

# CENTER STREET ADVISORS, INC

Form ADV Part 2A – Disclosure Brochure

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Center Street Advisors ("CSA"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact Unbo Chung by e-mail at bob.chung@aretewealth.com by U. S. mail at Center Street Advisors, 2 International Plaza, Suite 301, Nashville, TN 37217, or by phone: 312-940-3684. 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 CSA is available on the Internet at the SEC's website: www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. To access this information, you can type in the name of the Firm or the Firm's CRD number: 169329. Registration of Center Street Advisors as an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE

# Item 2 – Material Changes

The purpose of this Item 2 is to disclose material changes that have been made to this Brochure.

Item 2: None



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

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# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Item 4 - Center Street Advisors ("CSA")

CSA was established in September 2013. CSA provides customized investment management, refers clients to third-party investment advisers (the "Manager") in accordance with a Solicitor's Agreement in place with the respective Manager, and provides financial planning services. CSA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Center Street Holdings, Inc. The parent holding company has another wholly owned subsidiary, Center Street Securities, Inc that is a broker-dealer. Center Street Holdings is owned by Arete Wealth, Inc. Some of CSA's investment advisor representatives may be able to offer both investment advisor and brokerage service. Clients should speak to their CSA representative to understand the different types of services available through CSA and its associated companies.

# Types of Advisory Services Offered

#### CSA offers:

- Investment management services
- Investment account management with third-party managers
- Retirement Plan Consulting Services
- Financial planning services

The client is under no obligation to act upon the Advisor's recommendation, if the client elects to act on any of the recommendations; the client is under no obligation to affect the transaction through in the investment advisor.

## **CSA Investment Management Services**

CSA provides customized investment management services for its clients. This is achieved through continuous personal Client contact and interaction while providing discretionary investment management services. CSA works with each Client to identify their investment goals and objectives as well as risk tolerance and financial situation in order to create a portfolio allocation. CSA will then construct a portfolio, consisting of stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), mutual funds and other types of investments, as appropriate, to help achieve the Client's investment goals.

#### Morningstar® Managed Portfolios<sup>SM</sup>

CSA may offer clients the Morningstar Managed Portfolios program ("Program"). This Program is a discretionary investment advisory program offered by Morningstar Investment Services, Inc. ("MIS"), a federally registered investment advisor. The Program is available to clients through an arrangement MIS has with CSA. MIS will receive compensation for their investment advisory services provided under the Program as a percentage of assets. In addition, MIS will delegate certain services to CSA such as assisting each client in completing a questionnaire and other applicable account opening forms, determining suitability, meeting with the client at least annually to obtain any changes in their financial situation and acting as liaison between MIS and the CSA client. For these services, the CSA will receive a portion of the fee paid by each client participating in this Program.

#### Minimum Account Size

The minimum initial investments are as follows:	
Mutual Fund Strategies	\$50,000
Individual 401(k) Account	\$40,000
For each of the above:	
Minimum subsequent investment	\$500
Minimum subsequent investment-IRA Accounts	
·	
Select Stock Basket Custom Strategy	\$250,000
Select Stock Basket Strategist Strategy	\$100,000
ETF Strategy	

<sup>\*</sup>At MIS' sole discretion, an initial or subsequent investment of less than the above stated minimums may be allowed.

Pursuant to the discretionary authority granted within the Investment Management Agreement (signed prior to opening an account), MIS will execute transactions as frequently as MIS considers necessary.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

Third-Party Asset Managers ("TPAMs")

Overlay Management and Sub-Advisory Relationships

CSA may delegate the active discretionary management of all or part of a discretionary client's assets in their managed account(s) to one or more independent TPAM based on the client's stated investment objectives, guidelines, and restrictions. Access to TPAMs may be provided by CSA through a sub-advisory relationship between CSA and the TPAM, and/or through a direct TPAM contractual engagement with the client (CSA provides overlay management.) The TPAMs will have discretionary authority over those assets allocated to them for management and they will be authorized to buy, sell, and trade in securities in accordance with the client's investment objectives. CSA's fees could differ, if and when it allocates a client's assets to one or more TPAMs and such client may be required to enter into a separate advisory agreement directly with the TPAM selected, which is in addition to the agreement entered into between the client and CSA. Once a TPAM is selected, CSA continues to monitor the chosen TPAM to ensure the TPAM adheres to the philosophy and investment style for which they were selected. In its sole discretion, CSA has the authority (pursuant to the investment management agreement between CSA and each client) to add, replace or change any TPAM on behalf of a client (to the extent that the client has not entered into a direct engagement agreement with the TPAM), without the client's prior consent.

#### Solicitor Referrals to TPAMs

CSA may make referrals to TPAMs as a solicitor. Clients are required to enter into a discretionary agreement with the Manager. Clients should refer to each Manager's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of the services offered.

CSA will receive a solicitor fee from each Manager, ranging between .5% and 2.5% of client assets under management. Solicitor fees are also based on the type of services offered by the Manager and the investment model chosen by the client. Clients may go directly to the Manager without having a contractual arrangement with CSA. Clients should refer to Item 14, Client Referrals and Other Compensation, for additional information.

#### Third-Party Money Managers Acting as Sub-Advisors

CSA may engage other registered investment advisors to assist it with advisory services to its clients. In this case, CSA will enter into a sub-advisory agreement with these third-party money managers. Unlike the arrangement under the Solicitor's Agreement, CSA will be acting as the Registered Investment Adviser and the Client will be paying the combined investment advisory fees to CSA. CSA will then use the payment of the combined fee to pay its sub-advisor. In some cases, for greater transparency, this combined fee may be separately itemized on Client's statements. Advisors may offer Client access to the Virtu Platform. Virtu gives Client access to model portfolios of a wide variety of third-party investment managers as well as a portal through which to view and consolidate outside accounts, lending, and directly held investments. Virtu is administered by Axxcess Wealth Management, LLC ("Axxcess"), a Registered Investment Advisor with the SEC. Axxcess will act as a sub-advisor and fiduciary to Client, and will have discretionary authority over Client's accounts. Axxcess charges fees for access to Virtu and for its subadvisory services. Axxcess will arrange for delivery of disclosure documents for itself and the third-party managers on Virtu. Client should refer to these disclosure documents for a full description of the services offered and the fees charged by Axxcess and the applicable third-party managers. Arete, CSA's parent company, and Axxcess have a revenue sharing arrangement whereby revenues generated from Virtu are shared between them. Accordingly, CSA and its Advisors have a financial incentive to direct Client to the third-party model portfolios available on Virtu rather than to strategies offered by other third-party managers. Fees charged for access to the third-party managed strategies on Virtu may be higher than those charged by the same third-party managers outside of Virtu.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Retirement Plan Consulting Services

Generally, these services are designed to assist plan administrators (i.e., a person or person(s) designated by the employer as having discretionary authority or control over the management of the plan) meet their fiduciary obligation to administer the plan in the best interests of the participants and their beneficiaries. A description of the different types of retirement plan services offered by CSA appears below.

#### Administrative Support

- Assist Sponsor in reviewing objectives and options available through the plan
- Review plan committee structure and administrative policies/procedures
- Recommend participant education and communication policies under ERISA 404(c)
- Assist with development/maintenance of fiduciary audit file and document retention policies
- Deliver fiduciary training periodically or upon reasonable request
- Coordinate and reconcile participant disclosures under 404(a)(5)
- Develop requirements for responding to participant requests

## Service Provider Oversight

- Assist fiduciaries with a process to select, monitor and replace service providers
- Assist fiduciaries with review of Covered Service Providers ("CSP") and fee benchmarking
- Provide reports and/or information designed to assist fiduciaries with monitoring CSPs
- Assist with use of ERISA Spending Accounts or Plan Expense Recapture Accounts (PERA)
- Assist with preparation and review of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and/or Information (RFI)
- Coordinate and assist with CSP replacement and conversion

#### Investments

- Periodic review of investment policy in the context of plan objectives
- Assist the plan committee with monitoring investment performance
- Provide analysis of investment managers and model portfolios
- Assist with Designated Investment Managers (DIMs) and/or third-party advice providers as necessary
- Educate plan committee members, as needed, regarding replacement of Designated Investment Alternatives (DIA) and/or Qualified Default Investment Alternatives
- (QDIA)

## Participant Services

- Facilitate group enrollment meetings
- Coordinate employee education regarding plan investments and fees
- Assist plan participants in understanding plan benefits, retirement readiness and impact of increasing deferrals



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### General Information about Retirement Plan Services Provided to Retirement Plans and Participants

Advisory services provided to retirement plans and their participants may be solely provided by Investment Advisory Representatives of CSA or in combination with third parties (e.g., third party administrators and record-keepers). CSA shall never have custody of any client funds or securities, as the services of an independent qualified custodian will be used for these asset management services.

The services provided to any retirement plan sponsor may vary based on plan type (i.e., participant directed or trustee directed plan), plan features (i.e., automatic enrollment of participants) and the specific needs of the plan sponsor, participants and their beneficiaries.

#### **Financial Planning Services**

CSA offers financial planning services and advice to clients. Financial planning may consist of a number of services, depending on the client's needs. The planning process evaluates a client's current financial situation and proposes an action plan to help move towards setting and achieving the client's financial goals. Each Advisor will have conversations with the client and review documents, such as income tax returns and current investments, to determine a client's current financial situation and long-term financial goals. Clients may retain CSA to prepare a full financial plan, or to only give advice about a particular area of concern

CSA may provide education services to clients about general investment principles. Education presentations will not take into account the individual circumstances of each client.

#### Restrictions Imposed by Clients

The client is under no obligation to accept any recommendation in the Financial Plan, and is free to impose restrictions on investing in certain types of securities in the Plan.

#### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2022, CSA managed \$336,007,103 on a discretionary basis.

# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)



#### **Item 5 – FEES AND COMPENSATION**

CSA Investment Management Services and CSA Alternative Investment Strategies

# Advisory Fee

For the CSA Investment Management Services, the annual advisory fee is between .5 and 2.5% of the market value of the portfolio which is billed either monthly or quarterly either in advance or in arrears (stipulated in the client's advisory agreement) based on the market value of the portfolio on the last day of the previous quarter.

#### **Proration for New Accounts**

For new client accounts, the first payment is a pro-rata calculation due upon execution of the advisory agreement that takes into consideration the number of days remaining in the quarter and the initial value of the portfolio. The formula used to calculate the initial advisory fee would be as follows: (Result of Quarterly Calculation) x (Days Remaining in Quarter) / (Total Number of Days in Quarter). For advisory fee calculation purposes, a calendar quarter is a period beginning on January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 and ending on the day before the next quarter. A day is any calendar day including weekends and holidays. For new accounts, the number of days remaining in the quarter is the number of calendar days following the funding date of the new account.

#### Valuation

Valuations are provided to CSA from the custodian and/or client statements. In the event a security is not priced by the client's custodian or CSA believes that the custodian's price does not adequately represent investment value, we may obtain a price from the issuer of the security or other independent third-party or otherwise take steps to "fair value" the security, in accordance with CSA's internal valuation procedures.

#### Direct Debit or Invoice

It is up to the client whether they wish to have the advisory fees withdrawn directly from their custodian account or pay by check. With client authorization, CSA will automatically withdraw CSA's advisory fee from the client's account held by an independent custodian. Typically, the custodian withdraws advisory fees from the client's account during the first month of each quarter based on CSA's instruction. All clients will receive brokerage statements from the custodian no less frequently than quarterly. The custodian statement will show the deduction of the advisory fee for those clients who authorize the advisory fees to be withdrawn directly from their custodian account. CSA will send an invoice to all clients who choose not to have advisory fees withdrawn directly from their custodian account. The invoice is payable upon receipt and will include the fee calculation and amount due.

#### Billing Statements

CSA will send a statement to each client who authorizes CSA to instruct the custodian to withdraw fees directly from the account. The statement will show the amount of the fee, the value of the client's assets upon which we based the fee, and the specific manner in which we calculated the fee. It is the client's responsibility to verify the accuracy of the fee calculation. The custodian will not determine whether the fee is properly calculated.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### **Termination**

Either party may terminate the agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. Upon termination of the agreement, any earned, unpaid advisory fees will be due and payable. The client will receive an invoice showing the advisory fees due for services rendered and not yet paid. If applicable, CSA will refund the client any prepaid, unearned advisory fees. The refund will prorated based on the date CSA received notification of the cancelation.

Morningstar® Managed Portfolios<sup>SM</sup> Program Fees

An annual Program fee is charged quarterly either in advance based on the prior period's ending balance or in arrears based on the average daily balance for the applicable period.

The Program fee consists of two parts (collectively Annual Program Fee):

- Morningstar Investment Services ("MIS") Fee A fee relating to services performed or provided by MIS including
  discretionary investment management services, communications to you and your Financial Advisor, marketing activities
  and services provided by the Middle-Office Provider; and
- Advisory Firm Fee A fee covering the services performed by your Advisory Firm and/or Financial Advisor. CSA
  receives referrals from other advisors and pays solicitors fees to the referring advisor per a solicitor's agreement. The
  solicitor's fee is disclosed to the client, and clients under such arrangements do not pay higher fees due to the solicitor's
  arrangement.

Mutual Fund Strategies (including the Active/Passive Strategies)<sup>1</sup>

The standard fee schedule for the Mutual Fund Strategies (including the Active/Passive Strategies) is:

First Next Next Over \$500K \$500K \$1MM \$2MM

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Mutual Fund Strategies may contain ETFs; please refer to the MIS Form ADV Part 2A brochure for important information related to ETFs



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

MIS Net Fee <sup>2</sup>	0.40%	0.35%	0.30%	0.20%
CSA Advisory Fee	1.10%	1.05%	1.00%	0.90%
Total Fee	1.50%	1.40%	1.30%	1.10%

Annual Minimum MIS Net Fee3: \$200

**ETF Strategies** 

The standard fee schedule for the ETF Strategies⁴ is:

	First	Next	
	\$1MM	\$ 4MM	Thereafter <sup>8</sup>
MIS Fee⁴	0.30%	0.25%	0.20%
CSA Advisory Fee	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%
Total Fee	1.40%	1.35%	1.30%

Annual Minimum MIS Fee: \$150

**Stock Basket Strategies** 

The standard fee schedule for the Stock Basket Strategies<sup>5</sup> is:

	First	Next	
	\$1MM	\$ 4MM	Thereafter <sup>6</sup>
MIS Fee <sup>7</sup>	0.55%	0.50%	0.45%
CSA Advisory Fee	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%
Total Fee	1.65%	1.60%	1.55%

Annual Minimum MIS Fee - Custom: \$1,375 Annual Minimum MIS Fee - Strategist: \$550

In certain situations, MIS and the Advisory Firm may negotiate the MIS Fee amount and/or breakpoints applicable to your account. For those employees of MIS and its affiliates and their immediate families, MIS may waive the entire fee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Portfolios' underlying mutual funds incur their own internal expenses such as management, transfer agent, shareholding servicing, and 12b-1 fees. In certain situations, MIS receives an indirect benefit from those mutual funds who pay MIS' back- office service provider ("Provider") shareholding servicing fees directly. The Provider, in turn, reduces the monthly fee payable by MIS to it (in accordance with the agreement between the Provider and MIS) by the amount of shareholding servicing fees it receives relating to the clients' assets in the Program. To mitigate the conflict of interest this may present (e.g., incentive to select mutual funds with shareholder servicing fees), MIS deducts from its gross advisory fee at each tier a flat credit amount that is an amount equal to the greater of 25 basis points (i.e.,0.25%) or the aggregate fees received by MIS' Provider from the mutual funds. The result–gross advisory fee minus the credit amount–is the MIS Net Fee. The MIS Net Fee for ECO will be assessed a fee of 0.20% across all break points. Does not include fees/commissions associated with executing transactions nor the internal expenses of ETFs and/or mutual funds. It also does not include the Advisory Firm Fee. Additionally, this fee covers costs associated with MIS' service provider services such as a trading infrastructure and client accounting and reporting.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Annual Minimum MIS Fee is applied to those accounts at a Clearing Firm only.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The ETF Strategies consist primarily of ETFs; please refer to the MIS Form ADV section for important information related to ETFs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Select Stock Basket Strategies consist primarily of common stocks listed on U.S. stock exchanges and may also contain American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") or foreign stocks listed on an U.S. exchange; please refer to the MIS Form ADV Part 2A brochure for important information related to common stocks and ADRs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For clients with account assets of \$5 million or above, MIS Fee is negotiable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Does not include fees/commissions associated with executing transactions nor the Advisory Firm Fee. Additionally, this fee covers costs associated with MIS' service provider services such as a trading infrastructure and client accounting and reporting.



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# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Supplemental Fee Information

As the result of MIS' discretionary authority, investment decisions made for a Stock Basket Strategy, ETF Strategy and Mutual Fund Strategy account (if held at a brokerage firm) will result in you incurring brokerage commission/fees imposed by your Clearing Firm ("Clearing Fees"). The payment of these Clearing Fees is solely your responsibility. Your Clearing Firm will charge your account directly for any applicable Clearing Fees. These Clearing Fees are in addition to the above-mentioned Annual Program Fee.

When securities can be traded in more than one marketplace, your Clearing Firm will use its discretion in selecting the market in which such orders are entered. Please be aware that your Clearing Firm may receive remuneration, compensation or other consideration for directing orders to particular broker/dealers or market centers for execution (i.e., payment for order flow) and that MIS does not participate in such arrangements.

Exchange-traded funds have their own internal fees and expenses such as investment advisory, administration, and other fund-level expenses and that by investing in them you incur a proportionate share of those fees and expenses. Those fees and expenses are in addition to the above-mentioned Annual Program fee and Clearing Fees.

You may also incur certain charges by your Clearing Firm or its affiliates related to retirement plan accounts such as IRAs. You understand that these charges are in addition to the abovementioned Annual Program fee and Clearing Fees. American Depository Receipts ("ADRs") are typically created, organized and administered by a U.S. bank. Generally, these banks charge a fee for their services (e.g., custody) and may deduct these fees from the dividends and other distributions generated from the ADR shares. In addition, banks incur expenses, such as converting foreign currency into U.S. dollars, and as a result may pass those expenses on to the ADR shareholder. You understand that these fees and expenses are in addition to the abovementioned Annual Program Fee and Clearing Fees.

#### **Sub-Advisors**

Sub-advisory or third-party money management fees will be paid by Arete from the fees collected from clients. This fee is calculated by assets under management unless mutually agreed otherwise by Arete and the Client. If Client uses Virtu and the Advisor retains the services of Axxcess as a sub-advisor, the applicable fees for the assets under management by Axxcess will be disclosed by Axxcess and forwarded to the Client prior to investment. Either CSA or Axxcess will collect the fees and pay an allocable amount of such fees to Axxcess.

Overlay Management and Sub-advised Management

CSA provides overlay management with TPAMs and offers WRAP and non-WRAP pricing.

- WRAP: The client will pay the TPAM 0.1% to .95% annually as described in the TPAMs disclosure document and advisory agreement which must be executed by the client. In addition, CSA may charge an overlay management fee of up to 1.3% annually. The total fee could be up to 2.15% and would be collected from the account by the TPAM, and the TPAM would remit CSA's portion of the fee to the firm. In WRAP account transaction fees are borne by the TPAM and the client will not be responsible for transaction fees.
- Non-WRAP: The client will pay the TPAM 0.65% annually as described in the TPAMs disclosure document and advisory agreement which must be executed by the client. In addition, CSA may charge an overlay management fee of up to 1% annually and the client would pay transaction fees (commissions) as disclosed by the TPAM. The advisory fee would be collected from the account by the TPAM, and the TPAM would remit CSA's portion of the fee to the firm.

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# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Solicitor Fees

Through a Solicitor's Agreement, CSA receives compensation from the Managers that CSA refers clients to. This fee is based on a percentage of the assets under management by the Manager. The relationship between CSA and the Manager will be disclosed to the client in writing prior to commencement of the services. CSA and the Manager enter into a written agreement pursuant to which the Manager will compensate CSA for introducing or referring the client to the Manager. There is no differential in the fees charged to the client by the Manager attributable to the agreement between CSA and the Manager. Accordingly, the Manager will not charge the client any additional fees or expenses as a result of the referral activities of CSA. Clients should refer to Item 14, Client Referrals and Other Compensation, for additional information.

Clients should refer to each Manager's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for specific information regarding fees, billing practices, minimum required investments and termination of advisory agreements. The client's Investment Advisory Agreement with CSA is non-transferable without client's written approval and may be terminated by either party upon 30-days written notice.

Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as fees charged by Managers, custodians, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual funds and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees and commissions are exclusive of, and in addition to, CSA's fee. Clients should refer to Item 12. Brokerage Practices, for additional information.

One-third of the fee for a fixed-fee plan may be payable prior to initiating the plan, with the remainder due upon completion. Clients pay a portion of the fee in advance of the provision of any services and will pay the balance upon completion of the agreed upon services. If any fees are paid in advance, clients have five business days after signing an agreement with CSA to terminate the agreement without penalty. If a client terminates the agreement after the first five business days, client will either receive a refund or a portion of the fee paid; or be charged a portion or all of the balance of the fee due, depending on the value of services provided by CSA before notice of termination was received.

#### Retirement Plan Consulting Services

CSA is compensated pursuant to an agreed upon fee schedule included in each retirement plan advisory agreement signed by the plan sponsor. The type and amount of the fees charged to the client are negotiable. Generally, CSA is compensated in one of the following ways:

- Assets Under Management
  - O Under this method, the fees paid to CSA will be determined by reference to the value of plan assets held in custody by the plan's custodian.
  - O Generally, CSA charges an annualized fee of up to 1.00% of the plan assets for the retirement plan services described above.
    - Asset based fees are generally collected either in advance, arrears or determined according to the policies of the plan's record-keeper.
    - When fees are determined on a quarterly basis (whether in advance or arrears), the fees will be based on the value of the Account as of the close of business on the last day of the most recent calendar quarter.

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# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

- Flat Fee
  - O CSA may charge a flat fee that will generally not exceed 1.00% of the plan's assets unless there are special circumstances warranting a higher fee.
  - O In some instances, fixed fees may be subject to an annual cost of living adjustment of up to 3%.
  - O Flat fees are generally collected in one of the following ways:
    - Flat fees for ongoing services fees are billed quarterly based on a schedule included in the signed advisory agreement with the plan sponsor.
    - Flat fees for one-time projects may be charged an initial deposit with the balance due upon completion of the project.

Under no circumstance will CSA require prepayment of a fee more than six months in advance and in excess of \$500. The manner in which fees are paid to CSA can occur in either of the following ways:

- Invoice Plan Sponsor Directly
  - O Under this method, CSA will invoice the plan sponsor directly.
  - O The plan sponsor pays the invoice from its general assets.
  - O Under this method plan assets are not used to pay the invoice.
- Invoice Third Party Directly
  - Under this method, the plan sponsor will authorize CSA a third party (generally the plan's record-keeper) for services.
  - 0 Under this method, compensation paid to CSA can occur in either of the following ways:
    - Direct Compensation. In this instance, fees paid to CSA will be charged directly against the plan's assets.
    - Indirect Compensation. In this instance the compensation is received from any source other than the plan or the plan sponsor. Under this method the plan's record-keeper will maintain a record of all revenue generated by plan assets (e.g., 12b-1 fees and sub-transfer agency fees) and then pays the appropriate advisory fee to CSA from this pool of collected funds.

The Plan may also incur certain charges imposed by unaffiliated third parties. Such charges include, but are not limited to:

- custodial fees
- brokerage commissions
- transaction fees
- charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund purchased for the Plan, which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (e.g., fund management fees and other fund expenses)
- certain deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions

Service providers to the retirement plan (e.g., record-keeper, third party administrator, broker-dealers, platform providers, investment advisors, etc.) are required to provide retirement plan sponsors with a Fee Disclosure Notice pursuant to ERISA Rule 408(b)(2). This Fee Disclosure notice will provide the plan sponsor with information including, but not limited to, services provided to the plan and the compensation received for those services. The advisory agreement between CSA and the plan sponsor serves as the Fee Disclosure Notice from CSA.

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# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### **Financial Planning Services**

A comprehensive Financial Plan is developed through consultations with clients for an hourly fee of either \$100-300 or a fixed fee ranging from \$300-\$15,000+ depending on complexity and unique client needs. The fee ranges depending on the complexity of the service provided by CSA, and could be higher for a more senior Advisor or the fee could be lower for services that are purely administrative.

These financial planning services may include advice and assessments concerning investments, insurance needs, retirement planning, cash flow management, debt consolidation, capital needs, educational planning, estate planning, and business planning, tailored to the needs of the client as a result of a review of the client's risk profile, investment goals, and investment objectives.

The fixed fee might be a more cost effective rate; based on the number of hours to develop a complex and intricate plan rather than being charged an hourly rate service.

Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. All financial planning fees are negotiable.

All financial planning fees are agreed upon prior to the Financial Planning Agreement being signed by the client. Clients are billed directly for these services after the Financial Plan is completed, however, should the client terminate the Agreement prior to completion of the Plan, services provided through the termination date must be paid upon receipt of the invoice. Client will receive the completed plan, based on fees being paid in full, on the agreed upon date or date of termination. If client has decided to terminate the contract before the plan is complete, client will receive the partially completed plan based on the amount of fees paid to Advisor.

Educational seminars are offered for a fee of up to \$100. This fee is established prior to the seminar and is negotiable prior to the seminar. Seminars serve as a way to provide information on financial and lifestyle issues for current and prospective clients.

#### Other Fees

Clients are responsible for paying brokerage commissions or an asset-based fee in lieu of commissions. The exact fees are disclosed in the custodian's account opening paperwork. CSA's advisory fee for all accounts does not include other custodian fees, including transfer fees, margin charges, and/or other miscellaneous transaction related costs, from the assets in the account. These charges are in addition to the fees client pays to CSA.

Advice offered by CSA may involve investment in ETFs and mutual funds. Clients are advised that all fees paid to CSA for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by ETFs and mutual funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. This represents an additional layer of fees that impacts the investment returns. Further, there may be transaction charges involved with purchasing or selling of securities. CSA does not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the custodian holding the client funds or securities. The client should review all fees charged by ETFs and mutual funds, CSA, and others to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client.

General Information on Advisory Services and Fees

Although CSA believes its advisory fees are competitive, lower fees for comparable services may be obtained from other sources. All fees are subject to negotiation.

# **Center**Street

# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Potential Conflicts of Interest

This section contains information concerning possible conflicts of interest that clients should be aware of on a continuing basis. CSA's Advisors may also be registered representatives of Center Street Securities, Inc., a broker-dealer registered with FINRA ("Center Street Securities"), and sell insurance products on behalf of Center Street Insurance, each affiliate of CSA, or other insurance company where an Advisor is licensed to sell insurance products. As such, these individuals may be engaged in the purchase and sale of securities and insurance products and may receive compensation in the form of commissions through Center Street Securities and Center Street Insurance.

Financial planning recommendations and Manager recommendations may include products offered by Center Street Securities, Center Street Insurance, or other insurance company where an Advisor is licensed to sell insurance products. If a client or Manager requests that an Advisor execute transactions in their separate capacity as registered representatives or insurance agents, these individuals will earn commissions, including asset-based charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds, which are separate and distinct from the fees charged by CSA for advisory services. Clients are advised that because of these compensation arrangements, a conflict of interest may exist in connection with the recommendation of a particular investment recommendation for a client's account because this gives the Advisor an incentive to recommend investment products based on compensation received, rather than on the c client's needs. This conflict is disclosed to clients in the Financial Planning Agreement, and is disclosed to clients at the time of engagement. CSA has adopted policies and procedures to address the conflicts presented by these relationships. For example, as part of the CSA's fiduciary duty to its clients, CSA and its representatives will endeavor at all times to put the interest of its clients first.

Clients are not obligated to use Center Street Securities, Inc. or Center Street Insurance for the execution of any services recommended by CSA. The choice of broker/dealer and insurance company is completely at the discretion of the client.

With respect to CSA's compensation for financial planning services, should a client engage Center Street Securities, Center Street Insurance, or another insurance company where an Advisor is licensed to sell insurance products, for implementation of the recommendations made within the plan, it is possible that more than 50% of the revenue derived from Clients results in commissions and other compensation for the sale of investment products recommended to clients. However, as CSA also receives referral fees, commissions do not provide the Firm's primary revenue.

If the client chooses to have Center Street Securities, Center Street Insurance, or another insurance company where an Advisor is licensed to sell insurance products, implement the financial plan's recommendations, CSA may reduce the financial planning fee.

#### Item 6 - PERFORMANCE BASED-FEES

CSA is not compensated on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds or any portion of the funds of the client.

## **Item 7 – TYPES OF CLIENTS**

CSA provides investment advice and prepares financial plans for individuals (including high net worth individuals), trusts, estates, and charitable organizations.

CSA's cumulative household minimum account size is \$50,000. However, based on facts and circumstances, CSA may at its sole discretion, accept accounts with a lower value.

# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)



### Item 8 – METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

## Methods of Analysis

CSA may use charting, fundamental, technical and cyclical analysis in creating a financial plan for clients. The main sources of information used by CSA in its analysis are: financial newspapers and magazines, research materials prepared by others, corporate rating services, annual reports, prospectuses, filings made with the SEC, and company press releases. The following definitions are intended to educate clients about the various types of analysis that CSA may use:

Charting - Stock chart training is an important skill to learn whether you are investing for retirement or learning to trade the stock market. Stock charts are one of the core market knowledge skills. Stock charts provide a window on the market that reveals how stock prices fluctuate over time.

Fundamental analysis allows CSA to determine a company's business history by analyzing its financial performance against appropriate indices, peer investments, management consistency and tenure, competitive advantages, and its competitors and markets. It also may focus on the overall state of the economy, interest rates, production, earnings, and management. Fundamental analysis is based on historical information that may change when major changes occur at a company, such as an executive retiring or terminating, or with fluctuations in the economy.

Technical analysis attempts to identify price patterns and trends in financial markets and attempts to make use of those patterns. Although various methods and tools are used, the study of price charts is a primary indicator that helps determine the price direction of a security as the analyst seeks to forecast price movements. However, it is important to remember that stock prices fluctuate so that it is not possible to forecast a definite price of a security.

Cyclical Analysis is a method used to determine targets. When using cyclical analysis to determine intermediate term price projections, analysts usually focus on the cycle that has an average time duration of 20 weeks. In theory, a stock's price would go up for 10 weeks and then decline for 10 weeks completing the 20- week cycle. Analysts construct a half cycle which is simply a 10-week simple moving average. When the moving average turns up, the analyst will note the closing price for the stock, count back 5 weeks and note the stock's closing price, then take the difference between the two closes and add it to the most recent close. That is the preliminary target that should be achieved over the next 5 weeks. Conversely, when the 10-week moving average turns down, the analyst will note the closing price for the stock, count back 5 weeks and note the closing price, then take the difference between the two closes and subtract it from the most recent close. That is the preliminary target that should be achieved.

Third-Party Investment Manager Analysis allows CSA to examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We review the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks.

A risk of investing with a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party manager's portfolio, there is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

**Direct Participation Programs and Private Placements** 

Liquidity Risk: CSA recommends limited partnerships and/or private placements in the Alternative Investment Strategies to clients based on factors that include but are not limited to accreditation status, the level of interest clients express during meetings with CSA, and whether the program would offer diversification to the client. We consider these types of investments to carry a higher degree of risk that tradition stock and bond portfolios. Generally, there is no ready market for direct participation programs and private placements. Consequently, investments in these securities are limited to persons who meet certain income and/or net worth requirements. CSA will recommend such securities only to clients who meet the necessary income and/or net worth requirements and where CSA believes the investment is appropriate for the client based on the client's ability to accept the risk.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

Due Diligence: CSA performs due diligence on direct participation programs which includes reviewing third- party due diligence reports, regulatory filings, the firm's disclosure documents, sales literature, track record, experience and can include telephonic or in-person interviews with representatives from each investment sponsor.

#### **Investment Strategies**

CSA does not specialize in using one particular type of investment strategy, but rather when creating a financial plan for clients, uses different strategies designed to comply with the financial and personal history and investment objective of the client. Strategies used may include long-term purchases of securities (those held at least one year) as well as short-term purchases of securities (those that are sold within a year). Clients may accept or reject all of our financial plan investment recommendations.

#### Option Writing

We may use options as an investment strategy. Certain standardized option issued by the Options Clearing Corporation are securities, regulated by the SEC. An option is also considered a "derivative" because it derives its value from an underlying asset. The two types of options are calls and puts:

- A call gives the holder (the buyer of the call) the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
- A put gives the holder (the buyer of the put) the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

We will use options to speculate on the possibility of a sharp price swing. We will also use options to "hedge" a purchase of the underlying security; in other words, we will use an option purchase to limit the potential upside and downside of a security we have purchased for your portfolio.

We use "covered calls", in which we sell an option on a security you own. In this strategy, you receive a fee for making the option available, and the person purchasing the option has the right to buy the security from you at an agreed-upon price.

#### Risk of Loss

No investment can be made without some risk of loss. The most conservative investments risk the loss of purchasing power with virtually any amount of inflation. Most of the investments recommended will carry market risk of varying degrees. There can be no guarantee of a positive outcome of any kind and neither principal nor a return of any kind is guaranteed.

Clients should refer to each Manager's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of their methods of analysis, investment strategies and risk of loss.

#### **Item 9 – DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION**

Neither CSA nor any of its management persons are currently, or have ever been, subject to:

- A. A criminal or civil action in a domestic, foreign or military court of competent jurisdiction; nor have they,
  - 1. ever been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere ("no contest") to
    - a. any felony;
    - b. a *misdemeanor* that *involved* investments or an *investment-related* business, fraud, or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, false statements counterfeiting, or extortion; or
    - c. a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses;
  - ever been named the subject of a pending criminal proceeding that involves an investment- related business, fraud, false statements or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, or a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses;
  - 3. ever been found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation; or



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

- 4. ever been the subject of any *order*, judgment, or decree permanently or temporarily enjoining, or otherwise limiting, your firm or a *management person* from engaging in any *investment-related* activity, or from violating any *investment-related* statute, rule, or *order*.
- 5. an administrative proceeding state regulatory agency, or any foreign financial regulatory authority, nor have they:
- 6. been found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or
- 7. been *found* to have been *involved* in a violation of an *investment-related* statute or regulation or been the subject of an *order* by the agency or authority:
  - a. denying, suspending, or revoking the authorization of your firm or a *management person* to act in an *investment-related* business:
  - b. barring or suspending your firm's or a management person's association with an investment-related business;
  - c. otherwise significantly limiting your firm's or a management person's investment related
  - d. activities: or
  - e. imposing a civil money penalty of more than \$2,500 on your firm or a management person.
- B. A self-regulatory organization proceeding nor were they
  - I. found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or
  - 2. found to have been involved in a violation of the SRO's rules and was:
    - a. barred or suspended from membership or from association with other members, or was expelled from membership;
    - b. otherwise significantly limited from investment-related activities; or
    - c. fined more than \$2,500.

#### Item 10 - OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

As noted in Item 4, CSA is owned indirectly by Arete Wealth, Inc. Which is also the parent of:

- Arete Wealth Management, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company and a FINRA registered broker dealer.
   Arete Wealth Management is a member of SIPC and NFA and is registered in various states as required;
- Arete Insurance Agency, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company;
- Arete Consulting, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company.
- Center Street Holdings, Inc which is the parent company of CSA, Center Street Securities, Inc., and Center Street Insurance, Inc.

Management personnel of CSA may be separately licensed as registered representatives of the above affiliated broker-dealers. These individuals, in their separate capacity, can affect securities transactions for which they will receive separate, yet customary compensation. While we endeavor at all times to put the interests of clients first as part of our fiduciary duty, clients should be aware that the receipt of additional compensation itself creates a conflict of interest, and may affect the judgement of these individuals making recommendations.

As stated under Item 5(e) Fees and Compensation, financial planning recommendations and Manager recommendations may include products offered by Center Street Securities or Center Street Insurance. If a client or Manager requests that an Advisor execute transactions in their separate capacity as registered representatives or insurance agents, these individuals will earn commissions, including asset based charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds, which are separate and distinct from the fees charged by CSA for advisory services. Clients are advised that because of these compensation arrangements, a conflict of interest may exist in connection with the recommendation of a particular investment recommendation for a client's account because this gives the Advisor an incentive to recommend investment products based on compensation received, rather than on the client's needs. This conflict is disclosed to clients in the Financial Planning Agreement, and is disclosed to clients at



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

the time of engagement. CSA has adopted policies and procedures to address the conflicts presented by these relationships. For example, as part of the CSA's fiduciary duty to its clients, CSA and its representatives will endeavor at all times to put the interest of its clients first.

Through a Solicitor's Agreement, CSA receives compensation from each Manager. This fee is based on a percentage of the assets under management by the Manager. The relationship between CSA and the Manager will be disclosed to the client in writing prior to commencement of the services. CSA and the Manager enter into a written agreement pursuant to which the Manager will compensate CSA for introducing or referring the client to the third-party manager. There is no differential in the fees charged to the client by the Manager attributable to the agreement between CSA and the Manager. Accordingly, the Manager will not charge the client any additional fees or expenses as a result of the referral activities of CSA.

As previously disclosed, we recommend the services of various registered investment advisors to our clients. In exchange for this recommendation, we receive a referral fee from, or a fee sharing arrangement with, the selected investment advisor. The fee received by us is typically a percentage of the fee charged by that investment advisor to the referred client. The portion of the advisory fee paid to us does not increase the total advisory fee paid to the selected investment advisor by the client. We do not charge the client any fees for these referrals. We will only recommend advisors that pay us a referral fee. With regard to Virtu and the services provided by Axxcess, Arete shares in the account fee and the platform fee that is charged to Client. Virtu is the only aggregated reporting and investment portal that Arete offers, and will not recommend any other such service providers with whom Arete does not share revenues.

CSA ensures that all Managers are properly registered as an investment adviser.

A CSA Advisor will meet with clients at least annually to review investments, or more often if requested by the client or if it appears necessary. CSA will also assist the client in selecting a new Manager in the event that the client determines a change is necessary. Any change to a new Manager is solely at the discretion of the client.

#### Item 11 - CODE OF ETHICS

Pursuant to Rule 204A-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act") CSA has adopted a Code of Ethics that sets forth the basic policies of ethical conduct for all employees of the firm. The Code of Ethics describes the firm's fiduciary duties and obligations to clients, and sets forth the firm's practice of supervising the personal securities transactions of employees who maintain access to client information.

Employees of CSA have received a copy of the Code of Ethics and acknowledge having read and understood it.

A copy of the Code of Ethics is available to existing and prospective clients upon request by notifying Mr. Chung via the phone number, e-mail address, or U.S. Postal address listed on the Cover Page.

Neither CSA nor any of its related persons recommends securities to clients, or buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which CSA or the employee has a material financial interest.

Neither CSA nor any of its related persons recommend securities to clients.

# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)



#### **Item 12 – BROKERAGE PRACTICES**

**CSA Investment Management Services** 

Advisor participates in the TD Ameritrade Institutional program. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade is an independent [and unaffiliated] SEC-registered broker-dealer. TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment Advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions.

Advisor receives some benefits from TD Ameritrade through its participation in the program. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 below.)

CSA also uses other custodians either in connection with a TPAM or as a result of a stand alone agreement. Additional custodians may include Axos, Pershing, and National Financial Services.

Third-Party Investment Mangers

CSA does not select or recommend broker-dealers for client transactions. Clients should refer to each Manager's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for specific information its' Brokerage Practices.

#### **Item 13 – REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS**

All accounts that are referred to a Manager are reviewed at least annually, by the relevant CSA Advisor, to ensure that the Manager is acting in accordance with the client's stated investment objectives.

CSA reviews client accounts and recommends adjustments in the event of changes in market conditions or the personal financial situation of the client.

CSA does not provide regular reporting to clients. Clients will receive statements from the Managers and qualified custodians..

#### Item 14 - CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

Benefits Received from TD Ameritrade

As disclosed under Item 12, above, Advisor participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and Advisor may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between Advisor's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its Clients, although Advisor receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving Advisor participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to Advisor by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by Advisor's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit Advisor but may not benefit its Client accounts. These products or services



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

may assist Advisor in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help Advisor manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by Advisor or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

#### CSA Acting as a Solicitor

CSA enters into written agreements pursuant to which the Manager will compensate CSA for introducing or referring a client to the Manager. There is no differential in the fees charged to the client by the third-party manager attributable to the agreement between CSA and the third-party manager. Accordingly, the Manager will not charge the client any additional fees or expenses as a result of the referral activities of CSA.

CSA is compensated through a portion of assets under management by the Manager. Specifically, pursuant to the customer agreement that is signed between the client and the Manager, and the agreed upon fee schedule

therein, the Manager will retain its portion of the disclosed fee and will compensate CSA with the remainder of the fee.

#### CSA Receiving Referrals from Solicitors

CSA enters into written agreements pursuant to which CSA will compensate a solicitor for introducing or referring a client to CSA. There is no differential in the fees charged to the client attributable to the agreement between CSA and the solicitor. Accordingly, CSA will not charge the client any additional fees or expenses as a result of the referral activities of the solicitor.

CSA compensates solicitors through a portion of the assets under management. Specifically, pursuant to the customer agreement that is signed between the client and CSA, and the agreed upon fee schedule therein, CSA will retain its portion of the disclosed fee and will compensate the solicitor with the remainder of the fee which is outlined in the Solicitor's Disclosure Statement provided to the client.

#### Marketing Assistance

On occasion CSA may receive marketing assistance from product sponsors such as subsidizing or reimbursing the cost of seminar mailers. The receipt of these payments represents a potential conflict of interest but CSA does not believe the assistance is material enough to bias investment recommendations

## Item 15 - CUSTODY

Under no circumstances will CSA have custody of client funds or securities. All client funds and securities are held by a qualified custodian who provides clients with a statement of their account at least quarterly. Clients are urged to compare and reconcile their account statements with the information received from CSA.



# FORM ADV PART 2A - DISCLOSURE BROCHURE (CON.)

#### Item 16 - INVESTMENT DISCRETION

CSA provides both discretionary and non-discretionary management services. Clients will sign an investment advisory agreement with CSA which will determine if discretion has been granted.

#### **Item 17 – VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES**

CSA does not, and will not, accept authority vote securities on behalf of advisory clients.

CSA does not have authority to vote client securities. Clients are responsible for receiving and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in their accounts.

## **Item 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Under Rule 206(4)-4 of the Advisers Act, investment advisers are required to disclose certain information about their business practices that might serve as material to the client's decision in choosing an investment adviser.

CSA does not require the pre-payment of any fees six months or more in advance of services or maintain any financial hardships or other conditions that might impair its ability to meet its contractual obligation to clients.