



**M E R C U R I O**  
**W E A L T H A D V I S O R S**

Mercurio & Associates, Inc.

Doing Business As:

**Mercurio Wealth Advisors**

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**Phone: 502-253-9366**

**March 21, 2025**

**[www.MercurioAdvisors.com](http://www.MercurioAdvisors.com)**

**Part 2A Brochure**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Mercurio Wealth Advisors. Mercurio Wealth Advisors conducts their advisory business under the name of Mercurio Wealth Advisors (“MWA”) to market the services they provide. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 502-253-9366 or by email at: alan@mercurioadvisors.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority. Mercurio & Associates Inc. is a Registered Investment Advisor. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Mercurio Wealth Advisors is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as an IARD number. The IARD number for Mercurio Wealth Advisors is IARD #283632.

## ITEM 2 – MATERIAL CHANGES

### SUMMARY OF MATERIAL CHANGES

This section of the Brochure will address only those “material changes” that have been incorporated since our last delivery or posting of this document on the SEC’s public disclosure website (IAPD) [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

The following material updates were made since the last Annual Amendment filing dated March 22, 2024:

- **No material changes have been made.**

Currently, a free copy of our Brochure may be requested by contacting D. Alan Mercurio, Chief Compliance Officer, Mercurio Wealth Advisors at 502-253-9366. The Brochure is also available on our web site [www.MercurioAdvisors.com](http://www.MercurioAdvisors.com).

We encourage you to read this document in its entirety.

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## ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS

This Disclosure document is being offered to you by Mercurio Wealth Advisors (“MWA” or “Firm”) about the investment advisory services we provide. It discloses information about our services and the way those services are made available to you, the client.

Our Firm became a registered investment adviser in January 2017 and is owned by D. Alan Mercurio. D. Alan Mercurio is the Chief Compliance Officer.

We are committed to helping clients build, manage, and preserve their wealth. Our Firm provides services that help clients to achieve their stated financial goals. We will offer an initial complimentary meeting upon our discretion; however, investment advisory services are initiated only after you and Mercurio Wealth Advisors execute an Investment Management Agreement.

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### INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION SERVICES

We manage advisory accounts on a discretionary basis. For discretionary accounts, once we have determined a profile and investment plan with a client, we will execute the day-to-day transactions without seeking prior client consent but within the expected investment guidelines. We may accept accounts with certain restrictions if circumstances warrant. We primarily allocate client assets among cash, individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds (“ETFs”), mutual funds, corporate bonds, municipal bonds, U.S. Government Treasuries in accordance with their stated investment objectives. Where deemed appropriate, we may recommend that our Clients invest in alternative assets. In most cases, at least a partial cash balance will be maintained in a money market account so that our firm may debit advisory fees for our services related to this service. Ultimately, we try to achieve the highest return on our client’s cash balances through relatively low-risk and conservative investments.

Portfolios will be designed to meet a particular investment goal, determined to be suitable to the client’s circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, portfolios are continuously and regularly monitored, and if necessary, rebalanced based upon the client’s individual needs, stated goals and objectives.

During personal discussions with clients, we determine the client’s objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review a client’s prior investment history, as well as family composition and background. Based on client needs, we develop a client’s personal profile and investment plan. We then create and manage the client’s investments based on that policy and plan. It is the client’s obligation to notify us immediately if circumstances have changed with respect to their goals.

Once we have determined the types of investments to be included in a client's portfolio and have allocated the assets, we provide ongoing investment review and management services.

With our discretionary relationship, we will make changes to the portfolio, as we deem appropriate, to meet client financial objectives. We trade these portfolios based on the combination of our market views and client objectives, using our investment process. We tailor our advisory services to meet the needs of our clients and seek to ensure that your portfolio is managed in a manner consistent with those needs and objectives. Clients have the ability to leave standing instructions with us to refrain from investing in particular industries or invest in limited amounts of securities.

In all cases, clients have a direct and beneficial interest in their securities, rather than an undivided interest in a pool of securities. We do have limited authority to direct the Custodian to deduct our investment advisory fees from your accounts, but only with the appropriate written authorization from clients.

Where appropriate, we provide advice about any type of legacy position held in client portfolios. Typically, these are assets that are ineligible to be custodied at our primary custodian. Clients will engage us to advise on certain investment products that are not maintained at their primary custodian, such as variable life insurance, annuity contracts, and assets held in employer sponsored retirement plans and qualified tuition plans (i.e., 529 plans).

You are advised and are expected to understand that our past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Certain market and economic risks exist that adversely affect an account's performance. This could result in capital losses in your account.

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#### **NITROGEN (FORMERLY RISKALYZE)**

To further fine-tune our understanding of a client's risk tolerance, our Firm utilizes Nitrogen, a third-party vendor tool, to assist in identifying the client's risk tolerance.

Nitrogen technology assists financial planners in two critical tasks: (1) measuring the risk preferences of investors and (2) applying these preference measurements to portfolio selection. Nitrogen summarizes an investor's mean-variance risk aversion on a 99-point scale. In connection with this output, the Nitrogen tool "quantifies" the client's indicated investment risk tolerance through the illustration of expected return (plus/minus) and investment volatility (investment variance), which uses past data to calculate expected variance.

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#### **CONSULTING SERVICES**

We also provide clients investment advice on a more-limited basis on one or more isolated areas of concern such as estate planning, real estate, retirement planning, or any other specific topic. Additionally, we provide advice on non-securities matters about the rendering of estate planning, insurance, real estate, and/or annuity advice or any other

business advisory / consulting services for equity or debt investments in privately held businesses. In these cases, clients will be required to select their own investment managers, custodian, and/or insurance companies for the implementation of consulting recommendations. If client needs include brokerage and/or other financial services, we will recommend the use of one of several investment managers, brokers, banks, custodians, insurance companies, or other financial professionals ("Firms"). Consulting clients must independently evaluate these Firms before opening an account or transacting business and have the right to effect business through any firm they choose. Clients have the right to choose whether or not to follow the consulting advice provided.

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## **PONTERA**

Our Firm is engaged with Pontera, an unaffiliated third-party service provider, for Client accounts not directly held with our recommended Custodian; but where our team has discretion and leverages an Order Management System to implement asset allocation or rebalancing strategies on behalf of the Client. These are primarily 401(k) accounts, 403(b) accounts, 529 plans, variable annuities, and other assets not held with the recommended Custodian. We regularly review the current holdings and available investment options in these accounts, monitor the account, rebalance, and implement our Firm's strategies as necessary.

The platform allows us to avoid being considered to have custody of Client funds since we do not have direct access to Client log-in credentials to affect trades. We are not affiliated with the platform in any way and receive no compensation from them for using their platform. A link will be provided to the Client, allowing them to connect an account(s) to the platform. Once the Client account(s) is connected to the platform, Adviser will review the current account allocations and investment options. When we are authorized with discretionary management, we will rebalance the account, considering Client investment goals and risk tolerance, and any change in allocations will consider current economic and market trends. The goal is to improve account performance over time, minimize loss during complex markets, and manage internal fees that harm account performance. Client account(s) will be reviewed quarterly, and allocation changes will be made as necessary.

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## **FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Through the financial planning process, our team strives to engage our clients in conversations around the client's goals, objectives, priorities, vision, and legacy – both for the near term as well as for future generations. With the unique goals and circumstances of each client in mind, our team will offer financial planning ideas and strategies to address the client's holistic financial picture, including estate, income tax, charitable, cash flow, wealth transfer, and client legacy objectives. Our team partners with our client's other advisors (CPAs, Enrolled Agents, Estate Attorneys, Insurance Brokers, etc.) to ensure a

coordinated effort of all parties toward the client's stated goals. Such services include various reports on specific goals and objectives or general investment and/or planning recommendations, guidance to outside assets, and periodic updates.

Our specific services in preparing your plan may include:

- Review and clarification of your financial goals.
- Assessment of your overall financial position including cash flow, balance sheet, investment strategy, risk management, and estate planning.
- Creation of a unique plan for each goal you have, including personal and business real estate, education, retirement or financial independence, charitable giving, estate planning, business succession, and other personal goals.
- Development of a goal-oriented investment plan, with input from various advisors to our clients around tax suggestions, asset allocation, expenses, risk, and liquidity factors for each goal. This includes IRA and qualified plans, taxable, and trust accounts that require special attention.
- Design of a risk management plan including risk tolerance, risk avoidance, mitigation, and transfer, including liquidity as well as various insurance and possible company benefits; and
- Crafting and implementation of, in conjunction with your estate and/or corporate attorneys as tax adviser, an estate plan to provide for you and/or your heirs in the event of an incapacity or death.

A written evaluation of each client's initial situation or Financial Plan is provided to the client. An annual review will be provided by the Adviser, if indicated by the Client and Adviser per the Agreement. More frequent reviews occur but are not necessarily communicated to the client unless immediate changes are recommended.

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#### **EMONEY ADVISOR PLATFORM**

- Our Firm makes available to Clients the “eMoney Advisor” platforms to provide periodic comprehensive reporting services that can incorporate all the Client's investment assets, including those investment assets that are not part of the assets managed by our Firm (“Excluded Assets”). The Client and their other advisors that maintain trading authority, and not our Firm, shall be exclusively responsible for the investment performance of the excluded assets.
- Unless otherwise expressly agreed to in writing, our Firm's service relative to the excluded assets is limited to reporting only. Therefore, we shall not be responsible for the investment performance of the excluded assets. Instead, the Client and the Client's designated outside investment professional(s) maintain supervision, monitoring, and trading authority for the excluded assets. If our Client prefers, we'll make recommendations as to any excluded assets, the Client has no obligation to accept the recommendation, and we shall not be responsible for any

implementation error (timing, trading, etc.) relative to the excluded assets. The Client may engage us under the terms and conditions of a Consulting or Investment Advisory Agreement between our Firm and the Client.

- eMoney Advisor Platform may also provide access to other types of information, including financial planning concepts, which should not be construed as our Firm's personalized investment advice or recommendations. We shall not be held responsible for any adverse results a Client may experience if the Client engages in financial planning or other functions available on the eMoney Advisor Platform without our assistance or oversight.

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## **MONEY MANAGER SERVICES**

Our firm may determine that engaging the expertise of an independent money manager is best suited for your account. Our firm will have discretion to utilize independent third-party investment advisers to aid in the implementation of investment strategies for your portfolio. In certain circumstances, we may allocate a portion of a portfolio to an independent third-party investment adviser ("Manager") for separate account management based upon your individual circumstances and objectives, including, but not limited to, your account size and tax circumstances. Upon the recognition of such situations, in coordination with you, we will hire a Manager for the management of those assets. These advisers shall assist our Firm in managing the day-to-day investment operations of the various allocations, shall determine the composition of the investments comprising the allocation, shall determine what securities and other assets of the allocation will be acquired, held, disposed of or loaned in conformity with the written investment objectives, policies and restrictions and other statements of each client comprising the allocation, or as instructed by our Firm.

Managers selected for your investments need to meet several quantitative and qualitative criteria established by us. Among the criteria that may be considered are the Manager's experience, assets under management, performance record, client retention, the level of client services provided, investment style, buy and sell disciplines, capitalization level, and the general investment process.

You are advised and should understand that:

- A Manager's past performance is no guarantee of future results;
- There is a certain market and/or interest rate risk which may adversely affect any Manager's objectives and strategies, and could cause a loss in a Client's account(s); and
- Client risk parameters or comparative index selections provided to our firm are guidelines only and there is no guarantee that they will be met or not be exceeded.

Managers may take discretionary authority to determine the securities to be purchased and sold for the client. As stated in the Discretionary Advisory Agreement, our Firm and its



associated persons will have discretionary authority to hire and fire the Manager. Our firm will work with the money manager to communicate any trading restrictions or standing instructions to refrain from a particular industry requested by the Client. In all cases, trading restrictions will depend on the money manager and their ability to accommodate such restrictions.

All performance reporting will be the responsibility of the respective Manager. Such performance reports will be provided directly to you and our firm upon client request. Disclosures will indicate what firm is providing the reporting.

Our Firm has entered into agreements with various independent Managers. All third-party Managers to whom we will refer clients will be licensed as registered investment advisors by their resident state and any applicable jurisdictions or registered investment advisors with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A complete description of the Manager's services, fee schedules and account minimums will be disclosed in the Manager's Form ADV or similar Disclosure Brochure.

Our Firm only enters into a select number of relationships with Managers. We have agreed to pay a portion of the overall advisory fee charged to our clients to the Manager.

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#### **DISCLOSURE REGARDING ROLLOVER RECOMMENDATIONS**

A client or prospect leaving an employer typically has four options regarding an existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (i) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (ii) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (iii) rollover to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (iv) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon the client's age, result in adverse tax consequences). Our Firm may recommend an investor roll over plan assets to an IRA for which our Firm provides investment advisory services. As a result, our Firm and its representatives may earn an asset-based fee. In contrast, a recommendation that a client or prospective client leave their plan assets with their previous employer or roll over the assets to a plan sponsored by a new employer will generally result in no compensation to our Firm. Our Firm therefore has an economic incentive to encourage a client to roll plan assets into an IRA that our Firm will manage, which presents a conflict of interest. To mitigate the conflict of interest, there are various factors that our Firm will consider before recommending a rollover, including but not limited to: (i) the investment options available in the plan versus the investment options available in an IRA, (ii) fees and expenses in the plan versus the fees and expenses in an IRA, (iii) the services and responsiveness of the plan's investment professionals versus those of our Firm, (iv) protection of assets from creditors and legal judgments, (v) required minimum distributions and age considerations, and (vi) employer stock tax consequences, if any. All rollover recommendations are reviewed by our Firm's Chief Compliance Officer and remains available to address any questions that a client or prospective client has regarding the oversight.

We are fiduciaries under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and when we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are also fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. We have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests.

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## **WRAP FEE PROGRAM**

Our Firm is the sponsor and manager of the Mercurio Wealth Advisors Wrap Program (the “Program”), a wrap fee program (i.e., an arrangement where brokerage commissions and transaction costs are absorbed by the Firm). The fee covers transaction costs or commissions resulting from the management of your accounts, however, most investments trade without transaction fees today, so our payment of these and other incidental custodial related expenses should not be considered a significant factor in determining the relative value of our wrap program. Participants in the Program may pay a higher aggregate fee than if brokerage services are purchased separately. Additional information about the Program is available in our Firm’s Wrap Brochure, which appears as Part 2A Appendix 1 of the Firm’s Form ADV.

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## **ASSETS**

As of December 31, 2024, we have \$123,167,983 in assets under management. \$118,077,624 of which is managed on a discretionary basis and \$5,090,359 of which is managed on a non-discretionary basis.

## **ITEM 5 – FEES AND COMPENSATION**

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### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES AND COMPENSATION**

MWA charges a fee as compensation for providing Investment Management services on your account. These services include advisory and consulting services, trade entry, investment supervision, and other account-maintenance activities. Our recommended custodian charges transaction costs, custodial fees, redemption fees, retirement plan and administrative fees or commissions. See Additional Fees and Expenses below for additional details.

The fees for portfolio management are based on an annual percentage of assets under management and are applied to the account asset value on a pro-rata basis. Fees are billed monthly in arrears based on the average daily balance of the account(s) under our Firm’s management. Unless otherwise agreed upon and stated in the Investment Management Agreement, fees are assessed on all assets under management, including securities, cash and money market balances. Legacy positions can be excluded from the fee calculation when applicable and noted in the Investment Management Agreement.

Our maximum annual advisory fee is for accounts paying a percentage of assets under management is 1.50% and the specific advisory fees are set forth in your Investment Advisory Agreement. Fees may vary based on the size of the account, complexity of the portfolio, extent of activity in the account or other reasons agreed upon by us and you as the client. In certain circumstances, our fees and the timing of the fee payments may be negotiated. Our employees and their family related accounts are charged a reduced fee for our services.

Unless otherwise instructed by the client, we will aggregate asset amounts in managed accounts from your same household together to determine the advisory fee for all your accounts. We would do this, for example, where we also service accounts on behalf of your minor children, individual and joint accounts for a spouse, and/or other types of related accounts. This consolidation practice is designed to benefit you from an increased asset total, which could cause your account(s) to be assessed a lower advisory fee.

The independent qualified custodian holding your funds and securities will debit your account directly for the advisory fee and pay that fee to us. You will provide written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian. Further, the qualified custodian agrees to deliver an account statement monthly directly to you indicating all the amounts deducted from the account including our advisory fees. At our discretion, our Firm will allow advisory fees to be paid by check as indicated in the Investment Advisory Agreement. You are encouraged to review your account statements for accuracy.

Either MWA or you may terminate the management agreement immediately upon written notice to the other party. The management fee will be pro-rated to the date of termination, for the month in which the cancellation notice was given and billed to your account. Upon termination, you are responsible for monitoring the securities in your account, and we will have no further obligation to act or advise with respect to those assets. In the event of client's death or disability, MWA will continue management of the account until we are notified of client's death or disability and given alternative instructions by an authorized party.

Additional fees and expenses you may incur are brokerage commissions, principal markups and discounts, SEC fees, mutual fund/ETF expense ratios, mutual fund 12B-1 fees, tax withholding on certain foreign securities, postage fees, wire fees, bank charges, and other administration fees as authorized by you. Please refer to Section 12 for information on brokerage fees and services.

In no case are Mercurio Wealth Advisors fees based on, or related to, the performance of your funds or investments.

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## **CONSULTING**

Mercurio Wealth Advisors provides hourly planning services for clients who need advice on a limited scope of work. Mercurio Wealth Advisors will negotiate consulting fees with you. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of the consulting project. The hourly rate for limited scope engagements is \$250. You will be billed monthly as services are rendered.

Either party may terminate the agreement. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to you as described above.

You should be aware that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

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## **FINANCIAL PLANNING FEES**

For our Investment Management clients, financial planning services are included in the Investment Management fees described above.

For stand-alone financial planning arrangements, we will negotiate the planning fees with you using either a fixed fee or an hourly rate. Fees may vary based on the extent and complexity of your individual or family circumstances and the amount of your assets under our management. Mercurio Wealth Advisors will determine your fee for the designated financial advisory services based on a fixed fee arrangement described below.

Under our fixed fee arrangement, any fee will be agreed in advance of services being performed. The fee will be determined based on factors including the complexity of your financial situation, agreed upon deliverables, and whether or not you intend to implement any recommendations through Mercurio Wealth Advisors. Fixed fees for financial plans will not exceed \$25,000 and hourly fees will not exceed \$250/hour.

Typically, we complete a plan within a month and will present it to you within 60 days of the contract date, if you have provided us all information needed to prepare the financial plan. One hundred (100%) of the Financial Planning Fee is collected upon delivery of the Plan to you. You may terminate the financial planning agreement by providing us with written notice. There is no penalty for termination of your financial planning agreement prior to the plan being delivered to you. We will not require prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six (6) or more months in advance of providing any services. Financial planning fees may be waived if client chooses to engage MWA as their investment advisor representative.

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## **MONEY MANAGER FEES**

As discussed in Item 4 above, there will be occasions where an independent Registered Investment Advisory firm acts as a money manager to our Firm. In those circumstances, the other investment adviser manages the assets based upon the parameters provided by

our Firm. Our Firm will either collect or receive the client advisory fee as described above (not to exceed 1.50%) and then either pay out the money manager or receive from the money manager a portion of advisory fee based on the assets under management for such services as outlined in the Agreement between our Firm and the money manager.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **AE Wealth Management (AEWM)**

Through our relationship with AEWM, our Firm utilizes AEWM's technology platform to support data reconciliation, performance reporting, fee calculation and billing, research, client database maintenance, quarterly performance evaluations, payable reports, website administration, models, trading platforms, and other functions related to the administrative tasks of managing client accounts. Due to this arrangement, AEWM will have access to client information, but AEWM will not serve as an investment advisor to our clients. MWA and AEWM are non-affiliated companies. AEWM charges our Firm an annual fee for each account administered by AEWM. The annual fee is paid from the portion of the management fee retained by us.

### **Orion Advisor Services, LLC**

AEWM provides our firm access to Orion Advisor Services, LLC (referred to as "Orion") to utilize its technology platforms to support data reconciliation, performance reporting, fee calculation and billing, research, client database maintenance, quarterly performance evaluations, payable reports, website administration, models, trading platforms, and other functions related to the administrative tasks of managing client accounts. Due to this arrangement, Orion will have access to client accounts, but Orion will not serve as an investment advisor to our clients. Mercurio Wealth Advisors and ORION are non-affiliated companies. Orion charges AEWM an annual fee for each account administered by Orion and Mercurio Wealth Advisors in turn reimburses AEWM for the cost. Please note that the advisory fee charged to the client will not increase due to the annual fee our Firm pays to AEWM to access Orion. The annual fee is paid from the portion of the management fee retained by our Firm.

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## **ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES:**

In addition to the advisory fees paid to our Firm, you also incur certain charges imposed by other third parties, such as broker-dealers, custodians, trust companies, banks and other financial institutions (collectively "Financial Institutions"). These additional charges include custodial fees, charges imposed by a mutual fund or ETF in a client's account, as disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses), deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees,

and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Our brokerage practices are described at length in Item 12, below.

When selecting investments for our clients' portfolios we might choose mutual funds on your account custodian's Non-Transaction Fee (NTF) list. This means that your account custodian will not charge a transaction fee or commission associated with the purchase or sale of the mutual fund.

The mutual fund companies that choose to participate in your custodian's NTF fund program pay a fee to be included in the NTF program. The fee that a mutual fund company pays to participate in the program is ultimately borne by the owners of the mutual fund including clients of our Firm. When we decide whether to choose a fund from your custodian's NTF list or not, we consider our expected holding period of the fund, the position size and the expense ratio of the fund versus alternative funds. Depending on our analysis and future events, NTF funds might not always be in your best interest.

## ITEM 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT

Our Firm does not engage in performance-based fees. No supervised person is compensated by performance-based fees. Performance-based fees may create an incentive for the advisor to recommend an investment that may carry a higher degree of risk.

## ITEM 7 - TYPES OF CLIENTS

Our Firm works with the following types of clients: individuals, high net-worth individuals, estates, retirement plans, foundations, charitable organizations, and institutions. We do not impose a minimum account value to initiate our Firm's advisory and money management services.

## ITEM 8 - METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

We take an active approach to managing our client's assets. Each account is rebalanced on either a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis. The frequency of rebalancing is based on the account's time horizon, investment objective current economic climate, and tax situation.

While there may be some similarities in the portfolios created by Mercurio Wealth Advisors, we understand that every client has their own unique planning needs. We have the ability and flexibility to create portfolios to help our client achieve their goals. We may utilize the following forms of analysis:

- **Fundamental Analysis:** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to

- determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.
- **Quantitative Analysis:** We use mathematical ratios and other performance appraisal methods in attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a model manager's investment acumen, idea generation, consistency of purpose and overall ability to outperform their stated benchmark throughout a full market cycle. Additionally, we perform periodic measurements to assess the authenticity of returns. A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.
  - **Technical Analysis:** We use this method of evaluating securities by analyzing statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices and volume. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns that can suggest future activity. Technical analysts believe that the historical performance of stocks and markets are indications of future performance. Technical analysis is even more subjective than fundamental analysis in that it relies on proper interpretation of a given security's price and trading volume data. A decision might be made based on a historical move in a certain direction that was accompanied by heavy volume; however, that heavy volume may only be heavy relative to past volume for the security in question, but not compared to the future trading volume. Therefore, there is the risk of a trading decision being made incorrectly, since future trading volume is an unknown. Technical analysis is also done through observation of various market sentiment readings, many of which are quantitative. Market sentiment gauges the relative degree of bullishness and bearishness in a given security, and a contrarian investor utilizes such sentiment advantageously. When most traders are bullish, then there are very few traders left in a position to buy the security in question, so it becomes advantageous to sell it ahead of the crowd. When most traders are bearish, then there are very few traders left in a position to sell the security in question, so it becomes advantageous to buy it ahead of the crowd. The risk in utilization of such sentiment technical measures is that a very bullish reading can always become more bullish, resulting in lost opportunity if the money manager chooses to act upon the bullish signal by selling out of a position. The reverse is also true in that a bearish reading of sentiment can always become more bearish, which may result in a premature purchase of a security.
  - **Asset Allocation:** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance. A risk of asset allocation

is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

- **Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis:** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also monitor the funds or ETFs in attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy. A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.
- **Model Manager Analysis:** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of Model Managers in attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the Model Manager's compliance and business enterprise risks.

There is no guarantee that a particular strategy will meet its investment goals. The investment strategies we use will vary over time depending on various factors. Our Firm may give advice and take action for clients which differs from advice given or the timing or nature of action taken for other clients with different objectives. Our Firm is not obligated to initiate transactions for clients in any security which its principals, affiliates or employees may purchase or sell for their own accounts or for other clients.

Clients should be aware that ETFs and mutual funds have unique characteristics and their cost structures differ, sometimes significantly.

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## RISK OF LOSS

A client's investment portfolio is affected by general economic and market conditions, such as interest rates, availability of credit, inflation rates, economic conditions, changes in laws and national and international political circumstances.

Investing in securities involves certain investment risks. Securities may fluctuate in value or lose value. Clients should be prepared to bear the potential risk of loss. Mercurio



Wealth Advisors will assist Clients in determining an appropriate strategy based on their tolerance for risk.

While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

Risks that apply to both fixed income and equity strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Active Management Risk:** Due to its active management, a portfolio could underperform other portfolios with similar investment objectives and/or strategies.
- **Allocation Risk:** A portfolio may use an asset allocation strategy in pursuit of its investment objective. There is a risk that a portfolio's allocation among asset classes or investments will cause a portfolio to lose value or cause it to underperform other portfolios with a similar investment objective and/or strategy, or that the investments themselves will not produce the returns expected.
- **Cybersecurity Risk.** Cybersecurity risks include both intentional and unintentional events at Mercurio Wealth Advisors or one of its third-party counterparties or service providers, that may result in a loss or corruption of data, result in the unauthorized release or other misuse of confidential information, and generally compromise our Firm's ability to conduct its business. A cybersecurity breach may also result in a third-party obtaining unauthorized access to our clients' information, including social security numbers, home addresses, account numbers, account balances, and account holdings. Our Firm has established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cybersecurity breaches. However, there are inherent limitations in these plans and systems, including that certain risks may not have been identified, in large part because different or unknown threats may emerge in the future. As such, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because our Firm does not directly control the cybersecurity systems of our third-party service providers. There is also a risk that cybersecurity breaches may not be detected.
- **Liquidity Risk:** The risk that exists when a security's limited marketability prevents it from being bought or sold quickly enough to avoid or minimize a loss. This risk is particularly relevant in the bond market, although it can also be a risk when transacting in small cap securities and certain other stocks.
- **Market and Timing Risk:** Prices of securities may become more volatile due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as adverse economic conditions or outlooks, adverse investor sentiment, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, or changes in interest rates.
- **Sector/Region Risk:** The risk that the strategy's concentration in equities or bonds in a specific sector or industry will cause the strategy to be more exposed to the price movements in and developments affecting that sector.

- **Event Risk:** The possibility that an unforeseen event will negatively affect a company or industry, and thus, increase the volatility of the security.

Risks associated with our fixed income strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Asset-Backed Securities Risk:** Payment of principal and interest on asset-backed securities is dependent largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities. Further, some asset backed securities may not have the benefit of any security interest in the related assets. There is also the possibility that recoveries in the underlying collateral may not be available to support the payments on these securities. Downturns in the economy could cause the value of asset backed securities to fall, thus, negatively impacting account performance.
- **Call Risk:** Some bonds give the issuer the option to redeem the bond before its maturity date. If an issuer exercises this option during a time of declining interest rates, the proceeds from the bond may have to be reinvested in an investment offering a lower yield and may not benefit from an increase in value as a result of declining rates. Callable bonds also are subject to increased price fluctuations during periods of market illiquidity or rising interest rates. Finally, the capital appreciation potential of a bond will be reduced because the price of a callable bond may not rise much above the price at which the issuer may call the bond.
- **Corporate Debt Risk:** The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating, variable, or may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate. Corporate debt securities are subject to the risk of the issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligation. They also may be subject to price volatility due to interest rate sensitivity, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity. When interest rates rise, the value of a corporate debt security can be expected to decline. Debt securities with longer maturities tend to be more sensitive to interest rate movements than those with shorter maturities. A company default can reduce income and capital value of a corporate debt security. Moreover, market expectations regarding economic conditions and the likely number of corporate defaults may impact the value of these securities.
- **Credit Default Risk:** The risk of loss of principal due to the borrower's failure to repay the loan or risk of liquidity from the decline in the borrower's financial strength.
- **Duration Risk:** The risk associated with the sensitivity of a bond's price to a change in interest rates. The higher a bond's (or portfolio's) duration, the greater its sensitivity to interest rate changes.
- **Government Securities Risk:** Not all U.S. government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. It is possible that the U.S. government would not provide financial support to certain of its agencies or instrumentalities if

it is not required to do so by law. If a U.S. government agency or instrumentality defaults and the U.S. government does not stand behind the obligation, returns could be negatively impacted. The U.S. government guarantees payment of principal and timely payment of interest on certain U.S. government securities.

- **Interest Rate Risk:** Prices of fixed income securities tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall and vice versa. The longer the effective maturity and duration of a strategy's portfolio, the more the performance of the investment is likely to react to interest rates.
- **Municipal Bond Risk:** Investments in municipal bonds are affected by the municipal market as a whole and the various factors in the particular cities, states or regions in which the strategy invests. Issues such as legislative changes, litigation, business and political conditions relating to a particular municipal project, municipality, state or territory, and fiscal challenges can impact the value of municipal bonds. These matters can also impact the ability of the issuer to make payments. Also, the amount of public information available about municipal bonds is generally less than that for corporate equities or bonds. Additionally, supply and demand imbalances in the municipal bond market can cause deterioration in liquidity and lack of price transparency.
- **Performance of Underlying Managers:** We select the mutual funds and ETFs in the portfolios. However, we depend on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy.
- **Prepayment Risk:** Similar to call risk, this risk is associated with the early unscheduled repayment of principal on a fixed income security. When principal is returned early, future interest payments will not be paid. The proceeds from the repayment may be reinvested in securities at a lower, prevailing rate.
- **Reinvestment Risk:** The risk that future cash flows, either coupons or the final return of principal, will need to be reinvested in lower-yielding securities.
- **Securities Lending Risk:** Securities lending involves the risk that the fund loses money because the borrower fails to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The fund could also lose money if the value of the collateral provided for loaned securities, or the value of the investments made with the cash collateral, falls. These events could also trigger adverse tax consequences for the fund.
- **State Risk:** Portfolios with state or region-specific customizations will be more sensitive to the events that affect that state's economy and stability. Portfolios with a higher concentration of bonds in a state or region may have higher credit risk exposure, especially if the percentage of assets dedicated to the state is invested in fewer issuers.
- **Tax Liability Risk:** The risk that the distributions of municipal securities become taxable to the investor due to noncompliant conduct by the municipal bond issuer

or changes to federal and state laws. These adverse actions would likely negatively impact the prices of the securities.

- **Valuation Risk:** The lack of an active trading market and/or volatile market conditions can make it difficult to obtain an accurate price for a fixed income security. There are uncertainties associated with pricing a security without a reliable market quotation, and the resulting value may be very different than the value of what the security would have been if readily available market quotations had been available.

Risks associated with our equity strategies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Capitalization Risk:** Small-cap and mid-cap companies may be hindered as a result of limited resources or less diverse products or services. Their stocks have historically been more volatile than the stocks of larger, more established companies.
- **Exchange-Traded Fund (“ETF”) and Mutual Fund Risk:** Investments in ETFs and mutual funds have unique characteristics, including, but not limited to, the ETF or mutual fund’s expense structure. Investors of ETFs and mutual funds held within Mercurio Wealth Advisors client accounts bear both their Mercurio Wealth Advisors portfolio’s advisory expenses and, indirectly, the ETF’s or mutual fund’s expenses. Because the expenses and costs of an underlying ETF or mutual fund are shared by its investors, redemptions by other investors in the ETF or mutual fund could result in decreased economies of scale and increased operating expenses for such ETF or mutual fund. Additionally, the ETF or mutual fund may not achieve its investment objective. Actively managed ETFs or mutual funds may experience significant drift from their stated benchmark.
- **Foreign Securities Risk:** Investments in or exposure to foreign securities involve certain risks not associated with investments in or exposure to securities of U.S. companies. Foreign securities subject a portfolio to the risks associated with investing in the particular country of an issuer, including the political, regulatory, economic, social, diplomatic and other conditions or events (including, for example, military confrontations, war and terrorism), occurring in the country or region, as well as risks associated with less developed custody and settlement practices. Foreign securities may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of U.S. companies, and are subject to the risks associated with potential imposition of economic and other sanctions against a particular foreign country, its nationals or industries or businesses within the country. In addition, foreign governments may impose withholding or other taxes on income, capital gains or proceeds from the disposition of foreign securities, which could reduce a portfolio’s return on such securities.
- **Frequent Trading Risk:** A portfolio manager may actively and frequently trade investments in a portfolio to carry out its investment strategies. Frequent trading

of investments increases the possibility that a portfolio, as relevant, will realize taxable capital gains (including short-term capital gains, which are generally taxable at higher rates than long-term capital gains for U.S. federal income tax purposes), which could reduce a portfolio's after-tax return. Frequent trading can also mean higher brokerage and other transaction costs, which could reduce a portfolio's return. The trading costs and tax effects associated with portfolio turnover can adversely affect its performance.

- **Option Risk:** Variable degree of risk. Transactions in options carry a high degree of risk. Purchasers and sellers of options should familiarize themselves with the type of option (i.e., put or call) which they contemplate trading and the associated risks. Traders of options should calculate the extent to which the value of the options must increase for the position to become profitable, taking into account the premium and all transaction costs.
  - The purchaser of options may offset or exercise the options or allow the options to expire. The exercise of an option results either in a cash settlement or in the purchaser acquiring or delivering the underlying interest. If the option is on a future, the purchaser will acquire a futures position with associated liabilities for margin (see the section on Futures below). If the purchased options expire worthless, the purchaser will suffer a total loss of the investment. In purchasing deep out-of-the-money options, the purchaser should be aware that the chance of such options becoming profitable ordinarily is remote.
  - Selling ("writing" or "granting") an option generally entails considerably greater risk than purchasing options. Although the premium received by the seller is fixed, the seller may sustain a loss well in excess of that amount. The seller will be liable for additional margin to maintain the position if the market moves unfavorably. The seller will also be exposed to the risk of the purchaser exercising the option and the seller being obligated to either settle the option in cash or to acquire or deliver the underlying interest. If the option is on a future, the seller will acquire a position in a future with associated liabilities for margin (see the section on Futures below). If the option is "covered" by the seller holding a corresponding position in the underlying interest or a future or another option, the risk may be reduced. If the option is not covered, the risk of loss can be unlimited.
  - Certain exchanges in some jurisdictions permit deferred payment of the option premium, exposing the purchaser to liability for margin payments not exceeding the amount of the premium. The purchaser is still subject to the risk of losing the premium and transaction costs. When the option is exercised or expires, the purchaser is responsible for any unpaid premium outstanding at that time.

- **Issuer Risk:** The risk that an issuer of a security may perform poorly, and therefore, the value of its securities may decline. Poor performance may be caused by poor management decisions, competitive pressures, breakthroughs in technology, reliance on suppliers, labor problems or shortages, corporate restructurings, fraudulent disclosures, natural disasters or other events, conditions or factors.
- **Market Risk:** When the stock market strongly favors a particular style of equity investing, some or all of Mercurio Wealth Advisors 's equity strategies could underperform. The performance of clients' accounts could suffer when Mercurio Wealth Advisors 's particular investment strategies are out of favor. For example, Mercurio Wealth Advisors 's large cap equity strategies could underperform when the market favors smaller capitalization stocks. Mercurio Wealth Advisors 's strategies with exposure to small/mid cap stocks could underperform when the market favors larger cap stocks. Additionally, growth securities could underperform when the market favors value securities.
- **Sector Risk:** At times, a portfolio may have a significant portion of its assets invested in securities of companies conducting business in a related group of industries within an economic sector. Companies in the same economic sector may be similarly affected by economic, regulatory, political or market events or conditions, which make a portfolio more vulnerable to unfavorable developments in that economic sector than portfolios that invest more broadly. Generally, the more a portfolio diversifies its investments, the more it spreads risk and potentially reduces the risks of loss and volatility.
- **Alternative Investments:** Our Firm's use of alternative assets is limited to the investments approved on our recommended Custodian(s) Alternative Investments platform in addition to publicly traded ETFs or '40 Act' funds with specific exposure in commodities, long/short strategies, real estate, and covered call writing. Investments classified as "alternative investments" may include a broad range of underlying assets including, but not limited to, hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, and registered, publicly traded securities. Alternative investments are speculative, not suitable for all clients and intended for only experienced and sophisticated investors who are willing to bear the high risk of the investment, which can include: loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short-selling, or other speculative investment practices; lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for the fund and none expected to develop; volatility of returns; potential for restrictions on transferring interest in the fund; potential lack of diversification and resulting higher risk due to concentration of trading authority with a single advisor; absence of information regarding valuations and pricing; potential for delays in tax reporting; less regulation and typically higher fees than other investment options such as mutual funds. The SEC requires investors be accredited to invest in these more speculative

- alternative investments. Investing in a fund that concentrates its investments in a few holdings may involve heightened risk and result in greater price volatility.
- **Non-Liquid Alternative Investments** - From time to time, our Firm will recommend to certain qualifying clients that a portion of such clients' assets be invested in private funds, private fund-of-funds and/or other alternative investments (collectively, "Nonliquid Alternative Investments"). Nonliquid Alternative Investments are not suitable for all of our Firm's clients and are offered only to those qualifying clients for whom our Firm believes such an investment is suitable and in line with their overall investment strategy. Nonliquid Alternative Investments typically are available to only a limited number of sophisticated investors who meet the definition of "accredited investor" under Regulation D of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or "qualified client" under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or "qualified purchaser" under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Nonliquid Alternative Investments present special risks for our Firm's clients, including without limitation, limited liquidity, higher fees and expenses, volatile performance, no assurance of investment returns, heightened risk of loss, limited transparency, additional reliance on underlying management of the investment, special tax considerations, subjective valuations, use of leverage and limited regulatory oversight. When a Nonliquid Alternative Investment invests part or all of its assets in real estate properties, there are additional risks that are unique to real estate investing, including but not limited to: limitations of the appraisal value; the borrower's financial conditions (if the underlying property has been obtained by a loan), including the risk of foreclosures on the property; neighborhood values; the supply of and demand for properties of like kind; and certain city, state and/or federal regulations. Additionally, real estate investing is also subject to possible loss due to uninsured losses from natural and man-made disasters. The above list is not exhaustive of all risks related to an investment in Nonliquid Alternative Investments. A more comprehensive discussion of the risks associated with a particular Nonliquid Investment is set forth in that fund's offering documents, which will be provided to each client subscribing to a Nonliquid Alternative Investment, for review and consideration. It is important that each potential, qualified investor carefully read each offering or private placement memorandum prior to investing.

## ITEM 9 - DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

We do not have any legal, financial or other "disciplinary" item to report.

## ITEM 10 - OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

### INSURANCE

Some of our Investment Adviser Representatives (“IARs”) of the Firm are licensed Insurance agents registered with various State(s) Insurance Departments. IARs receives compensation (commissions, trails, or other compensation from the respective insurance products) as a result effecting insurance transactions for mutual client(s) of Mercurio Wealth Advisors. Commissions generated by insurance sales do not offset regular advisory fees. Our firm has an incentive to recommend insurance products and this incentive creates a conflict of interest between your interests and our Firm. We mitigate this conflict by disclosing to clients they have the right to decide whether to engage the Insurance services offered through our IARs. Further, clients should note they have the right to decide whether to act on the recommendations and the right to choose any professional to execute the advice for any insurance products through any licensed insurance agent not affiliated with our Firm. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to place the client’s interests first and have established policies in this regard to avoid any conflicts of interest.

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### **RADIO NETWORK**

Some of our IARs are the hosts of “Retirement 360”, a syndicated radio show. The radio show is designed to educate radio listeners on financial and retirement matters. Our firm does pay for hosting the radio show. Our IARs may receive inquiries about our Firm’s services because of the radio show.

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### **MONEY MANAGER RELATIONSHIPS**

As described in Item 4 – MWA may direct clients to third-party investment advisers to manage all or a portion of the client's assets. MWA will be compensated via a fee share from the advisers to which it directs those clients. The fees shared will not exceed any limit imposed by any regulatory agency. This creates a conflict of interest in that MWA has an incentive to direct clients to the third-party investment advisers that provide MWA with a larger fee split. MWA will always act in the best interests of the client, including when determining which third-party investment adviser to recommend to clients. MWA will ensure that all recommended advisers are licensed, or notice filed in the states in which MWA is recommending them to clients.

Clients should be aware that the ability to receive additional compensation by our Firm and its management persons or employees creates conflicts of interest that impair the objectivity of the Firm and these individuals when making advisory recommendations. Our Firm endeavors at all times to put the interest of its clients first as part of our fiduciary duty as a registered investment adviser; we take the following steps, among others to address this conflict:

- we disclose to clients the existence of all material conflicts of interest, including the potential for the Firm and our employees to earn compensation from advisory clients in addition to the Firm's advisory fees;
- we disclose to clients that they have the right to decide to purchase recommended investment products from our employees;



- we collect, maintain and document accurate, complete, and relevant client background information, including the client’s financial goals, objectives, and liquidity needs;
- the Firm conducts regular reviews of each client advisory account to verify that all recommendations made to a client are in the best interest of the client’s needs and circumstances;
- we require that our employees seek prior approval of any outside employment activity so that we may ensure that any conflicts of interests in such activities are properly addressed;
- we periodically monitor these outside employment activities to verify that any conflicts of interest continue to be properly addressed by the Firm; and
- we educate our employees regarding the responsibilities of a fiduciary, including the need for having a reasonable and independent basis for the investment advice provided to clients.

Our Firm does not have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading adviser, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

Our firm nor any of its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

## ITEM 11 - CODE OF ETHICS

Our Firm and persons associated with us are allowed to invest for their own accounts, or to have a financial investment in the same securities or other investments that we recommend or acquire for your account and may engage in transactions that are the same as or different than transactions recommended to or made for your account. This creates a conflict of interest. We recognize the fiduciary responsibility to act in your best interest and have established policies to mitigate conflicts of interest.

We have developed and implemented a Code of Ethics that sets forth standards of conduct expected of our advisory personnel to mitigate this conflict of interest. The Code of Ethics addresses, among other things, personal trading, gifts, and the prohibition against the use of inside information.

The Code of Ethics is designed to protect our clients to detect and deter misconduct, educate personnel regarding the Firm’s expectations and laws governing their conduct, remind personnel that they are in a position of trust and must act with complete propriety at all times, protect the reputation of Mercurio Wealth Advisors, safeguard against the violation of the securities laws, and establish procedures for personnel to follow so that we may determine whether their personnel are complying with the Firm’s ethical principles.

We have established the following restrictions in order to ensure our Firm's fiduciary responsibilities:

- No supervised employee of Mercurio Wealth Advisors shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory client. Trades for supervised employees are traded alongside client accounts.
- We maintain a list of all securities holdings of anyone associated with this advisory practice with access to advisory recommendations. These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by an appropriate officer/individual of Mercurio Wealth Advisors.
- We emphasize the unrestricted right of the client to decline implementation of any advice rendered, except in situations where we are granted discretionary authority of the client's account.
- We require that all supervised employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
- Any supervised employee not in observance of the above may be subject to termination.

None of our associated persons may affect for himself/herself or for accounts in which he/she holds a beneficial interest, any transactions in a security which is being actively recommended to any of our clients, unless in accordance with the Firm's procedures.

You may request a complete copy of our Code by contacting us at the address, telephone, or email on the cover page of this Part 2; ATTN: Chief Compliance Officer.

## ITEM 12 - BROKERAGE PRACTICES

We generally recommend that clients utilize the custody and brokerage services of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Advisor Services, or Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services (the "Custodians") for investment management accounts. Our Custodians are independent and unaffiliated FINRA-registered broker-dealers. We may recommend that you establish accounts with these custodians to maintain custody of your assets and to effect trades for your accounts. Some of the products, services and other benefits provided by our Custodians benefit us and may not benefit you or your account. Our recommendation/requirement that you place assets with one of these custodians may be based in part on benefits they provide us, and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and execution services provided by the Custodian.

We are independently owned and operated and not affiliated with these custodians. They provide us with access to their institutional trading and custody services. These services include brokerage, custody, research and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors.

In the event you request us to recommend a broker/dealer Custodian for execution and/or custodial services, we generally recommend your account to be maintained at one of these Custodians. We may recommend that you establish accounts with the Custodians to

maintain custody of your assets and to effect trades for your accounts. You have the right to not act upon any recommendations, and if you elect to act upon any recommendations, you have the right to not place the transactions through any broker/dealer we recommend. Our recommendation is generally based on the broker's cost and fees, skills, reputation, dependability and compatibility with the client. You may be able to obtain lower commissions and fees from other brokers and the value of products, research and services given to us is not a factor in determining the selection of broker/dealer or the reasonableness of their commissions.

We place trades for your account subject to our duty to seek best execution and other fiduciary duties. You may be able to obtain lower commissions and fees from other brokers and the value of products, research and services given to us is not a factor in determining the selection of broker/dealer or the reasonableness of their commissions. The Custodian's execution quality may be different than other broker-dealers.

For our client accounts maintained in custody with a Custodian, the Custodian generally does not charge separately for custody but are compensated by account holders through 12b-1 fees and ticket charges.

The Custodians we utilize makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not benefit your accounts in every case. Some of these other products and services assist us in managing and administering your accounts. These include software and technology that provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements), facilitate trade execution (and allocation of aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts), provide research, pricing information and other market data, facilitate payment of our fees from your account, and assist with back-office functions, record-keeping and reporting.

Many of these services generally may be used to service all or a substantial number of our accounts. The Custodians also make available to us other services intended to help us manage and further develop its business enterprise. These services may include consulting, publications and conferences on practice management, information technology, business succession, regulatory compliance, and marketing. In addition, the Custodians may make available, arrange and/or pay for these services rendered to us by third parties. The Custodians may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to us.

While as a fiduciary, we endeavor to act in your best interest, our recommendation that you maintain your assets in accounts at our recommended Custodians may be based in part on the benefit to us or the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by the Custodian, which may create a conflict of interest. IARs endeavor at all times to put the interest of our clients first as a part of their fiduciary duty.

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, we will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

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## **AGGREGATION AND ALLOCATION OF TRANSACTIONS**

We may aggregate transactions if we believe that aggregation is consistent with the duty to seek best execution for our clients and is consistent with the disclosures made to clients and terms defined in the client Investment Advisory Agreement. No advisory client will be favored over any other client, and each account that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price (per custodian) for all transactions in that security on a given business day. We will aggregate trades for ourselves or our associated persons with your trades, providing that the following conditions are met:

- Our policy for the aggregation of transactions shall be fully-disclosed separately to our existing clients (if any) and the broker/dealer(s) through which such transactions will be placed;
- We will not aggregate transactions unless we believe that aggregation is consistent with our duty to seek the best execution (which includes the duty to seek best price) for you and is consistent with the terms of our Investment Advisory Agreement with you for which trades are being aggregated.
- No advisory client will be favored over any other client; each client that participates in an aggregated order will participate at the average share price for all our transactions in a given security on a given business day, with transaction costs based on each client's participation in the transaction;
- The custodian will provide a client statement monthly.
- MWA will provide a performance report upon request.
- If the aggregated order is filled in its entirety, it will be allocated among clients in accordance with the allocation statement; if the order is partially filled, the accounts that did not receive the previous trade's positions should be "first in line" to receive the next allocation.
- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the order may be allocated on a basis different from that specified in the Allocation Statement if all client accounts receive fair and equitable treatment and the reason for difference of allocation is explained in writing and is reviewed by our compliance officer. Our books and records will

separately reflect, for each client account, the orders of which aggregated, the securities held by, and bought for that account.

- We will receive no additional compensation or remuneration of any kind as a result of the proposed aggregation; and
- Individual advice and treatment will be accorded to each advisory client.

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### **BROKERAGE FOR CLIENT REFERRALS**

Our Firm does not receive client referrals from any Custodian or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

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### **DIRECTED BROKERAGE**

We do not routinely recommend, request or require that you direct us to execute transactions through a specified broker dealer. Additionally, we typically do not permit you to direct brokerage. We place trades for your account subject to our duty to seek best execution and other fiduciary duties.

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### **TRADE ERRORS**

We have implemented procedures designed to prevent trade errors; however, trade errors in client accounts cannot always be avoided. Consistent with our fiduciary duty, it is our policy to correct trade errors in a manner that is in the best interest of the client. In cases where the client causes the trade error, the client will be responsible for any loss resulting from the correction. Depending on the specific circumstances of the trade error, the client may not be able to receive any gains generated as a result of the error correction. In all situations where the client does not cause the trade error, the client will be made whole and we will absorb any loss resulting from the trade error if the error was caused by the firm. If the error is caused by the Custodian, the Custodian will be responsible for covering all trade error costs. If an investment gain results from the correcting trade, the gain will be donated to charity. We will never benefit or profit from trade errors.

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## **ITEM 13 - REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

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### **ACCOUNT REVIEWS AND REVIEWERS – INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES**

Our Investment Adviser Representatives will monitor client accounts on a regular basis and request annual reviews with each client. All accounts are reviewed for consistency with client investment strategy, asset allocation, risk tolerance, and performance relative to the appropriate benchmark. More frequent reviews may be triggered by changes in an account holder's personal, tax, or financial status. Geopolitical and macroeconomic specific events may also trigger reviews.

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### **STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The custodian for the individual client's account will provide clients with an account statement at least monthly. Upon request, clients can receive a prepared written report detailing and consolidating their current accounts.

You are urged to compare the reports provided by Mercurio Wealth Advisors against the account statements you receive directly from your account custodian.

- Selection and Monitoring of Third-Party Managed Accounts – If you have an account with us that is managed by a third-party manager, we typically review your account holdings to insure that your account remains within reasonable variances of the asset allocation targets and investment models in place.
- Financial Planning Services – Your review will be conducted by a qualified Investment Adviser. We realize that events and circumstances could change dramatically in between normal reviews. Therefore, if you experience an event in your life that might necessitate an early review of your Financial Plan, please let us know and we will be happy to schedule a more frequent review. Such an event might include a marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death or disability of an immediate family member, impending retirement, employment status, or you bought or sold a business. We also encourage you to ask us if you have any questions about your Financial Plan or the reports that we generate.

#### ITEM 14 – CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

From time to time, we may 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 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 whom sales have been made or it is anticipated sales will be made.

As disclosed under Item 12 Brokerage Practices, we participate in the various Custodian's institutional customer programs and we may recommend a Custodian to you for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our participation in the program and the investment advice we give to our clients, although we receive economic benefits through our participation in the program that are typically not available to any other independent Investment Advisors participating in the program. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving adviser participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction

fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third party vendors. Custodians may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by some of our related persons. Some of the products and services made available by Custodians through the program may benefit us but may not benefit your account. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering your account, including accounts not maintained at Custodian. Other services made available by Custodian are intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. The benefits received by our Firm or our personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to Custodian. As part of our fiduciary duties to clients, we endeavor at all times to put the interests of our clients first. You should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by our Firm or our related persons in and of itself creates a conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our choice of Custodian for custody and brokerage services.

## ITEM 15 – CUSTODY

We do not have physical custody, as it applies to investment advisors. Custody has been defined by regulators as having access or control over client funds and/or securities.

### DEDUCTION OF ADVISORY FEES

For all accounts, our Firm and/or our approved money manager's firm, has the authority to have fees deducted directly from client accounts. Our Firm has established procedures to ensure all client funds and securities are held at a qualified custodian in a separate account for each client under that client's name. Clients, or an independent representative of the client, will direct, in writing, the establishment of all accounts and therefore are aware of the qualified custodian's name, address, and the way the funds or securities are maintained. Finally, account statements are delivered directly from the qualified custodian to each client, or the client's independent representative, at least quarterly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports requested from Mercurio Wealth Advisors. When you have questions about your account statements, you should contact Mercurio Wealth Advisors or the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

Please refer to Item 5 for more information about the deduction of adviser fees.

### STANDING LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION (“SLOA”)

Additionally, our Firm is deemed to have custody of the Client's funds or securities when you have standing authorizations with their Custodian to move money from your account to a third-party (“SLOA”) and, under that SLOA, it authorizes us to designate the amount or timing of transfers with the Custodian. The SEC has set forth standards to protect your assets in such situations, which we follow. We do not have a beneficial interest in any of

the accounts we are deemed to have Custody of where SLOAs are on file. In addition, account statements reflecting all activity on the account(s) are delivered directly from the qualified Custodian to each Client or the Client's independent representative at least monthly. You should carefully review those statements and are urged to compare the statements against reports received from us. When you have questions about your account statements, contact us, your Advisor, or the qualified Custodian preparing the statement.

## ITEM 16 – INVESTMENT DISCRETION

For discretionary accounts, prior to engaging Mercurio Wealth Advisors to provide investment advisory services, you will enter a written Agreement with us granting the Firm the authority to supervise and direct, on an on-going basis, investments in accordance with the client's investment objective and guidelines. In addition, you will need to execute additional documents required by the Custodian to authorize and enable Mercurio Wealth Advisors, in its sole discretion, without prior consultation with or ratification by you, to purchase, sell, or exchange securities in and for your accounts. We are authorized, in our discretion and without prior consultation with you to: (1) buy, sell, exchange and trade any stocks, bonds or other securities or assets and (2) determine the amount of securities to be bought or sold, and (3) place orders with the custodian. Any limitations to such discretionary authority will be communicated to our Firm in writing by you, the client.

The limitations on investment and brokerage discretion held by Mercurio Wealth Advisors for you are:

- For discretionary accounts, we require that we be provided with authority to determine which securities and the amounts of securities to be bought or sold.
- Any limitations on this discretionary authority shall in writing as indicated on the investment advisory Agreement. You may change/amend these limitations as required.

In some instances, we may not have discretion. We will discuss all transactions with you prior to execution or you will be required to make the trades if in an employer sponsored account.

## ITEM 17 – VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

We will not vote proxies on your behalf. You are welcome to vote proxies or designate an independent third-party at your own discretion. You designate proxy voting authority in the custodial account documents. You must ensure that proxy materials are sent directly to you or your assigned third party. We do not take action with respect to any securities or other investments that become the subject of any legal proceedings, including bankruptcies. You can contact our office with questions about a particular solicitation by phone at 502-253-9366.



Third party money managers selected or recommended by our firm may vote proxies for you. Therefore, except in the event a third-party money manager votes proxies, you maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by you shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to your investment assets. Therefore (except for proxies that may be voted by a third-party money manager), our firm and/or you shall instruct your qualified custodian to forward to you copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to your investment assets.

## ITEM 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for our 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, we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.