Verticus Advisors Inc. Firm Brochure - Form ADV Part 2A

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Verticus Advisors Inc.. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (505) 363-1566 or by email at: rcooper@verticusadvisors.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Verticus Advisors Inc. is also available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. Verticus Advisors Inc.'s CRD number is: 333313.

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Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Version Date: 12/11/2024

Item 2: Material Changes			
Verticus Advisors Inc. has not yet filed an annual updating amendment using the Form ADV Part 2A. Therefore, there are no material changes to report.			
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Item 4: Advisory Business

A. Description of the Advisory Firm

Verticus Advisors Inc. (hereinafter "VAI") is a Corporation organized in the State of Utah. The firm was formed in May 2024 and became registered as an investment adviser in January 2025. The principal owner is Ryan Cooper.

B. Types of Advisory Services

Portfolio Management Services

VAI offers ongoing portfolio management services based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. VAI creates an Investment Policy Statement for each client, which outlines the client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Portfolio management services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Investment strategy
 Personal investment policy
- Asset allocation Asset selection
- Risk tolerance
 Regular portfolio monitoring

VAI evaluates the current investments of each client with respect to their risk tolerance levels and time horizon. VAI will require discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction. Risk tolerance levels are documented in the Investment Policy Statement, which is given to each client.

VAI seeks to provide that investment decisions are made in accordance with the fiduciary duties owed to its accounts and without consideration of VAI's economic, investment or other financial interests. To meet its fiduciary obligations, VAI attempts to avoid, among other things, investment or trading practices that systematically advantage or disadvantage certain client portfolios, and accordingly, VAI's policy is to seek fair and equitable allocation of investment opportunities/transactions among its clients to avoid favoring one client over another over time. It is VAI's policy to allocate investment opportunities and transactions it identifies as being appropriate and prudent among its clients on a fair and equitable basis over time.

Financial Planning

Financial plans and financial planning may include, but are not limited to: investment planning; life insurance; tax concerns; retirement planning; college planning; debt/credit planning; and tax preparation. Investment planning involves working with clients to make sure their investments match their respective risk tolerance and goals. Tax concerns

are addressed by working with the client to determine and compare effective tax rates for income, capital gains and other earnings or investments, then attempting to allocate the client's resources accordingly. Life insurance planning entails reviewing the life insurance and/or disability insurance needs of the client, together with any applicable dependents, spouse or other relatives, and assessing appropriate coverage for these individuals. College planning entails helping clients save for higher education, whether for the client or his/her children or other dependents, in the ideal manner to suit the client's overall financial goals and means. Financial planning to address retirement entails making sure clients are financially equipped for retirement in light of the client's anticipated income and expenses, investments, and other assets. Debt/credit planning consists of breaking down client budgets and aiding clients in decision-making as to current debt, anticipated significant expenses and potential debt, and avoiding excessive debt.

Each financial planning client will receive the financial plan upon completion. VAI offers a fixed fee for setup and an initial plan. After completion of the plan, clients can engage VAI on an hourly basis for changes to the plan or ad-hoc requests.

Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments

VAI generally limits its investment advice to mutual funds, fixed income securities, real estate funds (including REITs), equities, ETFs (including ETFs in the gold and precious metal sectors), treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds and non-U.S. securities.

Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

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

C. Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions

VAI offers the same suite of services to all of its clients. However, specific client investment strategies and their implementation are dependent upon the client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels). Clients may impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs. However, if the restrictions prevent VAI from properly servicing the client account, or if the restrictions would require VAI to deviate from its standard suite of services, VAI reserves the right to end the relationship.

D. Wrap Fee Programs

A wrap fee program is an investment program where the investor pays one stated fee that includes management fees and transaction costs. VAI does not participate in wrap fee programs.

E. Assets Under Management

VAI has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$0	\$0	December 11, 2024

Item 5: Fees and Compensation

A. Fee Schedule

Portfolio Management Fees

Total Assets Under Management	Annual Fees	Quarterly Fee
\$1 - \$500,000	1.35%	0.3375%
\$500,001 - \$5,000,000	0.95%	0.2375%
\$5,000,001 - AND UP	0.65%	0.1625%

The advisory fee is calculated using the value of the assets in the Account on the last business day of the prior billing period.

The fee schedule is a blended tier schedule. Please see below for example.

<u>Fee formula description</u>: For purposes of calculating the client's portfolio management fees described above, an example is offered below for a sample \$750,000 account:

- For that portion of the client's account(s) up to \$500,000 the adviser will charge an annual fee of 1.35% as described above, resulting in an annual fee of \$6,750 on the first \$500,000; plus
- For that portion of the client's account(s) exceeding \$500,000 but not exceeding \$750,000, the adviser will charge an annual fee of 0.95% as described above, resulting in an annual fee of \$2,375 on the portion between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

This would result in a total annual fee of \$9,125 on the sample \$750,000 account

The use of the blended fee schedule represents a conflict of interest for VAI in that the blended fee schedule results in higher fees for VAI than are collected by advisers who use a breakpoint schedule for the same or similar services. Fees that are charged through a blended fee schedule result in additional revenue for the adviser as the value of the account increases. Although new money or increases in the accounts values may be managed at lower rates, the total values of assets in the earlier tiers continue to be managed at their initial higher rates. Higher asset under management fees may have an adverse effect on client returns and client portfolios over time.

These fees are negotiable and the final fee schedule will be memorialized in the client's advisory agreement. Fees charged are negotiable based upon the type of client, the complexity of the client's situation, and the relationship of the client with the investment advisor representative. Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty for a full refund of VAI's fees within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Investment Advisory Contract upon written notice.

Financial Planning Fees

Fixed Fees

The negotiated fixed rate for creating client financial plans is between \$1,500 and \$5,000. Fees charged are negotiable based upon the type of client, the complexity of the client's situation, the relationship of the client with the investment advisor representative, and the other services that VAI may provide to the client.

Hourly Fees

The hourly fee for these services is \$200. The hourly rate is non-negotiable.

Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty, for full refund of VAI's fees, within five business days of signing the Financial Planning Agreement. Thereafter, clients may terminate the Financial Planning Agreement generally upon written notice.

B. Payment of Fees

Payment of Portfolio Management Fees

Asset-based portfolio management fees are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client's written authorization on a quarterly basis. Fees are paid in advance.

Payment of Financial Planning Fees

Financial planning fees are paid via check and wire.

Fixed financial planning fees are paid 100% in advance, but never more than six months in advance.

Hourly financial planning fees are paid in arrears upon completion.

C. Client Responsibility For Third Party Fees

Clients are responsible for the payment of all third party fees (i.e. custodian fees, brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.). Those fees are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by VAI. Please see Item 12 of this brochure regarding broker-dealer/custodian.

D. Prepayment of Fees

VAI collects fees in advance. Refunds for fees paid in advance but not yet earned will be refunded on a prorated basis and returned within fourteen days to the client via check, or return deposit back into the client's account.

For all asset-based fees paid in advance, the fee refunded will be equal to the balance of the fees collected in advance minus the daily rate* times the number of days elapsed in the billing period up to and including the day of termination. (*The daily rate is calculated by dividing the annual asset-based fee rate by 365.)

VAI collects fixed financial planning fees 100% in advance. The hourly rate will be used to calculate the refund based on the amount of work/hours completed at the point of termination.

E. Outside Compensation For the Sale of Securities to Clients

Neither VAI nor its supervised persons accept any compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

VAI does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

Item 7: Types of Clients

VAI generally provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- High-Net-Worth Individuals

There is no account minimum for any of VAI's services.

Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies, & Risk of Loss

A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

Methods of Analysis

VAI's methods of analysis include Fundamental analysis and Modern portfolio theory.

Fundamental analysis involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

Modern portfolio theory is a theory of investment that attempts to maximize portfolio expected return for a given amount of portfolio risk, or equivalently minimize risk for a given level of expected return, each by carefully choosing the proportions of various asset.

Investment Strategies

VAI uses long term trading.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

B. Material Risks Involved

Methods of Analysis

Fundamental analysis concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

Modern portfolio theory assumes that investors are risk averse, meaning that given two portfolios that offer the same expected return, investors will prefer the less risky one. Thus, an investor will take on increased risk only if compensated by higher expected returns. Conversely, an investor who wants higher expected returns must accept more risk. The exact trade-off will be the same for all investors, but different investors will evaluate the trade-off differently based on individual risk aversion characteristics. The implication is that a rational investor will not invest in a portfolio if a second portfolio exists with a more favorable risk-expected return profile – i.e., if for that level of risk an alternative portfolio exists which has better expected returns.

Investment Strategies

Long term trading is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

C. Risks of Specific Securities Utilized

Clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any investment strategy. The investment types listed below (leaving aside Treasury Inflation Protected/Inflation Linked Bonds) are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency.

Mutual Funds: Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature.

Equity investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and/or capital gains if the value of the stock increases. The value of equity securities may fluctuate in response to specific situations for each company, industry conditions and the general economic environments.

Fixed income investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured

products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs): An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, similar to stocks. Investing in ETFs carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Areas of concern include the lack of transparency in products and increasing complexity, conflicts of interest and the possibility of inadequate regulatory compliance. Risks in investing in ETFs include trading risks, liquidity and shutdown risks, risks associated with a change in authorized participants and non-participation of authorized participants, risks that trading price differs from indicative net asset value (iNAV), or price fluctuation and disassociation from the index being tracked. With regard to trading risks, regular trading adds cost to your portfolio thus counteracting the low fees that one of the typical benefits of ETFs. Additionally, regular trading to beneficially "time the market" is difficult to achieve. Even paid fund managers struggle to do this every year, with the majority failing to beat the relevant indexes. With regard to liquidity and shutdown risks, not all ETFs have the same level of liquidity. Since ETFs are at least as liquid as their underlying assets, trading conditions are more accurately reflected in implied liquidity rather than the average daily volume of the ETF itself. Implied liquidity is a measure of what can potentially be traded in ETFs based on its underlying assets. ETFs are subject to market volatility and the risks of their underlying securities, which may include the risks associated with investing in smaller companies, foreign securities, commodities, and fixed income investments (as applicable). Foreign securities in particular are subject to interest rate, currency exchange rate, economic, and political risks, all of which are magnified in emerging markets. ETFs that target a small universe of securities, such as a specific region or market sector, are generally subject to greater market volatility, as well as to the specific risks associated with that sector, region, or other focus. ETFs that use derivatives, leverage, or complex investment strategies are subject to additional risks. Precious Metal ETFs (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Palladium Bullion backed "electronic shares" not physical metal) specifically may be negatively impacted by several unique factors, among them (1) large sales by the official sector which own a significant portion of aggregate world holdings in gold and other precious metals, (2) a significant increase in hedging activities by producers of gold or other precious metals, (3) a significant change in the attitude of speculators and investors. The return of an index ETF is usually different from that of the index it tracks because of fees, expenses, and tracking error. An ETF may trade at a premium or discount to its net asset value (NAV) (or indicative value in the case of exchange-traded notes). The degree of liquidity can vary significantly from one ETF to another and losses may be magnified if no liquid market exists for the ETF's shares when attempting to sell them.

Each ETF has a unique risk profile, detailed in its prospectus, offering circular, or similar material, which should be considered carefully when making investment decisions.

Real estate funds (including REITs) face several kinds of risk that are inherent in the real estate sector, which historically has experienced significant fluctuations and cycles in performance. Revenues and cash flows may be adversely affected by: changes in local real estate market conditions due to changes in national or local economic conditions or changes in local property market characteristics; competition from other properties offering the same or similar services; changes in interest rates and in the state of the debt and equity credit markets; the ongoing need for capital improvements; changes in real estate tax rates and other operating expenses; adverse changes in governmental rules and fiscal policies; adverse changes in zoning laws; the impact of present or future environmental legislation and compliance with environmental laws.

Non-U.S. securities present certain risks such as currency fluctuation, political and economic change, social unrest, changes in government regulation, differences in accounting and the lesser degree of accurate public information available.

Cryptocurrency investing refers to trading in digital/virtual currencies, such as Bitcoin, that are not back by real assets or tangible securities and are more volatile than traditional currencies and financial assets. Digital currency is a digital representation of value that functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value, but it does not have legal tender status. Digital currency is not backed or supported by any government or central bank. Digital currency's price is completely derived by market forces of supply and demand, traded between consenting parties with no broker and tracked on digital ledgers commonly known as blockchains. Investing in digital currency comes with significant risk of loss that a client should be prepared to bear and, due to the nature of cryptocurrencies, clients are exposed to the risks normally associated with investing but also unique risks not typical of investing in traditional securities. These, include, but are not limited to, volatile market price swings or flash crashes, market manipulation, economic, regulatory, technical, and cybersecurity risks. Please also see below for additional description/properties:

- Unregulated Digital currency markets and exchanges are not regulated with the same controls or customer protections available in fixed income, equity, option, futures, or foreign exchange investing.
- Increased Price Volatility The price of cryptocurrency is constantly fluctuating. Trade or balance can surge or drop suddenly. Price can drop to zero.
- Susceptible to Error/Hacking Technical glitches, human error and hacking can occur, which typically do not affect traditional securities to the same extent.
- Forks This implies a splitting of the chain on which the cryptocurrency runs, which makes it go in a different direction, with different rules than the existing blockchain.
 - Soft Fork only a protocol change; the cryptocurrency still continues to work on the original blockchain rules.
 - Hard Fork a permanent divergence in the blockchain.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

Item 9: Disciplinary Information

A. Criminal or Civil Actions

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

B. Administrative Proceedings

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

C. Self-regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

A. Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative

Neither VAI nor its representatives are registered as, or have pending applications to become, a broker/dealer or a representative of a broker/dealer.

B. Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor

Neither VAI nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become either a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Advisor or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

C. Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests

Ryan Thomas Cooper is an accountant and from time to time, may offer clients advice or products from those activities and clients should be aware that these services may involve a conflict of interest. VAI always acts in the best interest of the client and clients are in no way required to utilize the services of any representative of VAI in connection with such individual's activities outside of VAI.

Neither VAI nor its representatives have any other material relationships to this advisory business that would present a possible conflict of interest.

D. Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is Compensated for Those Selections

VAI does not utilize nor select third-party investment advisers.

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

A. Code of Ethics

VAI has a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. VAI's Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

B. Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests

VAI does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which a related person to VAI or VAI has a material financial interest.

C. Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients

From time to time, representatives of VAI may buy or sell securities for themselves that they also recommend to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of VAI to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. VAI will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage when similar securities are being bought or sold.

D. Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities

From time to time, representatives of VAI may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of VAI to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest; however, VAI will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage if representatives of VAI buy or sell securities at or around the same time as clients.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

A. Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker/Dealers

Custodians/broker-dealers will be recommended based on VAI's duty to seek "best execution," which is the obligation to seek execution of securities transactions for a client on the most favorable terms for the client under the circumstances. Clients will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent, and VAI may also consider the market expertise and research access provided by the broker-dealer/custodian, including but not limited to access to written research, oral communication with analysts, admittance to research conferences and other resources provided by the brokers that may aid in VAI's research efforts. VAI will never charge a premium or commission on transactions, beyond the actual cost imposed by the broker-dealer/custodian.

VAI will require clients to use SEI Investments Management Corp.

1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

While VAI has no formal soft dollars program in which soft dollars are used to pay for third party services, VAI may receive research, products, or other services from custodians and broker-dealers in connection with client securities transactions ("soft dollar benefits"). VAI may enter into soft-dollar arrangements consistent with (and not outside of) the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. There can be no assurance that any particular client will benefit from soft dollar research, whether or not the client's transactions paid for it, and VAI does not seek to allocate benefits to client accounts proportionate to any soft dollar credits generated by the accounts. VAI benefits by not having to produce or pay for the research, products or services, and VAI will have an incentive to recommend a broker-dealer based on receiving research or services. Clients should be aware that VAI's acceptance of soft dollar benefits may result in higher commissions charged to the client.

2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

VAI receives no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

VAI will require clients to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. Not all advisers require clients to use a particular broker-dealer.

B. Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

If VAI buys or sells the same securities on behalf of more than one client, then it may (but would be under no obligation to) aggregate or bunch such securities in a single transaction for multiple clients in order to seek more favorable prices, lower brokerage commissions, or more efficient execution. In such case, VAI would place an aggregate order with the broker on behalf of all such clients in order to ensure fairness for all clients; provided, however, that trades would be reviewed periodically to ensure that accounts are not systematically disadvantaged by this policy. VAI would determine the appropriate number of shares and select the appropriate brokers consistent with its duty to seek best execution, except for those accounts with specific brokerage direction (if any).

Item 13: Review of Accounts

A. Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews and Who Makes Those Reviews

All client accounts for VAI's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis are reviewed at least Quarterly by Ryan Cooper, President, with regard to clients' respective investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at VAI are assigned to this reviewer.

All financial planning accounts are reviewed upon financial plan creation and plan delivery by Ryan Cooper, President. Financial planning clients are provided a one-time financial plan concerning their financial situation. After the presentation of the plan, there are no further reports. Clients may request additional plans or reports for a fee.

B. Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

With respect to financial plans, VAI's services will generally conclude upon delivery of the financial plan.

C. Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients

Each client of VAI's advisory services provided on an ongoing basis will receive a quarterly report detailing the client's account, including assets held, asset value, and fees. This written report will come from the custodian.

Each financial planning client will receive the financial plan upon completion.

Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

A. Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients (Includes Sales Awards or Other Prizes)

Other than soft dollar benefits as described in Item 12 above and the benefits below in Item 14, VAI does not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly from any third party for advice rendered to VAI's clients.

VAI has access to a variety of economic benefits, services, and products in connection with VAI's use of SEI's investment adviser platform. The terms and availability of these benefits vary among advisors on the SEI platform (including VAI) depending on the business conducted with SEI and other factors. These services generally help VAI conduct its advisory business, but each specific benefit does not necessarily benefit each client.

Beyond access to SEI investment products, these include conferences, seminars and other educational and networking activities, business entertainment, reimbursement of travel and attendance expenses, research and other investment support services (such as client proposal and other financial planning support), technical and operational solutions (including the SEI Wealth Platform), marketing assistance (including joint marketing designed to promote SEI' investment products), compliance services, human resources consulting, risk management/insurance assistance, front office, middle office, back office and other administrative support (including providing clerical staff to assist in the completion of required paperwork), SEI attendance at client meetings, information technology services, continuity and succession planning, access to financing and banking options, trust services, portfolio reporting, automatic rebalancing, tax loss harvesting, waiver or payment of certain fees (including paying account transfer fees or other charges that VAI or its clients would incur when changing service providers), vendor discounts, discount pricing on SEI services, and broader practice management consulting. These benefits may be provided via SEI, its affiliates, or third parties and may be made available to VAI at no fee, at a discounted fee, or via financial compensation provided by SEI. Some of these offerings depend on VAI conducting a minimum amount or type of current or expected future business with SEI, or having a minimum account size or amount of assets under management with SEI or invested in SEI investment products. Certain of these services or products, including those provided by or paid for by SEI, may be used by VAI in connection with its general business activities, in addition to supporting VAI's

interaction with SEI systems. The benefits, services, products, or payments discussed herein may be significant to VAI and create an incentive for the VAI to utilize SEI services or investment products for its customers rather than other service providers or investment products. However, VAI strives at all times to put the interests of its clients first, including when selecting custodians or investment products for clients. VAI is independently owned and operated; it is not affiliated with SEI.

B. Compensation to Non - Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals

VAI does not directly or indirectly compensate any person for client referrals.

Item 15: Custody

When advisory fees are deducted directly from client accounts at client's custodian, VAI will be deemed to have limited custody of client's assets and must have written authorization from the client to do so. Clients will receive all account statements from SEI Investments Management Corp and billing invoices from VAI. They should carefully review those statements for accuracy.

Item 16: Investment Discretion

VAI provides discretionary investment advisory services to clients. The advisory contract established with each client sets forth the discretionary authority for trading. Where investment discretion has been granted, VAI generally manages the client's account and makes investment decisions without consultation with the client as to when the securities are to be bought or sold for the account, the total amount of the securities to be bought/sold, what securities to buy or sell, or the price per share. Clients may, but typically do not, impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs.

Item 17: Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)

VAI will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Clients will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Clients should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

Item 18: Financial Information

A. Balance Sheet

VAI neither requires nor solicits prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance, and therefore is not required to include a balance sheet with this brochure.

B. Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients

Neither VAI nor its management has any financial condition that is likely to reasonably impair VAI's ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

C. Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years

VAI has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition in the last ten years.

Item 19: Requirements For State Registered Advisers

A. Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons; Their Formal Education and Business Background

VAI currently has only one management person: Ryan Thomas Cooper. Education and business background can be found on the individual's Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement.

B. Other Businesses in Which This Advisory Firm or its Personnel are Engaged and Time Spent on Those (If Any)

Ryan Thomas Cooper does engage in other business activity. Other business activities for each relevant individual can be found on the Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement for each such individual and in Item 10C of this brochure.

VAI is not actively engaged in any other business activities (other than giving investment advice).

C. Calculation of Performance-Based Fees and Degree of Risk to Clients

VAI not its supervised persons, does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

D. Material Disciplinary Disclosures for Management Persons of this Firm

There are no civil, self-regulatory organization, or arbitration proceedings to report under this section.

E. Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities (If Any)

See Item 10.C and 11.B.