# **DISCLOSURE BROCHURE**

# Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Bowers Advisory Group, LLC. Being registered as a registered investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 240-329-3333. 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 Bowers Advisory Group, LLC (CRD #146827) is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov

JANUARY 11, 2024

# **Item 2: Material Changes**

# **Annual Update**

The Material Changes section of this brochure will be updated annually or when material changes occur since the previous release of the Firm Brochure.

## **Material Changes since the Last Update**

This update is in accordance with the required annual update for Investment Advisors. Since the last update on April 12, 2023, the following changes have occurred:

- Item 4 Client Assets under Management has been updated.
- Items 12 & 14 updated with new custodial information.

#### **Full Brochure Available**

This Firm Brochure being delivered is the complete brochure for the Firm.

# **Item 3: Table of Contents**

# Form ADV - Part 2A - Firm Brochure

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# **Item 4: Advisory Business**

#### **Firm Description**

Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire, (Plan2Retire) was founded in March 2008 and began offering investment advisory services in 2014. Jeffrey Bowers is the managing member.

Plan2Retire is a fee based financial planning and investment management firm. The firm does not sell annuities or insurance products, but the firm's Managing Member offers insurance products and services. Investment advice is an integral part of financial planning. In addition, Plan2Retire advises clients regarding cash flow, college planning, retirement planning, tax planning and estate planning.

Plan2Retire does not act as a custodian of client assets.

An evaluation of each client's initial situation is provided to the client, often in the form of a net worth statement or risk analysis. Periodic reviews are also communicated to provide reminders of the specific courses of action that need to be taken. More frequent reviews occur but are not necessarily communicated to the client unless immediate changes are recommended.

Other professionals (e.g., lawyers, accountants, tax preparers, insurance agents, etc.) are engaged directly by the client on an as-needed basis and may charge fees of their own. For example, tax preparation and to the extent an estate plan needs to be updated, the tax preparer and/or attorney will bill the client separately. Conflicts of interest will be disclosed to the client in the event they should occur.

# **Types of Advisory Services**

Plan2Retire provides investment supervisory services, also known as asset management services and furnishes financial planning and investment advice through consultations.

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Plan2Retire offers discretionary direct asset management services to advisory clients. Plan2Retire will offer clients ongoing portfolio management services through determining individual investment goals, time horizons, objectives, and risk tolerance. Investment strategies, investment selection, asset allocation, portfolio monitoring and the overall investment program will be based on the above factors. The client will authorize Plan2Retire discretionary authority to execute selected investment program transactions as stated within the Investment Advisory Agreement.

Plan2Retire participates in the Model Marketplace of Altruist LLC, an SEC registered investment adviser and affiliate of Altruist financial LLC. Plan2Retire may subscribe client account to model portfolios available through Altruist LLC's Model Marketplace, including Altruist LLC-generated portfolios and Third-Party Portfolios, for use by Plan2Retire to assist it in managing or advising Plan2Retire client accounts. Altruist LLC and its affiliates do not act as investment advisers or fiduciaries to Plan2Retire clients. Plan2Retire is responsible for suitability of all investment decisions and transactions for client accounts subscribed to Model Marketplace model portfolios.

#### ERISA PLAN SERVICES

Plan2Retire provides service to qualified and non-qualified retirement plans including 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, pension and profit sharing plans, cash balance plans, and deferred compensation plans. Plan2Retire may acts as either:

<u>Limited Scope ERISA 3(21) Fiduciary.</u> Plan2Retire may serve as a limited scope ERISA 3(21) fiduciary that can advise, help and assist plan sponsors with their investment decisions on a non-discretionary basis. As an investment advisor Plan2Retire has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the Client. The plan sponsor is still ultimately responsible for the decisions made in their plan, though using Plan2Retire can help the plan sponsor delegate liability by following a diligent process.

# 1. Fiduciary Services are:

- Provide non-discretionary investment advice to the Client about asset classes and investment alternatives available for the Plan in accordance with the Plan's investment policies and objectives. Client will make the final decision regarding the initial selection, retention, removal and addition of investment options. Plan2Retire acknowledges that it is a fiduciary as defined in ERISA section 3 (21) (A) (ii).
- Assist the Client in the development of an investment policy statement ("IPS"). The
  IPS establishes the investment policies and objectives for the Plan. Client shall have
  the ultimate responsibility and authority to establish such policies and objectives
  and to adopt and amend the IPS.
- Provide non-discretionary investment advice to the Plan Sponsor with respect to the selection of a qualified default investment alternative for participants who are automatically enrolled in the Plan or who have otherwise failed to make investment elections. The Client retains the sole responsibility to provide all notices to the Plan participants required under ERISA Section 404(c) (5) and 404(a)-5.
- Assist in monitoring investment options by preparing periodic investment reports
  that document investment performance, consistency of fund management and
  conformance to the guidelines set forth in the IPS and make recommendations to
  maintain, remove or replace investment options.
- Meet with Client on a periodic basis to discuss the reports and the investment recommendations.

#### 2. Non-fiduciary Services are:

- Assist in the education of Plan participants about general investment information and the investment alternatives available to them under the Plan. Client understands Plan2Retire' assistance in education of the Plan participants shall be consistent with and within the scope of the Department of Labor's definition of investment education (Department of Labor Interpretive Bulletin 96-1). As such, Plan2Retire is not providing fiduciary advice as defined by ERISA 3(21)(A)(ii) to the Plan participants. Advisor will not provide investment advice concerning the prudence of any investment option or combination of investment options for a particular participant or beneficiary under the Plan.
- Assist in the group enrollment meetings designed to increase retirement plan participation among the employees and investment and financial understanding by the employees.

Plan2Retire may provide these services or, alternatively, may arrange for the Plan's other providers to offer these services, as agreed upon between Advisor and Client.

- 3. Plan2Retire has no responsibility to provide services related to the following types of assets ("Excluded Assets"):
  - Employer securities;
  - Real estate (except for real estate funds or publicly traded REITs);
  - Stock brokerage accounts or mutual fund windows;
  - Participant loans;
  - Non-publicly traded partnership interests;
  - Other non-publicly traded securities or property (other than collective trusts and similar vehicles); or
  - Other hard-to-value or illiquid securities or property.

Excluded Assets will **not** be included in calculation of Fees paid to Plan2Retire on the ERISA Agreement.

**3(38) Investment Manager.** Plan2Retire can also act as an ERISA 3(38) Investment Manager in which it has discretionary management and control of a given retirement plan's assets. Plan2Retire would then become solely responsible and liable for the selection, monitoring and replacement of the plan's investment options.

#### 1. Fiduciary Services are:

- Plan2Retire has discretionary authority and will make the final decision regarding the initial selection, retention, removal and addition of investment options in accordance with the Plan's investment policies and objectives.
- Assist the Client with the selection of a broad range of investment options consistent with ERISA Section 404(c) and the regulations thereunder.
- Assist the Client in the development of an investment policy statement ("IPS"). The IPS establishes the investment policies and objectives for the Plan.
- Provide discretionary investment advice to the Plan Sponsor with respect to the selection of a qualified default investment alternative for participants who are automatically enrolled in the Plan or who have otherwise failed to make investment elections. The Client retains the sole responsibility to provide all notices to the Plan participants required under ERISA Section 404(c) (5).

#### 2. Non-fiduciary Services are:

 Assist in the education of Plan participants about general investment information and the investment alternatives available to them under the Plan. Client understands the Plan2Retire' assistance in education of the Plan participants shall be consistent with and within the scope of the Department of Labor's definition of investment education (Department of Labor Interpretive Bulletin 96-1). As such, the Plan2Retire is not providing fiduciary advice as defined by ERISA to the Plan participants. Plan2Retire will not provide investment advice concerning the prudence of any investment option or combination of investment options for a particular participant or beneficiary under the Plan.

 Assist in the group enrollment meetings designed to increase retirement plan participation among the employees and investment and financial understanding by the employees.

Plan2Retire may provide these services or, alternatively, may arrange for the Plan's other providers to offer these services, as agreed upon between Plan2Retire and Client.

- 3. Plan2Retire has no responsibility to provide services related to the following types of assets ("Excluded Assets"):
  - Employer securities;
  - Real estate (except for real estate funds or publicly traded REITs);
  - Stock brokerage accounts or mutual fund windows;
  - Participant loans;
  - Non-publicly traded partnership interests;
  - Other non-publicly traded securities or property (other than collective trusts and similar vehicles); or
  - Other hard-to-value or illiquid securities or property.

Excluded Assets will **not** be included in calculation of Fees paid to Plan2Retire on the ERISA Agreement.

#### **QUALIFIED PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

Plan2Retire offers qualified plan consulting services to individuals on a fixed fee basis described in detail under "Fees and Compensation" section of this brochure. Plan2Retire will meet with the client for information gathering. Plan2Retire will review the investment options available within the plan. Plan2Retire will make investment recommendations to the client based on the investment options available and the client's financial objectives in a face to face meeting. Clients have the option to hire Plan2Retire on an annual basis for qualified plan consulting services.

#### FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING

When appropriate Plan2Retire offers two types of financial planning and consulting services.

#### **Financial Planning**

Plan2Retire offers planning services to individuals and business owners. The services cover all areas of financial planning from risk management to estate conservation. Plan2Retire specializes in helping our clients develop a comprehensive and cohesive financial strategy that fits their unique needs and enables them to meet both short and long term objectives.

Financial plans will be completed and delivered inside of sixty (60) days dependent upon timely client delivery of required documentation.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Consulting**

Additionally, Plan2Retire offers Comprehensive Financial Consulting services to individuals/households on an ongoing basis. Services will include but are not limited to; retirement planning, debt management, budgeting, insurance planning, college planning, investment management, etc.

Ongoing services will remain in effect year over year unless cancelled in writing by either party by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice. Client may terminate the Agreement within five (5) business days with no obligation and without penalty.

If a conflict of interest exists between the interests of the investment advisor and the interests of the client; the client is under no obligation to act upon the investment advisor's recommendation. If the client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through Plan2Retire.

#### **SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

Plan2Retire holds seminars and workshops to educate the public on different types of investments and the different services they offer. The seminars are educational in nature and no specific investment or tax advice is given. Plan2Retire does not charge a fee for attendance of these seminars.

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

The goals and objectives for each client are documented in our client files. Investment strategies are created that reflect the stated goals and objective. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities in the Investment Advisory Agreement.

Agreements may not be assigned without written client consent.

#### **Wrap Fee Programs**

Plan2Retire does not sponsor any wrap fee programs.

#### **Client Assets under Management**

Plan2Retire has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$52,500,000	\$0	December 31, 2023

# **Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

#### **Method of Compensation and Fee Schedule**

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Plan2Retire offers discretionary direct asset management services to advisory clients. Plan2Retire charges an annual investment advisory fee based on the total assets under management as follows:

Assets Under Management	Annual Fee	Quarterly Fee
\$0 to \$500,000	1.00%	.2500%
\$500,0001 to \$1,000,000	0.85%	.2125%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.75%	.1875%
\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.50%	.1250%
Over \$5,000,001	0.25%	.0625%

When Plan2Retire participates in Altruist LLC's Model Marketplace, Altruist charges an additional annual fee of up to 1.0%. Altruist portion of the fee is not negotiable. Altruist LLC's Model Marketplace fees are passed through to and debited from Clients' accounts.

The annual fee may be negotiable. Accounts within the same household will be combined for a reduced fee. Fees are billed quarterly in arrears based on the amount of assets

managed as of the last business day of the current quarter. Initial fees for partial quarters are pro-rated. Quarterly advisory fees deducted from the clients' account by the custodian will be reflected in a provided fee invoice from Plan2Retire as fees are withdrawn. Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. Clients may terminate their account within five (5) business days of signing the Investment Advisory Agreement with no obligation. Clients may terminate advisory services with thirty (30) days written notice. For accounts closed mid-quarter, Plan2Retire will be entitled to a pro rata fee for the days service was provided in the final quarter. Any increase in fees will be acknowledged in writing by both parties before any increase in said fees occurs.

If advisory fees are automatic deducted from the account by the custodian, Plan2Retire will:

- provide the client an invoice stating the amount of the fee prior to being deducted;
- obtain written authorization signed by the client allowing the fees to be deducted; and
- the client will receive quarterly statements directly from the custodian which disclose the fees deducted.

#### **ERISA PLAN SERVICES**

The annualized fees will range between .10-.50% of the assets in the plan. The annual fee will be based upon the plan size, employee count, the level of services requested, and the demographics of the participants.

The fee is charged quarterly arrears based on the market value of the Plan assets as calculated by the custodian or record keeper of the Included Assets without adjustments for anticipated withdrawals by Plan participants or other anticipated or scheduled transfers or distribution of assets) on the last business day of the initial fee period. In certain circumstances the third party administrator may charge the annual fee monthly. This will be disclosed on the client agreement. For services started any time other than the first day of a quarter, the fee will be prorated based on the number of days remaining in the initial fee period. If this Agreement is terminated prior to the end of the fee period, Plan2Retire shall be entitled to a prorated fee based on the number of days during the fee period services were provided.

The compensation of Plan2Retire for the services is described in detail in Schedule A of the ERISA Plan Agreement. The Plan is obligated to pay the fees, however the Plan Sponsor may elect to pay the fees. Plan2Retire does not reasonably expect to receive any additional compensation, directly or indirectly, for its services under this Agreement. If additional compensation is received, Plan2Retire will disclose this compensation, the services rendered, and the payer of compensation. Plan2Retire will offset the compensation against the fees agreed upon under this Agreement.

#### **OUALIFIED PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES**

Plan2Retire offers qualified plan consulting services to individuals for a negotiable flat fee of \$500 - \$2,500 based on the complexity of the case for the consultation. The payment is due upon delivery of the recommendations. Services are completed and delivered inside of sixty (60) days dependent upon timely client delivery of required documentation. Client may cancel within five (5) business days of signing Agreement with no obligation. If the client cancels after five (5) business days, Plan2Retire is due a pro-rata fee based on the percentage of work completed.

#### **FINANCIAL PLANNING**

# **Financial Planning**

Plan2Retire charges either an hourly fee or fixed fee for financial planning. Prior to the planning process the Client will be provided an estimated plan fee. Services are completed and delivered inside of sixty (60) days contingent upon timely delivery of all required documentation. Client may cancel within five (5) business days of signing Agreement with no obligation and without penalty. If the Client cancels after five (5) business days, any unearned fees will be refunded to the Client, or any unpaid earned fees will be due to Plan2Retire. Plan2Retire reserves the right to waive the fee should the Client implement the plan through Plan2Retire.

#### **HOURLY FEES**

Financial Planning Services are offered based on a negotiable hourly rate of \$150 per hour.

#### **FIXED FEES**

Financial Planning Services are offered based on a negotiable flat fee ranging between \$500 and \$2,500 based on the complexity of the plan and the client's needs.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Consulting**

Plan2Retire charges a monthly fee for ongoing comprehensive financial consulting services. Monthly fees will be based on previous years' total income from their federal income tax return. Fees will consist of the following:

Household Annual Income	Monthly Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$50,000	\$34.00
\$50,001 to \$\$99,999	\$68.00
\$100,000 to \$150,000	\$98.00
\$150,000 to \$250,000	\$145.00
\$250,000+	\$194.00

Ongoing services will remain in effect year over year unless cancelled in writing by either party by giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice. Client may terminate the Agreement within five (5) business days with no obligation and without penalty. If client cancels after the five (5) business days, Plan2Retire is due a pro-rata fee based on the percentage of work completed.

#### **Client Payment of Fees**

Fees for Asset Management and ERISA Plan services are billed quarterly in arrears, meaning we bill you after the three-month billing period has ended. Payment in full is expected upon invoice presentation. Fees are usually deducted from a designated client account to facilitate billing. The client must consent in advance in writing to direct debiting of their investment account. For additional information on fee deduction please refer to Item 5.

Fees for qualified plan consulting are payable upon delivery of recommendations.

Fees for financial plans are billed at completion of the plan.

#### **Additional Client Fees Charged**

Custodians may charge transaction fees on purchases or sales of certain mutual funds, equities, and exchange-traded funds. These charges may include Mutual Fund transactions fees, postage and handling and miscellaneous fees (fee levied to recover costs associated with fees assessed by self-regulatory organizations). The selection of the security is more important than the nominal fee that the custodian charges to buy or sell the security. See Item 12 of this brochure for brokerage practices.

Plan2Retire, in its sole discretion, may waive its minimum fee and/or charge a lesser investment advisory fee based upon certain criteria (e.g., historical relationship, type of assets, anticipated future earning capacity, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amounts of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, negotiations with clients, etc.).

For more details on the brokerage practices, see Item 12 of this brochure.

#### **Prepayment of Client Fees**

Plan2Retire does not charge fees in advance.

## **External Compensation for the Sale of Securities to Clients**

Plan2Retire does not receive any external compensation for the sale of securities to clients, nor do any of the investment advisor representatives of Plan2Retire.

# Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

## **Sharing of Capital Gains**

Fees are <u>not</u> based on a share of the capital gains or capital appreciation of managed securities.

Plan2Retire does not use a performance-based fee structure because of the conflict of interest. Performance-based compensation may create an incentive for the adviser to recommend an investment that may carry a higher degree of risk to the client.

# **Item 7: Types of Clients**

## **Description**

Plan2Retire generally provides investment advice to individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans.

Client relationships vary in scope and length of service.

#### **Account Minimums**

Plan2Retire requires a minimum of \$5,000 to open an account. In certain instances, the minimum account size may be lowered or waived.

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

#### **Methods of Analysis**

Security analysis methods may include fundamental analysis, technical analysis, and cyclical analysis. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Fundamental analysis involves evaluating a stock using real data such as company revenues, earnings, return on equity, and profits margins to determine underlying value and potential growth. Technical analysis involves evaluating securities based on past prices and volume. Cyclical analysis involves analyzing the cycles of the market.

When creating a financial plan, Plan2Retire utilizes fundamental analysis to provide review of insurance policies for economic value and income replacement. Technical analysis is used to review mutual funds and individual stocks. The main sources of information include Orion, client documents such as tax returns and insurance policies.

In developing a financial plan for a client, Bower's analysis may include cash flow analysis, investment planning, risk management, tax planning and legacy planning. Based on the information gathered, a detailed strategy is tailored to the client's specific situation.

The main sources of information include financial newspapers and magazines, research materials prepared by others, corporate rating services, annual reports, prospectuses, and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Investment Strategy**

The investment strategy for a specific client is based upon the objectives stated by the client during consultations. The client may change these objectives at any time. Each client executes an Investment Policy Statement or Risk Tolerance that documents their objectives and their desired investment strategy.

Other strategies may include long-term purchases, short-term purchases, trading, and option writing (including covered options, uncovered options or spreading strategies).

## **Security Specific Material Risks**

All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the investor. Fundamental analysis may involve interest rate risk, market risk, business risk, and financial risk. Risks involved in technical analysis are inflation risk, reinvestment risk, and market risk. Cyclical analysis involves inflation risk, market risk, and currency risk.

Our investment approach constantly keeps the risk of loss in mind. Investors face the following investment risks and should discuss these risks with Plan2Retire:

- *Interest-rate Risk*: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
- Market Risk: The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic and social conditions may trigger market events.
- *Inflation Risk*: When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will buy more than a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
- *Currency Risk*: Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.
- *Reinvestment Risk*: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e. interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.
- Business Risk: These risks are associated with a particular industry or a particular company within an industry. For example, oil-drilling companies depend on finding oil and then refining it, a lengthy process, before they can generate a profit. They carry a higher risk of profitability than an electric company which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter what the economic environment is like.
- Liquidity Risk: Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many traders are interested in a standardized

product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.

• *Financial Risk*: Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value.

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

The firm and its management have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

# **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

The firm and its management have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

#### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

The firm and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

#### **Broker-Dealer or Representative Registration**

Plan2Retire has no representatives or employees who are registered representatives of a broker dealer.

#### **Futures or Commodity Registration**

Neither Plan2Retire nor its employees are registered or have an application pending to register as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or a commodity trading advisor.

# Material Relationships Maintained by this Advisory Business and Conflicts of Interest

Managing Member Jeffrey Bowers has a financial industry affiliated business as a licensed insurance agent. From time to time, he will offer clients advice or products from those activities. Approximately 25% of his revenue results from commissions from the sale of insurance products.

These practices represent conflicts of interest because it gives Mr. Bowers an incentive to recommend products based on the commission amount received rather than on client's needs. This conflict is mitigated by disclosures, procedures, and the firm's Fiduciary obligation to place the best interest of the client first and will act in accordance with those responsibilities. Clients have the option to purchase these products through another insurance agent of their choosing.

Additionally, Jeffrey Bowers is the owner of Bowers Properties LLC, a company owned for personal real estate activities only. Clients of Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire are not solicited services for Bowers Properties LLC, therefore there are no conflicts of interest.

# Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisors and Conflicts of Interest

Plan2Retire does not recommend or select other investment advisors.

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

# **Code of Ethics Description**

The employees of Plan2Retire have committed to a Code of Ethics ("Code"). The purpose of our Code is to set forth standards of conduct expected of Plan2Retire employees and addresses conflicts that may arise. The Code defines acceptable behavior for employees of Plan2Retire. The Code reflects Plan2Retire and its supervised persons' responsibility to act in the best interest of their client.

One area the Code addresses is when employees buy or sell securities for their personal accounts and how to mitigate any conflict of interest with our clients. We do not allow any employees to use non-public material information for their personal profit or to use internal research for their personal benefit in conflict with the benefit to our clients.

Bower's policy prohibits any person from acting upon or otherwise misusing non-public or inside information. No advisory representative or other employee, officer or director of Plan2Retire may recommend any transaction in a security or its derivative to advisory clients or engage in personal securities transactions for a security or its derivatives if the advisory representative possesses material, non-public information regarding the security.

Bower's Code is based on the guiding principle that the interests of the client are our top priority. Bower's officers, directors, advisors, and other employees have a fiduciary duty to our clients and must diligently perform that duty to maintain the complete trust and confidence of our clients. When a conflict arises, it is our obligation to put the client's interests over the interests of either employees or the company.

The Code applies to "access" persons. "Access" persons are employees who have access to non-public information regarding any clients' purchase or sale of securities, or non-public information regarding the portfolio holdings of any reportable fund, who are involved in making securities recommendations to clients, or who have access to such recommendations that are non-public.

The firm will provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

# Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflict of Interest

Plan2Retire and its employees do not recommend securities to clients in which we have a material financial interest.

# Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Plan2Retire and its employees may buy or sell securities that are also held by clients. In order to mitigate conflicts of interest such as front running (front running occurs when an advisor either buys or sells for his/her own account before filling customer orders, giving the advisor an unfair advantage), employees are required to disclose all reportable securities transactions as well as provide Plan2Retire with copies of their brokerage statements.

The Chief Compliance Officer of Plan2Retire is Jeffrey Bowers. He reviews all employee trades each quarter. The personal trading reviews ensure that the personal trading of

employees does not affect the markets and that clients of the firm receive preferential treatment over employee transactions.

# Client Securities Recommendations or Trades and Concurrent Advisory Firm Securities Transactions and Conflicts of Interest

Plan2Retire does not maintain a firm proprietary trading account and does not have a material financial interest in any securities being recommended and therefore no conflicts of interest exist. However, employees may buy or sell securities at the same time they buy or sell securities for clients. In order to mitigate conflicts of interest such as front running, employees are required to disclose all reportable securities transactions as well as provide Plan2Retire with copies of their brokerage statements.

The Chief Compliance Officer of Plan2Retire is Jeffrey Bowers. He reviews all employee trades each quarter. The personal trading reviews ensure that the personal trading of employees does not affect the markets and that clients of the firm receive preferential treatment over employee transactions.

# **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

#### Factors Used to Select Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions

Plan2Retire will recommend the use of a particular broker-dealer based on their duty to seek best execution for the client, meaning they have an obligation to obtain the most favorable terms for a client under the circumstances. The determination of what may constitute best execution and price in the execution of a securities transaction by a broker involves a number of considerations and is subjective. Factors affecting brokerage selection include the overall direct net economic result to the portfolios, the efficiency with which the transaction is affected, the ability to effect the transaction where a large block is involved, the operational facilities of the broker-dealer, the value of an ongoing relationship with such broker and the financial strength and stability of the broker. Plan2Retire will select appropriate brokers based on a number of factors including but not limited to their relatively low transaction fees and reporting ability. Plan2Retire relies on its broker to provide its execution services at the best prices available. Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. Clients pay for any and all custodial fees in addition to the advisory fee charged by Plan2Retire . Plan2Retire does not receive any portion of the trading fees.

Plan2Retire will require the use of either Altruist or Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

#### • Directed Brokerage

In circumstances where a client directs Plan2Retire to use a certain custodian, Plan2Retire still has a fiduciary duty to its clients. The following may apply with Directed Brokerage: Bower's inability to negotiate commissions, to obtain volume discounts, there may be a disparity in commission charges among clients and conflicts of interest arising from custodial firm referrals.

#### Best Execution

Investment advisors who manage or supervise client portfolios on a discretionary basis have a fiduciary obligation of best execution. The determination of what may constitute best execution and price in the execution of a securities transaction by a custodian involves a number of considerations and is subjective. Factors affecting custodian selection include the overall direct net economic result to the portfolios, the efficiency with which the transaction is effected, the ability to effect the transaction where a large block is involved, the operational facilities of the custodian, the value of an ongoing relationship with such custodian and the financial strength and stability of the custodian. The firm does not receive any portion of the trading fees.

# • Soft Dollar Arrangements

The Securities and Exchange Commission defines soft dollar practices as arrangement under which products or services other than execution services are obtained by Plan2Retire from or through a custodian in exchange for directing client transactions to the custodian. As permitted by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Plan2Retire receives economic benefits as a result of commissions generated from securities transactions by the custodian from the accounts of Plan2Retire. These benefits include both proprietary research from the custodian and other research written by third parties.

A conflict of interest exists when Plan2Retire receives soft dollars. This conflict is mitigated by disclosures, procedures, and the firm's Fiduciary obligation to act in the best interest of its clients and will act in accordance with those responsibilities and the services received are beneficial to all clients.

#### **Aggregating Securities Transactions for Client Accounts**

Plan2Retire may aggregate purchases and sales and other transactions made for the account with purchases and sales and transactions in the same securities for other Clients of Plan2Retire. All clients participating in the aggregated order shall receive an average share price with all other transaction costs shared on a pro-rated basis.

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

# Schedule for Periodic Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans and Advisory Persons Involved

Account reviews are performed quarterly by Jeffrey Bowers , Chief Compliance Officer. Account reviews are performed more frequently when market conditions dictate. Financial Plans are reviewed annually or upon client request.

#### **Review of Client Accounts on Non-Periodic Basis**

Other conditions that may trigger a review of clients' accounts are changes in the tax laws, new investment information, and changes in a client's own situation.

#### **Content of Client Provided Reports and Frequency**

Clients receive written account statements no less than quarterly for managed accounts. Account statements are issued by the Bower's custodian. Client receives confirmations of each transaction in Account from Custodian and an additional statement during any quarter in which a transaction occurs. Plan2Retire will provide quarterly performance

reports generated through Orion. Clients are urged to compare reports received from Custodian with reports generated by Plan2Retire.

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

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

Plan2Retire receives additional economic benefits from external sources as described above in Item 12.

#### **Advisory Firm Payments for Client Referrals**

Plan2Retire does not compensate for Client referrals.

# Item 15: Custody

#### **Account Statements**

All assets are held at qualified custodians, which means the custodians provide account statements directly to clients at their address of record at least quarterly. Clients are urged to carefully review statements received from the custodian. Additionally, clients are advised to compare the account statements received directly from their custodians to the performance report statements prepared by Plan2Retire. For more information on fee deduction see Item 5.

Plan2Retire is deemed to have constructive custody solely because advisory fees are directly deducted from clients' accounts by the custodian on behalf of Plan2Retire.

#### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

## **Discretionary Authority for Trading**

Generally, Clients grant Plan2Retire complete discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be bought or sold for their account (within the parameters established by their Advisory Agreement) without obtaining their consent or approval. However, these purchases may be subject to specified investment objectives and guidelines.

Discretionary authority will only be authorized upon full disclosure to the client and by that client specifically authorizing said authority through the execution of an Investment Advisory Agreement.

# **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

#### **Proxy Votes**

Plan2Retire does not vote proxies on securities. Clients are expected to vote their own proxies. The client will receive their proxies directly from the custodian of their account or from a transfer agent.

When assistance on voting proxies is requested, Plan2Retire will provide recommendations to the client. If a conflict of interest exists, it will be disclosed to the client.

# **Item 18: Financial Information**

#### **Balance Sheet**

A balance sheet is not required to be provided because Plan2Retire does not serve as a custodian for client funds or securities and Plan2Retire does not require prepayment of fees of more than \$500 per client and six months or more in advance.

# Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Advisory Firm's Ability to Meet Commitments to Clients

Plan2Retire has no condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to our clients.

#### **Bankruptcy Petitions during the Past Ten Years**

The management of Plan2Retire does not have any bankruptcies to disclose.

# **Item 19: Requirements for State Registered Advisors**

Education and business background, including any outside business activities and disclosable for all management and supervised persons can be found in the Supplement to this Brochure (Part 2B of Form ADV Part 2).

Material Relationship Maintained by this Advisory Business or Management persons with Issuers of Securities

None to report

Item 1 Cover Page

# SUPERVISED PERSON BROCHURE

FORM ADV PART 2B

Jeffrey Bowers, CFP®

# Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire

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1380 Dual Highway Hagerstown, MD 21740

Frederick Office:

97 Thomas Johnson Dr. Suite 201 Frederick, MD 21702

> Tel: 240-329-3333 Fax: 866-202-3756

<u>Jeff@bowersinsurance.com</u>

<u>LinkedIn</u> <u>Twitter</u>

This brochure supplement provides information about Jeffrey Bowers and supplements the Bowers Advisory Group, LLC's brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Please contact Jeffrey Bowers if you did not receive the brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Jeffrey Bowers (CRD #2747053) is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>.

**JANUARY 11, 2024** 

# **Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)**

## **Supervised Person Brochure**

#### **Jeffrey Bowers**

• Year of birth: 1966

# Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

**Educational Background:** 

Shepherd College; BA in Business Administration; 1989

#### **Business Experience:**

- Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire; Investment Advisor Representative/Chief Compliance Officer; 11/2014 to Present
- Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire; Managing Member; 03/2008 to Present
- Donald C. Bowers Insurance, Inc; Vice President/Insurance Agent; 05/1989 to Present
- Bowers Properties LLC; Member; 05/2002 to Present
- 118 Sentry Ridge Townhome; Co-Owner; 12/2003 11/2016
- Vanderbilt Securities, LLC; Registered Representative; 02/2011 to 11/2014
- Vanderbilt Advisory Services; Investment Advisor Representative; 03/2011 to 11/2014
- MML Investors Services, Inc; Registered Representative/Investment Advisor Representative; 06/2008 to 02/2011
- Mass Mutual Financial Group; Insurance Agent; 04/2008 to 02/2011
- SII Investments, Inc; Registered Representative/Investment Advisor Representative; 05/2003 to 04/2008

#### **Professional Designations:**

<u>Certified Financial Planner</u> (CFP®): Certified Financial Planner is a designation granted by the CFP® Board. CFP® requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Completion of the financial planning education requirements set by the CFP® Board (www.cfp.net).
- Successful completion of the 10-hour CFP® Certification Exam.
- Three-year qualifying full-time work experience.
- Successfully pass the Candidate Fitness Standards and background check.
- When you achieve your CFP® designation, you must renew your certification annually; pay a \$325 certification fee and complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years.

#### **Item 3 Disciplinary Information**

None to report

#### **Item 4 Other Business Activities**

Jeffrey Bowers has an affiliated business as an insurance agent. He spends approximately 25% of his time in this practice. From time to time, he will offer clients services from this business activity.

These practices represent conflicts of interest because it gives Jeffrey Bowers an incentive to recommend products based on the commission amount received rather than on the client's needs. This conflict is mitigated by disclosures, procedures, and the firm's Fiduciary obligation to place the best interest of the client first and will act in accordance with those responsibilities. Clients have the option to purchase these products through another insurance agent of their choosing.

Additionally, Jeffrey Bowers is the owner of Bowers Properties LLC, a company owned for personal real estate activities only. Clients of Bowers Advisory Group, LLC dba Plan2Retire are not solicited services for Bowers Properties LLC, therefore there are no conflicts of interest.

#### **Item 5 Additional Compensation**

Jeffrey Bowers may receive separate, yet typical, compensation from insurance companies on the products he sells. He does not receive any performance based fees.

# **Item 6 Supervision**

Jeffrey Bowers is the Chief Compliance Officer of Plan2Retire; therefore, he is solely responsible for all supervision and formulation and monitoring of investment advice offered to clients. He will adhere to the policies and procedures as described in the firm's Compliance Manual.

#### **Item 7 Requirements for State-Registered Advisors**

Arbitration Claims: None to report

Self-Regulatory Organization or Administrative Proceeding: None to report

Bankruptcy Petition: None to report