and desist from committing or causing future violations, to an administrative penalty of \$150,000, and to return investment advisory fees in the amount of \$1,159,400.97 to the co-adviser's clients.

# Registration of Management Persons with a Broker-Dealer

David Callanan, our Chief Executive Officer, is a registered representative of Madison Avenue Securities, LLC ("MAS") (CRD # 23224), a broker-dealer affiliated with AEWM. Additionally, Mr. Callanan; Christopher Radford, our President; and Shawn Scholz, our Chief Compliance Officer, are registered representatives of AE Financial Services, LLC ("AEFS") (CRD # 298608), a broker-dealer that is under common control with AEWM.

#### Related Broker-Dealers

AEWM is under common control and ownership with the two registered broker-dealers mentioned above, AEFS and MAS. While we do not typically utilize these affiliated broker-dealers when conducting our asset management services, there are instances when your IAR recommends products that are not available through our traditional asset management accounts or when they make recommendations that can be implemented directly with a broker-dealer. In these instances, our principal owners will benefit when the recommended securities are purchased through either AEFS or MAS. We address this conflict of interest by: (1) disclosing it to you in this brochure; (2) not requiring you to purchase the recommended securities through AEFS and/or MAS (you may make the purchase through any broker-dealer you choose); and (3) prohibiting the collection of a retail commission from an affiliated broker-dealer and the assessment of an ongoing management fee by AEWM on the same security. When products are purchased through AEFS or MAS, those entities are responsible for assessing whether such purchases meet the best interest standard.

### Registered Representative of a Broker-Dealer

Some of AEWM's IARs are also registered representatives of a securities broker-dealer, such as AEFS or MAS. If you elect to utilize the services of your IAR in their separate capacity as a registered representative of a broker-dealer, you should be aware that they can sell, for commissions, general securities products to you. Your IAR can suggest that you purchase securities products through a commission-based brokerage account in addition to or in lieu of a fee-based investment advisory account. The commissions charged by your IAR's broker-dealer may be higher than commissions charged by other broker-dealers. Customarily, the registered representative will also receive periodic payments from a mutual fund company related to purchases of the mutual fund's shares during the period that you maintain the mutual fund investment. Consequently, the objectivity of the advice rendered is biased due to the receipt of commissions and other standard brokerage compensation. We address this conflict of interest by: (1) disclosing it to you in this brochure; (2) not requiring you to purchase any recommended security from a broker-dealer associated with your IAR or AEWM (you may

make the purchase through any broker-dealer you choose); and (3) prohibiting the collection of a commission/mutual fund fee and the assessment of an ongoing management fee by AEWM on the same security. When you purchase products through a broker-dealer, that broker-dealer is responsible for assessing whether such purchases meet the best interest standard.

# Related Investment Advisers

MAS (one of the broker-dealers described above) is also an SEC registered investment adviser. As previously stated, AEWM and MAS are under common control and ownership. MAS utilizes AEWM's platform to assist in providing investment advisory services to clients of MAS. MAS compensates AEWM for such services. We do not consider our investment advisory affiliation with MAS to create a material conflict of interest for our AEWM clients. Clients of MAS should refer to its Firm Brochure for a description of conflicts of interest related to MAS.

AEWM is under common control and ownership with Impact Partnership Wealth, LLC ("IPW"), a separate investment adviser registered with the SEC. IPW utilizes our platform to assist in providing investment advisory services to clients of IPW. IPW compensates AEWM for such services. We do not consider our affiliation with IPW to create a material conflict of interest for our AEWM clients. Clients of IPW should refer to its Firm Brochure for a description of conflicts of interest related to IPW.

AEWM is under common control and ownership with Veta Investment Partners, LLC ("VIP"), a separate investment adviser registered with the SEC. AEWM utilizes VIP as both a Third-Party Manager and a Strategist. When AEWM places a client in a model portfolio managed by VIP, the principal owners of AEWM benefit. We address this conflict of interest by: (1) disclosing it to you in this brochure; (2) subjecting VIP to the same initial and ongoing due diligence processes that we use to evaluate all third-party Strategists; (3) not incentivizing IARs to recommend VIP over other third-party Strategists; (4) not allowing VIP to compensate AEWM or its personnel for client referrals; (5) ensuring that the compensation provided to VIP by AEWM is comparable to the fee provided to similar third-party Strategists; and (6) requiring IARs to make investment recommendations that are in each client's best interest.

#### Related Insurance Marketing Organizations

AEWM is under common control and ownership with Advisors Excel, LLC ("AE") and Asset Marketing Systems Insurance Services, LLC ("AMSIS"). AE and AMSIS are insurance agencies that market/wholesale life insurance and fixed annuities to third-party insurance agents in exchange for a marketing and/or override fee from the issuer of such insurance/annuity products. AEWM IARs, in a separate capacity as insurance agents, utilize the marketing and wholesaling services of AE and AMSIS. When your IAR sells you a life insurance/fixed annuity product through AE or AMSIS, the principal owners of AEWM benefit. We address this conflict of interest by disclosing it to you in this brochure and ensuring no advisory fee is charged on insurance products/fixed annuities, which are held outside of the advisory relationship, in addition to the commission the representative earns from the sales of those same products.

AEWM is under common control and ownership with Innovation Design Group, LLC "("IDG"), an insurance agency that provides services to insurance companies concerning the product design and distribution of annuities. IDG has participated in the design of a number of annuities issued by insurance companies that are either distributed exclusively by AE or distributed by a small group of insurance marketing organizations of which AE is a member. When your IAR, in their separate capacity

as an insurance agent, sells you an annuity that was designed by or distributed through IDG, the principal owners of AEWM benefit. We address this conflict of interest by disclosing it to you in this brochure and ensuring no advisory fee is charged on an annuity, which are held outside of the advisory relationship, in addition to the commission the representative earns from the sale of those same annuity products.

### **Insurance Agents**

Many of AEWM's IARs serve, in a separate capacity, as insurance agents. When acting in a separate capacity as an insurance agent, your IAR will sell, for commissions, life insurance, annuities, and other insurance products to you. IARs are also eligible to receive incentives and other compensation based on and related to insurance transactions. These incentives include, but are not limited to gifts, meals, entertainment, participation in bonus programs, forgivable loans, reimbursement for training, marketing assistance, educational efforts, advertising, and travel expenses to conferences and events. Consequently, your IAR is incentivized to recommend that you purchase insurance products due to the receipt of commissions and other compensation. As a result, the objectivity of the advice rendered to you is biased. We address this conflict of interest by disclosing it to you in this brochure and ensuring no advisory fee is charged on insurance products, which are held outside of the advisory relationship, in addition to the commission the representative earns from the sale the same insurance. When acting in their capacity as an insurance agent, your IAR is not subject to the fiduciary standards under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. You are under no obligation to implement any insurance or annuity transaction through your IAR in their capacity as an insurance agent. When you purchase insurance products, the insurance carrier is responsible for assessing whether such purchases meet the best interest standard. Because insurance agents are not subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to IARs, AEWM does not supervise or conduct oversight of the insurance agent activity.

#### **Certified Public Accountants**

Some of AEWM's IARs serve, in a separate capacity, as a CPA by providing tax services to individuals and corporations. As a CPA, these IARs may receive compensation for the tax services they provide their clients. Any fees received through the tax services do not offset advisory fees the client may pay for AEWM's advisory services. Clients have the right to decide whether to engage in services with the CPA firm. As a result, a conflict of interest arises between your interests and AEWM's interest. However, at all times AEWM and our IARs will act in your best interest and act as a fiduciary in carrying out advisory services to you. Because this is not an advisory service, AEWM does not supervise or conduct oversight of this activity. Any CPA activity performed is separate and distinct and not affiliated with AEWM in any way.

#### Code of Ethics Summary

AEWM has established a Code of Ethics that applies to all of its supervised persons. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to always act solely in the best interest of each of our clients. This fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics, which also covers our Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. AEWM has the responsibility to make sure that the interests of all clients are placed ahead of AEWM's own investment interests. AEWM will disclose material facts along with potential and actual conflicts of interest to clients. AEWM seeks to conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and will take reasonable steps to avoid circumstances that might negatively affect our duty of loyalty to clients. This section is intended to provide clients with a summary of AEWM's Code of Ethics. Clients may receive a complete copy of the Code of Ethics upon request.

# Affiliate and Employee Personal Securities Transactions Disclosure

At times, AEWM or associated persons of the firm will buy or sell for their personal accounts, investment products identical to those recommended to clients. In some instances, such transactions by AEWM or associated persons of the firm will be executed at the same time a transaction in the identical investment product recommended to clients is executed. This creates a conflict of interest. It is the express policy of AEWM that all people associated in any manner with our firm must place clients' interests ahead of their own when implementing personal investments. AEWM and its associated persons will not buy or sell securities for their personal account(s) where their decision is derived, in whole or in part, by information obtained as a result of employment or association with our firm unless the information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry.

To mitigate conflicts of interest, we have developed written supervisory procedures that include personal investment and trading policies for our representatives, employees, and their immediate family members (collectively, "Associated Persons").

Any Associated Person not observing our policies is subject to sanctions up to and including termination.

#### **Account Reviews**

Accounts subject to our asset management services are reviewed at least annually. While the calendar is the main triggering factor, reviews can also be conducted at your request. Account reviews will include investment strategy and objectives review and making a change if strategy and objectives have changed. Reviews are conducted by the IAR of record, with reviews performed in accordance with your investment goals and objectives.

### **Account Statements and Reports**

For our asset management services, you will be provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular quarterly account statements in writing directly from the qualified custodian. Additionally, AEWM may provide you periodic performance reports.

Financial planning clients do not receive any report other than the written plan originally contracted for and provided by AEWM.

You are encouraged to compare any reports or statements provided by us, a sub-adviser, or Third-Party Manager against the account statements delivered from the qualified custodian. When you have questions about your account statement, you should contact our firm and the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

### Client Referrals and Other Compensation

AEWM compensates certain non-employee persons and/or entities (individually, a "Promoter" and collectively "Promoters") for client referrals. If a Promoter refers a client to AEWM, the Promoter must abide by the requirements of the jurisdiction in which they operate. The Promoter will provide the client with a document describing AEWM's relationship with the Promoter, the compensation that AEWM is providing the Promoter, and any material conflicts of interest. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral arrangement. Once an investment management account is established, the Promoter is eligible to receive ongoing compensation based on a percentage of the assets under management associated with the account, or they may receive a one-time or flat-fee payment. Therefore, a Promoter

has a financial incentive to recommend our IARs to you for advisory services.

Our IARs, acting in their separate capacities as insurance agents for either AE or outside insurance marketing organizations, receive commissions and other incentive awards for the recommendation/sale of annuities and other insurance products. The receipt of commissions and additional compensation itself creates a conflict of interest. Due to the non-fiduciary capacity the IARs are acting in as insurance agents outside of an advisory recommendation, this can impact the insurance products they select when making recommendations. Again, as stated above, because insurance agents are not subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to IARs, AEWM does not supervise or conduct oversight of the insurance agent activity.

AE and AMSIS provide AEWM IARs bonus compensation based on the amount of annuity sales during a specific period of time, which is a conflict of interest. They also provide indirect compensation by providing marketing assistance, business development tools, technology, back office/operations support, business succession planning, business conferences, and incentive trips. These incentive programs do not affect fees paid by the client. Although some of these services can benefit a client, other services our IARs obtain from AE or AMSIS, such as marketing assistance, business development, and incentive trips, will not benefit an existing client and is a conflict of interest.

In addition to the compensation discussed above, AEWM and AE have initiated a cash incentive plan. Pursuant to this plan, IARs are eligible to receive cash payments based on a combination of the sale of insurance products through AE and the value of securities that are managed by AEWM. The methodology used to calculate the cash payment is weighted in favor of insurance products. As a result, your IAR is incentivized to recommend insurance products. Furthermore, AEWM and AE offer business loans to IARs on a case-by-case basis. At times, AEWM will forgive a portion or all of such loans based on certain factors, such as the IAR agreeing to remain with AEWM and AE for a specified time period.

An affiliate of AEWM owns a minority, non-controlling ownership interest in the financial advisory businesses of certain of its IARs and TPRIAs (an "advisor minority interest"). The IAR maintains control over the day-to-day management of the IAR's or TPRIA's advisory business and neither the affiliate nor AEWM have control over or are involved in day-to-day management of the IAR's or TPRIA's advisory business. This affiliate receives income from the advisor minority interest in the form of ownership distributions. AEWM is not an owner of the advisor minority interest and does not receive any ownership income from the advisor's advisory business.

As a result of the cash incentive plan, business loans, and minority investments described above, your IAR is incentivized to remain associated with AEWM and AE. However, these incentive programs do not affect fees paid by the client.

AEWM IARs may receive bonus payments from an insurance company for selling a targeted number of annuities during a specified period of time which creates a conflict of interest. AEWM IARs may also receive bonuses based on their overall assets under management during a specific period of time. These bonuses could include cash payments and/or qualification for networking and business trips. These benefits are not a result of achieving sales quotas related to specific product lines. However, these incentives present a conflict of interest which AEWM addresses by providing disclosures, following procedures, and applying the firm's fiduciary obligation to each client.

At times, AEWM IARs receive expense reimbursement for travel and/or marketing expenses from distributors of investment and/or insurance products. Travel expense reimbursements are a result of attendance at due diligence and/or investment training events hosted by product sponsors. Marketing

expense reimbursements are the result of informal expense sharing arrangements in which product sponsors will underwrite costs incurred for marketing, such as client appreciation events, advertising, publishing, and seminar expenses. Although receipt of these travel and marketing expense reimbursements are not predicated upon specific sales quotas, the product sponsor reimbursements are made by those sponsors for which sales have been made or for which it is anticipated sales will be made. This creates a conflict of interest in that there is an incentive to recommend certain products and investments based on the receipt of this compensation instead of what is in the best interest of clients. AEWM attempts to control for this conflict by always basing investment decisions on the individual needs of clients.

### Strategic Sponsors Program

AEWM receives compensation, known as "revenue sharing," from certain third-party product providers or sponsors ("Strategic Sponsors") for providing marketing support services relating to the sponsor's product(s). Our Strategic Sponsors include a variety of investment-related companies who provide products available through AEWM, including mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and model portfolios. AEWM's marketing support may include providing access to certain information about our business and the opportunity to have more frequent interactions with our IARs through training, marketing support, and educational presentations for the purpose of relationship building and increasing familiarity with their product. Those product sponsors not given this designation may receive similar treatment, but do not have a revenue sharing agreement with AEWM.

These revenue sharing payments are typically calculated as a fixed fee or as an annual percentage of the amount of assets invested in the product and will vary with each Sponsor based upon the agreement between the Sponsor and AEWM. This revenue helps fund the cost of providing services, maintaining accounts, and offering an investment platform for our clients. Strategic Sponsors pay AEWM out of their own assets, revenues, or earnings, and there is no additional charge to you.

We want you to understand that AEWM's receipt of revenue sharing payments on assets within specific investment advisory programs or products creates an inherent conflict of interest for AEWM. These revenue sharing payments provide an incentive for AEWM to favor products from Sponsors that pay revenue sharing over other products. None of the revenue-sharing payments are paid to the IAR who recommends these products to you. As a result, your IAR does not have any financial incentive to recommend a product to you based on AEWM's receipt of revenue-sharing and is required by regulation and AEWM policy to make recommendations solely in your best interest. However, the marketing and educational activities paid for by the Sponsor could lead the IAR to focus more on those products offered by the Sponsor. Regardless, product recommendations to any customer are reviewed and approved by supervisors who also do not have any financial incentive to favor any product or product Sponsor and are required to act solely in your best interest.

For additional information on a particular Strategic Sponsor, please review the Sponsor's statement of additional information or ADV 2A Firm Brochure.

A full list of our Strategic Sponsors may be found at www.aewealthmanagement.com.

### Financial Information

This disclosure is not applicable to our brochure as we do not require or solicit prepayment of more than

\$1,200 in fees per client, six or more months in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for the 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, AEWM has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.