

RETIREMENT PLAN PROGRAMS BROCHURE

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of LPL Financial. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact your LPL Financial representative or LPL Financial at lplfinancial.adv@lplfinancial.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about LPL Financial also is available on the SEC’s website at <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/>.

ITEM 1 COVER PAGE

ITEM 2 MATERIAL CHANGES

No material changes have been made to this Brochure from the time of the most recent annual update dated March 31, 2025.

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ITEM 4 ADVISORY BUSINESS

Introduction

LPL Financial LLC (LPL) is an investment advisor registered with the SEC pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the “Advisers Act”). LPL has provided advisory services as a registered investment advisor since 1975. Note that registration as an investment advisor with the SEC does not imply a certain level of skill or training. As of December 31, 2025, LPL managed approximately \$818,320,000,000 of client assets on a discretionary basis and approximately \$797,900,000 of client assets on a non-discretionary basis. LPL is owned 100% by LPL Holdings, Inc., which is owned 100% by LPL Financial Holdings Inc., a publicly held company.



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Types of Advisory Services

LPL offers various types of advisory services and programs, including wrap programs, mutual fund asset allocation programs, advisory programs offered by third party investment advisor firms, financial planning services, retirement plan investment and consulting services, investment research, an advisor-enhanced digital advice program, and other customized advisory services. This Brochure sets out information about the retirement plan advisory and consulting services that LPL and its investment adviser representatives (IARs) provide through the Retirement Plan Consulting Program (RPCP) and the Strategic Market Solution Program (SMS) (each, a "Program" and, together, the "Programs"). LPL's advisory services are made available to clients primarily through individuals associated with LPL as IARs. For more information about the IAR providing advisory services, client should refer to the Brochure Supplement for the IAR. The Brochure Supplement is a separate document that is provided by the IAR along with this Brochure before or at the time client engages the IAR. If client did not receive a Brochure Supplement for the IAR, the client should contact the IAR or LPL at lpfinancial.adv@lpfinancial.com. IARs are required by applicable rules and policies to obtain licenses and complete certain training in order to recommend certain investment products and services. You should be aware that your IAR, depending on the licenses or training obtained, may or may not be able to recommend certain investments, models, programs, or services. In addition, your IAR may be located at a financial institution that does not offer certain products, investments, models, programs, or services. Please ask your IAR whether any limitations apply.

Clients in SMS (and in RPCP under limited circumstances) may select a third-party investment advisor firm (Advisor) associated with an LPL registered representative, in lieu of an IAR, to provide the advisory and consulting services described in this Brochure. For more information about the third-party investment advisor firm providing advisory services, please contact Advisor for a copy of a similar brochure.

LPL provides information in separate disclosure brochures for its other advisory services and advisory programs, including the Strategic Asset Management, Manager Select, Manager Access Select, Personal Wealth Portfolios, Optimum Market Portfolios, Model Wealth Portfolios, and Guided Wealth Portfolios programs. If clients would like more information on such services and programs, clients should contact the IAR or Advisor for a copy of the disclosure brochure that describes such service or program or go to <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/>. LPL is also a broker-dealer registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and provides brokerage services to clients. All recommendations by LPL in the Programs will be in an advisory capacity. LPL conducts its advisory business under the name "LPL Financial LLC," as indicated in Form ADV and its communications and investment advisory agreements with clients. Although LPL and certain LPL IARs use separate marketing names or "doing-business-as" (DBA) designations, LPL does not conduct any advisory business primarily through any of those entities.

From time to time LPL and/or IAR will make the Plan or Plan participants aware of and will offer services available from LPL and/or IAR that are separate and apart from the services provided under the Programs. Such other services include services to the Plan, to a client with respect to client's responsibilities to the Plan and/or to one or more Plan participants. In offering any such services, neither LPL nor IAR is providing the services under the Programs. If any such separate services are offered to a client, the client will make an independent assessment of such services without reliance on the advice or judgment of LPL or the IAR.

If a retirement plan (a "Plan") makes available publicly traded employer stock (company stock) as an investment option under the Plan, neither LPL nor IARs provide investment advice regarding company stock and are not responsible for the decision to offer company stock as an investment option. Also, neither LPL nor IARs provide advice regarding the offering to participants of individual self-directed brokerage accounts, mutual fund windows, or other similar arrangements and are not responsible for the decision to offer such arrangements. In addition, if participants in the Plan invest the assets in their accounts through such arrangements, or obtain participant loans, LPL and IARs do not provide any individualized advice or recommendations to the participants regarding these decisions. Any investment advice provided under the Programs is provided to the Plan Sponsor. LPL and IARs do not provide individualized investment advice to Plan participants regarding their Plan assets under the Programs.



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Retirement Plan Consulting Program

Under the RPCP program, IARs assist clients that are trustees or other fiduciaries to Plans by providing fee-based consulting and/or advisory services. Such Plans may or may not be subject to Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). IARs perform one or more of the following services summarized below, as selected by the client in the client agreement.

Investment Advisory Services

- Assist the Plan in the preparation or review of an IPS for the Plan.
- Recommend or select specific investments to be held by the Plan or, in the case of a participant-directed defined contribution plan to be made, available as investment options under the Plan.
- Perform ongoing monitoring of investments options available in the Plan.
- Assistance in identifying an investment product or model portfolio in connection with the definition of a "Qualified Default Investment Alternative" ("QDIA") under ERISA.
- Develop asset allocation target-date or risk-based model portfolios for the Plan to make available to Plan participants, based on funds from the line-up of investment options chosen by the client, and to periodically review these with the client during Plan reviews at such frequency as is mutually agreed upon.
- Prepare reports reviewing the performance of Plan investments options.

Plan Consulting Services

- Assist the Plan by acting as a liaison between the Plan and service providers, product sponsors and/or vendors.
- Provide education, training, and/or guidance for the members of the Plan Committee with regard to plan features, retirement readiness matters, or service on the Committee.
- Assist the client in enrolling Plan participants in the Plan, including providing participants with information about the Plan.
- Assist with participant education, including preparation of education materials and/or conducting investment education seminars and meetings for Plan participants. Assist with the preparation, distribution and evaluation of Request for Proposals, finalist interviews, and conversion support.
- Provide the client with comparisons of Plan data (e.g., regarding fees and services and participant enrollment and contributions).
- Assist client in identifying the fees and other costs borne by the Plan.

LPL provides advisory services under RPCP as a registered investment adviser under the Advisers Act, and is a fiduciary under the Advisers Act with respect to such services. If client elects to engage LPL and IAR to perform ongoing investment monitoring and ongoing investment recommendation services to a Plan subject to ERISA in the RPCP agreement, such services will constitute "investment advice" under Section 3(21)(A)(ii) of ERISA. Depending upon the scope of services offered by the IAR, clients may also have the option of engaging LPL and IAR to provide certain of the above Investment Advisory Services on a discretionary basis as an "investment manager" under Section 3(38) of ERISA. Therefore, LPL and IAR will be deemed a "fiduciary" as such term is defined under ERISA when providing either non-discretionary investment advice or discretionary investment manager services, as designated in the client account agreement. Clients should understand that to the extent LPL and IAR are engaged to perform services other than ongoing investment monitoring and recommendations (for example, investment education and general financial information), those services are not "investment advice" under ERISA and therefore, LPL and IAR will not be a "fiduciary" under ERISA with respect to those other services.

Strategic Market Solution

Under SMS, LPL's Research Department (a team of investment professionals within LPL) (LPL Research) creates and maintains an investment menu (Investment Menu) consisting of a mix of different asset classes and investment vehicles (Investment Options) for clients that sponsor and maintain participant-directed defined contribution plans (Plan Sponsors). The Investment Menu is designed around key objectives, with the Investment Options organized into tiers based on broad participant behavior profiles. LPL Research is responsible for the selection and monitoring of the Investment Options made available through the Investment Menu (Fiduciary Selection Services). The Investment Options that are offered through SMS are limited to the specific investments available through the record keeper that the Plan Sponsor selects.



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If the Plan is subject to ERISA, LPL will be a “fiduciary” and serve as “investment manager” (as that term is defined in Section 3(38) of ERISA) in connection with the Fiduciary Selection Services. None of the services offered under SMS other than the Fiduciary Selection Services will constitute “investment advice” under 3(21)(A)(ii) of ERISA, or otherwise cause LPL or IAR or Advisor, as applicable, to be deemed a fiduciary.

In addition to the Fiduciary Selection Services, Plan Sponsor may also select from a number of non-fiduciary consulting services available under SMS that are provided by the IAR or Advisor, as applicable. These consulting services may include, but are not limited to: general education, and support regarding the Plan and the investment options selected by Plan Sponsor; assistance regarding the selection of, and ongoing relationship management for, record keepers and other third-party vendors; Plan participant enrollment support; and participant-level education regarding investment in the Plan. These consulting services do not include any individualized investment advice to the Plan Sponsor or Plan participants with respect to Plan assets, and LPL and the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, do not act as fiduciaries under ERISA in providing such consulting services.

ITEM 5 FEES AND COMPENSATION

Under RPCP, clients pay LPL a fee (the “RPCP Fee”) for advisory and/or consulting services. LPL shares up to 100% of the RPCP Fee (typically 95%) with the IAR based on the agreement between LPL and the IAR. A portion of the fee to the IAR is, in certain circumstances, paid by the IAR to his or her LPL branch manager or another LPL representative for supervision or administrative support. There is a conflict of interest when a branch manager receives a portion of the RPCP Fee for supervision because the fee affects his or her ability to provide objective supervision of the IAR. The RPCP Fee is based on a percentage of the assets held in the Plan (up to 1.25% annually), on an hourly basis (up to \$400 per hour), or on a flat rate basis, as negotiated between the Plan and the IAR. The RPCP Fee will be payable to LPL in advance or in arrears on the frequency (e.g., quarterly, monthly, etc.) agreed upon among the client, the IAR, and LPL. If asset-based fees are negotiated, the RPCP Fee payment generally will be based on the value of the Plan assets as of the close of business on the last business day of the period as valued by the custodian of the assets. However, if the RPCP Fee is paid by the Plan or the client through a third-party service provider, such fee will be calculated as determined by the provider. If the RPCP Fee is paid prior to the services being provided, the Plan will be entitled to a prorated refund of any prepaid fees for services not received upon termination of the client agreement among the client, LPL and the IAR.

Under SMS, clients pay LPL a fee (the “SMS Fee”) for the advisory services of LPL Research and the services provided by the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, up to an annual maximum of 0.80%. The SMS Fee paid by the client is inclusive of an LPL “Program Fee” for the investment advisory services provided by LPL Research, and an advisor fee for the services provided by the IAR or Advisor, as applicable. The LPL Program Fee is 0.05%, based on an annualized percentage of assets held in the Plan, subject to a minimum annual Program Fee of \$1,000. However, certain clients who engaged LPL prior to October 1, 2025 may remain under ongoing legacy pricing with an LPL Program Fee of 0.10% or a \$250 annual minimum fee, whichever is greater, up to an annual maximum of 0.85%. In certain instances, LPL offers Program Fee discounts based upon the amount of assets held in the Plan or other criteria. The advisor fee is negotiable at the discretion of each IAR or Advisor, as applicable, up to a maximum of 0.75%. LPL shares up to 100% of the advisor fee (typically 90%) with the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, based on the agreement between LPL and the IAR or Advisor. The SMS Fee will be payable to LPL in arrears on the frequency agreed upon between Client and IAR or Advisor, as applicable.

The Plan or Plan Sponsor incurs fees and charges imposed by third parties other than LPL and IAR or Advisor, as applicable, in connection with RPCP and SMS services. These third-party fees can include fund or annuity subaccount management fees, 12b-1 fees and administrative servicing fees, plan recordkeeping and other service provider fees. Further information regarding charges and fees assessed by a fund or annuity are available in the appropriate prospectus.

If a client engages LPL and IAR or Advisor, as applicable, to provide ongoing investment recommendations to the Plan or Plan Sponsor regarding the investment options (e.g., mutual funds, collective investment funds) to be made available to Plan participants, clients should understand that there generally will be two layers of fees with respect to such assets. The Plan will pay an advisory fee to the fund manager and other expenses as a shareholder of the fund. The client also will pay LPL and IAR or Advisor, as applicable, the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, for the investment recommendation services. Therefore,



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clients could generally avoid the second layer of fees by not using the advisory services of LPL and IAR or Advisor, as applicable, and by making their own decisions regarding the investment.

If a Plan or Plan Sponsor makes available a variable annuity as an investment option, there are mortality, expense and administrative charges, fees for additional riders on the contract and charges for excessive transfers within a calendar year imposed by the variable annuity sponsor. If a Plan or Plan Sponsor makes available a pooled guaranteed investment contract (GIC) fund, there are investment management and administrative fees associated with the pooled GIC fund.

As part of the RPCP services, in certain instances the IAR will recommend a mutual fund that pays asset-based sales charges or service fees (e.g., 12b-1 fees) to LPL and the IAR as broker-dealer to the Plan. The receipt of 12b-1 fees presents a conflict of interest because it gives LPL and its IARs an incentive to recommend mutual funds based on the compensation received rather than on a client's needs. LPL addresses this conflict by using 12b-1 fees paid by product sponsors to LPL and IAR as broker-dealer to the Plan to offset the RPCP Fee.

Clients should understand that the RPCP Fee or portion of the SMS Fee, as applicable, that client negotiates with IAR or Advisor, as applicable, will be higher than the fees charged by other investment advisors or consultants for similar services in certain circumstances. This is the case, in particular, if the fee is at or near the maximum fees set out above. The IAR or Advisor, as applicable, is responsible for determining the fee to charge each client based on factors such as total amount of assets involved in the relationship, the complexity of the services, and the number and range of supplementary advisory and client-related services to be provided. Clients should consider the level and complexity of the consulting and/or advisory services to be provided when negotiating the fee with IAR or Advisor, as applicable.

Clients pay the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, by check made payable to LPL Financial LLC. In the alternative, clients also may instruct a Plan's service provider or custodian to calculate and debit the fee from the Plan's account at the custodian and pay such fee to LPL.

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

This Item is not applicable. LPL and its IARs do not accept performance-based fees for RPCP or SMS.

ITEM 7 TYPES OF CLIENTS

RPCP is available to clients that are trustees or other fiduciaries to Plans, including 401(k), 457(b), 403(b) and 401(a) plans. Plans include participant directed defined contribution plans and defined benefit plans. Plans may or may not be subject to ERISA. LPL does not require a minimum asset amount for retirement plan consulting services.

SMS is available to clients that sponsor and maintain participant-directed defined contribution plans that are subject to ERISA. LPL does not require a minimum asset amount for SMS investment advisory or consulting services.

The investment advisory services provided by LPL and its IARs or Advisor, as applicable, are services that are provided only to the Plan Sponsor or the Plan, and not to any particular Plan participant.

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

LPL or IARs, as applicable under either RPCP or SMS, will conduct analyses of securities using a technical/quantitative and/or fundamental/qualitative approach in certain circumstances. The sources of information that LPL (or an IAR, in the case of RPCP) will use to provide advice to Plans or Plan Sponsors include the following: research conducted by LPL (or the IAR in the case of RPCP), research materials prepared by LPL or third parties, statistical and/or analytical industry databases, financial newspapers and magazines, and vendor or company press releases.

When providing investment advisory services in RPCP, IARs will recommend asset allocation strategies in certain circumstances. LPL makes available to IARs providing investment and asset allocation recommendations in RPCP an investment analysis scorecard (the "Scorecard"). The Scorecard system is intended to identify suitable investments using a consistent process and monitor the investments on a periodic basis. The system takes into account historical data and uses a 12 point scoring system



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based on quantitative factors (e.g., style drift, performance, risk and risk-adjusted returns) and qualitative factors (e.g., operating expenses, manager tenure).

It is important to note that although LPL makes available research materials and a scoring system to IARs in connection with services provided under RPCP, an IAR will not necessarily take into consideration these materials. Clients are encouraged to speak to their IAR directly to discuss the IAR's particular approach and strategy for providing consulting services to the Plan. It is important to note that no methodology or investment strategy is guaranteed to be successful or profitable.

Under SMS, LPL Research is responsible for the selection of investment options to be made available to participants in a Plan. The applicable Plan Sponsor adopts an Investment Policy Statement that it believes is consistent with the investment needs of the participants in its Plan, and LPL Research selects investment options consistent with such Investment Policy Statement. As part of its evaluation of investment options for a Plan, LPL Research relies on a defined process to select and monitor the investments, including: external and internal database reviews; quantitative analysis of absolute, relative and risk adjusted returns, style analysis and historical allocations; qualitative analysis of the investment sponsor's organization, professionals and investment processes and procedures; and internal management and committee review meetings.

LPL Research will regularly monitor a Plan's investment options and investment categories for compliance with its investment objectives and to assess whether a particular investment option continues to be appropriate for the Plan. While frequent change is neither expected nor desirable, the process of monitoring investment performance relative to specified guidelines is an ongoing process. Recognizing that short-term fluctuations may cause variations in performance, when monitoring investments under a Plan, LPL Research will evaluate investment performance from a long-term perspective. Monitoring utilizes the same criteria that were the basis of the investment selection decision.

Under RPCP, fiduciaries of a Plan choose to select a number of different types of securities and insurance products to make available to Plan participants, including mutual funds, group annuity contracts, collective investment funds, GICs, ETFs, stable value funds, annuity subaccounts or other securities. Under SMS, the Investment Menu includes mutual funds and stable value funds. Each different type of security or product carries with it risks that are inherent in that specific type of security. Mutual funds, collective investment funds, ETFs and annuity subaccounts may also invest in varying types of securities which carry these risks. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Described below are some particular risks and features associated with investing in general and with some types of investments that may be purchased by a Plan.

- *Market Risk.* This is the risk that the value of securities owned by an investor may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular industries.
- *Interest Rate Risk.* This is the risk that fixed income securities will decline in value because of an increase in interest rates; a bond or a fixed income fund with a longer duration will be more sensitive to changes in interest rates than a bond or bond fund with a shorter duration.
- *Economic Conditions Risk.* This is the risk that economic, political, or financial developments will, from time to time, result in periods of volatility or other adverse effects that could negatively impact your account.
- *Credit Risk.* This is the risk that an investor could lose money if the issuer or guarantor of a fixed income security is unable or unwilling to meet its financial obligations.
- *Issuer-Specific Risk.* This is the risk that the value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole.
- *Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs).* ETFs are typically investment companies that are legally classified as open end mutual funds or UITs. However, they differ from traditional mutual funds, in particular, in that ETF shares are listed on a securities exchange. Shares can be bought and sold throughout the trading day like shares of other publicly-traded companies. ETF shares may trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. This difference between the bid price and the ask price is often referred to as the "spread." The spread varies over time based on the ETF's trading volume and market liquidity, and is generally lower if the ETF has a lot of trading volume and market liquidity and higher if the ETF has little trading volume and market liquidity. Although many ETFs are registered as an investment company under the Investment Company



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Act of 1940 like traditional mutual funds, some ETFs, in particular those that invest in commodities, are not registered as an investment company. ETFs may be closed and liquidated at the discretion of the issuing company.

- *Unit Investment Trusts (UITs)*. UITs are investment companies that generally offer a fixed portfolio of stocks and bonds as redeemable units to investors for a specified period of time. Like a mutual fund, UITs typically issue redeemable units. However, UITs differ from mutual funds in that UITs have stated expiration dates and are not actively traded. As a consequence, UITs will not be sold to take advantage of market conditions and their value may fluctuate, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to factors affecting securities markets or particular industries. Upon the stated expiration date of a UIT, there is no assurance that the value of the UIT will be equal to or higher than the original price.
- *Group Annuities*. If client purchases a group annuity contract for the Plan, clients should read and understand the group annuity contract and all other offering material prepared by the issuing insurance company prior to making an investment decision. In considering whether to purchase a particular group annuity for the Plan, clients should be aware that:
 - A group annuity is a contract between the plan sponsor or the plan trustee and the issuing insurance company that cover the participants in the plan.
 - A group variable annuity consists of separate accounts that typically invest in underlying investment portfolios the value of which fluctuates with the market value of the securities in the portfolio.
 - Although a group annuity is issued by an insurance company, the annuity's investment returns are not "insured" or guaranteed and risk of loss of principal does exist; however, the product may offer participants an option to purchase an annuity with a guaranteed component instead of a cash payout. Any such guarantee for an individual annuity is subject to the claims-paying ability of the insurance company.
 - A group annuity held in a tax-qualified retirement plan does not provide any additional tax deferred treatment of earnings for the plan or participants beyond the treatment provided by the plan itself.
 - A group annuity contract generally is not a registered security and separate account is generally not a registered separate account. Therefore, the contract and separate account are not subject to registration or regulation by the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or the Investment Company Act of 1940.
 - Unlike mutual funds and registered variable annuities, which are SEC-registered products, a group annuity generally is not required to prepare or deliver a prospectus.
 - A group annuity contract typically includes various fees and expenses, including administrative fees for certain services of the insurance company, such as recordkeeping, customer services and enrollment. These fees and expenses are in addition to the fees and expenses of the underlying investment options, which a participant will indirectly bear by investing in those investment options through the group annuity.
- *Investment Company Risk*. Investments in ETFs or other investment companies are subject to the risks of the investment companies' investments, as well as to the investment companies' expenses.
- *Stable Value Funds*. If you are considering a stable value product to make available as an investment option for a Plan, you should review the contract for the product and understand and consider the following:
 - A stable value fund is a fixed income investment fund with a "wrap" contract issued by a bank or insurance company. These wrap contracts seek to allow participants to transact at their book value (which, generally speaking, is their invested balance plus any accrued interest).
 - The objective of stable value funds, in general, is to preserve capital while providing a relatively stable rate of return that seeks to exceed returns provided by money market funds. Although designed as a low-risk investment, participants can lose money by investing in a stable value fund.
 - Stable value funds can be viewed as an alternative to money market funds; however, there are important differences, and stable value products can be complicated. Unlike money market funds, stable value funds are typically not registered with the SEC. In addition, they are not guaranteed by the U.S. government, LPL, or the Plan. The structure of, or investments within, stable value may vary, and it is important to consider these differences in selecting a stable value fund.
 - Although a contract may provide for book value (even if fair market value is less) for participant-initiated events, the contract typically will not provide for book value for certain employer-initiated events (e.g., plan terminations, layoffs, sale of a division, employer bankruptcies, or change in recordkeepers). In the case of employer-initiated events, the contract



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typically will provide for a fair market value adjustment, which will not allow the Plan or participants to immediately receive book value if fair market value is less. It is important that plan sponsors understand these terms of the contract, in particular, as it will be a consideration in a future decision as to whether to terminate the stable value product provider.

- As the stable value product wrap provider guarantees the receipt of book value to participants, it is important to consider the financial stability of the provider. It also is important to understand the underlying assets of the stable value product, as the type and quality of the assets will bear on the risk vs. reward characteristics that result in a variance between book value and fair market value.
- There are fees and costs associated with stable value products.
- *Cybersecurity Risk.* Failures or breaches of the electronic systems of LPL, its service providers, securities market participants or the issuers of securities can cause significant losses for investors. Unintentional cyber events, such as the inadvertent release of confidential information, could also adversely impact investor account. Any cyber event could cause result in the loss or theft of investor data or cause investors financial loss and expense.
- *Use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.* Recent technological advances in artificial intelligence, generative artificial intelligence, and machine learning technology (collectively, "Machine Learning Technology") may pose risks to LPL and Advisor. LPL and Advisor could be further exposed to the risks of Machine Learning Technology if third-party service providers or any counterparties, whether or not known to LPL or Advisor, also use Machine Learning Technology in their business activities. LPL and Advisor will not be in a position to control the operations of third-party service providers or counterparties, the manner in which third-party products are developed or maintained or the manner in which third-party services are provided. Machine Learning Technology is generally highly reliant on the collection and analysis of large amounts of data, and it is not possible or practicable to incorporate all relevant data into the model that Machine Learning Technology utilizes to operate. Certain data in such models will inevitably contain a degree of inaccuracy and error, potentially materially so, and could otherwise be inadequate or flawed, which would be likely to degrade the effectiveness of Machine Learning Technology. To the extent that LPL or Advisor are exposed to the risks of Machine Learning Technology, any such inaccuracies or errors could have adverse impacts on LPL or Advisor, as applicable. Machine Learning Technology and its applications, including in the financial services sector, continue to develop rapidly, and it is impossible to predict the future risks that will from time to time arise from such developments.
- *Values-Based and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investing Risk.* Values-based investing or ESG investing, also known as "socially responsible investing," "sustainable investing," or "impact investing," focuses on the social values or environmental, social, and governance standards or the sustainability factors of an investment. Some values-based investing strategies focus on factors relating to an individual investor's personal or religious values, such as "biblical investing," while other strategies focus on issues like environmental impact. Some values-based investment strategies use values-based criteria to supplement financial analysis when considering a particular issuer or security, while others affirmatively select "socially responsible" investments or screen out or exclude investments in companies that engage in certain activities. Values-based investing may limit the type and number of investments available in a strategy and cause the strategy to underperform other strategies without a values-based focus or with a focus that involves a different type of focus or screening methodology. Values-based strategies may underperform the market as a whole. Companies and issuers selected in a values-based strategy may not or may not continue to demonstrate values-based characteristics. Different investors likely have different opinions about what types of investments are socially responsible.

ITEM 9 DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

Item 9 requires the disclosure of material legal or disciplinary events relating to LPL's advisory and brokerage business. However, none of the disclosure items below relate to the services that LPL and its IARs provide in connection with retirement plan advisory and consulting programs.

LPL entered into a settlement with the SEC in which the SEC found that LPL willfully violated its obligations under Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-8 thereunder, which require broker-dealers to comply with certain anti-money laundering ("AML") requirements. The SEC found that LPL did not follow its AML policies for its customer identification program and ongoing customer due diligence obligations by, among other things, not properly verifying new accounts; not timely closing accounts that



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did not pass its screening measures; and not closing or restricting certain accounts that were prohibited under LPL's AML Policies. The SEC censured LPL and ordered LPL to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of such section and rule, to pay a civil monetary penalty in the amount of \$18 million, and to comply with certain undertakings (2025).

LPL entered into a settlement with the SEC in which the SEC found that LPL willfully violated Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(b)(4) thereunder and Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2(a)(7) thereunder in connection with the maintenance and preservation of off-channel communications; and failed to reasonably supervise its personnel within the meaning of Section 15(b)(4)(E) of the Exchange Act and Section 203(e)(6) of the Advisers Act. LPL admitted to the facts in the settlement order and acknowledged its conduct violated the federal securities laws. The SEC ordered LPL to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-4(b)(4) thereunder and Section 204 of the Advisers Act and Rule 204-2(a)(7) thereunder, censured it for its conduct, ordered it to pay a civil monetary penalty in the amount of \$50,000,000, and ordered it to comply with certain undertakings (2024).

LPL entered into a settlement with the SEC in connection with LPL's failure to comply with its Customer Identification Program procedures. The SEC found that LPL willfully violated Section 17(a) of the Exchange Act and Rule 17a-8 thereunder and was a cause of a third party's violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and (3) of the Securities Act and Section 206(2) of the Advisers Act. The SEC ordered LPL to cease and desist from committing or causing any further violations of these laws and regulations, censured LPL for its conduct, and ordered the payment of disgorgement and prejudgment interest totaling \$141,202 (deemed satisfied based on LPL's voluntary remedial payment of \$4,118,876 to the impacted client), and the payment of a civil money penalty of \$750,000 (2021).

As part of a voluntary self-reporting initiative in 2019, LPL entered into a settlement with the SEC in which the SEC found that LPL willfully violated Section 206(2) and 207 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act") in connection with inadequate disclosure to clients of its and its associated persons' conflicts of interest related to its receipt of 12b-1 fees and/or its selection of mutual fund share classes that pay such fees. The SEC ordered LPL to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations of Sections 206(2) and 207 of the Advisers Act, censured it for its conduct, and ordered the payment of disgorgement and prejudgment interest to affected investors totaling \$9,333,516 (2019).

LPL, as a broker-dealer, is a member of FINRA and has found to be in violation of FINRA's rules related to its brokerage activities. In particular, LPL consented to sanctions related to the following matters:

- LPL's supervisory systems and maintenance of books and records relating to brokerage direct business transactions, supervisory systems and misstatements about fees relating to brokerage product switch transactions, and supervisory systems relating to brokerage recommendations of publicly traded securities of business development companies (BDCs) to customers, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$5.5 million, restitution to impacted customers, and an undertaking to certify that LPL has remediated the systems and procedures for making recommendations of BDCs (2023).
- LPL's supervisory systems and procedures relating to the transmittal of customer funds by wire or check to third parties and maintenance of related books and records, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$3,000,000, restitution to impacted clients, and an undertaking to identify and pay restitution to affected customers for certain other improper transfers (2023).
- LPL's failure to accurately calculate its customer reserve requirement, failure to maintain a sufficient customer reserve, failure to maintain policies and procedures reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the Securities and Exchange Act and FINRA rules, and failure to maintain accurate books and records, resulting in a censure and a fine of \$300,000 (2022).
- LPL's self-reporting of potential issues related to certain C-share purchase suitability reviews and its supervisory systems and procedures relating to waivers of front-end sales charges for rollovers of 529 savings plan investments from one state plan to another, resulting in a censure and payment of restitution to impacted customers (2021).
- LPL's supervisory systems and procedures relating to record retention, fingerprinting and screening of certain associated persons, and supervision of consolidated reports, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$6,500,000 and an undertaking to review and enhance related policies, systems and procedures (2020).



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- LPL's supervisory systems and procedures relating to changes in the authority of custodians of accounts established under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act and/or the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$300,000, and an undertaking to review and enhance its policies, systems, and procedures related to supervision of such accounts (2019).
- The effectiveness of LPL's anti-money laundering program, LPL's failure to amend certain Forms U4 and U5, and LPL's systems and supervisory procedures relating to Forms U4 and U5 reporting requirements, resulting in a censure and a fine of \$2,750,000 and an undertaking to review the process used to disclose customer complaints on Forms U4 and U5 (2018).
- LPL's brokerage supervisory and disclosure procedures related to the sale of certain brokered certificates of deposit in brokerage accounts, resulting in a censure and a fine of \$375,000 (2018).
- LPL's systems and supervisory procedures relating to the creation and distribution of certain required account notices, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$900,000, and an undertaking to review affected processes (2016).
- LPL's systems and supervisory procedures relating to the format in which certain electronic records were retained, resulting in a censure and a fine of \$750,000 (2016).

LPL, as a broker-dealer, is regulated by each of the 50 states and has been the subject of orders related to the violation of state laws and regulations in connection with its brokerage activities. In particular, LPL entered into consent orders related to the following matters:

- LPL's supervision of electronic signature practices at an LPL branch office in Massachusetts, resulting in a fine of \$250,000 and an undertaking to conduct an internal review of certain related policies and procedures (Massachusetts or "MA", 2023).
- LPL's supervision of an LPL broker-dealer/investment adviser agent's sales of structured products, resulting in a censure, an offer of restitution to impacted clients, and a fine of \$125,000 (Texas, 2022).
- LPL's supervision of two LPL broker-dealer and/or investment adviser agents who pled guilty to charges of fraudulent practices with LPL customers, resulting in a cease and desist order, a fine of \$350,000 and a \$150,000 contribution for financial literacy and investor education initiatives, training and related materials (Connecticut, 2021).
- LPL's supervision of an LPL representative under a heightened supervision plan, resulting in a cease and desist order; a fine of \$275,000; payments of restitution, disgorgement and investigative costs; and offers of payment of surrender charges in connection with variable annuity contracts for impacted customers (New Hampshire or "NH", 2020).
- LPL's failure to timely register (or maintain the registration of) certain agents in MA and failure to amend Forms U4 and U5 for certain agents registered in MA, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$1,100,000, and an undertaking to review and enhance its policies and procedures related to registering its agents in MA and filing reportable events (MA, 2019).
- LPL's brokerage supervisory procedures relating to email review and annual branch office examinations, resulting in a civil penalty of \$450,000 and an undertaking for third-party review of related processes (Indiana, 2018).
- The sale of unregistered, non-exempt securities in violation of state registration requirements, resulting (upon entry of the individual consent order) in payment to each participating state or jurisdiction of a civil penalty of \$499,000, reimbursement of certain investigative expenses, remediation through repurchase of certain securities and payment of losses to certain affected customers, and certain additional undertakings (Settlement with up to 53 members of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), 2018).
- The sale of non-traded alternative investments in excess of prospectus standards or LPL's internal guidelines and the maintenance of related books and records, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$950,000, a \$25,000 contribution to an investor education fund and remediation of losses to impacted customers (New Jersey, 2017).
- LPL's supervisory practices for LPL representatives located on the premises of a credit union, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$1,000,000, and an undertaking to avoid investor confusion specific to the name under which the credit union does business and review LPL's related policies and procedures (MA, 2017).
- LPL's oversight of certain VA transactions, resulting in a censure, a fine of \$975,000, restitution to clients and former clients of an LPL representative, disgorgement of commissions retained by LPL in connection with such representative's VA sales, and an undertaking to review such representative's brokerage and advisory activities and LPL's related policies and procedures (MA, 2017).



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For more information about those state events and other disciplinary and legal events involving LPL and its IARs, client should refer to Investment Adviser Public Disclosure at <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/> or FINRA BrokerCheck at <https://brokercheck.finra.org>.

ITEM 10 OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

LPL is a broker-dealer registered with FINRA and the SEC. As a broker-dealer, LPL transacts business in various types of securities, including mutual funds, stocks, bonds, commodities, options, private and public partnerships, variable annuities, real estate investment trusts and other investment products. LPL is registered to operate in all 50 states and has primarily an independent-contractor sales force of registered representatives and IARs dispersed throughout the United States. LPL has a dedicated team of employee IARs in its offices who service certain accounts, and also a small subset of IARs who operate their own offices or are located on the premises of certain financial institutions and are employees of LPL Employee Services, LLC, an LPL-affiliated company. IARs may also be licensed registered representatives of LPL and may provide brokerage services on behalf of LPL. LPL is also registered as an introducing broker with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition, LPL is qualified to sell insurance products in all 50 states.

LPL Enterprise, LLC (LPLE), is a registered broker-dealer and related person of LPL. LPLE became a registered investment adviser in August. Our affiliate, LPLE, is an investment adviser registered with the SEC and a broker-dealer registered with FINRA and the SEC. As a broker-dealer, LPLE transacts business in various types of securities, including mutual funds, stocks, bonds, commodities, options, private and public partnerships, variable annuities, REITs and other investment products. LPLE is registered to operate in all 50 states and has primarily an independent-contractor sales force of registered representatives and investment advisor representatives dispersed throughout the United States. If required for their positions with a registered broker-dealer, LPLE's principal executive officers are securities licensed as registered representatives of LPL. In addition, LPLE is qualified to sell insurance products in all 50 states.

With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), associated persons of Advisor may also be broker-dealer registered representatives of LPL or another broker-dealer. If an associated person of Advisor is a broker-dealer registered representative of LPL, that person is providing advisory services to a Program account on behalf of Advisor. That person is not acting in a broker-dealer capacity or on behalf of LPL with respect to services under a Program.

LPL and The Private Trust Company, N.A. (PTC), a federally chartered non-depository bank licensed to provide trust services in all 50 states, are related persons. PTC serves as IRA custodian for client accounts set up as IRAs and receives an annual maintenance fee for this service. PTC also provides personal trustee services to clients for a variety of administrative fiduciary services, which services may relate to an advisory account. Because LPL and PTC are affiliated companies and share in revenues, there is a financial benefit to the companies if a client uses PTC as a custodian or for personal trustee services, or if a PTC client uses LPL as an investment advisor. PTC's IRA custodian and trustee services and related fees are established under a separate engagement between the client and PTC.

Fiduciary Trust Company of New Hampshire (FTC), a non-depository trust company, is a related person of LPL. FTC provides custodial and various other recordkeeping and services to IRAs and certain employer-sponsored plans maintained through non-Retirement Partners Program accounts. Because LPL and FTC are affiliated companies and share in revenues, there is a financial benefit to the companies if a client is referred to or otherwise elects to engage with FTC for services under another LPL program, and uses LPL as the registered investment adviser or broker-dealer. FTC's custodial and recordkeeping services and related fees are established under a separate engagement between the client and FTC.

LPL IARs are permitted to engage in certain LPL-approved business activities other than the provision of brokerage and advisory services through LPL, and in certain cases, an IAR could receive greater compensation through the outside business than through LPL. An IAR could also be an accountant, real estate agent, tax preparer, lawyer or refer customers to other service providers and receive referral fees, for example. As other examples, an IAR could provide advisory or financial planning services through an independent unaffiliated investment advisory firm, sell insurance, or provide third-party administration to retirement plans through a separate firm. If an IAR provides investment services to a retirement plan as a representative of LPL and also provides administration services to the plan through a separate firm, this typically means the IAR is compensated from the plan



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for the two services. If you engage with an IAR for services separate from LPL, you may wish to discuss with him or her any questions you have about the compensation he or she receives from the engagement.

Additionally, LPL and/or its IARs may refer clients to unaffiliated firms other than investment product sponsors or financial institutions, for either investment or non-investment related products or services, in exchange for a referral fee or other forms of indirect compensation. These may include referrals for investment banking, lending, accounting, tax preparation, financial technology tools, or such other products, services or consultations that may be requested by and/or benefit a client. As applicable, clients will receive additional disclosures identifying these particular arrangements and any related compensation at the time of the referral.

LPL has an affiliated insurance agency, LPL Insurance Associates, Inc. ("LPLIA") through which IARs may sell insurance products. LPL receives compensation from issuers of life insurance (universal, variable universal, whole life, and term) and other insurance contracts that are made available by IARs, such as long term care insurance and disability insurance. The compensation includes commissions and trails, and may include payments for administrative services that LPL provides and/or payments made in connection with LPL's marketing and sales-force education and training efforts, including LPL's annual national sales and education conference and other conferences. IARs receive a percentage of the commissions or trailing commissions paid to LPL or LPLIA. IARs may also sell insurance through an independent unaffiliated insurance agency. An IAR may earn compensation (including trailing compensation), benefits and non-cash compensation through the third-party insurance agency and may have an incentive to recommend you purchase or sell insurance products with the independent agency.

ITEM 11 CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING

Code of Ethics and Personal Trading

LPL has adopted a code of ethics that includes guidelines regarding personal securities transactions of its employees and IARs. The code of ethics permits LPL employees and IARs to invest for their own personal accounts in the same securities that LPL and IARs purchase for clients in program accounts. This presents a conflict of interest because trading by an employee or IAR in a personal securities account in the same security on or about the same time as trading by a client can disadvantage the client. LPL addresses this conflict of interest by requiring in its code of ethics that LPL employees and IARs report certain personal securities transactions and holdings to LPL. LPL has procedures to review personal trading accounts for front-running. In addition, employees in LPL Research are required to obtain pre-clearance prior to purchasing certain securities for a personal account. Employees and IARs are also required to obtain pre-approval for investments in private placements and initial public offerings. A copy of the code of ethics is available to clients or prospective clients upon request and is available at lpl.com/disclosures.html.

With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), clients should refer to Advisor's Form ADV brochure for more information about the Advisor's code of ethics and personal trading policies.

Participation or Interest in Client Transactions

LPL's parent company, LPL Financial Holdings Inc., is a publicly traded company. LPL does not permit its IARs to recommend or purchase LPL Financial Holdings Inc. stock. With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), clients should refer to Advisor's Form ADV brochure for more information about conflicts of interest.

IAR may be affiliated with the third-party administrator (TPA) that is also servicing a Plan. Prior to utilizing a TPA affiliated with IAR, clients must obtain an analysis from a fiduciary independent of the IAR concluding that 1) utilizing the named TPA is in the best interest of the Plan, the plan participants and their beneficiaries; 2) the fees paid for the services rendered by the TPA are reasonable; and 3) the TPA's relationship with the IAR was fully understood and accepted during the selection process of each as service providers to the Plan.

As part of the services selected by the client, for example, vendor analysis services, an IAR may provide recommendations as to investment products or services. To the extent that IAR recommends that client invest in products and services that will result in compensation being paid to LPL and the IAR, this presents a conflict of interest. The compensation to IAR and LPL may be more or less depending on the product or service that the IAR recommends. Therefore, the IAR has a financial incentive to



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recommend that a recommendation be implemented using a certain product or service over another product or service. The client is under no obligation to purchase securities or services through LPL and the IAR.

It is important to note that clients are under no obligation to implement a recommendation through LPL. Clients should understand that the investment products, securities, and services that an IAR may recommend as part of RPCP are available to be purchased through broker-dealers, investment advisors or other investment firms not affiliated with LPL.

Client should understand that LPL, IAR and Advisor perform advisory and/or brokerage services for various other clients, and that LPL, IAR and Advisor may give advice or take actions for those other clients that differ from the advice given to the client. The timing or nature of any action taken for a client may also be different.

ITEM 12 BROKERAGE PRACTICES

In connection with the services offered under RPCP and SMS, LPL or an IAR may recommend to a client that a Plan use a certain retirement plan platform or service provider (such as a recordkeeper or administrator). In the case of RPCP, LPL and IAR may serve as broker-dealer in connection with the sale of securities or insurance products to the Plan. As noted above, for Plans that are subject to ERISA or are otherwise subject to Section 4975 of the Code, 12b-1 fees paid by product sponsors to LPL and IAR as broker-dealer of record to the Plan are used to offset the RPCP Fee.

ITEM 13 REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

IARs review accounts and meet with clients, on a regular basis or as requested by the client, and such meetings may include review of accounts statements, performance information, and other information or data related to the client's account and investment objectives.

To the extent services offered under RPCP or SMS to the Plan or Plan Sponsor include performance monitoring or reporting, LPL or the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, will review performance or provide reports of investment manager(s) or investments selected by the Plan on a frequency as agreed with the Plan or Plan Sponsor. If elected by the Plan, IAR or Advisor, as applicable, will provide reports evaluating the performance of Plan investment manager(s) or investments.

ITEM 14 CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

Other Compensation

IAR, LPL and LPL employees receive additional compensation, business entertainment and gifts from product sponsors. Compensation may include such items as gifts valued at less than \$100 annually, an occasional dinner or ticket to a sporting event, or reimbursement in connection with educational meetings, customer appreciation events, or marketing or advertising initiatives. Product sponsors also pay for, or reimburse LPL for the costs associated with, education or training events that are attended by LPL employees, IARs and Advisors and for LPL-sponsored conferences and events, including services for identifying prospective clients. For example, LPL receives marketing and educational support payments of up to \$260,000 annually from recordkeepers and retirement plan product sponsors for access to data analytics, and to participate and present at LPL education and training events for IARs. Any such support payments are not tied to the sales of any products or client assets in the products. IARs do not receive any portion of these payments. LPL, LPL employees and IARs also receive reimbursement from product sponsors for technology-related costs, such as those to build systems, tools and new features to aid in serving customers. For a current and complete list of the product sponsors that pay such marketing and educational support payments, please see lpl.com/disclosures.html or ask your IAR. With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), clients should refer to the Advisor's Form ADV brochure for more information about conflicts of interest.

LPL receives compensation from certain third-party vendors, including technology providers and affinity partners, in connection with conferences, educational events, and similar programs made available to IARs. These arrangements may include sponsorship fees, booth or exhibition fees, payments or participation in breakout sessions or presentations, revenue-sharing arrangements, and other forms of compensation. In exchange for such compensation, vendors may receive opportunities to promote their products or services to IARs, including conference recognition, exhibit space, participation in educational sessions, access to attendee information (which does not include email addresses), and other marketing or promotional benefits. These arrangements create a



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conflict of interest because LPL has a financial incentive to feature, promote, or make available certain vendors or service providers over others. IARs are not required to use any particular vendor, and participation in or exposure to vendor-sponsored events does not constitute an endorsement of the vendor or its products or services by LPL.

LPL employees provide sales support resources to IARs and Advisors that use LPL advisory programs. The compensation that LPL pays to these employees varies based on the assets in LPL's different advisory programs. These employees have an incentive to promote certain advisory programs to IARs and Advisors over other advisory programs. These employees also earn more compensation when IARs and Advisors transition client assets from brokerage accounts to advisory accounts, and have a financial incentive to encourage IARs and Advisors to transition brokerage accounts to advisory.

Conflicts related to LPL Compensation to its IARs

This section applies if an LPL IAR provides advisory and consulting services through the Program. An IAR recommending an advisory service receives compensation from LPL. In most cases, LPL has a compensation arrangement directly with the IAR. (In certain cases, LPL has entered into an agreement with a financial institution offering LPL's advisory services on its bank or credit union premises, as described further below.) LPL typically compensates IARs pursuant to an independent contractor agreement, and not as an employee. This compensation includes a portion of the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, and such portion received by IAR may be more than what IAR would receive at another investment advisor firm. All compensation paid to the IAR will be the sole responsibility of LPL and is payable by LPL out of the investment advisory fee clients pay to LPL.

IARs have a financial incentive to negotiate fee arrangements that maximize their compensation. In some programs, LPL charges a negotiable advisory fee for itself plus a fee for third-party managers that is not negotiable. Differences in fees for third-party managers, and the absence of such fees in other programs, creates a conflict of interest for the IARs insofar as IARs can negotiate a higher LPL advisory fee for a program or strategy with lower or no separate manager fee than they could for an account subject to a higher third-party manager. The amount received by an IAR as a result of a client's participation in any particular program offered by LPL often is more than the IAR would have received if the client participated in other programs, paid third-party manager fees, or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage and other services covered by the account fee.

Such compensation may include other types of compensation, such as bonuses, awards or other things of value offered by LPL to the IAR. In particular, LPL pays its IARs in different ways, for example:

- payments based on production
- equity awards from LPL's parent company, LPL Financial Holdings Inc., consisting of awards of either restricted stock units (a promise to deliver stock in the future) or stock options to purchase stock, in each case subject to satisfaction of vesting and other conditions
- reimbursement or credits of fees that IARs pay to LPL for items such as administrative services, or technology fees
- free or reduced-cost marketing materials
- payments in connection with the transition of association from another broker-dealer or investment advisor firm to LPL
- advances of advisory fees
- payments in the form of repayable or forgivable loans
- attendance at LPL conferences and events.

Some of these forms of compensation, particularly equity awards of LPL Financial Holdings Inc., give IARs a financial interest in the success of LPL. IARs who have a financial interest in the success of LPL have an incentive to recommend investments that are more profitable for LPL, regardless of whether the IARs share in that compensation directly.

Note that LPL has a dedicated team of employee IARs in its offices who service certain accounts, and also a small subset of IARs who operate their own offices or are located on the premises of certain financial institutions and are employees of LPL Employee Services, LLC, an LPL-affiliated company. In such cases, the IARs are compensated as employees, and such compensation can include a salary, bonus and other things of value as set out above.

Generally, LPL also charges IARs various fees under its independent contractor agreement, for example, for administrative, custody and clearing services to accounts, technology, and licensing as applicable. In certain cases, LPL pays IARs this



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compensation, and charges IARs these fees, based on the IAR's overall business production and/or on the amount of assets serviced in LPL advisory relationships. When compensation or fees charged is based on the level of production or advisory assets of an IAR, the IAR has a financial incentive to meet those production or asset levels. The amount of this compensation from LPL could be more, and the amount of these fees charged by LPL could be less, than what the IAR would receive, or pay, if he or she associated with another investment advisor firm. The level of compensation and costs is an incentive for an IAR to become associated with LPL over another investment advisor firm. This compensation the IAR receives from LPL could be more than if the client participated in other LPL programs, programs of other investment advisors or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage, and other client services, and likewise, the fees that IAR pays to LPL could be less for Program than other programs or services. In such cases, the IAR has a financial incentive to recommend advisory services in Program over other programs and services. Although the IAR may factor in the fees charged to them by LPL in the overall Advisory Fee negotiated by the client, IAR can still earn more for offering Program at a lower overall fee rate than the fee rate for a program offering a third-party manager. However, an IAR may only recommend a program or service that he or she believes is suitable and in the best interests of a client in accordance with the applicable standards under the Advisers Act or other applicable law.

Ownership Interest in Doing-Business-As (DBA) Entities

Some IARs operate through independent practices with a separate Doing-Business-As (or "DBA") designation. In some cases, LPL may partially or wholly own such practices, and have a financial interest in the business success of the DBA as a whole, or in a particular element of the DBA via specific ownership interests in its brokerage, advisory, insurance, or other financial services business (or any combination thereof). Clients should ask their IAR about the extent to which LPL has a financial interest in their practice.

Conflicts related to LPL Compensation to Advisor

This section applies if clients select a third-party investment advisor firm (Advisor), in lieu of an LPL IAR, to provide advisory and consulting services through the Program. LPL pays compensation to Advisor, which includes a portion of the SMS Fee and also may include other compensation, such as bonuses, awards or other things of value offered by LPL to the Advisor and/or its representatives. Individuals of Advisor also may be associated with LPL as broker-dealer registered representatives and/or investment adviser representatives.

Advisor has a financial incentive to negotiate fee arrangements that maximize its compensation. In some programs, Advisor charges a negotiable advisory fee for itself plus a fee for third-party managers that is not negotiable. Differences in fees for third-party managers, and the absence of such fees in other programs, creates a conflict of interest for Advisor insofar as Advisor can negotiate a higher advisory fee for a program or strategy with lower or no separate manager fee than they could for an account subject to a higher third-party manager. The amount received by Advisor as a result of a client's participation in any particular program offered by LPL often is more than Advisor would have received if the client participated in other programs, paid third-party manager fees, or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage and other services covered by the account fee.

In particular, LPL may pay additional compensation to Advisor or its representatives by providing, for example:

- payments based on production
- equity awards from LPL's parent company, LPL Financial Holdings Inc., consisting of awards of either restricted stock units (a promise to deliver stock in the future) or stock options to purchase stock, in each case subject to satisfaction of vesting and other conditions
- reimbursement or credits of fees that Advisor and/or its IARs pay to LPL for items such as administrative services, or technology fees
- free or reduced-cost marketing materials
- payments in connection with the transition of Advisor's business from another firm to LPL
- advances of advisory fees
- payments in the form of repayable or forgivable loans



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- attendance at LPL conferences and events.

Some of these forms of compensation, particularly equity awards of LPL Financial Holdings Inc., give Advisor a financial interest in the success of LPL. If Advisor has a financial interest in the success of LPL, Advisor has an incentive to recommend investments that are more profitable for LPL, regardless of whether Advisor shares in that compensation directly.

LPL also charges Advisor various fees under its master services agreement, for example, for administrative, custody and clearing services to accounts, technology and licensing. In certain cases, LPL pays Advisor this compensation, and charges Advisor these fees, based on Advisor's overall business production and/or on the amount of assets serviced in LPL advisory relationships. When compensation or fees charged is based on the level of production or advisory assets of Advisor, Advisor has a financial incentive to meet those production or asset levels. The amount of this compensation from LPL could be more, and the amount of these fees charged by LPL could be less, than what Advisor would receive, or pay, if he or she associated with another financial services firm. The level of compensation and costs is an incentive for Advisor to become associated with LPL over another financial services firm. This compensation Advisor receives from LPL could be more than if the client participated in other LPL programs, programs of other investment advisors or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage and other client services, and likewise, the fees that Advisor pays to LPL could be less for Program than other programs or services. In such cases, Advisor has a financial incentive to recommend advisory services in Program over other programs and services. Although Advisor may factor in the fees charged to them by LPL in the overall Advisory Fee negotiated by the client, Advisor can still earn more for offering Program at a lower overall fee rate than the fee rate for a program offering a third-party manager. However, Advisor may only recommend a program or service that it believes is suitable and in the best interests of a client in accordance with the applicable standards under the Advisers Act or other applicable law.

Individuals of Advisor also may be associated with LPL as broker-dealer registered representatives and/or investment advisor representatives.

Unaffiliated Financial Institutions

LPL and certain of its IARs offer advisory services on the premises of unaffiliated financial institutions, like banks or credit unions. When services are offered in a bank or credit union, the advisory services are offered by LPL and not the financial institution. Any securities recommended as part of the investment advice are not guaranteed by the financial institution, or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other federal or state deposit guarantee fund relating to financial institutions.

LPL has entered into agreements with the financial institutions pursuant to which LPL typically shares compensation, including a portion of the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, with the financial institution for the use of the financial institution's facilities and for client referrals. Instead of paying the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, the portion of the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, as described above, LPL shares the RPCP or SMS Fee, as applicable, with the financial institution, and the financial institution pays part of that amount to IAR or Advisor, as applicable. The financial institution establishes the compensation plan for the IAR, which is subject to approval by LPL. The compensation plan determines how the IAR's compensation is structured. An IAR will have a financial incentive to recommend a particular service or product if under the compensation plan the recommended product will result in more compensation to the IAR than another product or service, including advisory versus brokerage services. If an IAR is recommending an advisory program or service, he or she must believe that the program or service is suitable and in the best interests of the client in accordance with the applicable standards under the Advisers Act. In a few situations, LPL has agreements to provide similar services at financial institutions in which compensation is not shared with the financial institution.

If IAR is an employee of the financial institution where it provides services to program accounts, LPL typically shares with the financial institution between 75% to 100% of the RPCP Fee, or SMS Fee, as applicable, after LPL retains its portion of the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, for its administrative services. IAR (an employee of the financial institution) will be compensated (e.g. in the form of salary, bonus, commissions, etc.) by the financial institution based on the specific agreement and/or compensation plan between the financial institution and the IAR. If IAR is not an employee of the financial institution where it provides services to program accounts, LPL typically shares directly with IAR after deduction of LPL's portion, between 25% to 100% of the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, and with the financial institution between 0% to 75%. All compensation paid



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to IAR or the financial institution will be the sole responsibility of LPL, and will not result in any increase in the RPCP Fee or SMS Fee, as applicable, you pay to LPL.

Some of these financial institutions may be affiliated with investment product sponsors (such as mutual fund sponsors) or offer certificates of deposit. An IAR located on the premises of a financial institution has a potential conflict of interest when IAR encourages clients to invest in that financial institution's certificates of deposit or proprietary investment products, such as mutual funds and structured products. When an affiliated investment product is selected for an account, the financial institution receives a portion of the account fee paid by the client pursuant to the agreement between LPL and the financial institution and its affiliate receives fees from the affiliated investment product. Because affiliates of the financial institution earn fees and other benefits from the affiliated product, the financial institution has an incentive to select its affiliated products based on the compensation and benefits its affiliates receive rather than on a client's needs. In addition, because mutual funds benefit from scale, the financial institution and its affiliated companies have an interest in the mutual funds gaining greater assets. Certain financial institutions provide credits for affiliated investment products. We update this information from time to time on lpl.com/disclosures.html. For more information, click on "Account Disclosures, Agreements, Fee Schedules & Conflicts of Interest," and then "Third Party Compensation and Related Conflicts of Interest."

Note that the IAR does not receive additional compensation from the financial institution for selecting affiliated products and the IAR may only recommend an investment product that he or she believes is appropriate for clients. LPL reviews and selects investment products for its programs and LPL may elect to remove or replace an investment product. There is a conflict of interest because the business relationship between LPL and the financial institution could affect LPL's ability to objectively select and determine whether to continue to maintain these investment products in a program. However, LPL only approves investment products that it determines are suitable and in the best interests of clients using the program, depending on clients' investment objective and risk tolerance.

LPL also provides other forms of compensation to financial institutions, such as bonuses, awards or other things of value offered by LPL to the institution. For example, LPL pays financial institutions based on production, in the form of repayable or forgivable notes, reimbursement of fees that LPL charges for items such as administrative services, and other things of value such as free or reduced-cost marketing materials, transition assistance for changing association from another broker-dealer or investment advisor firm to LPL, advances of advisory fees, and/or attendance at LPL's national conference or top producer forums and events. LPL pays this compensation based on overall business production and/or on the amount of assets serviced in LPL advisory programs. The amount of this compensation may be more than what the financial institution would receive if the client participated in other LPL programs, programs of other investment advisors or paid separately for investment advice, brokerage, and other client services. As a result, the financial institution and IAR or Advisor, as applicable, have a financial incentive for an IAR or Advisor, as applicable, to recommend the program account and services that will result in the greatest compensation to the financial institution and IAR. If LPL makes a loan to a new or existing financial institution there is also a conflict of interest because LPL's interest in collecting on the loan affects its ability to objectively supervise an IAR at that financial institution.

In addition, financial institution employees who are not associated with LPL often refer prospective customers to IARs working in the financial institutions. Those employees frequently receive a nominal referral fee from the financial institution (typically up to \$25) as compensation for each referral.

Employees of trust departments at certain financial institutions are authorized under the terms of applicable trust arrangements to delegate investment management responsibility to LPL and to receive a portion of the compensation earned in connection with investment advisory services provided to these accounts through LPL. These amounts are negotiated and vary but often amount to a significant portion of the total fees paid for investment advisory services.

LPL Interests in Investment Advisers

As part of its business initiatives, LPL acquires or may take a financial interest in third-party investment advisers (RIA Firms) that utilize LPL as their custodian. These RIA firms offer LPL's investment advisory programs to their clients, and LPL earns compensation as a result of their use of its programs. When LPL acquires an RIA Firm and integrates that RIA Firm into LPL's investment adviser, it registers the IARs with LPL and they (and any other staff retained or engaged by LPL) become subject to



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LPL's code of ethics and have new and different conflicts of interest when recommending investment advisory products to clients. The IARs may brand their financial services practice under the RIA Firm's prior name (Doing-Business-As or "DBA" name), but they will be offering all advisory services through LPL. Alternatively, LPL may acquire the RIA Firm and continue operating it as a going concern. There, the IARs remain IARs of the RIA Firm, and LPL amends its regulatory records to reflect the RIA Firm as an affiliate. In the event LPL takes a limited financial interest in an RIA Firm, the terms of the ownership interest will dictate LPL's share of the RIA Firm's advisory revenue and other sources of income. In all cases, LPL has a financial interest in the success of the RIA Firm. IARs of LPL have access to different products and services than LPL makes available to the IARs of third-party RIA Firms. Clients should ask their IAR about the extent to which LPL has a financial interest in their practice.

Transition Assistance

LPL also provides various benefits and/or payments to IARs or Advisors that are newly associated with LPL to assist the IAR or Advisor with the costs (including foregone revenues during account transition) associated with transitioning his or her business to LPL (collectively referred to as "Transition Assistance"). The proceeds of such Transition Assistance payments are intended to be used for a variety of purposes, including but not necessarily limited to, providing working capital to assist in funding the IAR's or Advisor's business, satisfying any outstanding debt owed to the IAR's or Advisor's prior firm, offsetting account transfer fees (ACATs) as a result of the IAR's or Advisor's clients transitioning to LPL's custodial platform, technology set-up fees, marketing and mailing costs, stationary and licensure transfer fees, moving expenses, office space expenses, staffing support and termination fees associated with moving accounts.

The amount of the Transition Assistance payments are often significant in relation to the overall revenue earned or compensation received by the IAR or Advisor at his or her prior firm. Such payments are generally based on the size of the IAR's or Advisor's business established at his or her prior firm, for example, a percentage of the revenue earned or eligible assets serviced by the IAR or Advisor, as applicable, at the prior firm, and in certain cases, on the amount of the IAR's or Advisor's client assets that are transferred to LPL above an agreed-upon threshold. These payments are generally in the form of payments or loans to the new LPL IAR or new Advisor with favorable interest rate terms as permitted under applicable law, which are paid by LPL or forgiven by LPL based on years of service with LPL (e.g., if the IAR or Advisor remains with LPL for 5 years) and/or the scope of business engaged in with LPL. LPL does not verify that any payments made are actually used for such transition costs.

The receipt of Transition Assistance creates a conflict of interest in that an IAR or Advisor has a financial incentive to recommend that a client open and maintain an account with the IAR or Advisor and LPL for advisory, brokerage and/or custody services, and to recommend switching investment products or services where a client's current investment options are either not available through LPL or are maintained through a third-party investment program, in order to receive the Transition Assistance benefit or payment. LPL and its IARs attempt to mitigate these conflicts of interest by evaluating and recommending that clients use LPL's services based on the benefits that such services provide to clients, rather than the Transition Assistance earned by any particular IAR. However, clients should be aware of this conflict and take it into consideration in making a decision whether to establish or maintain a relationship with LPL, or to transfer an existing third-party investment program account to LPL. With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), clients should refer to the Advisor's Form ADV brochure for more information about conflicts of interest. If LPL makes a payment or loan to a new or existing IAR, there is also a conflict of interest because LPL's interest in collecting on the payment or loan affects its ability to objectively supervise the IAR.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, including ERISA, LPL has entered into referral agreements with independent third-party investment advisers, pursuant to which LPL and IARs receive referral fees from the third-party investment advisers in return for referral of clients. Any such referral agreements are separate from the services provided under the Programs. Because LPL is engaged by and paid by the third-party investment advisor for the referral, any recommendation regarding a third-party investment advisor as part of a referral presents a conflict of interest. LPL addresses this conflict by providing the client with a disclosure statement explaining the role of LPL and IAR and the referral fee received by LPL and IAR.



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In addition, LPL may enter into other agreements with the third-party investment advisers to whom LPL refers certain clients, pursuant to which LPL may provide (i) marketing services on behalf of the third-party investment advisers to LPL representatives; or (ii) data technology services to integrate third party investment adviser account data on LPL's technology systems. To the extent permitted by applicable law, including ERISA, LPL receives fees for these services and such fees are typically based on the amount of assets (up to 10 basis points) referred by LPL to the third-party investment adviser. Please refer to lpl.com/disclosures.html for current information about any third-party investment adviser that pays this compensation. Any agreements related to referrals are separate from the services provided under the Programs. The IAR does not share in these fees. In some cases, the third-party investment advisers pay additional marketing payments to LPL, its employees and/or IARs to cover fees to attend conferences or reimbursement of expenses for workshops, seminars presented to IARs clients or advertising, marketing, or practice management.

LPL has entered into agreements with certain service providers, pursuant to which LPL and IAR receive compensation related to a Plan participant who receives a distribution from the Plan and rolls the distribution to a retail investment product of the service provider.

Client Referrals

From time to time, LPL and/or its IARs enter into arrangements with other IARs, clients, third parties or other financial intermediaries for lead generation, client referrals or solicitation for program accounts (collectively, "solicitation arrangements"). These solicitation arrangements range from largely impersonal referrals to specific client introductions to LPL and its IARs. Under solicitation arrangements, the third parties and financial intermediaries are independent contractors. In most cases, third parties are not advisory clients of LPL and do not refer clients based on their experience with LPL as advisory clients. The compensation paid under the solicitation arrangements is structured in various ways, including a one-time fee, a flat fee per lead or referral, and sharing a portion of the ongoing Program Fee. LPL and its IARs have generally entered into the following types of referral arrangements:

- *Referral Networks.* Some third parties operate referral networks. Referral networks may present potential clients with a list of possible investing firms and investment advisory representatives, or may direct potential clients specifically only to LPL and its IARs. Some referral networks receive a flat fee per referral and/or an ongoing fee, while others share a portion of the ongoing Program Fee;
- *Professional Cross Referrals.* Some IARs have relationships with other professionals, such as accountants, lawyers, or tax advisors, in which the professionals refer clients to IARs and in exchange the IARs refer clients to the professionals for their services. The cross-referral arrangement is a quid pro quo relationship that can give rise to similar conflicts as compensated referrals;
- *Client Referral Awards.* Investment advisory clients of LPL's IARs refer new advisory clients to their IARs. Sometimes, in connection with these referrals, IARs pay their clients one-time, non-cash gifts like gift cards or tickets to events for the clients referring to them new advisory clients;
- *Unaffiliated Financial Institutions.* LPL and its IARs offer advisory services on the premises of unaffiliated financial institutions, like banks or credit unions. These financial institutions refer clients to LPL. See more about LPL's relationship with financial institutions under "Unaffiliated Financial Institutions" below; and
- *Retirement Partnership Program.* Some LPL IARs enter a referral fee relationship under which one IAR may refer retirement plan-level clients to another IAR for servicing under RPCP.
- *Other Arrangements.* LPL and its IARs may enter into other arrangements in the future that provide for compensation similar to one or more of the types of arrangements described above.

Depending on the solicitor's arrangement with LPL or between IARs, a solicitor may not be compensated for referring a client who opens a brokerage account rather than an advisory account, and as a result may encourage the client to open an advisory account instead of a brokerage account. Solicitation arrangements give rise to material conflicts of interest because the referring party has a financial incentive to introduce new investment advisory clients to LPL and its IARs. Solicitors may also have other conflicts of interest with respect to a particular IAR or may be associated with LPL in another way. Clients who are



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introduced to LPL and its IARs through a solicitation arrangement receive specific disclosures at the time of the introduction. If you receive such disclosures, you should review them carefully to understand the details of LPL's arrangements with the person introducing you to LPL. LPL's participation in these referral arrangements does not diminish its fiduciary obligations to its clients.

ITEM 15 CUSTODY

LPL, IAR and Advisor will not serve as a custodian for Plan assets in connection with the advisory or consulting services offered through the Programs. The client is responsible for selecting the custodian and investment sponsor for Plan assets. In order to service the Plan or Plan Sponsor through the Programs, the IAR, Advisor, or LPL may be listed as the contact for the Plan account held at an investment sponsor. The trustees or other fiduciaries for the Plan will complete account paperwork with the outside custodian that will provide the name and address of the custodian. The custodian for Plan assets is responsible for providing the Plan with periodic confirmations and statements. LPL recommends that Plan sponsors review the statements and reports received directly from the custodian or investment sponsor.

ITEM 16 INVESTMENT DISCRETION

Under RPCP, LPL and the IAR typically provide investment advisory and consulting services primarily on a non-discretionary basis, so that the client makes the decisions regarding the purchase and sale of securities and the investment options to be made available in the Plan. If investment advisory services are to be provided on a discretionary basis, clients will provide that authorization pursuant to the terms of the account agreement.

Under SMS, LPL has investment discretion to select, monitor, and replace the investment options made available through the Investment Menu and each Plan participant determines which available investment options within the Investment Menu to purchase or sell. Client will provide authorization for LPL's discretionary authority in writing to LPL.

LPL, IAR and Advisor do not exercise authority over the administration of the Plan under either Program. RPCP and SMS services do not include advice regarding the interpretation of the Plan documents, the determination of participant eligibility, benefits, or vesting, and the approval of distributions to be made by the Plan.

ITEM 17 VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

LPL does not accept authority to vote client securities in connection with its services under the Programs.

ITEM 18 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

LPL is not required to include a balance sheet for its most recent financial fiscal year, and is not subject to any financial condition under which its ability to meet contractual commitments to clients is or may be impaired.

Brochure Supplements

Accompanying this Brochure are Brochure Supplements for individual employees or officers of LPL. Note that although these individuals are responsible for certain investment advice provided by LPL and may meet with clients from time to time, they are not responsible for the ongoing individualized investment advice provided to a particular client. For more information about the IAR managing the account, client should refer to the Brochure Supplement for the IAR, which should have been provided by the IAR along with this Brochure at the time client opened the account. If client did not receive a Brochure Supplement for the IAR, the client should contact the IAR or LPL at lpifinancial.adv@lpifinancial.com. With respect to SMS services provided by an Advisor (rather than one of LPL's IARs), clients should refer to the Advisor's Form ADV brochure or contact the Advisor for more information.

