

## **VANTAGE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, LLC**

*a Registered Investment Adviser*

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Vantage Financial Partners, LLC (hereinafter “VFP” or the “Firm”). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact the Firm at the telephone number listed above. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority. Additional information about the Firm is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The Firm is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply any level of skill or training.

## **Item 2. Material Changes**

In this Item, VFP is required to discuss any material changes that have been made to the brochure since the last annual amendment. There are no material changes to disclose.

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## Item 4. Advisory Business

VFP offers a variety of advisory services, which include financial planning, consulting, and investment management services. Prior to VFP rendering any of the foregoing advisory services, clients are required to enter into one or more written agreements with VFP setting forth the relevant terms and conditions of the advisory relationship (the “Advisory Agreement”).

VFP filed for registration as an investment adviser in July 2021 and is owned by Jesse Niederbaumer, Andrew Meyer, Matthew Niederbaumer, and Jeremy Gardner. As of January 3, 2022, VFP has \$349,000,000 assets under management; \$348,000,000 of which is managed on a discretionary basis and \$1,000,000 of which was managed on a non-discretionary basis.

While this brochure generally describes the business of VFP, certain sections also discuss the activities of its Supervised Persons, which refer to the Firm’s officers, partners, directors (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), employees or other persons who provide investment advice on VFP’s behalf and are subject to the Firm’s supervision or control.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Services

VFP offers clients a broad range of financial planning and consulting services, which include any or all of the following functions:

- Trust and Estate Planning
- Insurance Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Tax Planning and analysis
- Education Planning

While each of these services is available on a stand-alone basis, certain of them can also be rendered in conjunction with investment portfolio management as part of a comprehensive wealth management engagement (described in more detail below).

In performing these services, VFP is not required to verify any information received from the client or from the client’s other professionals (e.g., attorneys, accountants, etc.) and is expressly authorized to rely on such information. VFP recommends certain clients engage the Firm for additional related services and/or other professionals to implement its recommendations. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists for the Firm to recommend that clients engage VFP or its affiliates to provide (or continue to provide) additional services for compensation, including investment management services. Clients retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding implementation and are under no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations made by VFP under a financial planning or consulting engagement. Clients are advised that it remains their responsibility to promptly notify the Firm of any change in their financial situation or

investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating or revising VFP’s recommendations and/or services.

## **Investment and Wealth Management Services**

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VFP provides clients with wealth management services which include a broad range of financial planning and consulting services as well as discretionary and/or non-discretionary management of investment portfolios.

VFP primarily allocates client assets among various mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) as well as some individual debt and equity securities, in accordance with their stated investment objectives.

Where appropriate, the Firm also provides advice about any type of legacy position or other investment held in client portfolios, but clients should not assume that these assets are being continuously monitored or otherwise advised on by the Firm unless specifically agreed upon. Clients can engage VFP to manage and/or advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance and annuity contracts and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans). In these situations, VFP directs or recommends the allocation of client assets among the various investment options available with the product. These assets are generally maintained at the underwriting insurance company or the custodian designated by the product’s provider.

VFP tailors its advisory services to meet the needs of its individual clients and seeks to ensure, on a continuous basis, that client portfolios are managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. VFP consults with clients on an initial and ongoing basis to assess their specific risk tolerance, time horizon, liquidity constraints and other related factors relevant to the management of their portfolios. Clients are advised to promptly notify VFP if there are changes in their financial situation or if they wish to place any limitations on the management of their portfolios. Clients can impose reasonable restrictions or mandates on the management of their accounts if VFP determines, in its sole discretion, the conditions would not materially impact the performance of a management strategy or prove overly burdensome to the Firm’s management efforts.

## **Retirement Plan Consulting Services**

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VFP provides various consulting services to qualified employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries. This suite of institutional services is designed to assist plan sponsors in structuring, managing and optimizing their corporate retirement plans. Each engagement is individually negotiated and customized, and includes any or all of the following services:

- Plan Design and Strategy
- Plan Review and Evaluation
- Executive Planning & Benefits
- Investment Selection

- Plan Fee and Cost Analysis
- Plan Committee Consultation
- Fiduciary and Compliance
- Participant Education

As disclosed in the Advisory Agreement, certain of the foregoing services are provided by VFP as a fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). In accordance with ERISA Section 408(b)(2), each plan sponsor is provided with a written description of VFP’s fiduciary status, the specific services to be rendered and all direct and indirect compensation the Firm reasonably expects under the engagement.

## Item 5. Fees and Compensation

VFP offers services on a fee basis, which includes fixed fees, as well as fees based upon assets under management.

### Financial Planning and Consulting Fees

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VFP charges a fixed fee for providing financial planning and consulting services under a stand-alone engagement. These fees are negotiable, but range from \$750 to \$10,000, depending upon the scope and complexity of the services and the professional rendering the financial planning and/or the consulting services. The fee can be for a defined project, such as the delivery of a plan, or for ongoing services. If the client engages the Firm for additional investment advisory services, VFP can offset all or a portion of its fees for those services based upon the amount paid for the financial planning and/or consulting services.

The terms and conditions of the financial planning and/or consulting engagement are set forth in the Advisory Agreement. For project-based services VFP requires either one-half of the fee (estimated hourly or fixed) payable upon execution of the Advisory Agreement or a fee payable on a monthly basis. The outstanding balance is due upon delivery of the financial plan or completion of the agreed upon services. Ongoing services are charged as described in the investment management section, below. The Firm does not, however, take receipt of \$1,200 or more in prepaid fees, six or more months in advance of services rendered.

### Investment Management Fees

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VFP offers investment management services for an annual fee based on the amount of assets under the Firm’s management. This management fee varies between 40 and 150 basis points (0.40% – 1.50%), depending upon the size and composition of a client’s portfolio, the type and amount of services rendered and the individual(s) providing the services.

The annual fee is prorated and charged quarterly, in advance, based upon the market value of the assets being managed by VFP on the last day of the previous quarter as determined by a party independent from the Firm (including the client's custodian or another third-party). The Firm includes cash in a client's account in determining the valuation for billing purposes. The Firm may, in its sole discretion, not include cash in determining the fee, especially where a client has a high percentage of cash for reasons other than the Firm's investment management decision. If assets are deposited into or withdrawn from an account after the inception of a billing period, the fee payable with respect to such assets is adjusted to reflect the interim change in portfolio value.

For the initial period of an engagement, the fee is calculated on a *pro rata* basis. In the event the advisory agreement is terminated, the fee for the final billing period is prorated through the effective date of the termination and the outstanding or unearned portion of the fee is charged or refunded to the client, as appropriate.

Additionally, for asset management services the Firm provides with respect to certain client holdings (e.g., held-away assets, accommodation accounts, alternative investments, etc.), VFP can negotiate a fee rate that differs from the range set forth above. Clients are advised that a conflict of interest exists for the Firm to recommend that clients engage VFP for additional services for compensation, including rolling over retirement accounts or moving other assets to the Firm's management. Clients retain absolute discretion over all decisions regarding engaging the Firm and are under no obligation to act upon any of the recommendations.

## **Retirement Plan Consulting Fees**

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VFP charges a fixed project-based fee to provide clients with retirement plan consulting services. Each engagement is individually negotiated and tailored to accommodate the needs of the individual plan sponsor, as memorialized in the Agreement. These fees vary, based on the scope of the services to be rendered, and range from \$1,500 to \$10,000 per annum depending upon services provided and the amount of assets to be advised on.

## **Fee Discretion**

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VFP may, in its sole discretion, negotiate to charge a lesser fee based upon certain criteria, such as anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amount of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, pre-existing/legacy client relationship, account retention, pro bono activities, or competitive purposes.

## **Additional Fees and Expenses**

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In addition to the advisory fees paid to VFP, clients also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively “Financial Institutions”). These additional charges include securities brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, margin and other borrowing costs, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund or ETF in a client’s account, as disclosed in the fund’s prospectus (*e.g.*, fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. The Firm’s brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

## **Direct Fee Debit**

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Clients provide VFP with the authority to directly debit their accounts for payment of the investment advisory fees. The Financial Institutions that act as the qualified custodian for client accounts, from which the Firm retains the authority to directly deduct fees, have agreed to send statements to clients not less than quarterly detailing all account transactions, including any amounts paid to VFP. Alternatively, clients may elect to have VFP send a separate invoice for direct payment.

## **Use of Margin**

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VFP can recommend that certain clients utilize margin in the client’s investment portfolio or other borrowing. VFP only recommends such borrowing for non-investment needs, such as bridge loans and other financing needs. The Firm’s fees are determined based upon the value of the assets being managed gross of any margin or borrowing.

## **Account Additions and Withdrawals**

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Clients can make additions to and withdrawals from their account at any time, subject to VFP’s right to terminate an account. Additions can be in cash or securities provided that the Firm reserves the right to liquidate any transferred securities or declines to accept particular securities into a client’s account. Clients can withdraw account assets on notice to VFP, subject to the usual and customary securities settlement procedures. However, the Firm designs its portfolios as long-term investments and the withdrawal of assets may impair the achievement of a client’s investment objectives. VFP may consult with its clients about the options and implications of transferring securities. Clients are advised that when transferred securities are liquidated, they may be subject to transaction fees, short-term redemption fees, fees assessed at the mutual fund level (*e.g.*, contingent deferred sales charges) and/or tax ramifications.



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

VFP does not provide any services for a performance-based fee (i.e., a fee based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's assets).

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

VFP offers services to individuals, charitable organizations, corporations and other business entities, and retirement plans.

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

### **Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

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VFP's process for providing advisory services begins with a review of each client's existing portfolio(s) and asset allocation. VFP generally provides clients with custom asset allocation strategies that meet the client's written investment objectives as outlined in the Investment Policy Statement ("IPS"). The IPS is reviewed by the Firm on at least an annual basis.

Client portfolios consist primarily of low-cost, diversified mutual funds and/or ETFs. VFP may further customize a client's portfolio with investments in individual equity or debt securities, other public pooled investment vehicles, derivatives (specifically options and futures), Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") and/or Master Limited Partnerships ("MLPs").

Client portfolio investments are typically long-term holdings; however, VFP may advise clients to sell investments held less than 12 months. As part of its asset allocation strategy, the Firm will consider the client's entire asset base, including those assets, as disclosed in writing to the Firm, that are not managed by VFP in the client's account. VFP will determine if the client's portfolio is adequately diversified and if the portfolio matches the client's investment objectives and risk tolerance as stated in the IPS. Discretionary client accounts may be rebalanced to meet and maintain the client's long-term investment objectives.

VFP, through its Investment Committee, evaluates and selects investments for inclusion in client portfolios based on its general belief that the strategic allocation of investment assets across broadly defined asset classes with varying degrees of risk and return correlation will be the most significant determinant of long-term investment returns and portfolio value stability. VFP utilizes investment research from third-party sources to enhance its investment process and monitor asset classes and allocation strategies. The

information obtained and analyzed from these sources supports the Firm's client portfolio construction as well as future allocation changes in client portfolios.

VFP may recommend, on a periodic basis, investment allocations to diversify a client's portfolio to increase sector or asset class weightings. The Firm may recommend, on a periodic basis, employing cash positions as a possible hedge against market movements. The Firm may recommend selling portfolio investments in situations including, but not limited to, harvesting capital gains or losses, managing business or sector risk exposure with respect to a specific security or class of securities, overvaluation or overweighting of a portfolio position, changes in client risk tolerance and/or client liquidity needs.

## **Risk of Loss**

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The following list of risk factors does not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved with respect to the Firm's investment management activities. Clients should consult with their legal, tax, and other advisors before engaging the Firm to provide investment management services on their behalf.

### *Market Risks*

Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal, and all investors should be guided accordingly. The profitability of a significant portion of VFP's recommendations and/or investment decisions may depend to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of price movements of stocks, bonds and other asset classes. In addition, investments may be adversely affected by financial markets and economic conditions throughout the world. There can be no assurance that VFP will be able to predict these price movements accurately or capitalize on any such assumptions.

### *Volatility Risks*

The prices and values of investments can be highly volatile, and are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, general economic conditions, the condition of the financial markets, the financial condition of the issuers of such assets, changing supply and demand relationships, and programs and policies of governments.

### *Cash Management Risks*

The Firm may invest some of a client's assets temporarily in money market funds or other similar types of investments, during which time an advisory account may be prevented from achieving its investment objective.

## *Equity-Related Securities and Instruments*

As discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends, the Firm may take long positions in common stocks of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers traded on national securities exchanges and over-the-counter markets. The value of equity securities varies in response to many factors. These factors include, without limitation, factors specific to an issuer and factors specific to the industry in which the issuer participates. Individual companies may report poor results or be negatively affected by industry and/or economic trends and developments, and the stock prices of such companies may suffer a decline in response. In addition, equity securities are subject to stock risk, which is the risk that stock prices historically rise and fall in periodic cycles. U.S. and non-U.S. stock markets have experienced periods of substantial price volatility in the past and may do so again in the future. In addition, investments in small-capitalization, midcapitalization and financially distressed companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements and may lack sufficient market liquidity, and these issuers often face greater business risks.

## *Fixed Income Securities*

As discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends, s discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends can recommend that may recommend fixed income investments to certain clients. While the Firm emphasizes risk-averse management and capital preservation in its fixed-income bond portfolios, clients who invest in this product can lose money, including losing a portion of their original investment. The prices of the securities in our portfolios fluctuate. The Firm does not guarantee any particular level of performance. Below is a representative list of the types of risks clients should consider before investing in this product.

- Interest rate risk. Prices of bonds tend to move in the opposite direction to interest rate changes. Typically, a rise in interest rates will negatively affect bond prices. The longer the duration and average maturity of a portfolio, the greater the likely reaction to interest rate moves.
- Credit (or default) risk. A bond's price will generally fall if the issuer fails to make a scheduled interest or principal payment, if the credit rating of the security is downgraded, or if the perceived creditworthiness of the issuer deteriorates.
- Liquidity risk. Sectors of the bond market can experience a sudden downturn in trading activity. When there is little or no trading activity in a security, it can be difficult to sell the security at or near its perceived value. In such a market, bond prices may fall.
- Call risk. Some bonds give the issuer the option to call or redeem the bond before the maturity date. If an issuer calls a bond when interest rates are declining, the proceeds may have to be reinvested at a lower yield. During periods of market illiquidity or rising rates, prices of callable securities may be subject to increased volatility.

- Prepayment risk. When interest rates fall, the principal of mortgage-backed securities may be prepaid. These prepayments can reduce the portfolio's yield because proceeds may have to be reinvested at a lower yield.
- Extension risk. When interest rates rise or there is a lack of refinancing opportunities, prepayments of mortgage-backed securities or callable bonds may be less than expected. This would lengthen the portfolio's duration and average maturity and increase its sensitivity to rising rates and its potential for price declines.

### *Mutual Funds and ETFs*

An investment in a mutual fund or ETF involves risk, including the loss of principal. Mutual fund and ETF shareholders are necessarily subject to the risks stemming from the individual issuers of the fund's underlying portfolio securities. Such shareholders are also liable for taxes on any fund-level capital gains, as mutual funds and ETFs are required by law to distribute capital gains in the event they sell securities for a profit that cannot be offset by a corresponding loss.

Shares of mutual funds are generally distributed and redeemed on an ongoing basis by the fund itself or a broker acting on its behalf. The trading price at which a share is transacted is equal to a fund's stated daily per share net asset value ("NAV"), plus any shareholders fees (*e.g.*, sales loads, purchase fees, redemption fees). The per share NAV of a mutual fund is calculated at the end of each business day, although the actual NAV fluctuates with intraday changes to the market value of the fund's holdings. The trading prices of a mutual fund's shares may differ from the NAV during periods of market volatility, which may, among other factors, lead to the mutual fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to actual NAV.

Shares of ETFs are listed on securities exchanges and transacted at negotiated prices in the secondary market. Generally, ETF shares trade at or near their most recent NAV, which is generally calculated at least once daily for index-based ETFs and potentially more frequently for actively managed ETFs. However, certain inefficiencies may cause the shares to trade at a premium or discount to their pro rata NAV. There is also no guarantee that an active secondary market for such shares will develop or continue to exist. Generally, an ETF only redeems shares when aggregated as creation units (usually 20,000 shares or more). Therefore, if a liquid secondary market ceases to exist for shares of a particular ETF, a shareholder may have no way to dispose of such shares.

### *Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs)*

As discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends, the Firm may recommend MLPs to certain clients. MLPs are collective investment vehicles, the partnership interests of which are publicly traded on national securities exchanges. MLPs invest primarily in companies within the energy sector that engage in qualifying lines of business, such as natural resource production and mineral refinement. MLPs are therefore subject to the underlying volatility of the energy industry and may be

adversely affected by changes to supply and demand, regional instability, currency spreads, inflation and interest rate fluctuations, among other such factors. In addition, MLPs operate as pass-through tax entities, meaning that investors are liable for their pro rata share of the partnership taxes, regardless of the types of accounts where the interests are held.

### *Options*

As discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends, the Firm may recommend options to certain clients. Options allow investors to buy or sell a security at a contracted “strike” price at or within a specific period of time. Clients may pay or collect a premium for buying or selling an option. Investors transact in options to either hedge (i.e., limit) losses in an attempt to reduce risk or to speculate on the performance of the underlying securities. Options transactions contain a number of inherent risks, including the partial or total loss of principal in the event that the value of the underlying security or index does not increase/decrease to the level of the respective strike price. Holders of options contracts are also subject to default by the option writer which may be unwilling or unable to perform its contractual obligations.

### *Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)*

As discussed above, while not the primary investments that the Firm recommends, the Firm may recommend REITs to certain clients. REITs are collective investment vehicles with portfolios comprised primarily of real estate and mortgage related holdings. Many REITs hold heavy concentrations of investments tied to commercial and/or residential developments, which inherently subject REIT investors to the risks associated with a downturn in the real estate market. Investments linked to certain regions that experience greater volatility in the local real estate market may give rise to large fluctuations in the value of the vehicle’s shares. Mortgage related holdings may give rise to additional concerns pertaining to interest rates, inflation, liquidity and counterparty risk.

### *Management through Similarly Managed “Model” Accounts*

VFP manages accounts through the use of similarly managed “model” portfolios, whereby the Firm allocates all or a portion of its clients’ assets among various mutual funds and/or securities on a discretionary basis using one or more of its proprietary investment strategies. In managing assets through the use of models, the Firm remains in compliance with the safe harbor provisions of Rule 3a-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The strategy used to manage a model portfolio may involve an above average portfolio turnover that could negatively impact clients’ net after tax gains. While the Firm seeks to ensure that clients’ assets are managed in a manner consistent with their individual financial situations and investment objectives, securities transactions effected pursuant to a model investment strategy are usually done without regard to a client’s individual tax ramifications. Clients should contact the Firm if they experience a change in their financial situation or if they want to impose reasonable restrictions on the management of their accounts.

## *Currency Risks*

An advisory account that holds investments denominated in currencies other than the currency in which the advisory account is denominated may be adversely affected by the volatility of currency exchange rates.

## *Interest Rate Risks*

Interest rates may fluctuate significantly, causing price volatility with respect to securities or instruments held by clients.

## **Item 9. Disciplinary Information**

VFP has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

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

This item requires investment advisers to disclose certain financial industry activities and affiliations. The Firm does not have any other financial industry activities or affiliations that need to be disclosed.

## **Item 11. Code of Ethics**

VFP has adopted a code of ethics in compliance with applicable securities laws ("Code of Ethics") that sets forth the standards of conduct expected of its Supervised Persons. VFP's Code of Ethics contains written policies reasonably designed to prevent certain unlawful practices such as the use of material non-public information by the Firm or any of its Supervised Persons and the trading by the same of securities ahead of clients in order to take advantage of pending orders.

The Code of Ethics also requires certain of VFP's personnel to report their personal securities holdings and transactions and obtain pre-approval of certain investments (*e.g.*, initial public offerings, limited offerings). However, the Firm's Supervised Persons are permitted to buy or sell securities that it also recommends to clients if done in a fair and equitable manner that is consistent with the Firm's policies and procedures. This Code of Ethics has been established recognizing that some securities trade in sufficiently broad markets to permit transactions by certain personnel to be completed without any appreciable impact on the markets of such securities. Therefore, under limited circumstances, exceptions may be made to the policies stated below.

When the Firm is engaging in or considering a transaction in any security on behalf of a client, no Supervised Person with access to this information may knowingly effect for themselves or for their immediate family (i.e., spouse, minor children and adults living in the same household) a transaction in that security unless:

- the transaction has been completed;
- the transaction for the Supervised Person is completed as part of a batch trade with clients; or
- a decision has been made not to engage in the transaction for the client.

These requirements are not applicable to: (i) direct obligations of the Government of the United States; (ii) money market instruments, bankers' acceptances, bank certificates of deposit, commercial paper, repurchase agreements and other high quality short-term debt instruments, including repurchase agreements; (iii) shares issued by money market funds; and iv) shares issued by other unaffiliated open-end mutual funds.

Clients and prospective clients may contact VFP to request a copy of its Code of Ethics by contacting the Firm at the phone number on the cover page of this brochure.

## Item 12. Brokerage Practices

### Recommendation of Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions

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VFP recommends that clients utilize the custody, brokerage and clearing services of National Financial Services LLC and Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC (together with affiliates, "Fidelity") for investment management accounts. The final decision to custody assets with Fidelity is at the discretion of the client, including those accounts under ERISA or IRA rules and regulations, in which case the client is acting as either the plan sponsor or IRA accountholder. VFP is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Fidelity. Fidelity provides VFP with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to retail investors.

Factors which VFP considers in recommending Fidelity or any other broker-dealer to clients include their respective financial strength, reputation, execution, pricing, research and service. Fidelity enables the Firm to obtain many mutual funds without transaction charges and other securities at nominal transaction charges. The commissions and/or transaction fees charged by Fidelity may be higher or lower than those charged by other Financial Institutions.

The commissions paid by VFP's clients to Fidelity comply with the Firm's duty to obtain "best execution." Clients may pay commissions that are higher than another qualified Financial Institution might charge to

effect the same transaction where VFP determines that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. 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 Financial Institution's services, including among others, the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates and responsiveness. VFP seeks competitive rates but may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for client transactions.

Consistent with obtaining best execution, brokerage transactions are directed to certain broker-dealers in return for investment research products and/or services which assist VFP in its investment decision-making process. Such research will be used to service all of the Firm's clients, but brokerage commissions paid by one client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that client's portfolio. The receipt of investment research products and/or services as well as the allocation of the benefit of such investment research products and/or services poses a conflict of interest because VFP does not have to produce or pay for the products or services.

VFP periodically and systematically reviews its policies and procedures regarding its recommendation of Financial Institutions in light of its duty to obtain best execution.

## **Software and Support Provided by Financial Institutions**

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VFP receives without cost from Fidelity administrative support, computer software, related systems support, as well as other third party support as further described below (together "Support") which allow VFP to better monitor client accounts maintained at Fidelity and otherwise conduct its business. VFP receives the Support without cost because the Firm renders investment management services to clients that maintain assets at Fidelity. The Support is not provided in connection with securities transactions of clients (i.e., not "soft dollars"). The Support benefits VFP, but not its clients directly. Clients should be aware that VFP's receipt of economic benefits such as the Support from a broker-dealer creates a conflict of interest since these benefits will influence the Firm's choice of broker-dealer over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support or services. In fulfilling its duties to its clients, VFP endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first and has determined that the recommendation of Fidelity is in the best interest of clients and satisfies the Firm's duty to seek best execution.

Specifically, VFP receives the following benefits from Fidelity: i) receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; ii) access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional traders; iii) access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts; and iv) access to an electronic communication network for client order entry and account information.

Fidelity also makes available to the Firm, at no additional charge, certain research and brokerage services, including research services obtained by Fidelity directly from independent research companies, as selected by VFP (within specified parameters). These research and brokerage services are used by the Firm to



manage accounts for which it has investment discretion. Without this arrangement, the Firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at its own expense.

These services generally are available to independent investment advisors on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a certain amount of the advisor's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Fidelity. Fidelity's services include brokerage services that are related to the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, including that in the form of advice, analyses and reports, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For client accounts maintained in its custody, Fidelity generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions or other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Fidelity or that settle into Fidelity accounts.

Fidelity also makes available to the Firm other products and services that benefit the Firm but may not benefit its clients' accounts. These benefits may include national, regional or Firm specific educational events organized and/or sponsored by Fidelity. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of VFP by Fidelity personnel, including meals, invitations to sporting events, including golf tournaments, and other forms of entertainment, some of which may accompany educational opportunities. Other of these products and services assist VFP in managing and administering clients' accounts. These include software and other technology (and related technological training) that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of the Firm's fees from its clients' accounts, and assist with back-office training and support functions, recordkeeping and client reporting. Many of these services generally may be used to service all or some substantial number of the Firm's accounts, including accounts not maintained at FidelityWhile, as a fiduciary, VFP endeavors to act in its clients' best interests, the Firm's recommendation that clients maintain their assets in accounts at Fidelity may be based in part on the benefits received and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Fidelity, which creates a conflict of interest.

## **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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VFP does not consider, in selecting or recommending broker-dealers, whether the Firm receives client referrals from the Financial Institutions or other third party.

## **Directed Brokerage**

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The client may direct VFP in writing to use a particular Financial Institution to execute some or all transactions for the client. In that case, the client will negotiate terms and arrangements for the account

with that Financial Institution and the Firm will not seek better execution services or prices from other Financial Institutions or be able to “batch” client transactions for execution through other Financial Institutions with orders for other accounts managed by VFP (as described above). As a result, the client may pay higher commissions or other transaction costs, greater spreads or may receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the account than would otherwise be the case. Subject to its duty of best execution, VFP may decline a client’s request to direct brokerage if, in the Firm’s sole discretion, such directed brokerage arrangements would result in additional operational difficulties.

## **Trade Aggregation**

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Transactions for each client will be effected independently, unless VFP decides to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. VFP may (but is not obligated to) combine or “batch” such orders to obtain best execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate equitably among the Firm’s clients differences in prices and commissions or other transaction costs that might not have been obtained had such orders been placed independently. Under this procedure, transactions will be averaged as to price and allocated among VFP’s clients pro rata to the purchase and sale orders placed for each client on any given day. To the extent that the Firm determines to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which VFP’s Supervised Persons may invest, the Firm does so in accordance with applicable rules promulgated under the Advisers Act and no-action guidance provided by the staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. VFP does not receive any additional compensation or remuneration as a result of the aggregation.

In the event that the Firm determines that a prorated allocation is not appropriate under the particular circumstances, the allocation will be made based upon other relevant factors, which include: (i) when only a small percentage of the order is executed, shares may be allocated to the account with the smallest order or the smallest position or to an account that is out of line with respect to security or sector weightings relative to other portfolios, with similar mandates; (ii) allocations may be given to one account when one account has limitations in its investment guidelines which prohibit it from purchasing other securities which are expected to produce similar investment results and can be purchased by other accounts; (iii) if an account reaches an investment guideline limit and cannot participate in an allocation, shares may be reallocated to other accounts (this may be due to unforeseen changes in an account’s assets after an order is placed); (iv) with respect to sale allocations, allocations may be given to accounts low in cash; (v) in cases when a pro rata allocation of a potential execution would result in a de minimis allocation in one or more accounts, the Firm may exclude the account(s) from the allocation; the transactions may be executed on a pro rata basis among the remaining accounts; or (vi) in cases where a small proportion of an order is executed in all accounts, shares may be allocated to one or more accounts on a random basis.

## Item 13. Review of Accounts

### Account Reviews

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VFP monitors client portfolios on a continuous and ongoing basis and regular account reviews are conducted on at least an annual basis. Such reviews are conducted by the Firm's Investment Committee and investment adviser representatives. All investment advisory clients are encouraged to discuss their needs, goals and objectives with VFP and to keep the Firm informed of any changes thereto.

### Account Statements and Reports

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Clients are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular summary account statements directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied. Clients will also receive written or electronic reports from VFP and/or an outside service provider, which contain certain account and/or market-related information on a quarterly basis. Clients should compare the account statements they receive from their custodian with any documents or reports they receive from VFP or an outside service provider.

## Item 14. Client Referrals and Other Compensation

The Firm does not currently provide compensation to any third-party solicitors for client referrals.

The Firm receives economic benefits from Fidelity. The benefits, conflicts of interest and how they are addressed are discussed above in response to Item 12.

## Item 15. Custody

VFP is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities because the Firm is given the ability to debit client accounts for payment of the Firm's fees. As such, client funds and securities are maintained at one or more Financial Institutions that serve as the qualified custodian with respect to such assets. Such qualified custodians will send account statements to clients at least once per calendar quarter that typically detail any transactions in such account for the relevant period.

In addition, as discussed in Item 13, VFP will also send, or otherwise make available, periodic supplemental reports to clients. Clients should carefully review the statements sent directly by the Financial Institutions

and compare them to those received from VFP. Any other custody disclosures can be found in the Firm's Form ADV Part 1.

## **Item 16. Investment Discretion**

VFP is given the authority to exercise discretion on behalf of some clients. VFP is considered to exercise investment discretion over a client's account if it can effect and/or direct transactions in client accounts without first seeking their consent. VFP is given this authority through a power-of-attorney included in the agreement between VFP and the client. Clients may request a limitation on this authority (such as certain securities not to be bought or sold). VFP takes discretion over the following activities:

- The securities to be purchased or sold;
- The amount of securities to be purchased or sold; and
- When transactions are made.

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

VFP does not accept the authority to vote a client's securities (i.e., proxies) on their behalf. Clients receive proxies directly from the Financial Institutions where their assets are custodied and may contact the Firm at the contact information on the cover of this brochure with questions about any such issuer solicitations.

## **Item 18. Financial Information**

VFP is not required to disclose any financial information listed in the instructions to Item 18 because:

- The Firm does not require or solicit the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six months or more in advance of services rendered;
- The Firm does not have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients; and
- The Firm has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.