

# Lodestar Wealth Public Benefit, LLC

## Firm Brochure - Form ADV Part 2A

*This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Lodestar Wealth Public Benefit, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (401) 230-2970 or by email at: [info@lodestarwealth.com](mailto:info@lodestarwealth.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.*

*Additional information about Lodestar Wealth Public Benefit, LLC is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Lodestar Wealth Public Benefit, LLC's CRD number is: 308028.*

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

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## Item 2: Material Changes

The material changes in this brochure from the last annual updating amendment on 03/20/2023 of Lodestar Wealth, LLC are described below. Material changes relate to Lodestar Wealth, LLC's policies, practices or conflicts of interests.

- Lodestar Wealth, LLC has updated their primary office address (front page).

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

### A. Description of the Advisory Firm

Lodestar Wealth Public Benefit, LLC DBA Lodestar Wealth, LLC (hereinafter "LWL") is a Limited Liability Company organized in the State of Delaware. The firm was formed in January 2020, and the principal owner is James J. Tavares.

### B. Types of Advisory Services

#### *Portfolio Management Services*

LWL offers ongoing portfolio management services based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. LWL creates an Investment Policy Statement for each client, which outlines the client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Portfolio management services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Investment strategy
- Asset allocation
- Risk tolerance
- Personal investment policy
- Asset selection
- Regular portfolio monitoring

LWL evaluates the current investments of each client with respect to their risk tolerance levels and time horizon. LWL provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services to clients. For clients who want to have their account managed on a discretion basis, LWL will request discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction. Risk tolerance levels are documented in the Investment Policy Statement, which is given to each client.

LWL seeks to provide that investment decisions are made in accordance with the fiduciary duties owed to its accounts and without consideration of LWL's economic, investment or other financial interests. To meet its fiduciary obligations, LWL attempts to avoid, among other things, investment or trading practices that systematically advantage or disadvantage certain client portfolios, and accordingly, LWL's policy is to seek fair and equitable allocation of investment opportunities/transactions among its clients to avoid favoring one client over another over time. It is LWL's policy to allocate investment opportunities and transactions it identifies as being appropriate and prudent, including initial public offerings ("IPOs") and other investment opportunities that might have a limited supply, among its clients on a fair and equitable basis over time.

## *Financial Planning*

Financial plans and financial planning may include, but are not limited to: investment planning; life insurance; tax concerns; retirement planning; college planning; and debt/credit planning. Investment planning involves working with clients to make sure their investments match their respective risk tolerance and goals. Tax concerns are addressed by working with the client to determine and compare effective tax rates for income, capital gains and other earnings or investments, then attempting to allocate the client's resources accordingly. Life insurance planning entails reviewing the life insurance and/or disability insurance needs of the client, together with any applicable dependents, spouse or other relatives, and assessing appropriate coverage for these individuals. College planning entails helping clients save for higher education, whether for the client or his/her children or other dependents, in the ideal manner to suit the client's overall financial goals and means. Financial planning to address retirement entails making sure clients are financially equipped for retirement in light of the client's anticipated income and expenses, investments, and other assets. Debt/credit planning consists of breaking down client budgets and aiding clients in decision-making as to current debt, anticipated significant expenses and potential debt, and avoiding excessive debt.

## *Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments*

LWL generally limits its investment advice to mutual funds, fixed income securities, real estate funds (including REITs), equities, ETFs (including ETFs in the gold and precious metal sectors), treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds, commodities, non-U.S. securities, venture capital funds and private placements. LWL may use other securities as well to help diversify a portfolio when applicable.

## **C. Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

LWL offers the same suite of services to all of its clients. However, specific client investment strategies and their implementation are dependent upon the client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Clients may not impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs.

## **D. Wrap Fee Programs**

A wrap fee program is an investment program where the investor pays one stated fee that includes management fees, transaction costs, and certain other administrative fees. LWL does not participate in wrap fee programs.

**E. Assets Under Management**

LWL has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$ 15,206,834.00	\$ 0.00	December 2023

**Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

**A. Fee Schedule**

*Portfolio Management Fees*

Total Assets Under Management	Annual Fees
\$0 - \$250,000	0.85%
\$250,001 - \$500,000	0.75%
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	0.65%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.45%
\$2,000,001 And Up	0.20%

The advisory fee is calculated using the value of the assets in the Account on the last business day of the prior billing period. The fee schedule is a tiered fee schedule.

These fees are generally negotiable and the final fee schedule will be memorialized in the client's advisory agreement. Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty for a full refund of LWL's fees within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Investment Advisory Contract generally with 30 days' written notice.

*Financial Planning Fees*

**Fixed Fees**

The fixed rate for creating client financial plans is between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The fixed fee is based upon the complexity of the plan, the hourly rate, the estimated amount of time to be used for creating a financial plan. Fixed fees relate to financial plans and financial planning that may include, without limitation: investment planning; life insurance; tax concerns; retirement planning; college planning; and debt/credit planning, each service as further detailed above.

It is anticipated that each financial planning service listed above will take approximately 2-4 hours of financial planning and therefore the time to complete a financial plan will depend on the services required by the client. For example, the financial plan for a client requiring only investment planning, retirement, and life insurance planning will usually require 6-12 hours. These fees are negotiable.

## **Hourly Fees**

The hourly fee for these services is \$375. These fees are negotiable. LWL will collect any funds for work provided, rounded down to the closest 30-minute increment.

Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty, for full refund of LWL's fees, within five business days of signing the Financial Planning Agreement. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Financial Planning Agreement generally upon written notice. LWL will turn over any and all work if the relationship is terminated prior to delivery of the financial plan.

## **B. Payment of Fees**

### ***Payment of Portfolio Management Fees***

Asset-based portfolio management fees are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client's written authorization on a quarterly basis, or may be invoiced and billed directly to the client on a quarterly basis. Clients may select the method in which they are billed. Fees are paid in arrears. If clients choose to be billed, clients can choose to pay via ACH wire transfer or check.

For fees deducted directly from client accounts, in states that require it, LWL will:

- (A) Possess written authorization from the client to deduct advisory fees from an account held by a custodian.
- (B) Send the custodian written notice of the amount of the fee to be deducted from the client's account and verify that the custodian sends invoices to the client.
- (C) Send the client a written invoice itemizing the fee upon or prior to fee deduction, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the time period covered by the fee and the amount of assets under management on which the fee was based.

### ***Payment of Financial Planning Fees***

Financial planning fees are paid via check and wire.

Fixed financial planning fees are paid in arrears upon completion.

Hourly financial planning fees are paid in arrears upon completion.

### **C. Client Responsibility For Third Party Fees**

Clients are responsible for the payment of all third party fees (i.e. custodian fees, brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.). Those fees are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by LWL. Please see Item 12 of this brochure regarding broker-dealer/custodian.

### **D. Prepayment of Fees**

LWL collects certain fees in advance and certain fees in arrears, as indicated above. Refunds for fees paid in advance but not yet earned will be refunded on a prorated basis and returned within fourteen days to the client via check, or return deposit back into the client's account.

For all asset-based fees paid in advance, the fee refunded will be equal to the balance of the fees collected in advance minus the daily rate\* times the number of days elapsed in the billing period up to and including the day of termination. (\*The daily rate is calculated by dividing the annual asset-based fee rate by 365.)

Additionally, LWL will turn over any work completed at the time of termination to the client regardless if the engagement was a fixed fee or hourly fee structure.

### **E. Outside Compensation For the Sale of Securities to Clients**

Neither LWL nor its supervised persons accept any compensation for the sale of investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

LWL does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

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

LWL generally provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- ❖ Individuals
- ❖ High-Net-Worth Individuals



❖ Corporations or Business Entities

There is an account minimum of \$50,000, which may be waived by LWL in its discretion.

## **Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies, & Risk of Loss**

LWL provides portfolio management services on an ongoing basis based on the individual needs of the client. LWL offers clients flexibility among payment methods and portfolio allocations based on the preference and individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. Generally, LWL actively monitors assets of client accounts and makes changes deemed appropriate in light of the circumstances in the market, based upon the expertise of LWL (see Item 13).

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Underlying investments fluctuate in price and may be sold at a price lower than the purchase price resulting in a loss of principal. The underlying investments are neither FDIC insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. Government. There may be economic times where all investments are unfavorable and depreciate in value. Asset allocation cannot eliminate the risk of fluctuating prices and uncertain returns. Accounts managed by LWL may lose money. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

LWL's investment strategies focus on investments in exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Additionally, depending on the investment strategy selected by the client, accounts can also consist of a combination of any of the following: ETFs, individual stocks, preferred stock, bonds, mutual funds, closed end funds and cash or cash equivalents, or other securities.

Investing involves risk. Investment risks include general market risk and risks related to economic conditions or special risks, such as those related to investments in foreign securities, small- and mid-capitalization stocks, and high-yield securities. Underlying investments fluctuate in price and may be sold at a price lower than the purchase price resulting in a loss of principal. The underlying investments are neither FDIC insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. Government. There may be economic times where all investments are unfavorable and depreciate in value. Asset allocation cannot eliminate the risk of fluctuating prices and uncertain returns. Clients may lose money. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Investors should read the prospectus carefully and consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. Prospectuses are available on the investment web site, or by contacting the fund directly.

## A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

### *Methods of Analysis*

LWL's methods of analysis include Fundamental analysis, Modern portfolio theory, Quantitative analysis and Technical analysis.

**Fundamental analysis** involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

**Modern portfolio theory** is a theory of investment that attempts to maximize portfolio expected return for a given amount of portfolio risk, or equivalently minimize risk for a given level of expected return, each by carefully choosing the proportions of various asset.

**Quantitative analysis** deals with measurable factors as distinguished from qualitative considerations such as the character of management or the state of employee morale, such as the value of assets, the cost of capital, historical projections of sales, and so on.

**Technical analysis** involves the analysis of past market data; primarily price and volume.

### *Investment Strategies*

LWL uses long term trading. Long term trading is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

**Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

## B. Material Risks Involved

### *Methods of Analysis*

**Fundamental analysis** concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

**Modern portfolio theory** assumes that investors are risk averse, meaning that given two portfolios that offer the same expected return, investors will prefer the less risky one. Thus, an investor will take on increased risk only if compensated by higher expected returns. Conversely, an investor who wants higher expected returns must accept more risk. The exact trade-off will be the same for all investors, but different investors will

evaluate the trade-off differently based on individual risk aversion characteristics. The implication is that a rational investor will not invest in a portfolio if a second portfolio exists with a more favorable risk-expected return profile – i.e., if for that level of risk an alternative portfolio exists which has better expected returns.

**Quantitative analysis** Investment strategies using quantitative models may perform differently than expected as a result of, among other things, the factors used in the models, the weight placed on each factor, changes from the factors' historical trends, and technical issues in the construction and implementation of the models.

**Technical analysis** attempts to predict a future stock price or direction based on market trends. The assumption is that the market follows discernible patterns and if these patterns can be identified then a prediction can be made. The risk is that markets do not always follow patterns and relying solely on this method may not take into account new patterns that emerge over time.

### *Investment Strategies*

**Long term trading** is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

**Inflation Risk**, also known as Purchasing Power Risk, is risk arises from the decline in value of securities cash flow due to inflation, which is measured in terms of purchasing power. Only Inflation Protection Bonds such as TIPS offer protection against this risk. Floaters help reduce this risk because of the resetting of the interest rates. All other bonds expose the investor to this risk because the interest rate is fixed for the life of the bond.

**Interest Rate Risk** is the risk that an investment's value will change due to a change in the absolute level of interest rates, in the spread between two rates, in the shape of the yield curve, or in any other interest rate relationship. Such changes usually affect securities inversely and can be reduced by diversifying (investing in fixed-income securities with different durations) or hedging (such as through an interest rate swap).

**Economic Risk** is the chance that macroeconomic conditions like exchange rates, government regulation, or political stability will affect an investment, usually one in a foreign country.

**Market Risk** is the possibility of an investor experiencing losses due to factors that affect the overall performance of the financial markets in which he or she is involved. Market risk, also called "systematic risk," cannot be eliminated through diversification, though it can be hedged against. Sources of market risk include recessions, political turmoil, changes in interest rates, natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

**Political Risk** is the risk an investment's returns could suffer as a result of political changes or instability in a country. Instability affecting investment returns could stem from a change in government, legislative bodies, other foreign policy makers or military control. Political risk is also known as "geopolitical risk," and becomes more of a factor as the time horizon of an investment gets longer.

**Regulatory Risk** is the risk that a change in laws and regulations will materially impact a security, business, sector or market. A change in laws or regulations made by the government or a regulatory body can increase the costs of operating a business, reduce the attractiveness of an investment, or change the competitive landscape.

**Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results**

### **C. Risks of Specific Securities Utilized**

Clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any investment strategy. The investment types listed below (leaving aside Treasury Inflation Protected/Inflation Linked Bonds) are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency.

**Mutual Funds:** Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature. There are fees and expenses associated with investing in mutual funds.

**Equity** investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and/or capital gains if the value of the stock increases. The value of equity securities may fluctuate in response to specific situations for each company, industry conditions and the general economic environments.

**Fixed income** investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

**Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs):** An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to stocks. Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Areas of concern include the lack of transparency in products and increasing complexity, conflicts of interest and the possibility of inadequate regulatory compliance. Risks in investing in ETFs include trading risks, liquidity and shutdown risks, risks associated with a change in authorized participants and non-participation of authorized participants, risks that trading price differs from indicative net asset value (iNAV), or price fluctuation and disassociation from the index being tracked. With regard to trading risks, regular trading adds cost to your portfolio thus counteracting the low fees that one of the typical benefits of ETFs. Additionally, regular trading to beneficially “time the market” is difficult to achieve. Even paid fund managers struggle to do this every year, with the majority failing to beat the relevant indexes. With regard to liquidity and shutdown risks, not all ETFs have the same level of liquidity. Since ETFs are at least as liquid as their underlying assets, trading conditions are more accurately reflected in implied liquidity rather than the average daily volume of the ETF itself. Implied liquidity is a measure of what can potentially be traded in ETFs based on its underlying assets. ETFs are subject to market volatility and the risks of their underlying securities, which may include the risks associated with investing in smaller companies, foreign securities, commodities, and fixed income investments (as applicable). Foreign securities in particular are subject to interest rate, currency exchange rate, economic, and political risks, all of which are magnified in emerging markets. ETFs that target a small universe of securities, such as a specific region or market sector, are generally subject to greater market volatility, as well as to the specific risks associated with that sector, region, or other focus. ETFs that use derivatives, leverage, or complex investment strategies are subject to additional risks. Precious Metal ETFs (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Palladium Bullion backed “electronic shares” not physical metal) specifically may be negatively impacted by several unique factors, among them (1) large sales by the official sector which own a significant portion of aggregate world holdings in gold and other precious metals, (2) a significant increase in hedging activities by producers of gold or other precious metals, (3) a significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors. The return of an index ETF is usually different from that of the index it tracks because of fees, expenses, and tracking error. An ETF may trade at a premium or discount to its net asset value (NAV) (or indicative value in the case of exchange-traded notes). The degree of liquidity can vary significantly from one ETF to another and losses may be magnified if no liquid market exists for the ETF’s shares when attempting to sell them. Each ETF has a unique risk profile, detailed in its prospectus, offering circular, or similar material, which should be considered carefully when making investment decisions.

**Real estate** funds (including REITs) face several kinds of risk that are inherent in the real estate sector, which historically has experienced significant fluctuations and cycles in performance. Revenues and cash flows may be adversely affected by: changes in local real estate market conditions due to changes in national or local economic conditions or changes in local property market characteristics; competition from other properties offering the same or similar services; changes in interest rates and in the state of the debt and equity credit markets; the ongoing need for capital improvements; changes in real estate tax rates and other operating expenses; adverse changes in governmental rules and

fiscal policies; adverse changes in zoning laws; the impact of present or future environmental legislation and compliance with environmental laws.

**Private placements** carry a substantial risk as they are subject to less regulation than are publicly offered securities, the market to resell these assets under applicable securities laws may be illiquid, due to restrictions, and the liquidation may be taken at a substantial discount to the underlying value or result in the entire loss of the value of such assets.

**Venture capital funds** invest in start-up companies at an early stage of development in the interest of generating a return through an eventual realization event; the risk is high as a result of the uncertainty involved at that stage of development.

**Commodities** are tangible assets used to manufacture and produce goods or services. Commodity prices are affected by different risk factors, such as disease, storage capacity, supply, demand, delivery constraints and weather. Because of those risk factors, even a well-diversified investment in commodities can be uncertain.

**Non-U.S.** securities present certain risks such as currency fluctuation, political and economic change, social unrest, changes in government regulation, differences in accounting and the lesser degree of accurate public information available.

**Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.**

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

*Clients can obtain the disciplinary history, if any, of SWM and its representatives from the Massachusetts Securities Division upon request by phone: (617) 727-3548 or email address, [msd@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:msd@sec.state.ma.us). Please also see below for a discussion of applicable disciplinary history.*

### A. Criminal or Civil Actions

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

### B. Administrative Proceedings

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

### C. Self-regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

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

### **A. Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative**

Neither LWL nor its representatives are registered as, or have pending applications to become, a broker/dealer or a representative of a broker/dealer.

### **B. Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor**

Neither LWL nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become either a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Advisor or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

### **C. Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests**

Neither LWL nor its representatives have any material relationships to this advisory business that would present a possible conflict of interest.

### **D. Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is Compensated for Those Selections**

LWL does not utilize nor select third-party investment advisers.

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

### **A. Code of Ethics**

LWL has a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. LWL's Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

## **B. Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests**

LWL does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which a related person to LWL or LWL has a material financial interest.

## **C. Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients**

From time to time, representatives of LWL may buy or sell securities for themselves that they also recommend to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of LWL to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. LWL will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage when similar securities are being bought or sold. The CCO will determine if the conflict can be appropriately mitigated by disclosure or other means. The CCO will review all conflicts of interest and document each conflict and its resolution to be made in the clients best interest.

## **D. Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities**

From time to time, representatives of LWL may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of LWL to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest; however, LWL will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage if representatives of LWL buy or sell securities at or around the same time as clients. The CCO will determine if the conflict can be appropriately mitigated by disclosure or other means. The CCO will review all conflicts of interest and document each conflict and its resolution to be made in the clients best interest.

# **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

## **A. Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker/Dealers**

Custodians/broker-dealers will be recommended based on LWL's duty to seek "best execution," which is the obligation to seek execution of securities transactions for a client on the most favorable terms for the client under the circumstances. Clients will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent, and LWL may also consider the market expertise and research access provided by the broker-dealer/custodian, including but not limited to access to written research, oral communication with analysts, admittance to research conferences and other resources



provided by the brokers that may aid in LWL's research efforts. LWL will never charge a premium or commission on transactions, beyond the actual cost imposed by the broker-dealer/custodian.

LWL recommends Schwab Institutional, a division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

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

While LWL has no formal soft dollars program in which soft dollars are used to pay for third party services, LWL may receive research, products, or other services from custodians and broker-dealers for being on an institutional platform. These benefits are NOT tied to client transactions. LWL may enter into soft-dollar arrangements consistent with (and not outside of) the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended but does not have any soft dollar benefits in place at this time. There can be no assurance that any particular client will benefit from soft dollar research, whether or not the client's transactions paid for it, and LWL does not seek to allocate benefits to client accounts proportionate to any soft dollar credits generated by the accounts. LWL benefits by not having to produce or pay for the research, products or services, and LWL will have an incentive to recommend a broker-dealer based on receiving research or services. Clients should be aware that LWL's acceptance of soft dollar benefits may result in higher commissions charged to the client.

### ***2. Brokerage for Client Referrals***

LWL receives no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

### ***3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use***

LWL may permit clients to direct it to execute transactions through a specified broker-dealer. If a client directs brokerage, then the client will be required to acknowledge in writing that the client's direction with respect to the use of brokers supersedes any authority granted to LWL to select brokers; this direction may result in higher commissions, which may result in a disparity between free and directed accounts; the client may be unable to participate in block trades (unless LWL is able to engage in "step outs"); and trades for the client and other directed accounts may be executed after trades for free accounts, which may result in less favorable prices, particularly for illiquid securities or during volatile market conditions. Not all investment advisers allow their clients to direct brokerage.

## **B. Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts**

If LWL buys or sells the same securities on behalf of more than one client, then it may (but would be under no obligation to) aggregate or bunch such securities in a single transaction for multiple clients in order to seek more favorable prices, lower brokerage commissions,

or more efficient execution. In such case, LWL would place an aggregate order with the broker on behalf of all such clients in order to ensure fairness for all clients; provided, however, that trades would be reviewed periodically to ensure that accounts are not systematically disadvantaged by this policy. LWL would determine the appropriate number of shares and select the appropriate brokers consistent with its duty to seek best execution, except for those accounts with specific brokerage direction (if any).

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

### **A. Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews and Who Makes Those Reviews**

All client accounts for LWL's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis are reviewed at least quarterly by James Tavares, Owner/Chief Compliance Officer, with regard to clients' respective investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at LWL are assigned to this reviewer.

All financial planning accounts are reviewed upon financial plan creation and plan delivery by James Tavares, Owner/Chief Compliance Officer. Financial planning clients are provided a one-time financial plan concerning their financial situation. After the presentation of the plan, there are no further reports. Clients may request additional plans or reports for a fee. The description of the plan and fee for each financial plan is described in item 4 and item 5 above.

### **B. Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts**

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

With respect to financial plans, LWL's services will generally conclude upon delivery of the financial plan.

### **C. Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients**

Each client of LWL's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis will receive a monthly report detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees. This written report will come from the custodian. LWL will also provide at least quarterly a separate written statement to the client detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees.

Each financial planning client will receive the financial plan upon completion.

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

### **A. Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients (Includes Sales Awards or Other Prizes)**

LWL does not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly from any third party for advice rendered to LWL's clients.

With respect to Schwab, LWL receives access to Schwab's institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services generally are available to independent investment advisers on an unsolicited basis, at no charge to them so long as a total of at least \$10 million of the adviser's clients' assets are maintained in accounts at Schwab Advisor Services. Schwab'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 LWL client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab 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 Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Schwab also makes available to LWL other products and services that benefit LWL but may not benefit its clients' accounts. These benefits may include national, regional or LWL specific educational events organized and/or sponsored by Schwab Advisor Services. Other potential benefits may include occasional business entertainment of personnel of LWL by Schwab Advisor Services 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 LWL 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, if applicable), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of LWL's fees from its clients' accounts (if applicable), 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 LWL's accounts. Schwab Advisor Services also makes available to LWL other services intended to help LWL manage and further develop its business enterprise. These services may include professional compliance, legal and business consulting, publications and conferences on practice management, information technology, business succession, regulatory compliance, employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, insurance and marketing. In addition, Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay vendors for these types of services rendered to LWL by independent third parties. Schwab Advisor Services may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or

a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to LWL. LWL is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Should a conflict of interest arise as a result of LWL's relationship with Schwab, LWL will mitigate and resolve any conflict of interest that arises in the client's best interest.

### **B. Compensation to Non - Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals**

LWL does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for client referrals.

## **Item 15: Custody**

LWL does not have physical custody of client funds or securities. However, when advisory fees are deducted directly from client accounts at client's custodian, LWL will be deemed to have custody of a client's assets. For fees deducted directly from client accounts, in states that require it, LWL will:

- (A) Possess written authorization from the client to deduct advisory fees from an account held by a qualified custodian.
- (B) Utilize a custodian that sends at least quarterly statements reflecting all additions and deductions, including the amount of advisory fees.
- (C) Send the qualified custodian written notice of the amount of the fee to be deducted and send the client a written invoice upon or prior to fee deduction itemizing the fee, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the time period covered by the fee, and the amount of assets under management on which the fee was based.

Each client of LWL's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis will receive a monthly report detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees. This written report will come from the custodian. LWL will also provide at least quarterly a separate written statement to the client detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and calculation of fees. Clients should carefully review those statements for accuracy.

## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

LWL provides discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services to clients. The advisory contract established with each client sets forth the discretionary authority for trading. Where investment discretion has been granted, LWL generally manages the client's account and makes investment decisions without consultation with the client as to when the securities are to be bought or sold for the account, the total amount of the securities to be bought/sold, what securities to buy or sell, or the price per share.

## **Item 17: Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)**

LWL acknowledges its fiduciary obligation to vote proxies on behalf of those clients that have delegated to it, or for which it is deemed to have, proxy voting authority. LWL will vote proxies on behalf of a client solely in the best interest of the relevant client and has established general guidelines for voting proxies. LWL may also abstain from voting if, based on factors such as expense or difficulty of exercise, it determines that a client's interests are better served by abstaining. Further, because proxy proposals and individual company facts and circumstances may vary, LWL may vote in a manner that is contrary to the general guidelines if it believes that doing so would be in a client's best interest to do so. If a proxy proposal presents a conflict of interest between LWL and a client, then LWL will disclose the conflict of interest to the client prior to the proxy vote and, if participating in the vote, will vote in accordance with the client's wishes.

Clients may obtain a complete copy of the proxy voting policies and procedures by contacting LWL in writing and requesting such information. Each client may also request, by contacting LWL in writing, information concerning the manner in which proxy votes have been cast with respect to portfolio securities held by the relevant client during the prior annual period.

## **Item 18: Financial Information**

### **A. Balance Sheet**

LWL neither requires nor solicits prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, and therefore is not required to include a balance sheet with this brochure.

### **B. Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients**

Neither LWL nor its management has any financial condition that is likely to reasonably impair LWL's ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

### **C. Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years**

LWL has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition in the last ten years.

## **Item 19: Requirements For State Registered Advisers**

### **A. Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons; Their Formal Education and Business Background**

LWL currently has only one management person: James J. Tavares. Education and business background can be found on the individual's Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement.

### **B. Other Businesses in Which This Advisory Firm or its Personnel are Engaged and Time Spent on Those (If Any)**

Other business activities for each relevant individual can be found on the Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement for each such individual.

### **C. Calculation of Performance-Based Fees and Degree of Risk to Clients**

LWL does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

### **D. Material Disciplinary Disclosures for Management Persons of this Firm**

There are no civil, self-regulatory organization, or arbitration proceedings to report under this section.

### **E. Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities (If Any)**

See Item 10.C and 11.B.