# Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC CRD# 321166

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#### FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, contact us at 503-332-0797 or via email at joseph@ridingerwm.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>.

Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

# **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since the filing of our last annual updating amendment, dated February 10, 2023, we have no material changes to report.

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# Item 4 Advisory Business

#### **Description of Firm**

Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC is a registered investment adviser based in Vancouver, WA. We are organized as a limited liability company ("LLC") under the laws of the state of Washington and became registered as an investment adviser in 2022. We are owned by Joseph D. Ridinger.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we," "our," and "us" refer to Ridinger Wealth Management, LLC and the words "you," "your," and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

#### **Portfolio Management Services**

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives.

If you participate in our discretionary portfolio management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow us to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm and the appropriate trading authorization forms.

You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased or sold for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing.

In limited circumstances, we may also offer non-discretionary portfolio management services. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account. You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

As part of our portfolio management services, we may use one or more Third Party Money Manager to manage a portion of your account on a discretionary basis. We will not have discretionary authority over the portion of your account that the Third Party Money Manager will manage, except to the extent that we may hire or fire the Third Party Money Manager. The Third Party Money Manager(s) may use one or more of their model portfolios to manage your account. We will regularly monitor the performance of your accounts managed by Third Party Money Manager(s). You will sign an agreement with the Third Party Money Manager.

#### **Financial Consulting Services**

Upon request, we offer financial consulting services that primarily involve advising clients on specific financial-related topics. The topics we address may include, but are not limited to, risk assessment/management, investment planning, financial organization, or financial decision making/negotiation. These services will be completed as requested by you, within a year or a lesser term unless otherwise noted. Any further reviews may be performed in another contractual engagement with you. These services can be terminated by either you or us via written notice.

#### Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in any wrap fee program.

## Types of Investments

We offer advice on equity securities, certificates of deposit, mutual fund shares, money market funds, real estate, REITs and ETFs.

Additionally, we may advise you on various types of investments based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship.

Since our investment strategies and advice are based on each client's specific financial situation, the investment advice we provide to you may be different or conflicting with the advice we give to other clients regarding the same security or investment.

## **IRA Rollover Recommendations**

Effective December 20, 2021 (or such later date as the US Department of Labor ("DOL") Field Assistance Bulletin 2018-02 ceases to be in effect), for purposes of complying with the DOL's Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02 ("PTE 2020-02") where applicable, we are providing the following acknowledgment to you. When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- · Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

We benefit financially from the rollover of your assets from a retirement account to an account that we manage or provide investment advice, because the assets increase our assets under management and, in turn, our advisory fees. As a fiduciary, we only recommend a rollover when we believe it is in your best interest.

As an investment adviser registered under the Securities Act of Washington and other applicable federal and state securities laws, the Adviser owes the client a fiduciary duty to put the Client's interest first which includes, but is not limited to, a duty of care, loyalty, obedience, and utmost good faith. While the Adviser may have specific responsibilities under ERISA to disclose its ERISA fiduciary services separately from its non-ERISA fiduciary services, this does not affect the Adviser's investment adviser fiduciary duty to the Client.

## **Tailored Services and Investment Restrictions**

We attempt to tailor the advice we give you to your situation as you have described it to us. This is why it is so important that you let us know about changes to your financial situation, goals, or investment time horizon. You may be able to impose certain restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities by clearly identify these restrictions in writing to the Third Party Money Manager managing your account.

#### **Assets Under Management**

As of January 10, 2024, we provide continuous management services for \$49,286,788 in client assets on a discretionary basis.

# **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

#### **Portfolio Management Services**

Our fee for portfolio management services is based on a percentage of the assets in your account and is set forth in the following annual fee schedule:

#### **Annual Fee Schedule**

Assets Under Management

\$0 - \$1,000,000

Annual Fee 1%

> \$1,000,000

Negotiable

Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion. Assets are valued based on the current market value as reported by the custodian. Unmanaged or static client assets will not be included in the investment adviser's management fee calculation.

For Washington clients, all fees must be reasonable per WAC 460-24A-220(10). We will not charge any client unreasonable advisory fees.

Our advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

Our annual portfolio management fee is billed in either one of two ways: (1) Our firm calculates and determines the amount payable, quarterly in advance, based on the balance in your portfolio at the quarter ending immediately prior to billing ("billing period"), OR (2) a designated Third-Party Money Manager calculates the initial billing amounts for RWM to review and approve, and debits the client account on behalf of our firm, monthly in arrears based on the average daily account(s) balance reported by the Custodian. Fees are prorated based on the number of days service is provided during each billing period.

If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. Our fees will be prorated based on the calendar days remaining in the quarter beginning on the day assets have been deposited into your portfolio following the execution of our agreement. For example- if you become a client on May 15, then your fees for the quarter ending June 30 would be calculated for the 46 calendar days remaining in the quarter.

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in your paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above. We will document/identify the accounts to be aggregated when accounts are being set up with the custodian, and will show all accounts included in an aggregated fee calculation on the invoice provided to you.

As defined above, either we will deduct our fee directly from your account, OR a designated Third-Party Money Manager will deduct our fee on our behalf through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities, unless you elect to pay by check. We will deduct our advisory fee only when the following requirements are met:

- You provide our firm with written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian;
- The qualified custodian agrees to send you a statement, at least quarterly, indicating all
  amounts disbursed from your account including the amount of the advisory fee paid directly to
  our firm.
- We will send an invoice to the client that includes the fee, the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of the assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee.

If you elect to pay by check, we will invoice you for the applicable fees. The invoice will include the fee, the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of the assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee.

We encourage you to reconcile our invoices with the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian. If you find any inconsistent information between our invoice and the statement(s) you receive from the qualified custodian call our main office number located on the cover page of this brochure.

You may terminate the portfolio management agreement without fee or penalty by providing written notice to Ridinger Wealth Management within five (5) business days from the execution of the agreement. Thereafter, either party may terminate the portfolio management agreement by providing written notice. Any unearned fees collected in advance of services being performed will be returned to you on a pro rata basis. Refunds of unearned fees will be calculated based on the calendar days remaining in the quarter after the date on which the agreement is terminated

#### **Financial Consulting Services**

We charge a fixed fee for financial consulting services. Fixed fees are negotiable and range from \$1,000 - \$20,000, depending on the scope and complexity of services rendered. You and your adviser will discuss the scope of your project and determine the time needed to complete the services requested. You will then get a quote based upon the number of hours the project is expected to take, billed at a \$300 hourly fee.

We charge an hourly fee of \$300 for financial consulting services. The hourly fee is negotiable depending on the scope and complexity of the services rendered.

Financial consulting fees are billed and payable at the conclusion of our services. We will invoice you for the fee due. Payment is due upon receipt of the invoice. The Advisor is authorized to instruct Custodian to deduct from Client's account(s), the appropriate dollar amount(s) necessary to satisfy the Advisory Fees in connection with financial consulting services. These fees may also be paid by check made payable to Ridinger Wealth Management.

We will not charge financial consulting fees in advance and do not require a deposit for the agreed upon or estimated fees. You may prepay a portion of the fees, if you choose, but we will not accept any payments of \$500 or more 6 or more months in advance.

Financial consulting fees will be offset for related advisory services of assets being managed by the Adviser and the recommended third party investment adviser.

You may terminate the financial consulting agreement upon written notice to our firm. If you have prepaid financial consulting fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees. If financial consulting fees are payable in arrears, you will be responsible for a prorated fee based on services performed prior to termination of the financial consulting agreement. Upon termination of the relationship, we will provide you with any documentation that was prepared as part of your financial consulting services. If the service that is provided does not meet the required hourly threshold, the amount due will be reduced according to the service that was completed and any unearned fee will be refunded to the you.

Clients have the option to purchase investment products that the Adviser recommends through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with the Adviser.

#### **Selection of Other Advisers**

We will receive a fee based on the fee schedule indicated above. In addition you may pay advisory fees to the Third Party Money Manager ("established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each Third Party Money Manager") to whom you are referred. Fees generally charged by the Third Party Money Manager range from .01% - 1%.

We do not share in a portion of the fee the Third Party Money Manager charges. Fee arrangements are established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each Third Party Money Manager. You should review the recommended Third Party Money Manager's brochure and take into consideration the Third Party Money Manager's fees along with our fees to determine the total amount of fees associated with this program.

You may terminate your advisory relationship with the Third Party Money Manager according to the terms of your agreement with the Third Party Money Manager. You should review each Third Party Money Manager's brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the Third Party Money Manager and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You may contact the Third Party Money Manager directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the Third Party Money Manager.

The total fee charged by the Third Party Money Manager and Ridinger Wealth Management will not exceed 2%. Advisory fees will be prorated based upon the number of days services were provided during a billing period. Refunds of advance payment owed back to you shall be paid as soon as reasonably possible but not sooner than ten (10) business days after Adviser's receipt of a proper Termination Notice.

Clients have the option to pay (1) an annual fee for ongoing services; or (2) a flat fee of 1.00% of assets under management for clients with assets ranging from \$0 to \$1,000,000. This fee is negotiable. For clients with assets under management over \$1,000,000, the fee is negotiated with each client.

# **Additional Fees and Expenses**

In addition to the investment advisory fees you pay to us, you will pay transaction fees (commissions) to your custodian or broker-dealer for executing securities transactions and charges for special services elected by you or Ridinger Wealth Management. These fees may include, but are not limited to:

- periodic distribution fees
- electronic fund and wire transfer fees
- certificate delivery fees
- reorganization fees
- account transfer fees (outbound)
- returned check fees
- international security transfer fees
- · overnight mail and check fees
- Rule 144 transfer fees
- transfer agent fees

Any fee on a special service incurred by the client will be fully disclosed. Please refer to Item 12 of this document for an explanation of our brokerage practices. Please refer to Item 12 of this document for an explanation of our brokerage practices. If a third party adviser is providing services via a wrap fee agreement, transaction costs will be included in the fee charged by the third party adviser.

Investment company funds (e.g., mutual funds or ETFs) that are held by you will bear their own internal transaction and execution costs, as well as directly compensate their investment managers along with internal administrative services. Some funds pay 12b-1 fees, distribution fees, and/or shareholder service fees to broker-dealers that offer investment company funds to their clients. These fees affect the net asset value of the fund shares and are indirectly borne by fund shareholders such as you.

Some fund companies have imposed a redemption fee. A redemption fee is another type of fee that some funds charge their shareholders when shares are sold or redeemed within a short period of time from the purchase of the fund shares. Although a redemption fee is deducted from redemption proceeds just like a deferred sales load, it is not considered to be a sales load. Unlike a sales load, which is generally used to compensate brokers, a redemption fee is typically used to defray fund costs associated with a shareholder's redemption and is paid directly to the fund, not to a broker. The SEC generally limits redemption fees to 2%. In most cases, the funds will use the "first-in, first-out" (FIFO) method to determine the holding period. Under this method, the date of the redemption will be compared with the earliest purchase date of shares held in the account. While it is not the general practice of Ridinger Wealth Management to sell client's securities in a period that would generate a redemption fee we might do so if we believe the sale is in your best interests, or if fund shares must be redeemed to pay fees from the account.

A complete explanation of these charges is contained in the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for each investment company fund. You can get a prospectus through the investment company website, by telephone, or by mail.

## **Compensation for the Sale of Insurance Products**

The owner of Ridinger Wealth Management and its Investment Advisor Representatives ("IARs") are also licensed as insurance agents. During the course of providing services to a client, they may recommend that you purchase, sell or hold an insurance product. Our IARs, when acting as insurance agents, will receive compensation usually based upon the size (premium amount) and/or type of insurance product. The receipt of the fees and commissions creates a financial incentive for the IARs to recommend one investment choice or insurance product over another. This incentive creates a potential conflict of interest between you and Ridinger Wealth Management where the IAR has an incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received, rather than on your needs. You acknowledge that the IAR and Ridinger Wealth Management will receive payment in addition to any investment advisory or financial planning fee(s) paid by you. To address these potential conflicts, we review the costs and expenses associated with investments selected for, or recommended to, you to assure that the costs incurred are reasonable with respect to the services provided. The sale of insurance does not represent more than 50% of our firm's revenue, nor does it represent more than 50% of the revenue earned by any of the firm's associated persons.

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

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Performancebased fees are fees that are based on a share of a capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performancebased fees. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Fees and Compensation* section above, and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.

# **Item 7 Types of Clients**

Ridinger Wealth Management provides advisory services to individuals including high net worth individuals.

In general, we do not require a minimum dollar amount to open and maintain an advisory account; however, we have the right to terminate your account if it falls below a minimum size which, in our sole opinion, is too small to manage effectively.

Third-party managers that we may refer you to may have minimum account sizes. These minimums are described in the ADV Part 2A for the recommended adviser. We will verify any minimum requirements prior to referring you to a specific adviser.

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

#### **Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

We may use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

**Charting Analysis** - involves the gathering and processing of price and volume pattern information for a particular security, sector, broad index or commodity. This price and volume pattern information is analyzed. The resulting pattern and correlation data is used to detect departures from expected performance and diversification and predict future price movements and trends.

**Risk:** Our charting analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns, trends and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and predict the direction of both the overall market and specific securities.

**Risk:** The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that our analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Fundamental Analysis** - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.

**Risk:** The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions.

**Risk:** The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

**Modern Portfolio Theory** - a theory of investment which attempts to maximize portfolio expected return for a given amount of portfolio risk, or equivalently minimize risk for a given level of expected return, by carefully diversifying the proportions of various assets.

**Risk:** Market risk is that part of a security's risk that is common to all securities of the same general class (stocks and bonds) and thus cannot be eliminated by diversification.

**Long-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

**Risk:** Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost - "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.

**Short-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

**Risk:** Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a disproportionately higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are many factors that can affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term interest rate changes, cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of times.

**Trading** - We may use frequent trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Frequent trading is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy, but we may use this strategy occasionally when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. This may include buying and selling securities frequently in an effort to capture significant market gains and avoid significant losses.

**Risk:** When a frequent trading policy is in effect, there is a risk that investment performance within your account may be negatively affected, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial information, liquidity needs and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio. It is important that you notify us immediately with respect to any material changes to your financial circumstances, including for example, a change in your current or expected income level, tax circumstances, or employment status.

We will advise you on how to allocate your assets among various classes of securities or third party money managers. We primarily rely on investment model portfolios and strategies developed by the third party money managers and their portfolio managers. We may replace/recommend replacing a third party money manager if there is a significant deviation in characteristics or performance from the stated strategy and/or benchmark.

#### Cash Management

In managing the cash maintained in your account, we utilize the sole exclusive cash vehicle (money market) made available by the custodian. There may be other cash management options away from the custodian available to you with higher yields or safer underlying investments.

### **Tax Considerations**

Our strategies and investments may have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Custodians and broker-dealers must report the cost basis of equities acquired in client accounts. Your custodian will default to the First-In First-Out ("FIFO") accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more

advantageous, provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

## **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

## **Other Risk Considerations**

When evaluating risk, financial loss may be viewed differently by each client and may depend on many different risks, each of which may affect the probability and magnitude of any potential losses. The following risks may not be all-inclusive, but should be considered carefully by a prospective client before retaining our services.

**Liquidity Risk:** The risk of being unable to sell your investment at a fair price at a given time due to high volatility or lack of active liquid markets. You may receive a lower price or it may not be possible to sell the investment at all.

**Credit Risk:** Credit risk typically applies to debt investments such as corporate, municipal, and sovereign fixed income or bonds. A bond issuing entity can experience a credit event that could impair or erase the value of an issuer's securities held by a client.

**Inflation and Interest Rate Risk:** Security prices and portfolio returns will likely vary in response to changes in inflation and interest rates. Inflation causes the value of future dollars to be worth less and may reduce the purchasing power of a client's future interest payments and principal. Inflation also generally leads to higher interest rates which may cause the value of many types of fixed income investments to decline.

**Horizon and Longevity Risk:** The risk that your investment horizon is shortened because of an unforeseen event, for example, the loss of your job. This may force you to sell investments that you were expecting to hold for the long term. If you must sell at a time that the markets are down, you may lose money. Longevity Risk is the risk of outliving your savings. This risk is particularly relevant for people who are retired, or are nearing retirement.

## **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

We primarily recommend Mutual Funds. However, we may advise on other types of investments as appropriate for you since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with the investment.

**Money Market Funds:** A money market fund is technically a security. The fund managers attempt to keep the share price constant at \$1/share. However, there is no guarantee that the share price will stay at \$1/share. If the share price goes down, you can lose some or all of your principal. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") notes that "While investor losses in money market funds have been rare, they are possible." In return for this risk, you should earn a greater return on your cash than you would expect from a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insured savings account (money market funds are not FDIC insured). Next, money market fund rates are

variable. In other words, you do not know how much you will earn on your investment next month. The rate could go up or go down. If it goes up, that may result in a positive outcome. However, if it goes down and you earn less than you expected to earn, you may end up needing more cash. A final risk you are taking with money market funds has to do with inflation. Because money market funds are considered to be safer than other investments like stocks, long-term average returns on money market funds tends to be less than long term average returns on riskier investments. Over long periods of time, inflation can eat away at your returns.

**Certificates of Deposit:** Certificates of deposit ("CD") are generally a safe type of investment since they are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company ("FDIC") up to a certain amount. However, because the returns are generally low, there is risk that inflation outpaces the return of the CD. Certain CDs are traded in the market place and not purchased directly from a banking institution. In addition to trading risk, when CDs are purchased at a premium, the premium is not covered by the FDIC.

**Stocks:** There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, better established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") are but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds: Mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETF") are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities, or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. ETFs differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors.

ETFs may have tracking error risks. For example, the ETF investment adviser may not be able to cause the ETF's performance to match that of its Underlying Index or other benchmark, which may negatively affect the ETF's performance. In addition, for leveraged and inverse ETFs that seek to track the performance of their Underlying Indices or benchmarks on a daily basis, mathematical compounding may prevent the ETF from correlating with performance of its benchmark. In addition, an ETF may not have investment exposure to all of the securities included in its Underlying Index, or its weighting of investment exposure to such securities may vary from that of the Underlying Index. Some ETFs may invest in securities or financial instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but which are expected to yield similar performance.

**Real Estate:** Real estate is increasingly being used as part of a long-term core strategy due to increased market efficiency and increasing concerns about the future long-term variability of stock and bond returns. In fact, real estate is known for its ability to serve as a portfolio diversifier and inflation hedge. However, the asset class still bears a considerable amount of market risk. Real estate has shown itself to be very cyclical, somewhat mirroring the ups and downs of the overall economy. In addition to employment and demographic changes, real estate is also influenced by changes in interest rates and the credit markets, which affect the demand and supply of capital and thus real estate values. Along with changes in market fundamentals, investors wishing to add real estate as part of their core investment portfolios need to look for property concentrations by area or by property type. Because property returns are directly affected by local market basics, real estate portfolios that are too heavily concentrated in one area or property type can lose their risk mitigation attributes and bear additional risk by being too influenced by local or sector market changes.

**Real Estate Investment Trust:** A real estate investment trust ("REIT") is a corporate entity which invests in real estate and/or engages in real estate financing. A REIT reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges. REITs are required to declare 90% of their taxable income as dividends, but they actually pay dividends out of funds from operations, so cash flow has to be strong or the REIT must either dip into reserves, borrow to pay dividends, or distribute them in stock (which causes dilution). After 2012, the IRS stopped permitting stock dividends. Most REITs must refinance or erase large balloon debts periodically. The credit markets are no longer frozen, but banks are demanding, and getting, harsher terms to re-extend REIT debt. Some REITs may be forced to make secondary stock offerings to repay debt, which will lead to additional dilution of the stockholders. Fluctuations in the real estate market can affect the REIT's value and dividends.

# **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose the facts of any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. We do not have any required disclosures under this item.

# Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

## Arrangements with Affiliated Entities

We are affiliated with JR Financial Inc. through common control and ownership. Therefore, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as insurance agents of this insurance agency. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you, and they may spend up to 10 hours per month (2 hours per month during securities trading hours) on insurance activities. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate from our advisory fees. See the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm. This affiliated firm is otherwise regulated by the professional organizations to which it belongs and must comply with the rules of those organizations. These rules may prohibit paying or receiving referral fees to or from investment advisers that are not members of the same organization.

Referral arrangements with an affiliated entity present a conflict of interest for us because we may have a direct or indirect financial incentive to recommend an affiliated firm's services. While we believe that compensation charged by an affiliated firm is competitive, such compensation may be higher than fees charged by other firms providing the same or similar services. You are under no obligation to use the services of any firm we recommend, whether affiliated or otherwise, and may obtain comparable services and/or lower fees through other firms. Neither the firm nor its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker/dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

In addition, neither the firm nor its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or as an associated person of the foregoing entities.

## **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We may recommend that you use a third party money manager ("TPMM") based on your needs and suitability. We will not receive separate compensation, directly or indirectly, from the TPMM for recommending that you use their services. Moreover, we do not have any other business relationships with the recommended TPMM(s). Refer to the *Advisory Business* section above for additional disclosures on this topic. Before selecting a third party adviser, we will confirm that the adviser is licensed or registered as an investment adviser in the proper jurisdictions.

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

## **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a code of ethics designed to prevent and detect violations of securities rules by our employees and affiliated persons. Our controls in this area focus upon securities transactions made by our employees that have access to material information about the trading of Ridinger Wealth Management. We will provide a copy of our code of ethics to clients or prospective clients upon request.

We owe you a fiduciary duty to put the your interest first which includes, but is not limited to, a duty of care, loyalty, obedience, and utmost good faith.

#### **Personal Trading Practices**

From time-to-time the interests of the principals and employees of Ridinger Wealth Management may coincide with yours and other clients. Individual securities may be bought, held, or sold by a principal or employee of Ridinger Wealth Management that is also recommended to or held by you or another client. If potential insider information is inadvertently provided or learned by a principal or employee, it is our policy to strictly prohibit its use.

It is the policy of Ridinger Wealth Management to permit the firm, its employees and investment advisor representatives ("IARs") to buy, sell, and hold the same securities that the IARs also recommend to clients. It is acknowledged and understood that we perform investment services for different types of clients with varying investment goals, risk profiles, and time horizons. As such, the investment advice offered to you may differ from other clients and investments made by our IARs. We have no obligation to recommend for purchase or sale a security that Ridinger Wealth Management, its principals, affiliates, employees, or IARs may purchase, sell, or hold. When a decision is made to liquidate a security from all applicable accounts, priority will always be given to client orders before those of a related or associated person to Ridinger Wealth Management. We have procedures for dealing with insider trading, employee-related accounts, "front running" and other issues that may present a potential conflict when buy/sell recommendations are made. These procedures include reviewing employee security transactions and holdings to eliminate, to the extent possible, the adverse effects of potential conflicts of interest on clients.

The firm, or any of its related person do(es) not; (i) as principal, buy securities from (or sell securities to) clients; (ii) act as a general partners in any partnership in which clients are solicited to investment; nor (iii) act as an investment adviser to an investment company that is recommended to clients.

# **Aggregated Trading**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. We may also combine our orders to purchase securities with your orders to purchase securities ("aggregated trading"). Refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section in this brochure for information on our aggregated trading practices.

A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To eliminate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

# **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

We recommend the brokerage and custodial services of Charles Schwab & Co., (whether one or more "Custodian"). In all cases, the recommended Custodian is a securities broker-dealer and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. We believe that the recommended Custodian provides quality execution services for you at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by the Custodian, including the value of the Custodian's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of the services the Custodian provides, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

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

We do not have any formal soft dollar arrangements with any broker-dealer or custodian.

## **Economic Benefits**

As a registered investment adviser, we have access to the institutional platform of your account custodian. As such, we will also have access to research products and services from your account custodian and/or other brokerage firm. These products may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers that utilize the institutional services platforms of these firms, and are not considered to be paid for with soft dollars. However, you should be aware that the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction or set of transactions may be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.

## **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We do not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

## **Directed Brokerage**

We routinely require that you direct our firm to execute transactions through Charles Schwab & Co. As such, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions and you may pay higher brokerage commissions than you might otherwise pay through another broker-dealer that offers the same types of services. Not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage.

## **Aggregated Trading**

We do combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading") when we are trading the same security for multiple clients on the same day.

Third-party managers that we may refer you to have their own policies related to aggregating trades. Their policies are set forth in their ADV Part 2A and vary based on the type of accounts, securities and the nature of the transactions being made.

## **Mutual Fund Share Classes**

Mutual funds are sold with different share classes, which carry different cost structures. Each available share class is described in the mutual fund's prospectus. When we purchase, or recommend the purchase of, mutual funds for a client, we select the share class that is deemed to be in the client's best interest, taking into consideration cost, tax implications, and other factors. When the fund is available for purchase at net asset value, we will purchase, or recommend the purchase of, the fund at net asset value. We also review the mutual funds held in accounts that come under our management to determine whether a more beneficial share class is available, considering cost, tax implications, and the impact of contingent deferred sales charges.

# **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Joseph D. Ridinger, Financial Advisor, will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct and manage account reviews at least at least quarterly, to ensure the advisory services provided to you are consistent with your investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be triggered by changes in a client's personal, tax, or financial status.

We will not provide you with regular written reports. You will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

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

As disclosed under the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed insurance agents. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section.

We do not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with providing investment advice to you nor do we compensate any individual or firm for client referrals. There are no compensation arrangements other than is disclosed in Items 4 and 5 of this Brochure in regard to recommended advisers managing client assets.

Refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for disclosures on research and other benefits we may receive resulting from our relationship with your account custodian.

# **Item 15 Custody**

We are authorized to instruct the qualified, independent custodian, Charles Schwab & Co., to directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the

qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will include the fee calculation and indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

The firm will send an invoice concurrently to the client and the qualified custodian that includes the fee, the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of the assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee. Invoices sent by the Adviser will include the fee calculation itself and the name of the custodian. You are urged to compare account statements received from your custodian with invoices provided by our firm.

# Item 16 Investment Discretion

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement and the appropriate trading authorization forms.

You may grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security. Refer to the *Advisory Business* section in this brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

We will not have discretion to hire or fire any Third Party Money Managers or over the investments managed by the Third Party Money Manager.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

# **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

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

# **Item 18 Financial Information**

Ridinger Wealth Management is not aware of any circumstance that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to you or our other clients. We do not require the pre-payment of investment advisory fees of greater than \$500 and six months or more in advance. We have not filed a bankruptcy petition at any time in the past ten years.

# Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

Refer to the Part(s) 2B for background information about our principal executive officers, management personnel and those giving advice on behalf of our firm.

Our firm is not actively engaged in any business other than giving investment advice that is not already disclosed above.

Neither our firm, nor any persons associated with our firm are compensated for advisory services with performance-based fees. Refer to the *Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management* section above for additional information on this topic.

Neither our firm, nor any of our management persons have any reportable arbitration claims, civil, self-regulatory organization proceedings, or administrative proceedings.

Neither our firm, nor any of our management persons have a material relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities.

# Item 20 Additional Information

#### **Your Privacy**

In the course of providing our clients with certain advice, we may receive nonpublic personal financial information such as financial statements, account statements, and tax returns from our clients, their accountants and other representatives. All nonpublic personal information that we receive regarding our clients or former clients is held in strict confidence in accordance with our professional obligations, and is not released to people outside Ridinger Wealth Management, except with your consent, as required by law or to explain our actions to professional organizations that we are members of. We may share certain information with third parties who assist us in providing our services to you (such as administrative and client service functions) or marketing services, as permitted by law, subject to the obligation of these third parties not to use or disclose such information for any other purpose.

We retain records relating to professional services that we provide so that we are better able to assist you with your professional needs and, in some cases to comply with professional guidelines. In order to guard your nonpublic personal information from unauthorized disclosure, we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards.

If you have questions about our privacy policies contact our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure and ask to speak to the Chief Compliance Officer.

#### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account.

#### **Class Action Lawsuits**

We do not determine if securities held by you are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether you are eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor do we initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on your behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by you.

# **IRA Rollover Considerations**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may recommend that you withdraw the assets from your employer's retirement plan and roll the assets over to an individual retirement account ("IRA") that we will manage on your behalf. If you elect to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an asset based fee as set forth in the agreement you executed with our firm. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on our behalf have an incentive to recommend a rollover to you for the purpose of generating fee based compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm.

Many employers permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of:

- 1. Leaving the funds in your employer's (former employer's) plan.
- 2. Moving the funds to a new employer's retirement plan.
- 3. Cashing out and taking a taxable distribution from the plan.
- 4. Rolling the funds into an IRA rollover account.

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and before making a change we encourage you to speak with your CPA and/or tax attorney.

If you are considering rolling over your retirement funds to an IRA for us to manage here are a few points to consider before you do so:

- 1. Determine whether the investment options in your employer's retirement plan address your needs or whether you might want to consider other types of investments.
  - a. Employer retirement plans generally have a more limited investment menu than IRAs.
  - b. Employer retirement plans may have unique investment options not available to the public such as employer securities, or previously closed funds.
- 2. Your current plan may have lower fees than our fees.
  - a. If you are interested in investing only in mutual funds, you should understand the cost structure of the share classes available in your employer's retirement plan and how the costs of those share classes compare with those available in an IRA.
  - b. You should understand the various products and services you might take advantage of at an IRA provider and the potential costs of those products and services.
- 3. Our strategy may have higher risk than the option(s) provided to you in your plan.
- 4. Your current plan may also offer financial advice.
- 5. If you keep your assets titled in a 401k or retirement account, you could potentially delay your required minimum distribution beyond age 72.
- 6. Your 401k may offer more liability protection than a rollover IRA; each state may vary.
  - a. Generally, federal law protects assets in qualified plans from creditors. Since 2005, IRA assets have been generally protected from creditors in bankruptcies. However, there can be some exceptions to the general rules so you should consult with an attorney if you are concerned about protecting your retirement plan assets from creditors.
- 7. You may be able to take out a loan on your 401k, but not from an IRA.
- 8. IRA assets can be accessed any time; however, distributions are subject to ordinary income tax and may also be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty unless they qualify for an exception such as disability, higher education expenses or the purchase of a home.
- 9. If you own company stock in your plan, you may be able to liquidate those shares at a lower

capital gains tax rate.

10. Your plan may allow you to hire us as the manager and keep the assets titled in the plan name.

It is important that you understand the differences between these types of accounts and to decide whether a rollover is best for you. Prior to proceeding, if you have questions contact your investment adviser representative, or call our main number as listed on the cover page of this brochure.