

Navigate Financial LLC

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CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER

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THIS BROCHURE PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS AND BUSINESS PRACTICES OF NAVIGATE FINANCIAL LLC. IF CLIENTS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THIS BROCHURE, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 801-905-1644. THE INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED OR VERIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR BY ANY STATE SECURITIES AUTHORITY. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FIRM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SEC'S WEBSITE AT WWW.ADVISERINFO.SEC.GOV BY SEARCHING CRD #325945.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE USE OF THE TERM "REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER" AND DESCRIPTION OF OUR FIRM AND/OR OUR ASSOCIATES AS "REGISTERED" DOES NOT IMPLY A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SKILL OR TRAINING. CLIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THIS BROCHURE AND BROCHURE SUPPLEMENTS FOR OUR FIRM'S ASSOCIATES WHO ADVISE CLIENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF OUR FIRM AND OUR EMPLOYEES.

ITEM 2:

Material Changes

NAVIGATE FINANCIAL LLC IS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY CLIENTS OF ANY INFORMATION THAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE FIRM BROCHURE (“BROCHURE”), MAY 1, 2023, THAT MAY BE IMPORTANT TO THEM. CLIENTS CAN REQUEST A FULL COPY OF OUR BROCHURE OR CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT THEY MAY HAVE ABOUT THE CHANGES.

SINCE MAY 1, 2023, NAVIGATE FINANCIAL HAS NO MATERIAL CHANGES TO REPORT.

ITEM 3:

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ITEM 4:

Advisory Business

Our firm is dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Utah and has been in business as an investment adviser since 2023. Our firm is owned by Benjamin Driggs, 50%, and Tiffany Smith, 50%.

The purpose of this Brochure is to disclose the conflicts of interest associated with the investment transactions, compensation, and any other matters related to investment decisions made by our firm or its representatives. As a fiduciary, it is our duty to always act in the client's best interest. This is accomplished in part by knowing our clients. Our firm has established a service-oriented advisory practice with open lines of communication for many different types of clients to help meet their financial goals while remaining sensitive to risk tolerance and time horizon.

Types of Advisory Services Offered

Navigate

Our firm provides a variety of financial planning services as part of our **Navigate** service. Our **Navigate** service involves a discussion about a client's needs, goals, and objectives, followed by planning and recommendations designed to match those needs, goals, and objectives. Our **Navigate** service may include Budgeting, Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Debt Management, and Insurance Planning. We rely on our clients to implement the recommendations we put forward.

Navigate +

Our **Navigate +** service includes all of the services that are included in our **Navigate** service plus investment management. As part of our **Navigate +** service, we create and manage portfolios consisting of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETF's, and other publicly-traded securities. Clients' individual investment strategies are tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the securities mentioned previously. Portfolios are designed to meet investment objectives determined to be suitable to a client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we regularly monitor the portfolio, making changes as needed, according to the client's individual needs, goals, and objectives.

Navigate K

Our firm provides retirement plan consulting services to employer plan sponsors. Advisory services may include the following:

- Service Provider Search and Selection
- Investment Policy Statement Establishment and Monitoring
- Plan Sponsor Fiduciary Support
- Investment Search, Selection, Performance Monitoring, and Reporting
- Plan Benchmarking
- Participant Education

When providing retirement plan consulting services, our firm does not provide advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets"). All retirement plan consulting services shall comply with applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans ("Plan") governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointment to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) or 3(38) of ERISA as designated by the **Navigate K** Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

Participation in Wrap Fee Programs

Our firm does not offer or sponsor a wrap fee program.

Regulatory Assets Under Management

Our firm manages \$56,400,000 on a discretionary basis and \$211,000,000 on a non-discretionary basis as of December 31, 2023.

ITEM 5:

Fees & Compensation

Compensation for Our Advisory Services

Navigate

For our **Navigate** service, our firm charges a recurring flat fee not to exceed \$25 per month. We may also charge an hourly fee not to exceed \$150 per hour. The fee to be charged is determined on a case-by-case basis and will be detailed in the **Navigate** Agreement. Our firm will not require a retainer exceeding \$1,200 when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.

Navigate +

For our **Navigate +** service our firm charges a monthly recurring flat fee not to exceed \$50 per month. In addition, if we manage a client's investments, our firm charges an investment advisory fee based on the value of assets in a client's account that shall not exceed 1.00% of assets under management. Fees are outlined in the **Navigate +** Agreement signed by the client. Our firm bills on cash unless indicated otherwise in writing. Annualized fees are billed on a pro-rata basis quarterly, in advance, based on the value of the account on the last day of the previous quarter. Fees vary and are negotiable. Adjustments will be made for deposits and withdrawals during the quarter.

In terms of billing for **Navigate +** services, our firm does not bill clients directly for the investment advisory fee. Rather, investment advisory fees are automatically deducted from clients' accounts as per the following. First, a client provides authorization permitting the custodian to pull our fee from the client's account. Second, the custodian debits the client's account for the advisory fee and sends the fee to our firm. By way of information, the custodian sends statements to clients at least quarterly, showing the market values for each security included in the account as well as all contributions and withdrawals from the account, including the amount of the advisory fees paid to our firm.

Navigate K

For our **Navigate K** service, geared for 401(k) plans, our firm charges an advisory fee, typically a percentage of plan assets, although sometimes we charge a flat fee. Our annual fee shall not exceed 1.00% of assets under management, while a flat fee shall not exceed \$25,000. The scope of services to be rendered, and the fee for providing those services, are outlined in the **Navigate K** Agreement, which is signed by the client. Whether a percentage of plan assets or a flat fee, the recordkeeper pulls our firm's advisory fee from plan assets on a monthly or quarterly basis and forwards that fee to us. In rare cases, we can make special arrangements to bill the plan sponsor directly.

Other Types of Fees & Expenses

Clients may incur transaction fees for trades executed by the custodian. Transaction fees are separate from our firm's advisory fees and are disclosed by the chosen custodian. In most cases there will be no transaction fees for trades. And in the event of such trades, the transaction fee will be nominal. Our firm's recommended custodian, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), does not charge transaction fees for U.S. listed equities and exchange traded funds.

Clients may also pay holdings charges imposed by the chosen custodian for certain investments, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), distribution fees, surrender charges, variable annuity fees, IRA and qualified retirement plan fees, mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, wire transfer fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our firm does not receive a portion of these fees.

Termination & Refunds

At any time, either party may terminate the **Navigate** agreement before the delivery of a financial plan by providing written notice. For purposes of calculating refunds, each refund will be detailed on a case-by-case basis within the **Navigate** Service Agreement. Clients will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned fees based on the time and effort expended by our firm.

At any time, either party may terminate in writing any **Navigate +** agreement signed with our firm. Upon notice of termination our firm will process a pro-rata refund of the unearned portion of the advisory fees charged in advance.

Either party to a **Navigate K** Agreement may terminate at any time by providing written notice to the other party. Any refunds will be calculated by the recordkeeper and be effective on the date of written request to terminate the agreement. Clients will be charged on a pro-rata basis, which takes into account work completed by our firm on behalf of the client. Clients will incur charges for advisory services rendered up to the point of termination, and such fees will be due and payable.

Commissionable Securities Sales

Our firm and representatives do not sell securities for a commission in advisory accounts.

ITEM 6:

Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management

Our firm does not charge performance-based fees.

ITEM 7:

Types of Clients & Account Requirements

Our firm may provide services for the following types of clients:

- Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates, and Charitable Organizations;
- 401(k) and Pension Plans;
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, and Other Business Types

Our firm does not impose asset minimum requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us.

ITEM 8:

Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies & Risk of Loss

Methods of Analysis

Our firm may use any of the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

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

Cyclical Analysis: Statistical analysis of specific events occurring at a sufficient number of relatively predictable intervals that they can be forecasted into the future. Cyclical analysis asserts that cyclical forces drive price movements in the financial markets. Risks include that cycles may invert or disappear and there is no expectation that this type of analysis will pinpoint turning points, instead be used in conjunction with other methods of analysis.

Duration Constraints: Our firm adheres to a discipline of generally maintaining duration within a narrow band around benchmark duration in order to limit exposure to market risk. Our portfolio management team rebalances client portfolios to their current duration targets on a periodic basis. The risk of constraining duration is that the client may not participate fully in a large rally in bond prices.

Fundamental Analysis: The analysis of a business's financial statements (usually to analyze the business's assets, liabilities, and earnings), health, and its competitors and markets. When analyzing a stock, futures contract, or currency using fundamental analysis there are two basic approaches one can use: bottom up analysis and top down analysis. The terms are used to distinguish such analysis from other types of investment analysis, such as quantitative and technical. Fundamental analysis is performed on historical and present data, but with the goal of making financial forecasts. There are several possible objectives: (a) to conduct a company stock valuation and predict its probable price evolution; (b) to make a projection on its business performance; (c) to evaluate its management and make internal business decisions; (d) to calculate its credit risk; and to find out the intrinsic value of the share.

When the objective of the analysis is to determine what stock to buy and at what price, there are two basic methodologies investors rely upon: (a) Fundamental analysis maintains that markets may misprice a security in the short run but that the "correct" price will eventually be reached. Profits can be made by purchasing the mispriced security and then waiting for the market to recognize its "mistake" and reprice the security; (b) Technical analysis maintains that all information is reflected already in the price of a security. Technical analysts analyze trends and believe that sentiment changes predate and predict trend changes. Investors' emotional responses to price movements lead to recognizable price chart patterns. Technical analysts also analyze historical trends to predict

future price movement. Investors can use one or both of these different but complementary methods for stock picking. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

Quantitative Analysis: The use of models, or algorithms, to evaluate assets for investment. The process usually consists of searching vast databases for patterns, such as correlations among liquid assets or price-movement patterns (trend following or mean reversion). The resulting strategies may involve high-frequency trading. The results of the analysis are taken into consideration in the decision to buy or sell securities and in the management of portfolio characteristics. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the methods or models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

Qualitative Analysis: A securities analysis that uses subjective judgment based on unquantifiable information, such as management expertise, industry cycles, strength of research and development, and labor relations. Qualitative analysis contrasts with quantitative analysis, which focuses on numbers that can be found on reports such as balance sheets. The two techniques, however, will often be used together in order to examine a company's operations and evaluate its potential as an investment opportunity. Qualitative analysis deals with intangible, inexact concerns that belong to the social and experiential realm rather than the mathematical one. This approach depends on the kind of intelligence that machines (currently) lack, since things like positive associations with a brand, management trustworthiness, customer satisfaction, competitive advantage and cultural shifts are difficult, arguably impossible, to capture with numerical inputs. A risk in using qualitative analysis is that subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

Sector Analysis: Sector analysis involves identification and analysis of various industries or economic sectors that are likely to exhibit superior performance. Academic studies indicate that the health of a stock's sector is as important as the performance of the individual stock itself. In other words, even the best stock located in a weak sector will often perform poorly because that sector is out of favor. Each industry has differences in terms of its customer base, market share among firms, industry growth, competition, regulation and business cycles. Learning how the industry operates provides a deeper understanding of a company's financial health. One method of analyzing a company's growth potential is examining whether the amount of customers in the overall market is expected to grow. In some markets, there is zero or negative growth, a factor demanding careful consideration. Additionally, market analysts recommend that investors should monitor sectors that are nearing the bottom of performance rankings for possible signs of an impending turnaround.

Technical Analysis: A security analysis methodology for forecasting the direction of prices through the study of past market data, primarily price and volume. A fundamental principle of technical analysis is that a market's price reflects all relevant information, so the analysis looks at the history of a security's trading pattern rather than external drivers such as economic, fundamental and news events. Therefore, price action tends to repeat itself due to investors collectively tending toward patterned behavior – hence technical analysis focuses on identifiable trends and conditions. Technical analysts also widely use market indicators of many sorts, some of which are mathematical transformations of price, often including up and down volume, advance/decline data and other inputs. These indicators are used to help assess whether an asset is trending, and if it is, the probability of its direction and of continuation. Technicians also look for relationships between price/volume indices and market indicators. Technical analysis employs models and trading rules based on price and volume transformations, such as the relative strength index, moving averages, regressions, inter-market and intra-market price correlations,

business cycles, stock market cycles or, classically, through recognition of chart patterns. Technical analysis is widely used among traders and financial professionals and is very often used by active day traders, market makers and pit traders. The risk associated with this type of analysis is that analysts use subjective judgment to decide which pattern(s) a particular instrument reflects at a given time and what the interpretation of that pattern should be.

Investment Strategies We May Use

We may use the following strategies in managing client accounts, provided that such strategies are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizon, among other considerations:

Alternative Investments: Hedge funds, commodity pools, Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"), Business Development Companies ("BDCs"), and other alternative investments involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative, and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Alternative 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, hedge funds and commodity pools are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees and may require "capital calls" which would require additional investment. Alternative investment managers typically exercise broad investment discretion and may apply similar strategies across multiple investment vehicles, resulting in less diversification.

Asset Allocation: The implementation of an investment strategy that attempts to balance risk versus reward by adjusting the percentage of each asset in an investment portfolio according to the investor's risk tolerance, goals, and investment time frame. Asset allocation is based on the principle that different assets perform differently in different market and economic conditions. A fundamental justification for asset allocation is the notion that different asset classes offer returns that are not perfectly correlated, hence diversification reduces the overall risk in terms of the variability of returns for a given level of expected return. Although risk is reduced as long as correlations are not perfect, it is typically forecast (wholly or in part) based on statistical relationships (like correlation and variance) that existed over some past period. Expectations for return are often derived in the same way.

An asset class is a group of economic resources sharing similar characteristics, such as riskiness and return. There are many types of assets that may or may not be included in an asset allocation strategy. The "traditional" asset classes are stocks (value, dividend, growth, or sector-specific or a "blend" of any two or more of the preceding); large-cap versus mid-cap, small-cap or micro-cap; domestic, foreign [developed], emerging or frontier markets), bonds (fixed income securities more generally: investment-grade or junk [high-yield]; government or corporate; short-term, intermediate, long-term; domestic, foreign, emerging markets), and cash or cash equivalents. Allocation among these three provides a starting point. Usually included are hybrid instruments such as convertible bonds and preferred stocks, counting as a mixture of bonds and stocks. Other alternative assets that may be considered include commodities such as precious metals, nonferrous metals, agriculture, or energy; Commercial or residential real estate (also REITs); Collectibles such as art, coins, or stamps; insurance products such as annuities, life settlements, catastrophe bonds, or personal life insurance products; derivatives such as

long-short or market neutral strategies, options, collateralized debt, or futures; foreign currency; venture capital; private equity; distressed securities.

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

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

Fixed Income: Fixed income is a type of investing or budgeting style for which real return rates or periodic income is received at regular intervals and at reasonably predictable levels. Fixed-income investors are often retired individuals who rely on their investments to provide a regular, stable income stream. This demographic and other more conservative-minded investors tend to invest heavily in fixed-income investments because of the reliable returns they offer. Fixed-income investors who live on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk of inflation eroding their spending power.

Some examples of fixed-income investments include treasuries, money market instruments, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds, and international bonds. The primary risk associated with fixed-income investments is the borrower defaulting on her/his payment. Other considerations include exchange rate risk for international bonds and interest rate risk for longer-dated securities. The most common type of fixed-income security is a bond. Bonds are issued by federal governments, local municipalities, and major corporations. Fixed-income securities are recommended for investors seeking a diverse portfolio; however, the percentage of the portfolio dedicated to fixed income depends on your own personal investment style. There is also an opportunity to diversify the fixed-income component of a portfolio. Riskier fixed-income products, such as junk bonds and longer-dated products, should comprise a lower percentage of your overall portfolio.

The interest payment on fixed-income securities is considered regular income and is determined based on the creditworthiness of the borrower and current market rates. In general, bonds and fixed-income securities with

longer-dated maturities pay a higher rate, also referred to as the coupon rate, because they are considered riskier. The longer the security is on the market, the more time it has to lose its value and/or default. At the end of the bond term, or at bond maturity, the borrower returns the amount borrowed, also referred to as the principal or par value.

Long-Term Purchases: Our firm may buy securities for your account and hold them for a relatively long time (more than a year) in anticipation that the security's value will appreciate over a long horizon. The risk of this strategy is that our firm could miss out on potential short-term gains that could have been profitable to your account, or it's possible that the security's value may decline sharply before our firm makes a decision to sell.

Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs"): REITs primarily invest in real estate or real estate-related loans. Equity REITs own real estate properties, while mortgage REITs hold construction, development and/or long-term mortgage loans. Changes in the value of the underlying property of the trusts, the creditworthiness of the issuer, property taxes, interest rates, tax laws, and regulatory requirements, such as those relating to the environment all can affect the values of REITs. REITs are dependent upon management skill, the cash flows generated by their holdings, the real estate market in general, and the possibility of failing to qualify for any applicable pass-through tax treatment or failing to maintain any applicable exempted status afforded under relevant laws.

REITs involve a high degree of risk and can be illiquid due to restrictions on transfer and lack of a secondary trading market. They can be highly leveraged, speculative and volatile, and an investor could lose all or a substantial amount of an investment. Additionally, they may lack transparency as to share price, valuation, and portfolio holdings, as they are subject to less regulation and often charge higher fees.

Short-Term Purchases: When utilizing this strategy, our firm may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). Our firm does this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that our firm believes will soon result in a price swing in the securities our firm purchases.

Structured Products: Structured products are designed to facilitate highly customized risk-return objectives. While structured products come in many different forms, they typically consist of a debt security that is structured to make interest and principal payments based upon various assets, rates, or formulas. Many structured products include an embedded derivative component. Structured products may be structured in the form of a security, in which case these products may receive benefits provided under federal securities law, or they may be cast as derivatives, in which case they are offered in the over-the-counter market and are subject to no regulation.

Investing in structured products includes significant risks, including valuation, lack of liquidity, price, credit, and market risks. The relative lack of liquidity is due to the highly customized nature of the investment and the fact that the full extent of returns from the complex performance features is often not realized until maturity.

Another risk with structured products is the credit quality of the issuer. Although the cash flows are derived from other sources, the products themselves are legally considered to be the issuing financial institution's liabilities. The vast majority of structured products are from high-investment-grade issuers only. Also, there is a lack of pricing transparency. There is no uniform standard for pricing, making it harder to compare the net-of-pricing attractiveness of alternative structured product offerings than it is, for instance, to compare the net expense ratios of different mutual funds or commissions among broker-dealers.

Short-Term Purchases: When utilizing this strategy, our firm may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). Our firm does this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that our firm believes will soon result in a price swing in the securities our firm purchase.

Risk of Loss

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and the account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and the account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that clients understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, and that their assets are appropriately diversified in investments. Clients are encouraged to ask our firm any questions regarding their risk tolerance.

Capital Risk: Capital risk is one of the most basic, fundamental risks of investing; it is the risk that you may lose 100% of your money. All investments carry some form of risk, and the loss of capital is generally a risk for any investment instrument.

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

Credit Risk: Credit risk can be a factor in situations where an investment's performance relies on a borrower's repayment of borrowed funds. With credit risk, an investor can experience a loss or unfavorable performance if a borrower does not repay the borrowed funds as expected or required. Investment holdings that involve forms of indebtedness (i.e. borrowed funds) are subject to credit risk.

Currency Risk: Fluctuations in the value of the currency in which your investment is denominated may affect the value of your investment, and thus your investment may be worth more or less in the future. All currency is subject to swings in valuation and thus, regardless of the currency denomination of any particular investment you own, currency risk is a realistic risk measure. That said, currency risk is generally a much larger factor for investment instruments denominated in currencies other than the most widely used currencies (U.S. Dollar, British Pound, German Mark, Euro, Japanese Yen, French Franc, etc.).

Equity (Stock) Market Risk: Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. If you hold common stock, or common stock equivalents, of any given issuer, you will generally be exposed to greater risk than if you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer.

ETF & 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. Clients may also incur a transaction cost when purchasing an ETF or a mutual fund.

Financial Risk: Financial risk is represented by internal disruptions within an investment or the issuer of an investment that can lead to unfavorable performance of the investment. Examples of financial risk can be found in cases like Enron or many of the dot com companies that were caught up in a period of extraordinary market valuations that were not based on solid financial footings of the companies.

Fixed Income Securities Risk: Typically, the values of fixed-income securities change inversely with prevailing interest rates. Therefore, a fundamental risk of fixed-income securities is interest rate risk, which is the risk that their value will generally decline as prevailing interest rates rise, which may cause your account value to likewise decrease, and vice versa. How specific fixed income securities may react to changes in interest rates will depend on the specific characteristics of each security. Fixed-income securities are also subject to credit risk, prepayment risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. Credit risk is the chance that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of a bond to decline.

Inflation Risk: Inflation risk involves the concern that in the future your investment or proceeds from your investment will not be worth what they are today. Throughout time, the prices of resources and end-user products generally increase and thus, the same general goods and products today will likely be more expensive in the future. The longer an investment is held, the greater the chance that the proceeds from that investment will be worth less in the future than what they are today.

Interest Rate Risk: Certain investments involve the payment of a fixed or variable rate of interest to the investment holder. Once an investor has acquired or has acquired the rights to an investment that pays a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest, changes in overall interest rates in the market will affect the value of the interest-paying investment(s) they hold. In general, changes in prevailing interest rates in the market will have an inverse relationship to the value of existing, interest paying investments. In other words, as interest rates move up, the value of an instrument paying a particular rate (fixed or variable) of interest will go down. The reverse is generally true as well.

Description of Material, Significant or Unusual Risks

Our firm sometimes invests client cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government backed debt instruments. In most cases, at least a small amount of cash will be maintained in the account in order to pay for advisory fees, as applicable.

ITEM 9:

Disciplinary Information

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

ITEM 10:

Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

Our firm and firm representatives do not have any other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations to report.

ITEM 11:

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

As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. Our fiduciary duty is the underlying principle for our firm's Code of Ethics, which includes procedures for personal securities transaction and insider trading. Our firm requires all representatives to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment with our firm, and at least annually thereafter, all representatives of our firm will acknowledge receipt, understanding and compliance with our firm's Code of Ethics. Our firm and representatives must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Our firm recognizes that the personal investment transactions of our representatives demands the application of a Code of Ethics with high standards and requires that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, our firm also believes that if investment goals are similar for clients and for our representatives, it is logical, and even desirable, that there be common ownership of some securities.

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, our firm has established procedures for transactions effected by our representatives for their personal accounts¹. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, our firm has pre-clearance requirements and a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our representatives.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling securities that will be bought or sold in client accounts unless done so after the client execution or concurrently as a part of a block trade.

¹ FOR PURPOSES OF THE POLICY, OUR ASSOCIATE'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT GENERALLY INCLUDES ANY ACCOUNT (A) IN THE NAME OF OUR ASSOCIATE, HIS/HER SPOUSE, HIS/HER MINOR CHILDREN OR OTHER DEPENDENTS RESIDING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD, (B) FOR WHICH OUR ASSOCIATE IS A TRUSTEE OR EXECUTOR, OR (C) WHICH OUR ASSOCIATE CONTROLS, INCLUDING OUR CLIENT ACCOUNTS WHICH OUR ASSOCIATE CONTROLS AND/OR A MEMBER OF HIS/HER HOUSEHOLD HAS A DIRECT OR INDIRECT BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN.

ITEM 12:

Brokerage Practices

Custodian & Brokers Used

Our firm does not maintain custody of client assets (although our firm may be deemed to have custody of client assets if given the authority to withdraw assets from client accounts. See Item 15 Custody, below). Client assets must be maintained in an account at a “qualified custodian,” generally a broker-dealer or bank. Our firm recommends that clients use the Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. (“Schwab”), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. Our firm is independently owned and operated, and not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold client assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when instructed. While our firm recommends that clients use Schwab as custodian/broker, clients will decide whether to do so and open an account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. Our firm does not open the account. Even though the account is maintained at Schwab, our firm can still use other brokers to execute trades, as described in the next paragraph.

How Brokers/Custodians Are Selected

Our firm seeks to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold client assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. A wide range of factors are considered, including, but not limited to:

- combination of transaction execution services along with asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- capability to execute, clear and settle trades (buy and sell securities for client accounts)
- capabilities to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- breadth of investment products made available (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), etc.)
- availability of investment research and tools that assist in making investment decisions quality of services
- competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate them
- reputation, financial strength and stability of the provider
- prior service to our firm and our other clients
- availability of other products and services that benefit our firm, as discussed below (see “Products & Services Available from Schwab”)

Custody & Brokerage Costs

Schwab generally does not charge a separate fee for custody services, but is compensated by charging commissions or other fees to clients on trades that are executed or that settle into the Schwab account. For some accounts, Schwab may charge your account a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account in lieu of commissions. Schwab’s commission rates and/or asset-based fees applicable to client accounts were negotiated based on our firm’s commitment to maintain a minimum threshold of assets statement equity in accounts at

Schwab. This commitment benefits clients because the overall commission rates and/or asset-based fees paid are lower than they would be if our firm had not made the commitment. In addition to commissions or asset-based fees, Schwab charges a flat dollar amount as a “prime broker” or “trade away” fee for each trade that our firm has executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into a Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation paid to the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize client trading costs, our firm has Schwab execute most trades for the accounts.

Products & Services Available from Schwab

Schwab Advisor Services is Schwab’s business serving independent investment advisory firms like our firm. They provide our firm and clients with access to its institutional brokerage – trading, custody, reporting and related services – many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help manage or administer our client accounts while others help manage and grow our business. Schwab’s support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (our firm does not have to request them) and at no charge to our firm. The availability of Schwab’s products and services is not based on the provision of particular investment advice, such as purchasing particular securities for clients. Here is a more detailed description of Schwab’s support services:

Services that Benefit Clients

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

Services that May Not Directly Benefit Clients

Schwab also makes available other products and services that benefit our firm but may not directly benefit clients or their accounts. These products and services assist in managing and administering our client accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab’s and that of third parties. This research may be used to service all or some substantial number of client accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

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

Services that Generally Benefit Only Our Firm

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

- educational conferences and events
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

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

Irrespective of direct or indirect benefits to our client through Schwab, our firm strives to enhance the client experience, help clients reach their goals and put client interests before that of our firm or associated persons.

Our Interest in Schwab's Services

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits our firm because our firm does not have to produce or purchase them. Our firm does not have to pay for these services, and they are not contingent upon committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody.

In light of our arrangements with Schwab, a conflict of interest exists as our firm may have incentive to require that clients maintain their accounts with Schwab based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our firm rather than based on client interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of transactions. As part of our fiduciary duty to our clients, our firm will endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our firm or our related persons creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our firm's choice of Schwab as a custodial recommendation. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when our firm chose to recommend Schwab and has determined that the recommendation is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Although our firm will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, our firm may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions. Our firm believes that the selection of Schwab as a custodian and broker is in the best interest of our clients. It is primarily supported by the scope, quality and price of Schwab's services, and not Schwab's services that only benefit our firm.

Soft Dollars

Our firm does not receive soft dollar benefits.

Client Brokerage Commissions

Schwab does not make client brokerage commissions generated by client transactions available for our firm's use.

Client Transactions in Return for Soft Dollars

Our firm does not direct client transactions to a particular custodian in return for soft dollar benefits.

Brokerage for Client Referrals

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

Directed Brokerage

Neither our firm nor any of our firm's representatives have discretionary authority in making the determination of the custodians with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected. Our firm routinely recommends that clients direct us to execute through a specified custodian. Our firm recommends the use of Schwab. Each client will be recommended to establish their account(s) with Schwab, if not already done.

Special Considerations for ERISA Clients

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted, provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, our firm will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

Client-Directed Brokerage

If desired, clients may initiate investment trades directly with Schwab.

Aggregation of Purchase or Sale

Our firm provides investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when our firm believes that to do so will be in the best interest of the affected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, our firm attempts to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration, and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

ITEM 13:

Review of Accounts or Financial Plans

For our **Navigate** service, our firm provides financial planning and advice based upon discussions with our **Navigate** clients in consideration of their questions, needs, and objectives. As requested, **Navigate** clients receive advice and answers to their questions on a recurring, monthly basis, renewable/cancelable by either party at either time. If **Navigate** clients want written or verbal monitoring of their financial plan(s), they can separately engage our firm's **Navigate +** service or otherwise request an additional financial plan meeting to update any initial financial plan they may have created.

As for our **Navigate +** clients, we review their accounts periodically. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether client accounts are in line with the client's needs, goals, and investment objectives, and that assets are appropriately positioned in line with current market conditions. Our firm generally does not provide written reports to clients unless asked to do so. Major market upheavals, client life changes, client needs and requests for support, and a desire to provide a high level of communication and client support often lead to frequent client contact and account reviews.

For our **Navigate Your 401(k)** clients, we regularly reach out to them to report on the status of their companies' retirement plans. We generally send them a customized Quarterly 401(k) Review for their plan. We also provide regular support in the areas of investment monitoring, plan administration needs, participant outreach and education, legislative updates and compliance support, etc.

ITEM 14:

Client Referrals & Other Compensation

Schwab

Except for the arrangements outlined in Item 12 of Form ADV Part 2A, our firm has no additional arrangements to disclose.

Product Sponsors

Our firm occasionally sponsors events in conjunction with our product providers in an effort to keep our clients informed as to the services we offer and the various financial products we utilize. These events are educational in nature and are not dependent upon the use of any specific product. While a conflict of interest may exist because these events may be at least partially funded by product sponsors, all funds received from product sponsors are used for the education of our clients. We will always adhere to our fiduciary duty in recommending appropriate investments for our clients.

Client Referrals

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

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

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

ITEM 15:

Custody

Deduction of Advisory Fees:

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

Third Party Money Movement:

On February 21, 2017, the SEC issued a no-action letter ("Letter") with respect to Rule 206(4)-2 ("Custody Rule") under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act"). The letter provided guidance on the Custody Rule as well as clarified that an adviser who has the power to disburse client funds to a third party under a standing letter of authorization ("SLOA") is deemed to have custody. As such, our firm has adopted the following safeguards in conjunction with our custodian:

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

ITEM 16:

Investment Discretion

Clients have the option of providing our firm with investment discretion on their behalf, pursuant to an executed **Navigate +** agreement. By granting investment discretion, our firm is authorized to execute securities transactions, determine which securities are bought and sold, and the total amount to be bought and sold. Should clients grant our firm non-discretionary authority, our firm would be required to obtain the client's permission prior to effecting securities transactions. Limitations may be imposed by the client in the form of specific constraints on any of these areas of discretion with our firm's written acknowledgment.

ITEM 17:

Voting Client Securities

Our firm does not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, our firm will forward them to the appropriate client and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to the client in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

ITEM 18:

Financial Information

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

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees when services cannot be rendered within 6 months.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.