

## Item 1: Cover Page



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### **Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure**

Dated: September 5, 2023

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Great River Financial LLC, (“GRF”). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (763) 231-7581. 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.

Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about GRF is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov), which can be found using the firm’s identification number, 314172.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Since the last filing of GRF’s Brochure dated February 2, 2023, the firm has the following material changes to report:

- Item 5 - Fees and Compensation: Advisor updated to disclose the fee schedules updates.

#### Future Changes

From time to time, we may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations and routine annual updates as required by the securities regulators. This complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to each Client annually and if a material change occurs in the business practices of Great River Financial LLC.

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure on-line at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov> by searching for our firm name or by our CRD number 314172.

You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time, by contacting us at (763) 231-7581.

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

## Description of Advisory Firm

Great River Financial LLC (hereinafter referred to as “GRF”, “we”, “firm”, and “us”) is registered as an Investment Adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. We are a limited liability company founded in April of 2021. Joshua Wolberg is the principal owner of GRF, and Kingston Hollman is the Chief Compliance Officer.

## Types of Advisory Services

### Investment Management Services

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a Client regarding the investment of Client funds based on the individual needs of the Client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a Client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a Client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We will also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the Client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth, and income), as well as tax considerations. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

### Financial Planning Service

Investment management and financial planning services are typically bundled services. Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client.

In general, the financial plan will address any or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and advisor will work together to select specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for Clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.

**Cash Flow and Debt Management:** We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.

**College Savings:** Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).

**Employee Benefits Optimization:** We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.

**Estate Planning:** This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.

**Financial Goals:** We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.

**Insurance:** May include review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.

**Investment Analysis:** This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.

**Retirement Planning:** Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

**Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize

such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance (“self-insuring”).

**Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their “tax efficiency,” with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

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

We consult with Clients initially and on an ongoing basis, through the duration of their engagement with us, to determine risk tolerance, time horizon and other factors that may impact the Clients’ investment and/or planning needs. We ensure that Clients’ investment and planning recommendations are suitable for their needs, goals, objectives, and risk tolerance.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any limitations they would like to place on discretionary authority as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account. All such requests must be provided to GRF in writing. GRF will notify Clients if they are unable to accommodate any requests.

### **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

### **Assets under Management**

As of December 31, 2022, GRF has \$114,178,543 in discretionary and \$5,631,426 in non-discretionary assets under management.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received this brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing an investment advisory and/or a Financial Planning Agreement (collectively, “Client Contract”), the Client Contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the Client Contract without penalty. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory services we perform. Below is a brief description of our fees, however, you should review your executed Client Contract for more detailed information regarding the exact fees you will be paying.

## Investment Management & Financial Planning

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management and is calculated as follows:

Household Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$750,000	1.00%
\$750,001 and above	0.10%

The Client’s annual fee is based on an aggregate value of all managed accounts within the Client’s established household. The annual fees are paid in arrears on a monthly basis, based on the average daily balance of all household accounts’ combined value. The fee will adjust up or down depending on the growth or decline in the value of the household account. The advisory fee is a blended fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart resulting in a combined weighted fee. For example, an account valued at \$2,000,000 would pay an effective fee of 0.44% with the annual fee of \$8,750. The fee for a month with 30 days would be determined by the following calculation:  $((\$750,000 \times 1.00\%) + (\$1,250,000 \times 0.10\%)) \times (30/365) = \$719.18$ . GRF may change clients’ fee schedule in response to the economic environment to remain competitive. Clients will be notified at least 30 days prior to any changes to the annual fee schedule, unless we receive a response from you indicating your objection, changes will be effective on the next billing period after notification. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases. Accounts initiated or terminated during the billing period may be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period.

We calculate period-end account values after all dividends settle in the account, therefore, the account value used to calculate advisory fees may differ from that of the custodial account statement. Our billing invoice will indicate the total account value used to calculate the advisory fee. Engagements initiated or terminated during a calendar month will be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period.

For Clients with a household account value of less than \$250,000, the services may be limited to investment management, as described in Item 4 of this Brochure. In the event the Client requests services beyond the scope of investment management, the Client may be requested to sign a separate financial planning agreement and will be responsible for payment of such services.

Client may elect for GRF to notify Client’s custodian, of the amount of fees due pursuant to Client Contract, and the custodian will be authorized to deduct such fees from Client’s account and remit payment to GRF. If Client elects to utilize such a payment arrangement, Client agrees to furnish any additional written authorizations or instructions required by the custodian for such payment arrangement. Alternatively, advisory fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, debit card, credit card, or check. For fees paid by electronic funds

transfer, debit card or credit card, we use an independent third party payment processor in which the Client can securely input their banking information and pay their fee. We do not have access to the Client's banking information at any time. The Client will be provided with their own secure portal in order to make payments.

An engagement may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the Client Contract.

### **Financial Planning Hourly Fee**

Hourly financial planning engagements are offered on a limited basis at an hourly rate ranging from \$300 - \$400, for limited scope projects. The fee is due at the completion of the engagement. In the event of early termination by the Client, any fees for the hours already worked will be due. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit card, or check.

### **Other Types of Fees and Expenses**

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for Client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

## Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services to individuals, and high net-worth individuals.

Our minimum account size requirement is \$250,000 and is inclusive of all household accounts. This minimum fee may be waived or amended at the discretion of GRF.

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

Below is a brief description of our methods of analysis and primary investment strategies.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that the information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Strategic Asset Allocation** is the focus of our investment strategy. In the portfolio construction process, we focus not only on asset classes such as equities, fixed income, and cash, but also on investment strategy styles such as fundamental, quantitative, active, and passive. We believe that diversification across both asset classes and investment strategies is critical for achieving an attractive reward-to-risk ratio in the portfolio. We employ both strategic and tactical asset allocation approaches. Through strategic asset allocation, we construct our long-term target weights for asset classes and strategies based on the Client's time horizon, risk tolerance, and required rate of return to meet his or her financial goals. Through tactical asset allocation approaches, we may deviate from target long-term weights established according to our strategic asset allocation approach within tolerance ranges based on our return expectations for asset classes and investment strategies at a given point in the market cycle.

## Modern Portfolio Theory

The underlying principles of MPT are:

- Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.
- Markets are efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.
- The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.
- Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.
- Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

## Passive and Active Investment Management

We may choose investment vehicles that are considered passive, active, or a combination of both styles.

Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve a desired relationship between correlation, risk and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio.

Active investing involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark. Actively managed funds are also designed to reduce volatility and risk.

We may engage in both passive and active investing in your portfolio. However, we strive to construct portfolios of select ETFs and mutual funds that we believe will have the greatest probability for achieving our Clients' personal financial goals with the least amount of volatility and risk rather than attempt to outperform an arbitrary index or benchmark.

Specific ETF and mutual fund investment selection is based on a number of factors that we evaluate in order to select, what we believe to be, the highest quality ETFs and mutual funds for our Clients. These factors include but are not limited to holdings, percentage weighting of holdings, liquidity, tax efficiency, bid/ask spreads, and other smart/strategic beta factors. These factors may or may not result in the lowest cost ETFs and mutual funds available, but we strive to keep internal ETF and mutual fund expenses as low as possible.

## **Material Risks Involved**

**All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear.** Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities, and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

**Strategy Risk:** The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Client's portfolio.

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

**Limited markets:** Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

**Concentration Risk:** Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Legal or Legislative Risk:** Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation:** Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

## Risks Associated with Securities

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Commercial Paper** is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

**Corporate Bonds** are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on factors such as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Bank Obligations** including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

**Municipal Bonds** are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Options and other derivatives** carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

**Mutual Funds:** When a Client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the Client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the Client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

## **Criminal or Civil Actions**

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

## **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

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

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

GRF and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a Client's or prospective Client's evaluation of GRF or the integrity of its management.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

No GRF employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

No GRF employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

GRF does not have any related parties. As a result, we do not have a relationship with any related parties.

GRF only receives compensation directly from Clients. We do not receive compensation from any outside source.

Joshua Wolberg is currently a licensed insurance agent solely for the purpose of providing advice on the topic of insurance as part of the financial planning advice provided by GRF. However, he does not sell any insurance products, and is not affiliated with any insurance companies. Joshua Wolberg will not receive any commissions for any advice he provides.

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

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

## **Code of Ethics Description**

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity - Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity - Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence - Associated persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness - Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality - Associated persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism - Associated persons' conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence - Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

## **Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest**

Neither our firm, its associates or any related person is authorized to recommend to a Client or effect a transaction for a Client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, etc.

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

Our firm and its “related persons” may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates’ transactions in specific reportable

securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

### **Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities**

From time to time, our firm or its "related persons" may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as Clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of GRF to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to Clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to Clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest; however, GRF will never engage in trading that operates to the Client's disadvantage if representatives of GRF buy or sell securities at or around the same time as Clients.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

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

Great River Financial LLC does not have any affiliation with Broker-Dealers. Specific custodian recommendations are made to the Client based on their need for such services. We recommend custodians based on the reputation and services provided by the firm.

In recommending broker-dealers, we have an obligation to seek the “best execution” of transactions in Client accounts. The determinative factor in the analysis of best execution is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of the broker-dealer’s services. The factors we consider when evaluating a broker-dealer for best execution include, without limitation, the broker-dealer’s:

- Execution capability;
- Commission rate;
- Financial responsibility;
- Responsiveness and customer service;
- Custodian capabilities;
- Research services/ancillary brokerage services provided; and
- Any other factors that we consider relevant.

With this in consideration, our firm recommends Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“Schwab”), an independent and unaffiliated SEC registered broker-dealer firm and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”). Although Clients may request us to use a broker-dealer of their choosing, we generally recommend that Clients open brokerage accounts with Schwab. We are not affiliated with Schwab. The Client will ultimately make the final decision of the Custodian to be used to hold the Client’s investments by signing the selected broker-dealer’s account opening documentation.

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

We do not have any soft-dollar arrangements with broker-dealers whereby soft-dollar credits, used to purchase products and services, are earned directly in proportion to the amount of commissions paid by a Client. However, as a result of being on their institutional platform, Schwab may provide us with certain services that may benefit us.

Schwab Advisor Services<sup>TM</sup> 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. 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 don’t have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab’s support services:

1. **SERVICES THAT BENEFIT YOU.** 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 you and your account.

2. **SERVICES THAT MAY NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOU.** Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of 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
3. **SERVICES THAT GENERALLY BENEFIT ONLY US.** Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:
  - Educational conferences and events
  - Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
  - Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession

We do not require that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business and Schwab's payment for services for which we would otherwise have to pay rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "How we select brokers/ custodians") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

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

We do recommend a specific custodian for Clients to use, however, Clients may custody their assets at a custodian of their choice. Clients may also direct us to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. By allowing Clients to choose a specific custodian, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of Client transactions and this may cost Clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

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

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

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

Joshua Wolberg, President of GRF, will work with Clients to obtain current information regarding their assets and investment holdings and will review this information as part of our financial planning services. GRF does not provide specific reports to financial planning Clients, other than financial plans. Investment Management clients will be reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Joshua Wolberg, President. The account is reviewed with regards to the Client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels.

Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of Client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs.

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the broker(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest. GRF will provide performance reports to Investment Management clients on an annual basis. We urge Clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients. Nor do we, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals.

# Item 15: Custody

All accounts are held by an independent Custodian selected by the Client. With the exception of GRF's ability to debit fees, and the ability to disburse or transfer certain funds to third parties pursuant to Standing Letters of Authorization executed by Clients, GRF does not hold, directly or indirectly, Client funds or securities, or have any authority to obtain possession of them. All assets managed by our firm are held at a qualified custodian.

GRF has the ability to directly deduct its advisory fees from the Client's custodial account. When doing so, (1) GRF sends the amount to be withdrawn to the Custodian, (2) the Custodian sends quarterly statements to the Client showing all disbursements for the custodial account, including the amount of our advisory fees, and (3) the Client provides written authorization permitting us to be paid directly from their accounts held by the Custodian.

GRF can establish a standing letter of instructions or other similar asset transfer authorization arrangements ("SLOA") with qualified custodians in order for us to disburse funds to accounts as specifically designated by the Client. With a SLOA a Client can typically authorize first-party and/or third-party transfers. If transfers are third-party, GRF complies with each of the requirements and conditions enumerated below:

1. The Client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the Client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
2. The Client authorizes GRF, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
3. The Client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the Client promptly after each transfer.
4. The Client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the Client's qualified custodian.
5. GRF has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the Client's instruction.
6. GRF maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of GRF or located at the same address as GRF.
7. The Client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, GRF has discretionary authority and limited power of attorney to determine the securities and the amount of securities to be bought or sold for a Client's account without having to obtain prior Client approval for each transaction. Investment discretion is explained to Clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the Client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account. Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the advisory contract and signed by the Client. Clients may limit our discretion by requesting certain restrictions on investments. However, approval of such requests are at the firm's sole discretion.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

We do not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

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

# Item 18: Financial Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients, and we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of Client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per Client six months in advance.