

## ***Trust Tax Return Preparation***

### ***ENGAGEMENT LETTER***

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Dear Client:

This letter will serve to confirm our understanding whereby our firm has been retained by you, the trustee, in connection with tax services to be rendered to the Trust. Please read this letter carefully as it is important to both Arthur B. Stanley & Associates Inc (our firm) and you. It is very important that you understand and accept the terms under which we have agreed to perform our services, as well as your responsibilities under this agreement.

#### **Tax Services**

We will prepare the federal and state fiduciary income tax returns for the Trust for the tax year 2025, from information you provide.

You are confirming that you will furnish us with all the information required for preparing the returns. This includes, but is not limited to, providing us with the information necessary to identify (1) all states and foreign countries in which the trust “does business” or derives income (directly or indirectly), and (2) the extent of business operations in each relevant state and/or country. We will not audit or verify the data you submit, although we may ask you to clarify it, or furnish us with additional information. You should retain all the documents, books, and records that form the basis of the trust’s income and deductions. The documents may be necessary to prove the accuracy and completeness of the returns to a taxing authority. If you have any questions as to the type of records required, please ask us for advice in that regard.

Please note the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) considers virtual currency (e.g., Bitcoin) and other digital assets (e.g., NFTs) as property for U.S. federal tax purposes. As such, any transactions involving cryptoassets or transactions that use or exchange virtual currencies are subject to the same general tax principles that apply to other property transactions. If you had any cryptoasset or virtual currency activity during year 2025, you may be subject to tax consequences associated with such transactions and may have additional foreign reporting obligations.

You agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any transactions in cryptoassets or transactions using any virtual currencies during the applicable tax year. Please ask us for advice if you have any questions.

We will use our professional judgment in preparing your returns. Given the magnitude of recent tax law changes contained in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (“OBBA”) signed into law on July 4, 2025, additional stated guidance from the taxing authorities and possibly from Congress in the form of technical corrections or revisions to certain income tax provisions may be forthcoming. We will use our professional judgment and expertise to assist you, given the guidance as promulgated at the time our services are rendered. Subsequent changes in law, regulatory rulings, or interpretations by the applicable taxing authorities may affect the information we have previously provided, and these effects may be material. Whenever we are aware that a possibly

applicable tax law is unclear or that there are conflicting interpretations of the law by authorities (e.g., tax agencies and courts), we will share our knowledge and understanding of the possible positions that may be taken on your returns. In accordance with our professional standards, we will follow whatever position you request, if it is consistent with the codes, regulations, and interpretations that have been promulgated. If you desire a legal opinion before choosing among alternative tax positions, legal counsel should be separately retained for this purpose. We will work with you and your chosen legal counsel to the best of our abilities in giving you whatever information we have that may help you in your decision. You have the final responsibility for positions taken on the returns.

If a taxing authority should later contest the position taken, there may be an assessment of additional tax, interest and penalties. We assume no liability for any such assessment of additional tax, penalties or interest. In the event, however, that you ask us to take a tax position that in our professional judgment will not meet the applicable laws and standards as promulgated, we reserve the right to stop work and shall not be liable for any damages that occur because of ceasing to render services.

The law provides for a penalty to be imposed where taxpayers make a substantial understatement of their tax liability. Taxpayers may seek to avoid all or part of the penalty by showing (1) that they acted in good faith and there was reasonable cause for the understatement, (2) that the understatement was based on substantial authority, or (3) there was a reasonable basis for the position taken on the return and the relevant facts affecting the item's tax treatment were adequately disclosed on the return. You agree to advise us if you wish disclosure to be made in your return or if you wish for us to identify or perform further research with respect to any material tax issues for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in our opinion, there is "substantial authority" for the position proposed to be taken on such issues in your return.

**If you and/or your entity (includes estates and trusts) have a financial interest in, or signature authority over, any foreign accounts, you may be subject to certain filing requirements with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in addition to the IRS. Filing requirements may also apply to taxpayers that have direct or indirect control over a foreign or domestic entity with foreign financial accounts, even if the taxpayer does not have foreign accounts. By your signature below, you agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any foreign accounts that you and/or your entity may have had a direct or indirect interest in, or signature authority over, during the above referenced tax year. The foreign reporting requirements are very complex, so if you have any questions regarding the application of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and/or the IRS reporting requirements to your foreign interests or activities, please ask us for advice in that regard. Failure to disclose the required information to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the IRS may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties. We assume no liability for penalties associated with the failure to file or untimely filing of any of these forms.**

Our work in connection with the preparation of the trust tax returns does not include any procedures designed to discover fraud, defalcations, or other irregularities, should any exist.

By your signature below, you understand and agree that you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information provided to us for purposes of this engagement. You have the final responsibility for the income tax returns and, therefore, you should review them carefully before signing the e-file authorization forms or signing and submitting your tax returns directly to the appropriate taxing authorities. You agree that our firm is not responsible for a taxing authority's disallowance of deductions or inadequately supported documentation, nor for resulting taxes, penalties, and interest.

Our firm is responsible for preparing only the returns listed above. Any additional services will be covered under a separate engagement letter.

On March 25, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14247, titled Modernizing Payments to and from America's Bank Account ("Executive Order"), which applies broadly to payments involving federal agencies. This Executive Order addresses both tax payments and tax refunds and mandates that: (1) paper check refunds issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury be phased out, and (2) all tax payments to the federal government be made electronically. The IRS is expected to issue additional guidance and information prior to the 2026 filing season regarding the application of this Executive Order. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the implications of this Executive Order to your situation.

## **Fees**

**NEW CLIENTS:** Tax preparation fees are based on the complexity of the tax return and the services needed. Fee quotes are provided on an individual basis and agreed upon before any work begins.

**RETURNING CLIENTS:** We implement a standard fee increase once every 3 years to help cover rising operational costs. Outside of a significant change in your tax life, you can expect your fee to remain unchanged. If you are subject to a fee increase, you will be notified and asked to approve updated fee before any work begins.

Fees for services provided outside of this engagement letter will be billed at our standard hourly rates (provided upon request) and will be billed on an interim basis as the work progresses. Invoices are due upon receipt. If we have not received payment within 30 days, all work will be suspended until your account is brought current. Client acknowledges and agrees that in the event we stop work or withdraw from this engagement because of Client's failure to pay on a timely basis for services rendered as required by this engagement letter, we shall not be liable for any damages that occur because of our ceasing to render services.

Our fee does not include responding to inquiries or examination by taxing authorities. However, we are available to represent you. Our fees for such services are at our standard rates and would be covered under a separate engagement letter.

## **Other Matters**

Federal law has extended the attorney-client privilege to some, but not all, communications between a client and the client's CPA. The privilege applies only to non-criminal tax matters that are before the IRS or brought by or against the U.S. government in a federal court. The communications must be made in connection with tax advice. Communications solely concerning the preparation of a tax return will not be privileged.

In addition, the confidentiality privilege can be inadvertently waived if the contents of any privileged communication are discussed with a third party, such as a lending institution, a friend, or a business associate. We recommend that you contact us before releasing any privileged information to a third party.

If we are asked to disclose any privileged communication, unless we are required to disclose the communication by law, we will not provide such disclosure until you have had an opportunity to argue that the communication is privileged. You agree to pay all reasonable expenses that we incur, including legal fees, that are a result of attempts to protect any communication as privileged.

**Because of the importance of your oral and written representations to the effective performance of our services, Client releases and indemnifies Firm and its personnel from all claims, liabilities, costs, and expenses attributable to any misrepresentation by you or your representatives.**

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. We take reasonable measures to secure your confidential information in our email transmissions. However, as emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure or communication of email transmissions, or for the unauthorized use or failed delivery of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as lost profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

Depending on the circumstances and nature of the services we are providing and with your permission, we may share your confidential information with third-party service providers, some of whom may be cloud-based, but we remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality terms with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information

and will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. If we are unable to secure appropriate confidentiality terms with a third-party service provider, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Although we will use our best efforts to make the sharing of your information with such third parties secure from unauthorized access, no completely secure system for electronic data transfer exists. As such, by your signature below, you understand that the firm makes no warranty, expressed or implied, on the security of electronic data transfers.

Our firm may use generative artificial intelligence (“AI”) tools to improve efficiencies in areas such as tax and accounting research, document drafting, or other analysis to assist us with rendering services to you under the terms of this agreement. We have policies and procedures in place to ensure that any AI-generated content is subject to our firm’s strict quality control guidelines which include protocols for applying professional expertise, judgment, and oversight in the review and interpretation of any AI-generated content. In addition, we maintain reasonable safeguards to ensure responsible use of AI which includes strict adherence to the requirements set forth for confidentiality, privacy, security, and ethical use of AI in accordance with applicable laws and our professional standards.<sup>i</sup>

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for 7 years. However, our firm does not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. It is your responsibility to retain and protect your records (which includes any work product we provide to you as well as any records that we return) for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies. Our firm does not accept responsibility for hosting client information; therefore, you have the sole responsibility for ensuring you retain and maintain in your possession all your financial and non-financial information, data and records. By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the 7-year period, our firm shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

If any dispute arises among the parties hereto, the parties agree to first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation administered by an arbitration association under its applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes before resorting to litigation. The costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties.

Trustee and our firm both agree that any dispute over fees charged by our firm will be submitted for resolution by arbitration in accordance with the applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes of an arbitration association, except that under all circumstances the arbitrator must follow the laws of the applicable state(s). Such arbitration shall be binding and final. **In agreeing to arbitration, both parties acknowledge that in the event of a dispute over fees charged by our firm, each party is giving up the right to have the dispute decided in a court of law before a judge or jury and, instead, accept the use of arbitration for resolution.** The prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in connection with the arbitration of the dispute in an amount to be determined by the arbitrator.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know.

**If the foregoing is acceptable to you, please sign this letter and return it to us. Please note that you are affirming to our firm your understanding of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions of this engagement letter by any one of the following actions: returning your signed engagement letter to our firm, submitting this engagement letter through our website ([arthurstanleycpa.com](http://arthurstanleycpa.com)), providing your income tax information to us for use in the preparation of your returns, the submission of the tax returns we have prepared for you to the taxing authorities, or the payment of our return preparation fees.**

Sincerely,

Arthur B. Stanley, CPA  
Arthur B. Stanley & Associates, Inc.