

# Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC

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## **FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE**

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, contact us at 337-232-1141. 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 Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, 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 March 10, 2016 we have made the following material changes to our Form ADV Part 2A:

1. We charge fees based on the average daily balance for the previous calendar quarter.
2. We no longer have an agreement with Bo Billeaud of Billeaud Capital Management to provide research services.

In addition to the changes noted above, since the filing of our annual updating amendment dated March 16, 2017, we have made the following material changes to our Form ADV Part 2A.

1. In July 2017, investment vehicles affiliated with Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point") and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. ("KKR") each made an investment in Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus"). This transaction resulted in certain funds managed by Stone Point collectively becoming a principal owner of Focus and the KKR investment vehicles collectively becoming a minority owner of Focus. Because Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC ("Summit Financial") is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus, the Stone Point and KKR investment vehicles are indirect owners of Summit Financial. Items 4 and Item 10 have been revised to reflect this new ownership structure, and certain conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of the structure.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Services and Fees

Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC ("Summit Financial") is a registered investment adviser with offices in Lafayette, Louisiana and Monroe, Louisiana. Summit Financial succeeded to the advisory business of its predecessor, Summit Financial of Louisiana, Inc., which was originally founded in 2010. Following a successor application dated April 1, 2014, the advisory services and management of Summit Financial remained the same; however the successor application reflected new ownership by Focus Operating LLC. Focus Operating, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Financial Partners, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Focus").

As such, Summit Financial is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus Operating, LLC ("Focus Operating"), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus. Focus also owns other registered investment advisers, broker-dealers, pension consultants, insurance firms, and other financial service firms (the "Focus Partners"), most of which provide wealth management, benefit consulting and investment consulting services to individuals, families, employers, and institutions. Some Focus Partners also manage or advise limited partnerships, private funds, or investment companies as disclosed on their respective Form ADVs.

In July 2017, investment vehicles affiliated with Stone Point Capital LLC ("Stone Point") and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. ("KKR") each made an investment in Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus"). This transaction resulted in certain funds managed by Stone Point collectively becoming a principal owner of Focus and the KKR investment vehicles collectively becoming a minority owner in Focus. Because Summit Financial is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus, the Stone Point and KKR investment vehicles are indirect owners of Summit Financial.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please 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 Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC and the words "you", "your" and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm. Also, you may see the term Associated Person throughout this brochure. As used in this brochure, our Associated Persons are our firm's officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm.

### Portfolio Management Services

We offer discretionary portfolio management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for portfolio management services, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather to develop a strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and/or to make investments on your behalf. As part of our portfolio management services, we will customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives. Each client's portfolio is individually managed and may or may not be similar to another client with the same objectives. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, or select a model portfolio, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis, and will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances.

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

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\*:

**Equity & Mutual Fund Fee Schedule**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Fee</b>
First \$250,000	1.25%
Next \$750,000	1.00%
Over \$1,000,000	0.95%

**Fixed Income Fee Schedule**

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Annual Fee</b>
First \$250,000	0.65%
Over \$250,000	0.50%

\*Certain existing or legacy clients may be charged under a different fee schedule and/or different billing cycles.

Certain legacy clients participating in our Wrap Fee Program have some or all of their assets invested in Summit Financial's Separate Account Equity Portfolios. These assets are subject to an additional fee, above and beyond the advisory fee charged on total assets being managed as outlined in the schedule above. This additional fee is as much as 1.00% on those assets invested in Summit's Portfolios.

Our annual portfolio management fee is billed and payable, quarterly in advance, based on the average daily balance for the previous calendar quarter. 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 advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

We require a minimum account size of \$50,000 to open and maintain a portfolio management account. At our sole discretion, we may waive or lower such minimum. We also charge a minimum annual fee of \$500 per account. For clients utilizing the Schwab Intelligent Portfolio, the minimum account size is \$5,000, and the fee for this service is described below.

We will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

You may terminate the portfolio management agreement upon 30-days' written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the portfolio management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the period for which you are a client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

### **Schwab Intelligent Portfolio - Automated Investment Platform**

Using the Schwab automated investment platform we will develop proprietary model portfolios. Through an online enrollment process, you may open an account with as little as \$5,000 to invest. Based on the information provided upon account opening your assets will be allocated into one of our proprietary portfolios. Assets are automatically monitored and rebalanced. The annual fee for this service is .95% of assets invested in the portfolio payable quarterly in advance based on the average daily balance for the previous calendar quarter. Fees will be debited directly from your account. There are no additional transactions fee charged. You may terminate the service by closing your account with Schwab.

### **Financial Planning and Consulting Services**

We offer financial planning and consulting services which typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. These services can range from broad-based financial planning to consultative or single subject planning. If you retain our firm for financial planning and consulting services, we will meet with you to gather information about your financial circumstances and objectives. We may also use financial planning software to determine your current financial position and to define and quantify your long-term goals and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we will develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Once we review and analyze the information you provide to our firm and the data derived from our financial planning software, we will deliver a written plan to you, designed to help you achieve your stated financial goals and objectives.

Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to us. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the financial plan through any of our other investment advisory services. Moreover, you may act on our recommendations by placing securities transactions with any brokerage firm.

We charge a fixed fee for financial planning services, which generally ranges between \$1,000 and \$40,000. The first half of the estimated fee is due in advance of services rendered with the remaining balance payable upon completion of the contracted services. The fee is negotiable depending upon the complexity and scope of the plan, your financial situation, and your objectives. We do not require you to pay fees six or more months in advance. Should the engagement last longer than six months between acceptance of financial planning agreement and delivery of the financial plan, any prepaid unearned fees will be promptly returned to you less a pro rata charge for bona fide financial planning services rendered to date.

We may also charge an hourly fee of \$150 to \$500 for financial planning consulting services and/ advice on a single subject, which is negotiable depending on the scope and complexity of the plan, your situation, and your financial objectives. An estimate of the total time/cost will be determined at the start of the advisory relationship. In limited circumstances, the cost/time could potentially exceed the initial estimate. In such cases, we will notify you and request that you approve the additional fee. We require that you pay 50% of the fee in advance and the remaining portion upon the completion of the services rendered.

You may terminate the financial planning agreement upon 30-days' written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the services provided. If you have pre-paid financial planning fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

At our discretion, we may offset our financial planning fees to the extent you implement the financial plan through our Portfolio Management Service.

### **Pension Consulting Services**

We offer pension consulting services to employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries based upon the needs of the plan and the services requested by the plan sponsor or named fiduciary. In general, these services may include, preparation of an Investment Policy Statement, existing plan review and analysis, investment option search and recommendations, plan review and ongoing investment option monitoring and review, employee/participant education, assets allocation modeling in managed accounts or allocation of fund securities, and/or ongoing consulting. We do not have any discretionary authority with respect to the allocation of securities in the plan.

We may also assist with participant enrollment meetings and provide investment-related educational seminars to plan participants on such topics as:

- Diversification
- Asset allocation
- Risk tolerance
- Time horizon

Our educational seminars may include other investment-related topics specific to the particular plan.

We may also provide additional types of pension consulting services to plans on an individually negotiated basis. All services, whether discussed above or customized for the plan based upon requirements from the plan fiduciaries (which may include additional plan-level or participant-level services) shall be detailed in a written agreement and be consistent with the parameters set forth in the plan documents.

Our advisory fees for these customized services will be negotiated with the plan sponsor or named fiduciary on a case-by-case basis. Typically, we charge either a fixed fee ranging between \$1,000 and \$40,000 per year, or a fee based on a percentage of plan assets ranging from .25% to 1.25%. Fees are payable billed quarterly in arrears.

Either party to the pension consulting agreement may terminate the agreement upon written notice to the other party in accordance with the terms of the agreement for services. The pension consulting fees will be prorated for the quarter in which the termination notice is given and any unearned fees will be refunded to the client.

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

As part of our investment advisory services, we may recommend that you use the services of a third party money manager ("MM") to manage all, or a portion of, your investment portfolio. After gathering information about your financial situation and objectives, we may recommend that you engage a specific MM or investment program. Factors that we take into consideration when making our recommendation(s) include, but are not limited to, the following: the MM's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will periodically monitor the MM(s)' performance to ensure its management and investment style remains aligned with your investment goals and objectives.

Advisory fees charged by MMs are separate and apart from our advisory fees. We will charge a fee in addition to the MM fee. Advisory fees that you pay to the MM are established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each MM to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. You should review the recommended MM's brochure and take into consideration the MM's fees along with our fees to determine the total amount of fees associated with this program.

You will be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended MM(s). You may terminate your advisory relationship with the MM according to the terms of your agreement with the MM. You should review each MM's brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the MM and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the MM directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the MM.

### **Wrap Fee Program(s)**

We are a portfolio manager to and sponsor of a wrap fee program, which is a type of investment program that provides clients with access to several money managers or mutual fund asset allocation models for a single fee that includes administrative fees, management fees, and commissions. If you participate in our wrap fee program, you will pay our firm a single fee, which includes our money management fees, certain transaction costs, and custodial and administrative costs. We receive a portion of the wrap fee for our services. The overall cost you will incur if you participate in our wrap fee program may be higher or lower than you might incur by separately purchasing the types of securities available in the program.

**Please Note:** This program is not open to new clients of our firm. For more information concerning the Wrap Fee Program, see *Appendix 1* to this Brochure.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on equity securities, warrants, corporate debt securities, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, mutual funds, ETFs, US Government securities, pension and profit sharing plans, options contracts on securities, and interests in partnerships investing in real estate and oil and gas.

Additionally, we may advise you on any type of investment that we deem appropriate 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.

You may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or certain types of securities. You must provide these restrictions to our firm in writing.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2016, we provide continuous management services for \$635,574,904 in client assets on a discretionary basis, and \$152,348,731 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this brochure for information on our advisory fees, fee deduction arrangements, and refund policy according to each service we offer.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded

funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You will also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through whom your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section of this brochure.

### **Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Certain persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives of Summit Brokerage Services, Inc., ("Summit"), a securities broker-dealer that is not affiliated with Summit Financial, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. In their capacity as registered representatives, these persons will receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by these persons in their capacities as registered representatives is separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase securities products through any person affiliated with our firm.

Certain persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as independent insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

### **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 possibly presents 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 70.5.
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.

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

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. 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 performance-based fees. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Advisory Business* 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

We offer investment advisory services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations, and other business entities.

In general, we require a minimum of \$50,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management.

For clients that utilize a Schwab Intelligent Portfolio account the minimum account size is \$5,000.

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

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 information for a particular security. This price and volume information is analyzed using mathematical equations. The resulting data is then applied to graphing charts, which is used to predict future price movements based on price patterns and trends.
- **Fundamental Analysis** - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.
- **Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns and trends in the financial markets to predict the direction of both the overall market and specific stocks.
- **Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Margin Transactions** - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.
- **Option Writing** - a securities transaction that involves selling an option. An option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. When an investor sells an option, he or she must deliver to the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. The seller pays the buyer a premium (the market price of the option at a particular time) in exchange for writing the option.

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 horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio.

The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that charts may not accurately 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. 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. The risk of cyclical analysis is that economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long term expansions and contractions. 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.

Long term purchases may also be affected by unforeseen long term changes in the company in which you are invested or in the overall market. Short term trading generally involves a greater degree of risk than long term trading due to market volatility over a short period of time.

We may use short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) as an investment strategy when managing your account(s). Short-term 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. However, frequent trading can negatively affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transactional costs and taxes.

We may use margin transactions and option writing in limited circumstances when we determine that it is suitable given your stated investment objectives and tolerance for risk. However, engaging in these types of transactions are not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy.

### **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.

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

As disclosed under the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure, we recommend all types of securities and we do not necessarily recommend one particular type of security over another 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 it.

## **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any reportable disciplinary information.

## **Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate from our advisory fees. Please 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.

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives of Summit Brokerage Services, Inc. ("Summit Brokerage"), an unaffiliated securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

### **Goodwood SMID Cap Discovery Fund**

Mr. Kenneth Vines, an investment adviser representative of Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC is a non-controlling, indirect owner of Goodwood Advisors, LLC a registered investment adviser to Goodwood SMID Cap Discovery Fund (the "Fund"), a series of the Starboard Investment Trust, a registered investment company. When suitable and consistent with our fiduciary obligations, our firm may recommend the Fund for client accounts and clients are hereby advised that Mr. Vines may have an incentive to recommend the Fund for clients over other investments given the common relationship of Mr. Vines as an associated person between the firms. For that reason the potential conflict of interest is addressed by requiring that one of the firm's investment adviser representatives, other than Mr. Vines, determine suitability for investment in the Fund. Summit Financial Wealth Advisors, LLC is wholly independent and has no economic interest in the Fund. The fees charged by our firm are separate and in addition to the fees charged by Goodwood Advisors, LLC for managing the Fund.

### **Focus Operating LLC & Focus Financial Partners LLC**

We are part of the Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus") partnership. As such, our firm is a wholly-owned by a subsidiary of Focus Operating, LLC ("Focus Operating"), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus. Focus also owns other registered investment advisers, broker-dealers, pension consultants, insurance firms, and other financial service firms (the "Focus Partners"). The Focus Partners provide wealth management, benefit and investment consulting services, serving individuals, families, employers, and institutions. Some Focus Partners also manage or advise limited partnerships, private funds, or investment companies as disclosed in their respective Form ADV. We have no business relationship with other Focus Partners that is material to our advisory business or our clients, and, therefore, we do not believe the Focus partnership presents a conflict of interest with our clients.

As noted above in response to Item 4, in July 2017, investment vehicles affiliated with Stone Point and KKR each made an investment in Focus. This transaction resulted in certain funds managed by Stone Point collectively becoming a principal owner of Focus and the KKR investment vehicles collectively becoming a minority owner in Focus. Because Summit Financial is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Focus, the Stone Point and KKR investment vehicles are indirect owners of Summit Financial. None of KKR, Stone Point or any of their affiliates participates in the management or investment recommendations of our business.

Summit Financial has recommended, or may in the future recommend, that clients invest in products or investment vehicles managed and/or sponsored directly by Stone Point, or KKR, or one of their respective affiliates (each vehicle, an "Owner-Affiliated Fund"). Any fees charged by Owner-Affiliated Funds will be paid indirectly or directly to Stone Point, KKR or their affiliates. Because Stone Point and KKR are each indirect owners of Summit Financial, Stone Point, KKR and/or their affiliates will benefit financially if Summit Financial recommends investments in the Owner-Affiliated Funds.

To mitigate the conflicts of interest that arise out of investments in Owner-Affiliated Funds, Summit Financial will only recommend such investments if they are in the best interests of the relevant client. In addition, prior to making an investment on behalf of a client in an Owner-Affiliated Fund that is managed or sponsored directly by Stone Point and/or one of its affiliates, Summit Financial will require the client to provide consent and will provide the client with additional disclosures concerning the conflicts of interest noted above.

### **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We may recommend that you use a third party adviser ("MM") based on your needs and suitability. We will not receive compensation from the MM for recommending that you use their services.

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

### **Description of Our Code of Ethics**

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All of our Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Our Code of Ethics also requires that certain persons associated with our firm submit reports of their personal account holdings and transactions to a qualified representative of our firm who will review these reports on a periodic basis. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

Clients or prospective clients may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

### **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm have the ability to 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 ("block trading"). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section in this brochure for information on our block 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 Associated Persons nor we shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## Item 12 Brokerage Practices

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives of Summit Brokerage will recommend Summit Brokerage to you for brokerage services. These individuals are subject to applicable rules that restrict them from conducting securities transactions away from Summit Brokerage unless Summit Brokerage provides the representative with written authorization to do so. Therefore, these individuals are generally limited to conducting securities transactions through Summit Brokerage. It may be the case that Summit Brokerage charges higher transactions costs and/or custodial fees than another broker charges for the same types of services. If transactions are executed through Summit Brokerage, these individuals (in their separate capacities as registered representatives of Summit Brokerage) may earn commission-based compensation as result of placing the recommended securities transactions through Summit Brokerage. This practice presents a conflict of interest because these registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. You may utilize the broker-dealer of your choice and have no obligation to purchase or sell securities through such broker as, we recommend. Please see the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by registered representatives who are affiliated with our firm.

In addition we recommend the brokerage and custodial services of TD Ameritrade, Inc., and Charles Schwab, Inc. ("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 soft dollar arrangements.

### **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 Summit Brokerage Services, Inc., TD Ameritrade, Inc., and/or Charles Schwab, Inc. 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.

### **Block Trades**

We combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for discretionary advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. Subject to our discretion regarding factual and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. In the event an order is only partially filled, the shares will be allocated to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner, typically in proportion to the size of each client's order. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

We do not block trade for non-discretionary accounts. Accordingly, non-discretionary accounts may pay different costs than discretionary accounts pay. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we may not be able to buy and sell the same quantities of securities for you and you may pay higher commissions, fees, and/or transaction costs than clients who enter into discretionary arrangements with our firm.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Investment adviser representatives of our firm will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least annually and upon your request to ensure that the advisory services provided to you are consistent with your stated investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- contributions and withdrawals,
- year-end tax planning,
- market moving events,
- security specific events, and/or,
- changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will not provide you with additional or regular written reports in conjunction with account reviews. In addition, 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, and are registered representatives with Summit Brokerage, a securities broker-dealer, and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the "Fees and Compensation" section.

Periodically Focus Financial Partners, LLC ("Focus"), our parent company, holds partnership meetings and other industry and best-practices conferences which typically include Focus firms and external attendees. These meetings are first and foremost intended to provide training or education to personnel of Focus firms, including Summit Financial. However, these meetings do provide sponsorship opportunities for asset managers, asset custodians, vendors and other third party service providers. Sponsorship fees allow these companies to advertise their products and services to Focus firms, including Summit Financial. Although participation of Focus personnel in these meetings is not preconditioned on the achievement of a sales target for any conference sponsor, this practice could nonetheless be deemed to be a conflict of interest as the marketing and education activities conducted, and the access granted, as such meetings and conference could cause Summit Financial to focus on such conference sponsors in the course of its duties. Focus attempts to mitigate any such conflict by allocating the sponsorship fees only to defraying the cost of the meeting or future meetings and not as revenue for itself or any affiliate, including Summit Financial. Conference sponsorship fees are not dependent on assets placed with any specific provider, or the revenue generated by asset placement.

The following entities have provided conference sponsorship to Focus in the last year:

Fidelity Brokerage Services  
J.P. Morgan Asset Management  
Charles G. Schwab & Co.  
Lord Abbett & Co.

## **Item 15 Custody**

As paying agent for our firm, your independent custodian will 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 independent, qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the independent, qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement, a power of attorney, and/or 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. Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

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 common stock or mutual funds, 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 solicitation to vote proxies.

## Item 18 Financial Information

We are not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not:

- require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees and six or more months in advance, or
- take custody of client funds or securities, or
- have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you.

## Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

We are an SEC registered investment adviser therefore this section does not apply.

## Item 20 Additional Information

### Your Privacy

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys. We are an affiliate of Focus Financial Partners, LLC and we and other affiliates of Focus share certain of your personal information with an unaffiliated third party for the purpose of aggregating it and providing summary information based on this data to our parent company Focus.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will not sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact our main office at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure if you have any questions regarding this policy.

**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 by the broker/dealer and charging our firm error account. If a trade error results in a profit, the trade error will be corrected in the client's account and the client will keep the profit.

**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.