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**FORM ADV PART 2A  
BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of ACI Partners, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 516-487-2630. 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 ACI Partners, LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

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

## Item 2 Material Changes

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

Since our last annually updated brochure dated February 27, 2015, we have the following material changes to report:

1. Effective April 20, 2015 we changed roles for the following two individuals in our firm:
  - a. Julie Carroll was formerly our Office Manager for the Maryland location and now serves as our Chief Compliance Officer.
  - b. Athena Bubell was formerly our Chief Compliance Officer and now serves as Office Manager for our New York location.
2. We do not directly or indirectly use, employ, or compensate non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Solicitors) for client referrals. Please see Item 14 below *Client Referrals and Other Compensation* for more information.
3. We no longer have an Investment Committee to monitor client investment portfolios rather each Investment Adviser Representative (IAR) is ultimately responsible for reviewing his/her client's investment portfolios. Please see Item 13 below *Review of Accounts* for more information.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Services and Fees

ACI Partners, LLC, is a registered investment adviser with a business model built on flexibility (a network of Investment Adviser Representatives ("IARs")) and primarily based in Great Neck, NY. We are organized as a limited liability company under the laws of the State of New York. We have been providing investment advisory services since 2013. Patrick Carroll, Julie Carroll, Stuart Paris, and Michael Paris are our principal owners. Julie Carroll is our Chief Compliance Officer and can be reached at our Maryland office (phone 301-990-4395). Currently, we offer the following investment advisory services, which are personalized to each individual client:

- Financial Planning/Consulting Services
- Retirement Plan Consulting
- Portfolio Management Services
- Selection of Other Advisers
- Wrap Fee Program

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

### Financial Planning/Consulting Services

We offer financial planning services which typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. These services can range from broad-based financial planning to consultative or single subject planning. If you retain our firm for financial planning services, we will meet with you to gather information about your financial circumstances and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we may develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Once we review and analyze the information you provide to our firm, we will deliver a written plan to you, designed to help you achieve your stated financial goals and objectives.

Our initial consultation with you is complimentary. Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to us. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change. You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the financial plan through any of our other investment advisory services.

As an additional service we provide *ongoing financial planning/consulting services*. This service commences upon your request so long as a separate agreement is fully executed subsequent to delivery of your financial plan. This "ongoing" service is part of a retainer program as we stand ready for all consulting and implementation needs you may have surrounding your financial plan.

### Retirement Plan Consulting

We offer retirement plan services to plan sponsors and/or plan trustees. These services are focused on education and communications to plan participants. Typically, services involve advice and/or recommendations of investments available in the participant's plan, such as fund selection, investment options, and educational seminars.

## **Portfolio Management Services**

We offer discretionary portfolio management services. Through our IARs, the firm manages individually tailored investment portfolios for clients. We provide continuous advice regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Each IAR conducts ongoing investment research and investment model development/analysis for individualized client portfolios. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established by its selected IAR(s), a client's personal investment policy or individual investment plan is developed and a portfolio based on that policy or plan is created and managed. During the data-gathering process, the IAR will typically determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, net worth, net income, age, tax situation, liquidity needs, and other suitability factors, as necessary.

If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow us to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm and the appropriate trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing.

As part of our portfolio management services, we may use one or more sub-advisers to manage a portion of your account on a discretionary basis. The sub-adviser(s) may use one or more of their model portfolios to manage your account. We will regularly monitor the performance of your accounts managed by sub-adviser(s), and may hire and fire any sub-adviser without your prior approval. We may pay a portion of our advisory fee to the sub-adviser(s) we use.

## **Selection of Other Advisers**

As part of our investment advisory services, we may recommend that you use the services of a third party money manager ("MM") to manage all, or a portion of, your investment portfolio. After gathering information about your financial situation and objectives, we will recommend that you engage a specific MM or investment program. Factors that we take into consideration when making our recommendation(s) include, but are not limited to, the following: the MM's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will periodically monitor the MM(s)' performance and suitability to ensure its management and investment style remains aligned with your investment goals and objectives. The MM(s) will actively manage your portfolio and will assume discretionary investment authority over your account. We may assume discretionary authority to hire and fire MM(s) and/or reallocate your assets to other MM(s) where we deem such action appropriate.

## **Wrap Fee Program**

We are a sponsor of a wrap fee program, which is a type of investment program that provides clients with asset management services for a single fee that includes management fees and transaction costs. If you participate in our portfolio management services, you will pay our firm a single fee, which includes our asset management fees, certain transaction costs, and custodial and administrative costs.

The overall cost you will incur if you participate in our wrap fee program may be higher or lower than you might incur by paying transaction costs separately. To compare the cost of the wrap fee program with non-wrap fee portfolio management services, you should consider the frequency of trading activity associated with our investment strategies, the brokerage costs charged by other broker/dealers, and the advisory fees charged by investment advisers.

If you participate in our wrap fee program, we will provide you with a separate Wrap Fee Program brochure, ADV Part 2A Appendix 1 explaining the program and costs associated with the program.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on all types of investments including any investments we deem appropriate based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship. You may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or certain types of securities. You must provide these restrictions to our firm in writing.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of January 26, 2016, we provide continuous management services for \$62,786,450 in client assets on a discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **Financial Planning/Consulting Services**

We charge a fixed fee for financial planning services, which generally ranges between \$1,200 and \$50,000. The fee is not negotiable. The fee is set depending upon the complexity and scope of the plan, your financial situation, and your objectives. Fixed fees are payable to the firm upon completion of the contracted services. We will not require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$1,200. Should the engagement last longer than six months between acceptance of the Financial Planning Agreement and delivery of the financial plan, any prepaid unearned fees will be promptly returned to you less a pro rata charge for bona fide financial planning services rendered to date.

You may terminate your Financial Planning Agreement by providing written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

*Our ongoing financial planning/consulting services* require that you pay an annual advanced retainer fee in the amount of 25 - 50% of the cost of your financial plan. This annual retainer is non-refundable and payable in two separate installments, due every 6 months.

### **Retirement Plan Consulting**

For our retirement plan consulting services, we charge up to 100 basis points (100 basis points equals 1%) of the participant's retirement plan value payable quarterly in arrears. You may terminate this service by providing written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement.

### **Portfolio Management Services**

Our fee for portfolio management services is based on a percentage of your assets we manage. We may charge up to 180 basis points (180 basis points equals 1.8%) of total assets. Our annual portfolio management fee is billed and payable monthly or quarterly in advance based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous month/quarter. If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar month/quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the month/quarter for which you are a client. Our advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

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

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

You may terminate the portfolio management agreement upon 30-days' written notice to our firm. Should termination occur within the first twelve (12) months, an administrative processing fee may apply. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the portfolio management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the month/quarter for which you are a client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

We do not charge you a separate fee for the selection of other advisers. We will share in the advisory fee you pay directly to the MM. The advisory fee you pay to the MM is established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each MM to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. Our compensation may differ depending upon the individual agreement we have with each MM. As such, a conflict of interest exists where our firm or persons associated with our firm has an incentive to recommend one MM over another MM with whom we have more favorable compensation arrangements or other advisory programs offered by MMs with whom we have less or no compensation arrangements.

You may be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended MM(s). You may terminate your advisory relationship with the MM according to the terms of your agreement with the MM. You should review each MM's brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the MM and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the MM directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the MM.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses.

You may also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through whom your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. To fully understand the total cost you may incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this brochure.

## **Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives of National Planning Corporation ("NPC" of America in FL and NY), a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. In their capacity as registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives, these persons may receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by these persons in their capacities as registered representatives and/or registered investment adviser representatives is separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice may present a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives may have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. When appropriate, we may recommend the purchase of "no-load" funds. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase securities products through any person affiliated with our firm.

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as independent insurance agents. These persons may earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice may present a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents may have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

## **IRA Rollover Considerations**

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

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

An employee will typically have four options:

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

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

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

1. Determine whether the investment options in your employer's retirement plan address your needs or whether you might want to consider other types of investments.
  - a. Employer retirement plans generally have a more limited investment menu than IRAs.
  - b. Employer retirement plans may have unique investment options not available to the public such as employer securities, or previously closed funds.
2. Your current plan may have lower fees than our fees.
  - a. If you are interested in investing only in mutual funds, you should understand the cost structure of the share classes available in your employer's retirement plan and how the costs of those share classes compare with those available in an IRA.
  - b. You should understand the various products and services you might take advantage of at an IRA provider and the potential costs of those products and services.
3. Our strategy may have higher risk than the option(s) provided to you in your plan.
4. Your current plan may also offer financial advice.
5. If you keep your assets titled in a 401k or retirement account, you could potentially delay your required minimum distribution beyond age 70.5.
6. Your 401k may offer more liability protection than a rollover IRA; each state may vary.
  - a. Generally, federal law protects assets in qualified plans from creditors. Since 2005, IRA assets have been generally protected from creditors in bankruptcies. However, there can be some exceptions to the general rules so you should consult with an attorney if you are concerned about protecting your retirement plan assets from creditors.
7. You may be able to take out a loan on your 401k, but not from an IRA.
8. IRA assets can be accessed any time; however, distributions are subject to ordinary income tax and may also be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty unless they qualify for an exception such as disability, higher education expenses or the purchase of a home.
9. If you own company stock in your plan, you may be able to liquidate those shares at a lower capital gains tax rate.
10. Your plan may allow you to hire us as the manager and keep the assets titled in the plan name.

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

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

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

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

We offer investment advisory services to individuals, profit sharing plan participants, charitable organizations, and corporations.

In general, we require a minimum of \$50,000 to open and maintain a portfolio management account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. We may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.

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

### Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

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

**Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns, trends, and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and predict the direction of both the overall market and specific securities.

**Risk:** The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that our analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Fundamental Analysis** - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.

**Risk:** The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long term expansions and contractions.

**Risk:** The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

We may use long term purchases, short term purchases, margin transactions, and/or option writing as investment strategies when managing your account(s). None of these strategies are a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use one or more occasionally when we determine that they are suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk.

In the event of Selection of Other Advisors, we will not perform quantitative or qualitative analysis of individual securities. Instead, we will advise you on how to allocate your assets among various classes of securities or third party money managers. We primarily rely on investment model portfolios. We may recommend replacing the MM and/or sub-adviser if there is a significant deviation in characteristics or performance from the stated strategy and/or benchmark.

## **Tax Considerations**

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Moreover, as a result of revised IRS regulations, custodians and broker-dealers will begin reporting the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the FIFO (First-In First-Out) accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, please provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Please note that decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

## **Risk of Loss**

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

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

As disclosed under the *Advisory Business* section in this brochure, we recommend all types of securities and we do not necessarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with that investment.

**Mutual Funds and ETFs:** Mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs) are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. Exchange traded funds differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors.

## Item 9 Disciplinary Information

ACI Partners, LLC has been registered and providing investment advisory services since 2013. Neither our firm nor any of our management persons has any reportable disciplinary information.

## Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives of **NPC** may recommend NPC to you for securities and advisory services. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this brochure.

We may recommend one or more of our affiliations as described below if appropriate and suitable for your needs. Our advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees paid to our affiliates for their respective services. We are affiliated with the following companies through common control and ownership:

1. **Obsidian Business Solutions, LLC**, a business planning company;
2. **401(k) Compliance Solution, LLC**, a plan sponsor consulting company;
3. **Wealth Strategies Group, Inc.** a financial services company;
4. **Next Chapter Program, LLC**, financial services for individuals who have lost a family member;
5. **Coordinated Trust Services, LLC**, a trust funding service company;
6. **Paris International Partners, LLC**, a financial services company;
7. **Paris International Consultants, LLC**, an employee benefits consulting company;
8. **Paris International Corporation**, an employee benefits insurance consulting company;
9. **401(k) Advisor Support Services, LLC**, a marketing firm for financial professionals;
10. **Granite Retirement Services, LLC**, a professional services company offering bundled plan sponsor deliverables; and
11. **M Group Insurance, LLC**, licensed as an insurance agency. Please see the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm.

### Arrangements with Affiliated Entities

In the event we refer you to an affiliate of ours, there may be a conflict of interest because we may have a financial incentive to recommend our affiliate's services. While we believe that compensation charged by our affiliate is competitive, such compensation may be higher than fees charged by other firms providing the same or similar services. You are under no obligation to use our affiliate service and may obtain comparable services and/or lower fees through other firms.

### Recommendation of Other Advisers

We may recommend that you use a third party adviser ("MM") based on your needs and suitability. We will receive compensation from the MM for recommending that you use their services. These compensation arrangements present a conflict of interest because we have a financial incentive to recommend the services of the third party adviser. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any MM we recommend.

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

### Description of Our Code of Ethics

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for persons associated with our firm. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All persons associated with our firm are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

### Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

Neither our firm nor any persons associated with our firm has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

### Personal Trading Practices

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## Item 12 Brokerage Practices

### Directed Brokerage

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives of **NPC** may recommend NPC to you for securities and advisory services. These individuals are subject to applicable rules that restrict them from conducting securities transactions away from NPC unless NPC provides the representative with written authorization to do so. As such, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions and you may pay higher brokerage commissions than you might otherwise pay through another broker-dealer that offers the same types of services. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage. If transactions are executed through NPC, these individuals (in their separate capacities as registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives of NPC) may earn commission-based compensation as result of placing the recommended securities transactions through NPC. This practice may present a conflict of interest because these registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. You may utilize the broker-dealer of your choice and have no obligation to purchase or sell securities through such broker as, we recommend. Please see the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by registered representatives who are affiliated with our firm.

We participate in the institutional advisor program (the "Program") offered by TD Ameritrade Institutional. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade Inc., member FINRA/SIPC/NFA ("TD Ameritrade"), an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA member. TD Ameritrade

offers to independent investment advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. We receive some benefits from TD Ameritrade through our participation in the Program.

We believe that TD Ameritrade provides quality execution services for you at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by TD Ameritrade, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of research services and additional brokerage products and services TD Ameritrade provides, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

As disclosed above, we participate in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and may recommend TD Ameritrade to clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our participation in the program and the investment advice we give to our clients, although we receive economic benefits through participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving our participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by our related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit us but may not benefit our client accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. The benefits received by us or our personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of our fiduciary duties to clients, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by us or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

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

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements. The research products and services that our firm might receive from brokerage firms (e.g. TD Ameritrade, among others) may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to the Firm in the performance of its investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services provided to all investment advisers who utilize TD Ameritrade, and not considered paid for with soft dollars. However, the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction, or set of transactions, might be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

## **Block Trades**

We may combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We may then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion regarding factual and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

### **Financial Planning Reviews**

We will review your financial plan annually upon executing an Agreement, to ensure the financial planning services provided to you, and the portfolio mix, are consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

1. any investment account(s), or
2. the review of your financial plan, or
3. the review of statements you receive from your third-party money manager or account custodian.

At your request, we may meet with you and/or your third-party money manager(s) to discuss asset allocation, but we will not make recommendations regarding specific investments or provide any regular written reports to you.

### **Portfolio Management Services**

Each Investment Adviser Representative (IAR) is ultimately responsible for reviewing his/her client's investment portfolios. IARs will continuously monitor the underlying securities within client accounts as well as any selected third-party managers/programs and perform at least annual formal account reviews. Accounts are reviewed for consistency with client investment strategy, asset allocation, risk tolerance and performance relative to the appropriate benchmark. More frequent reviews may be triggered by changes in an account holder's personal, tax or financial status.

Quarterly written performance reports are made available to you electronically and will contain relevant account and/or market-related information such as an inventory of account holdings and account performance. You will receive written trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

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

### **Economic benefits Provided to the Advisory Firm from External Sources and Conflicts of Interest**

As disclosed under Item 12 above, we participate in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and we may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our participation in the program and the investment advice we give to Clients, although we receive economic benefits through participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving

our participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to by third party vendors.

TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by our related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit us but may not benefit Client accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help us manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by us or our personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by us or our related persons in and of itself creates a conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

As disclosed under the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents, and are registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives with NPC, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section.

We do not directly or indirectly use, employ, or compensate non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Solicitors) for client referrals.

## **Item 15 Custody**

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

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

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

You must grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify in writing your investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify in writing that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security. Please refer to the *Advisory Business* section in this brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

## Item 17 Voting Client Securities

Without exception, we will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## Item 18 Financial Information

We are not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not:

- require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, or
- take custody of client funds or securities, or
- have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you.

## Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

ACI Partners, LLC is an SEC-Registered Adviser; hence this requirement is not applicable.

## Item 20 Additional Information

### Your Privacy

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure if you have any questions regarding this policy.

**Trade Errors**

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

For accounts custodied at TD Ameritrade, as of April 1, 2014, if a profit results from correcting the trade, you will not retain the profit as all net gains (positive error accounts balances resulting from trade corrections) will be moved to a TD Ameritrade error account and subsequently donated to charity.

**Class Action Lawsuits**

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit. Moreover, we do not determine whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf.