Item 1 – Cover Page

## Part 2A Appendix 1 Wrap Fee Program Brochure

## **Triad Investment Management, LLC**

Also Doing Business Under: Triad Financial Strategies

195 NE Gilman Blvd, Suite 101 Issaquah, Washington 98027 425-392-2200 www.triad-fs.com

Date of Disclosure Brochure: March 2021

This Wrap Fee Program Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Triad Investment Management, LLC (also referred to as we, us and TIM throughout this disclosure brochure). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact Tait Lane at 425-392-2200. 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 TIM is also available on the Internet at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. You can view our firm's information on this website by searching for Triad Investment Management, LLC or our firm's CRD number 297699.

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

### Item 2 – Material Changes

Triad Investment Management, LLC, (TIM) Inc is a registered investment adviser and has made the following material changes since the last annual amendment dated March 30, 2020:

- Item 4 We disclosed that our wrap fee program is the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program.
- Item 4 Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. has been added as an additional qualified custodian and trading platform of TIM.
- Item 4 Certain advisory fees may be billed to the client and paid upon receipt of an invoice. (Charles Schwab also gives us the option to pull the fees directly from the accounts.
- Item 5 Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. is available to clients with assets under management with TIM of \$1 million or greater.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Wrap Fee Program Disclosure Brochures within 120 days after our firm's fiscal year ends. Our firm's fiscal year ends on December 31, so you will receive the summary of material changes no later than April 30 each year. At that time, we will also offer or provide a copy of the most current Wrap Fee Program Disclosure Brochure. We may also provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

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#### Item 4 – Services, Fees and Compensation

Triad Investment Management, LLC is an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and is a Limited Liability Company formed under the laws of the State of Washington.

## Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program Using the Strategic Wealth Management (SWM) Platform

Strategic Wealth Management is a comprehensive, open-architecture, fee-based investment platform created by LPL Financial to allow independent investment advisers, such as TIM, to offer clients customized advice and service. The platform provides a foundation to develop long-term financial goals and provide solutions. On the Strategic Wealth Management platform, we offer wrap fee (Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program) and non-wrap fee (SWM I) account options. TIM has the fiduciary responsibility on the accounts.

We are the sponsor of the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program, a wrap fee asset management program using the Strategic Wealth Management platform. Through the Strategic Wealth Management platform, we provide investment management services, including providing continuous investment advice and making investments for you based on your individual needs. Through this service, we offer a customized and individualized investment program. A specific asset allocation strategy is crafted to focus on your specific goals and objectives. The IPS defines your risk tolerance and investment objective. Your information should be updated regularly, but at a minimum every 2 years.

Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts are custodied at LPL in its capacity as a registered broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. LPL is also an investment advisor registered with the SEC but does not serve as an investment advisor for you through the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program. LPL provides clearing, custody and other brokerage services for accounts established through the SWM Platform. Also, LPL charges 5 basis points on any assets held away from LPL, which is paid by TIM. Therefore, you are required to establish an advisory account(s) through LPL's Strategic Wealth Management platform. Separate accounts are maintained for you, and you retain all rights of ownership of you accounts (e. g., the right to withdraw securities or cash, exercise or delegate proxy voting, and receive transaction confirmations).

Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts allow you to authorize us to purchase and sell, on a discretionary basis, portfolios consisting of securities and investments. We may limit our discretion with respect to your account and the securities eligible to be purchased for your account. (See, Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments at Item 6, Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation elsewhere in this Disclosure Brochure.)

With discretionary authority, we make all decisions to buy, sell or hold securities, cash or other investments in the managed account in our sole discretion without consulting with you before implementing any transactions. You must provide us with written authorization to exercise this discretionary authority. Discretionary authority is limited. We do not have access to your funds and/or securities with the exception of having advisory fees deducted from your account and paid to us by the account custodian. Any fee deduction is done pursuant to your prior written authorization provided to the account custodian. You have the ability to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments that may be purchased in an account. You may also place reasonable limitations on the discretionary power granted to us so long as the limitations are specifically set forth or included as an attachment to the client

# agreement. (Please see Item 16, Investment Discretion, in the separate Triad Investment Management ADV Part 2A Disclosure Brochure for additional information concerning discretionary authority.)

During any month that there is activity in the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account, you receive a monthly account statement from LPL showing account activity as well as positions held in the account at month end. Additionally, you receive a confirmation of each transaction that occurs within the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account unless the transaction is the result of a systematic purchase, redemption or exchange. You also receive a detailed quarterly report showing performance, positions, and activity. All account data and statements are also available on-line through the account view portal through LPL.

The annual investment advisory fee charged will vary between 0.50% - 2.25% of the assets held in the account and is negotiable depending on the market value of the account, asset types, complexity of your portfolio, your financial situation and trading activity. The annual fee is divided and paid quarterly in advance through a direct debit to your account. LPL is responsible for calculating and debiting all fees from your accounts. You must provide LPL with written authorization to debit advisory fees from your accounts and pay the fees to TIM. Fees are based on the account's asset value as of the last business day of the prior calendar quarter. Fees for accounts opened at any time other than the beginning of a quarter are prorated based on the number of days remaining in the initial quarter.

Prior to engaging TIM to provide investment management services, you are required to enter into a formal investment advisory agreement with us setting forth the terms and conditions, including the amount of investment advisory fees, under which we manage your assets and also separate custodial/clearing agreement with LPL.

You can open a SWM I or Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account. A SWM I account is a non-wrap or traditional account. This means in addition to our investment advisory fee, you also certain pay transaction charges to defray the costs associated with trade execution. These costs are set out in the LPL Strategic Wealth Management platform brokerage account and application agreement. The Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account is a wrap fee account, meaning you do not pay transaction charges associated with trade execution.

You will incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than TIM in connection with investments made through the account including, but not limited to, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges, and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees. Mutual fund 12b-1 fees are always paid to our custodian, LPL.

## Wrap Fee Account Disclosures When Using LPL's Strategic Wealth Management Platform

Although clients do not pay a transaction charge for transactions in a wrap fee program account, clients should be aware that TIM pays LPL transaction charges for those transactions. The transaction charges paid by TIM vary based on the type of transaction (e.g., mutual fund, equity or ETF) and for mutual funds based on whether or not the mutual fund pays 12b-1 fees and/or recordkeeping fees to LPL. Transaction charges paid by TIM for equities and ETFs are \$9. For mutual funds, the transaction charges range from \$0 to \$26.50. Because TIM pays the transaction charges in the Wrap Fee Program Accounts, there is a conflict of interest in cases where the mutual fund is offered at both \$0 and \$26.50. Clients should understand that the cost to TIM of transaction charges may be a factor that TIM considers when deciding which securities to select and how frequently to place transactions in a SWM II account.

In many instances, LPL makes available on the wrap account platform, mutual funds that offer various

classes of shares, including shares designated as Class A Shares and shares designed for advisory programs, which can be titled, for example, as "Class I," "institutional," "investor," "retail," "service," "administrative" or "platform" share classes ("Platform Shares"). The Platform Share class offered for a particular mutual fund in a wrap fee program account in many cases will not be the least expensive share class that the mutual fund makes available and was selected by LPL in certain cases because the share class pays LPL compensation for the administrative and recordkeeping services LPL provides to the mutual fund. Client should understand that another financial services firm may offer the same mutual fund at a lower overall cost to the investor than is available through the TIM wrap fee program. In other instances, a mutual fund may offer only Class A Shares, but another similar mutual fund may be available that offers Platform Shares. Class A Shares typically pay LPL a 12b-1 fee for providing shareholder services, distribution, and marketing expenses ("brokerage-related services") to the mutual funds. Platform Shares generally are not subject to 12b-1 fees. As a result of the different expenses of the mutual fund share classes, it is generally more expensive for a client to own Class A Shares than Platform Shares. An investor in Platform Shares will pay lower fees over time and keep more of his or her investment returns than an investor who holds Class A Shares of the same fund.

TIM has a financial incentive to recommend Class A Shares in cases where both Class A and Platform Shares are available. This is a conflict of interest which might incline TIM, consciously or unconsciously, to render advice that is not disinterested. Although the client will not be charged a transaction charge for transactions, TIM pays LPL a per transaction charge for mutual fund purchases and sales in the account. TIM generally does not pay transaction charges for Class A Share mutual fund transactions accounts, but generally does pay transaction charges for Platform Share mutual fund transactions. The cost to TIM of transaction charges generally may be a factor TIM considers when deciding which securities to select and whether or not to place transactions in the account.

The lack of transaction charges to TIM for Class A Share purchases and sales, together with the fact that Platform Shares generally are less expensive for a client to own, presents a significant conflict of interest between TIM and the client. In short, it costs TIM less to recommend and select Class A share mutual funds than Platform shares, but Platform shares will generally outperform Class A mutual fund shares on the basis of internal cost structure alone. Clients should understand this conflict and consider the additional indirect expenses borne as a result of the mutual fund fees when negotiating and discussing with your Advisor the advisory fee for management of an account.

Our management fees (which include transaction and execution fees charged by LPL for Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts) are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by investment company securities that will be recommended to you. A description of these fees and expenses are available in each investment company security's prospectus. Our representatives, in their separate capacity as registered representatives of LPL, will not receive a portion of the commissions or 12b-1 fees charged to you. These commissions may include 12b-1 fees, surrender charges and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees. LPL retains all 12b-1 fees.

The SWM I and Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts may cost you more or less than if the assets were held in a traditional brokerage account. In a brokerage account, you are charged commissions for each transaction, and the representative has no duty to provide ongoing advice with respect to the account. If you plan to follow a buy and hold investment strategy for the account or do not wish to purchase ongoing investment advice or management services, you should consider opening a brokerage account rather than a SWM I or Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program managed account.

We do not always charge a lower advisory fee for SWM I accounts versus Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts. The cost for a Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account is typically higher than a SWM I Program. This is because transaction costs are passed along to you in

SWM I accounts while the transaction costs are covered under the overall fee charged for Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts.

When making the determination of whether one of the advisory programs available through TIM is appropriate for your needs, you should bear in mind that fee-based accounts, when compared with commission-based accounts, often result in lower costs during periods when trading activity is heavier, such as the year an account is established. However, during periods when trading activity is lower, the fee-based account arrangements may result in a higher annual cost for transactions. Thus, depending on a number of factors, the total cost for transactions under a fee account versus a commission account can vary significantly. Factors which affect the total cost include account size, amount of turnover, type and quantities of securities purchased or sold, commission rates and your tax situation. It should also be noted that lower fees for comparable service may be available from other sources. You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of fee-based and commission-based accounts with your adviser representative.

Either party may terminate the agreement for services at any time. If services are terminated within five business days of executing the agreement, services are terminated without penalty and a full refund of all fees paid in advance is provided. If services are terminated after the initial five-day period, we provide you with a prorated refund of fees paid in advance. The refund is based on the number of days service is actually provided during the final billing period. Termination is effective from the time the other party receives written notification or such other time as will be mutually agreed upon, subject to the settlement of transactions in progress and the final refund of advisory fees. There is no penalty charge on termination.

## Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program Using the Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Platform

Only clients with \$1 million in asset under management or greater with TIM have the option to use Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. (Schwab) as the custodian.

The annual investment advisory fee charged will vary between 0.50% – 2.25% of the assets held in the account and is negotiable depending on the market value of the account, asset types, complexity of your portfolio, your financial situation and trading activity. The annual fee is divided and paid quarterly in advance through a direct debit to your account. Client has the option to debit the fee from their account or pay the advisory fee directly to TIM. If the advisory fee is debited from your account, TIM is responsible for calculating and debiting all fees from your accounts. You must provide written authorization to debit advisory fees from your accounts and pay the fees to TIM. Fees are based on the account's asset value as of the last business day of the prior calendar quarter. Fees for accounts opened at any time other than the beginning of a quarter are prorated based on the number of days remaining in the initial quarter.

Prior to engaging TIM to provide investment management services, you are required to enter into a formal investment advisory agreement with us setting forth the terms and conditions, including the amount of investment advisory fees, under which we manage your assets and also a separate custodial/clearing agreement with Schwab.

You may incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than TIM in connection with investments made through the account including, but not limited to, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges, and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees. Our management fees (which include transaction and execution fees charged by Schwab for Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts) are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by investment company securities that may be

recommended to you. A description of these fees and expenses are available in each investment company security's prospectus.

The wrap and non-wrap accounts may cost you more or less than if the assets were held in a traditional brokerage account. In a brokerage account, you are charged commissions for each transaction, and the representative has no duty to provide ongoing advice with respect to the account. If you plan to follow a buy and hold investment strategy for the account or do not wish to purchase ongoing investment advice or management services, you should consider opening a brokerage account rather than a wrap or non-wrap managed account.

The cost for a Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program account is typically higher than a nonwrap account. This is because transaction costs are passed along to you in non-wrap accounts while the transaction costs are covered under the overall fee charged for Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts. However, we do not always charge a lower advisory fee for non-wrap accounts versus the Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts.

Either party may terminate the agreement for services at any time. If services are terminated within five business days of executing the agreement, services are terminated without penalty and a full refund of all fees paid in advance is provided. If services are terminated after the initial five-day period, we provide you with a prorated refund of fees paid in advance. The refund is based on the number of days service is actually provided during the final billing period. Termination is effective from the time the other party receives written notification or such other time as may be mutually agreed upon, subject to the settlement of transactions in progress and the final refund of advisory fees. There is no penalty charge on termination.

If you retain TIM to implement the recommendations provided under this service, TIM may recommend load or no-load mutual funds that charge you 12(b)-1 fees. All 12(b)-1 fees are paid to the custodian. TIM will not receive any 12(b)-1 fees on advisory accounts.

#### Schwab as Custodian

As stated above, only clients with over \$1 million in asset under management or greater with TIM have the option to use Schwab as the custodian. For clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge client separately for custody services but is compensated by charging client commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into the Schwab account. Certain trades (for example, mutual funds and ETFs) do not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees. Schwab is also compensated by earning interest on the uninvested cash in the account in Schwab's Cash Features Program.

#### Products and services available to TIM from Schwab

Schwab Advisor Services<sup>™</sup> (formerly Schwab Institutional Services) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (trading, custody, reporting and related services), many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers.

However, certain retail investors may be able to get institutional brokerage services from Schwab without going through us. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business.

Schwab's support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we do not have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

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

Services that do not directly benefit clients. Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit TIM but do not directly benefit client or client's account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' account s and operating our firm. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. TIM uses this research to service our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- · Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- Provide pricing and other market data
- Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- · Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

*Services that generally benefit only* TIM. Schwab also offers other services intended to help TIM manage and further develop the business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology and business needs
- · Consulting on legal and compliance related needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
- Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers
- Marketing consulting and support

Some of these services are provided at no cost as an independent firm. Some of these services are provided at a discount or at waived fees depending on the level of assets under management with Schwab. This may be perceived as a conflict of interest. In order to mitigate the risk of this conflict, TIM has the option to choose other third-party vendors for these services. And the level of entry for the discounts are very low which mitigates risk of conflicts.

## Additional Compensation, Economic and Non-Economic Benefits

Our representatives are also registered representatives of LPL, a securities broker-dealer. You may work with your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of LPL. When acting in this separate capacity as a registered representative, your investment adviser representative will sell, for commissions, general securities products such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and variable annuity and variable life products to you. As such, your investment adviser representative may suggest that you implement investment advice by purchasing securities products through a commission-based brokerage account in addition to or in lieu of a fee-based Triad Investment Management Page 9 Form ADV Part 2A Appendix 1

investment-advisory account. This receipt of commissions creates an incentive to recommend those products for which your investment adviser representative will receive a commission in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of a securities broker-dealer. Consequently, the objectivity of the advice rendered to you could be biased.

You are under no obligation to use the services of our representatives in this separate capacity or to use LPL and can select any broker/dealer you wish to implement securities transactions. If you select our representatives to implement securities transactions in their separate capacity as registered representatives, they must use LPL.

## Item 5 – Account Requirements and Types of Clients

## **Minimum Account Size**

There are no minimum investment amounts or conditions required to open an account managed by TIM. However, only clients with \$1 million in asset under management or greater with TIM have the option to use Schwab as the custodian. All clients are required to execute an agreement for services in order to establish a client arrangement with TIM and/or the third-party money manager or the sponsor of third-party money manager platforms. Some third-party money managers may have an investment minimum.

## Types of Accounts

TIM generally provides investment advice to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- High net worth individuals
- Pension and profit-sharing plans
- Charitable Institutions
- Foundations
- Endowments
- Trust Programs
- Other U.S. and International Institutions

You are required to execute a written agreement with TIM specifying the particular advisory services in order to establish a client arrangement with TIM.

## Item 6 – Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation

We select and review portfolio managers based on many criteria including, but not limited to, performance, holdings, track record, turnover, manager tenure, expense ratio, peer group rating and historical consistency of all of the above.

We rely on third party performance calculations. These third-party services utilize standard performance calculation methods. We as a firm cannot confirm or deny the accuracy of these performance measures but rely on them based on their national reputation and standard methods of calculation. We believe them to be fair and accurate representations but do not verify or confirm their accuracy.

None of our related persons act as a portfolio manager for our wrap fee program. We/they do, however, choose managers with respect to the following: asset class, percentage of portfolio, when to add/subtract them from the portfolio, etc. Managers are chosen based on your best interests.

## **Other Advisory Services**

In addition to the management services described above, we provide the following services:

- Financial Planning & Consulting Services
- Referral of Third-Party Money Managers
- Retirement Plan Services
- Newsletters
- Seminars
- Educational Events

A description of all fee-based investment advisory services that we provide is available in our Form ADV Part 2A Disclosure Brochure.

#### Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments

TIM provides investment advice on the following types of investments:

- Mutual Funds
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Exchange-listed Securities
- Securities Traded Over-the-Counter
- Corporate Debt Securities
- Certificates of Deposit
- Municipal Securities
- Variable Annuities
- Variable Life Insurance
- US Government Securities
- Unit Investment Trusts
- Business Development Companies
- Interests in Business Development Companies
- Interests in Partnerships Investing in Real Estate
- Interests in Partnerships Investing in Oil and Gas Interests

Although we generally provide advice only on the products previously listed, we reserve the right to offer advice on any investment product that may be suitable for each client's specific circumstances, needs, goals and objectives.

It is not our typical investment strategy to attempt to time the market, but we may increase cash holdings modestly as deemed appropriate based on your risk tolerance and our expectations of market behavior. We may modify our investment strategy to accommodate special situations such as low basis stock, stock options, legacy holdings, inheritances, closely held businesses, collectibles, or special tax situations.

#### **Tailor Advisory Services to Individual Needs of Clients**

TIM's advisory services are always provided based on your individual needs. This means, for example, that when we provide asset management services, you are given the ability to impose restrictions on the accounts we manage for you, including specific investment selections and sectors. We work with you on a one-on-one basis through interviews and questionnaires to determine your investment objectives and suitability information.

We will not enter into an investment adviser relationship with a prospective client whose investment objectives may be considered incompatible with our investment philosophy or strategies or where the prospective client seeks to impose unduly restrictive investment guidelines.

When managing client accounts through our Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program, we may manage a client's account in accordance with one or more investment models. When client accounts are managed using models, investment selections are based on the underlying model and we do not develop customized (or individualized) portfolio holdings for each client. However, the determination to use a particular model or models is always based on each client's individual investment goals, objectives and mandates.

## Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

Performance-based fees are defined as fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets held in a client's account. TIM does not charge or accept performance-based fees.

## Methods of Analysis and Strategies

Investment Planning/Portfolio Analysis - This involves advice with respect to asset allocation, taxefficiency and investment income accumulation techniques. These techniques are implemented principally through no load mutual funds, equities, ETF's and annuities. Evaluations are made of existing investments in terms of their economic and tax characteristics as well as their suitability for meeting the clients' objectives. Tax consequences and their implications are identified and evaluated. The method of analysis is a culmination of evaluating underlying management expenses, past performance, peer performance, tracking error, comparison of alpha/beta of underlying managers as well as third party analysis. No load mutual funds, ETF's and annuities all have the potential of substantial market value loss. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

There are risks involved in using any analysis method.

To conduct analysis, TIM gathers information from financial newspapers and magazines, inspection of corporate activities, research materials prepared by others, corporate rating services, timing services, annual reports, prospectuses and filings with the SEC, and company press releases.

## **Risk of Loss**

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, you should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. Investing in securities (including stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, etc.) involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments there will be varying degrees of risk. You should be prepared to bear investment loss including loss of original principal.

Because of the inherent risk of loss associated with investing, our firm is unable to represent, guarantee, or even imply that our services and methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to market corrections or declines. There are certain additional risks associated with investing in securities through our investment management program. The following is a list of various risks:

• <u>Market Risk</u> – Either the stock market as a whole, or the value of an individual company, goes down resulting in a decrease in the value of client investments. This is also referred to as systemic risk.

- <u>Equity (stock) market risk</u> Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. If you held common stock, or common stock equivalents, of any given issuer, you would generally be exposed to greater risk than if you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer.
- <u>Company Risk</u>. When investing in stock positions, there is always a certain level of company or industry specific risk that is inherent in each investment. This is also referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that the company will perform poorly or have its value reduced based on factors specific to the company or its industry. For example, if a company's employees go on strike or the company receives unfavorable media attention for its actions, the value of the company may be reduced.
- <u>Fixed Income Risk</u>. When investing in bonds, there is the risk that the issuer will default on the bond and be unable to make payments. Further, individuals who depend on set amounts of periodically paid income face the risk that inflation will erode their spending power. Fixed-income investors receive set, regular payments that face the same inflation risk.
- <u>Options Risk</u>. Options on securities may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than an investment in the underlying securities. Purchasing and writing put and call options are highly specialized activities and entail greater than ordinary investment risks.
- <u>ETF and Mutual Fund Risk</u> When investing in an ETF or mutual fund, you will bear additional expenses based on your pro rata share of the ETF's or mutual fund's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. You will also incur brokerage costs when purchasing ETFs in the SWM I accounts.
- <u>Management Risk</u> Your investment with our firm varies with the success and failure of our investment strategies, research, analysis and determination of portfolio securities. If our investment strategies do not produce the expected returns, the value of the investment will decrease.
- <u>Margin Risk</u> When you purchase securities, you may pay for the securities in full or borrow part of the purchase price from your account custodian or clearing firm. If you intended to borrow funds in connection with your Account, you will be required to open a margin account, which will be carried by the clearing firm. The securities purchased in such an account are the clearing firm's collateral for its loan to you.

If those securities in a margin account decline in value, the value of the collateral supporting this loan also declines, and as a result, the brokerage firm is required to take action in order to maintain the necessary level of equity in your account. The brokerage firm may issue a margin call and/or sell other assets in your account.

It is important that you fully understand the risks involved in trading securities on margin, which are applicable to any margin account that you may maintain, including any margin account that may be established as part of the Asset Management Agreement established between you and TIM and held by the account custodian or clearing firm.

These risks include the following:

- You can lose more funds than you deposit in your margin account.
- The account custodian or clearing firm can force the sale of securities or other assets in your account.
- The account custodian or clearing firm can sell your securities or other assets without contacting you.
- You are not entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your margin account may be liquidated or sold to meet a margin call.
- The account custodian or clearing firm may move securities held in your cash account to your margin account and pledge the transferred securities.
- The account custodian or clearing firm can increase its "house" maintenance margin requirements at any time and they are not required to provide you advance written notice.
- You are not entitled to an extension of time on a margin call.

## **Voting Client Securities**

We do not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event the proxies are sent to our firm, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future.

With respect to assets managed by a third-party money manager, we will not vote the proxies associated with these assets. You will need to refer to each third-party money manager's disclosure brochure to determine whether the third-party money manager will vote proxies on your behalf. You may request a complete copy of third-party money manager's proxy voting policies and procedures as well as information on how your proxies were voted by contacting the third-party money manager or by contacting TIM at the address or phone number indicated on Page 1 of this disclosure document.

#### Item 7 – Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers

Periodically we may need to provide certain financial information about clients to a portfolio manager. This requirement may be necessary when working with an investment that has certain net worth or income requirements. This information may be supplied to the portfolio manager each year as necessary. The information is only provided to establish financial suitability/wherewithal for the specific investment.

## Item 8 - Client Contact with Portfolio Managers

Our Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program primarily utilizes pooled investment vehicles which have investment/portfolio managers. These managers are not typically available to our clients for direct contact. We have relationships with those managers' companies, and each provides us with points of contact so that we can obtain important information, updates and analysis necessary and relevant for our portfolio decision making process. Periodically we may be in direct contact with an investment manager to obtain their view on certain market events. This meeting usually does not include clients.

#### Item 9 - Additional Information

### **Disciplinary Information**

We have no legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our business or the integrity of our management.

## **Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

TIM is **not** and does **not** have a related person that is a broker/dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities dealer or broker, an investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-end investment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or "hedge fund," and offshore fund), another investment adviser or financial planner, a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor, a banking or thrift institution, a lawyer or law firm, an insurance company or agency, a pension consultant, a real estate broker or dealer, and a sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

We are an independent registered investment registered adviser and only provide investment advisory services. We are not engaged in any other business activities and offer no other services except those described in this Disclosure Brochure. However, while we do not sell products or services other than investment advice, our representatives may sell other products or provide services outside of their role as investment adviser representatives with TIM.

## **Registered Representative of a Broker-Dealer**

Our representatives are also registered representatives of LPL, a securities broker-dealer. You may work with your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of LPL. When acting in this separate capacity as a registered representative, your investment adviser representative may sell, for commissions, general securities products such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and variable annuity and variable life products to you. As such, your investment adviser representative may suggest that you implement investment advice by purchasing securities products through a commission-based brokerage account in addition to or in lieu of a fee-based investment-advisory account. This receipt of commissions creates an incentive to recommend those products for which your investment adviser representative will receive a commission in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of a securities broker-dealer. Consequently, the objectivity of the advice rendered to you could be biased.

You are under no obligation to use the services of our representatives in this separate capacity or to use LPL and can select any broker/dealer you wish to implement securities transactions. If you select our representatives to implement securities transactions in their separate capacity as registered representatives, they must use LPL. The commissions charged by LPL may be higher or lower than those charged by other broker/dealers. In addition, the registered representative may also receive additional ongoing 12b-1 fees for mutual fund purchases from the mutual fund company during the period that you maintain the mutual fund investment. TIM will not receive any 12b-1 fees.

Some representatives of TIM have received loans from LPL Financial, LLC in order to assist with transitioning the investment adviser representatives of TIM from their former broker-dealer. Although the loan is intended to assist the representatives with transition costs, to the extent that the amount of the loan exceeds the costs of transition, loan recipients are not required to refund the unused portion to LPL Financial, LLC and may use the funds for other purposes.

The loans are forgiven by LPL Financial based upon the length of time the investment adviser representative is affiliated with LPL Financial. The receipt of forgivable loans presents a conflict of interest in that its representatives have a financial incentive to maintain a relationship with LPL Financial. However, to the extent its representatives recommend you use LPL Financial for any services, it is because they believe that it is in your best interest to do so. TIM has systems in place to review the investment adviser representatives' managed accounts for suitability and best execution practices over the course of the advisory relationship.

## **Insurance Agent**

You may work with your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent. When acting in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent, the investment adviser representative may sell, for commissions, disability insurance, life insurance, annuities, long term care and other insurance products to you. As such, your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent, may suggest that you implement recommendations of TIM by purchasing these insurance products. This receipt of commissions creates an incentive for the representative to recommend those products for which your investment adviser representative will receive a commission in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent. Consequently, the advice rendered to you could be biased. You are under no obligation to implement any insurance or annuity transaction through your investment adviser representative.

## Accountant

Dennis B. Goldstein, an investment adviser representative of TIM, is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). If TIM or its investment adviser representatives determine that a client is in need of tax or accounting services, the client may be referred to Dennis B. Goldstein's accounting firm, Dennis B. Goldstein & Associates. In addition, if accounting or tax clients of Dennis B. Goldstein are in need of financial planning or other advisory services, Dennis B. Goldstein, acting in his separate capacity as an accountant, may refer or recommend investment advisory services available through TIM. No referral fees are paid when clients are referred to or from the accounting firm. Clients are not obligated in any manner to use the services or an accounting firm recommended or owned by Dennis B. Goldstein.

## Interest in Client Transactions and Code of Ethics

According to the *Investment Advisers Act of 1940*, an investment adviser is considered a fiduciary and has a fiduciary duty to all clients. TIM has established a Code of Ethics to comply with the requirements of Section 204(A)-1 of the *Investment Advisers Act of 1940* that reflects its fiduciary obligations and those of its supervised persons. The Code of Ethics also requires compliance with federal securities laws. The Code of Ethics covers all individuals that are classified as "supervised persons". All employees, officers, directors and investment adviser representatives are classified as supervised persons. TIM requires its supervised persons to consistently act in your best interest in all advisory activities. TIM imposes certain requirements on its affiliates and supervised persons to ensure that they meet the firm's fiduciary responsibilities to you. The standard of conduct required is higher than ordinarily required and encountered in commercial business.

This section is intended to provide a summary description of the Code of Ethics of TIM. If you wish to review the Code of Ethics in its entirety, you should send us a written request and upon receipt of your request, we will promptly provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to you.

## Affiliate and Employee Personal Securities Transactions Disclosure

TIM or access persons of the firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts, investment products identical to those recommended to clients. This creates a conflict of interest. It is the express policy of TIM that all persons associated in any manner with our firm must place clients' interests ahead of their own when implementing personal investments. TIM and its access persons will not buy or sell securities for their personal account(s) where their decision is derived, in whole or in part, by information obtained as a result of employment or association with our firm unless the information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry.

We are now and will continue to be in compliance with applicable state and federal rules and regulations. To prevent conflicts of interest, we have developed written supervisory procedures that include personal investment and trading policies for our representatives, employees and their immediate family members (collectively, access persons):

- Access persons cannot prefer their own interests to that of the client.
- Access persons cannot purchase or sell any security for their personal accounts prior to implementing transactions for client accounts.
- Access persons cannot buy or sell securities for their personal accounts when those decisions are based on information obtained as a result of their employment, unless that information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry.
- Access persons are prohibited from purchasing or selling securities of companies in which any client is deemed an "insider".
- Access persons are discouraged from conducting frequent personal trading.
- Access persons are generally prohibited from serving as board members of publicly traded companies unless an exception has been granted to the Chief Compliance Officer of TIM.

#### Code of Ethics for CFP

In addition to abiding by our Code of Ethics, some of our representatives are Certified Financial Planners<sup>™</sup> (CFP<sup>®</sup>) and also abide by the Code of Ethics and Responsibility Code of the Certified Financial Planner<sup>™</sup> Board of Standards, Inc. The Code of Ethics and Responsibility Code requires CFP<sup>®</sup> designees to not only comply with all applicable laws and regulations but to also act in an ethical and professional responsible manner in all professional services and activities. The principles guiding CFP<sup>®</sup> designees are:

- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Competence (in providing services and maintaining knowledge and skills to do so)
- Fairness (to clients, principals, partners and employers and disclosing any conflicts of interest in providing services)
- Confidentiality (keeping all client information confidential without the specific client consent unless in response to legal process or in defense of charges of wrongdoing or civil dispute)
- Professionalism
- Diligence

You can obtain a copy of the Code of Ethics and Responsibility Code by requesting a copy from one of our representatives.

Any access or supervised person not observing our Code of Ethics policies is subject to sanctions up to and including termination.

#### **Account Reviews**

Triad Investment Management Wrap Fee Program accounts are reviewed at least annually. While the calendar is the main triggering factor, reviews may also be performed due to your specific request, a change in your circumstances and unusual market activity or economic conditions. Absent your specific instructions, accounts are reviewed for accuracy of holdings and to ensure that the portfolios continue to work toward your goals and objectives. Reviews are conducted by your Investment Advisor Representative, with reviews performed in accordance with your investment goals and objectives.

Accounts established and maintained with other third-party money managers are reviewed at least quarterly, usually when statements and/or reports are received from the money manager.

#### Account Statements and Reports

You are provided with transaction confirmation notices and regular quarterly account statements in writing directly from the qualified custodian.

You are encouraged to always compare any reports or statements provided by us or a third-party money manager against the account statements delivered from the qualified custodian. When you have questions about your account statement, you should contact our firm.

#### **Client Referrals**

TIM has entered into an agreement with Employees to receive compensation for referrals. ("Referring Parties") to refer clients to TIM. If a referred client enters into an investment advisory agreement with TIM, a cash referral fee is paid to the referring party, which is based upon a percentage of the client advisory fees that are generated. The referral agreements between any referring party and TIM will not result in any charges to clients in addition to the normal level of advisory fees charged.

When a client is referred to us by a referring party, the referring party provides the client with a copy of our Disclosure Brochure as required by the *Investment Advisers Act of 1940*. The client also will complete a Solicitor's Disclosure Statement document. If a referred client enters into an investment advisory agreement with TIM, a referral fee is paid to the referring party. The referral relationship will not result in clients being charged any fees over and above the normal advisory fees charged for the advisory services provided.

The referral agreements between TIM and referring parties are in compliance with state and federal securities rules regarding paid solicitor arrangements.

We may from time to time receive expense reimbursement for travel and/or marketing expenses from distributors of investment and/or insurance products. Travel expense reimbursements are typically a result of attendance at due diligence and/or investment training events hosted by product sponsors. Marketing expense reimbursements are typically the result of informal expense sharing arrangements in which product sponsors may underwrite costs incurred for marketing such as client appreciation events, advertising, publishing, and seminar expenses. Although receipt of these travel and marketing expense reimbursements are not predicated upon specific sales quotas, the product sponsor reimbursements are typically made by those sponsors for which sales have been made or for which it is anticipated sales will be made. This creates a conflict of interest in that there is an incentive to recommend certain products and investments based on the receipt of this compensation instead of what is in the best interest of our clients. We attempt to control for this conflict by always basing investment decisions on the individual needs of our clients.

## **Financial Information**

TIM does not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for the most recent fiscal year. We are not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, TIM has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.