

# Item 1 – Introduction

S.F. Ehrlich Associates, Inc. ("we" or "us") is registered with the Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an investment adviser. Our services and compensation structure differ from a registered broker-dealer, and it is important for you to understand the differences between those structures. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at <u>www.investor.gov/CRS</u>. The site also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers and investing. The italicized sentences appearing in text boxes below are intended to be "conversation starters" for you to have with us, as required by the instructions to Form CRS.

# Item 2 – Relationships and Services

## What investment services and advice can you provide me?

We offer to provide discretionary portfolio management, financial planning and consulting services to individuals and their trusts and estates (our "retail investors"). We manage portfolios based on each client's unique investment objectives, risk tolerance, investment time horizon, withdrawal requirements, and other special circumstances. We monitor portfolios periodically and make changes to them as we determine necessary. We manage portfolios on a discretionary basis, which means we have the authority to buy and sell investments in your account without speaking to you before doing so. However, you can place reasonable restrictions on the securities that we buy by notifying us, in writing. We do not have to limit the type of securities we trade for retail investors to proprietary products or a limited group or type of investment, but we generally construct and manage portfolios consisting primarily of exchange-listed securities, mutual funds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), individual bonds and bond funds, cash and cash equivalents. A minimum fee of \$5,000 and a minimum asset level of \$500,000 of assets under management is required for investment advisory services. These minimums may be negotiable under certain circumstances.

We may also agree to provide financial planning and consulting services as part of our investment advisory services without additional charge, or on a stand-alone separate fee basis. When we provide those services to a retail investor, we rely upon the information they provide and do not verify or monitor that information while or after providing these services. Our financial planning consulting services are completed upon the communication of our recommendations to the retail investor or delivery of a written financial plan.

*For more detailed information* about our Advisory Business and the Types of Clients we generally service, please see Items 4 and 7, respectively in our <u>ADV Part 2A Brochure</u>.

Conversation Starters:

Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Why or why not?
How will you choose investments to recommend to me?
What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these
qualifications mean?

# Item 3 – Fees, Costs, Conflicts, and Standard of Conduct

# What fees will I pay?

We provide services and receive fees only from you. We do not accept commissions from third parties in connection with the investment advice we give. For portfolio management services, and with certain exceptions described in Item 5 in our ADV Part 2A Brochure, the annual fee will typically be charged as a percentage of assets under management at the tiered rate of 1.00% per year for assets up to \$1,000,000 and 0.75% per year for remaining assets above \$1,000,000. Because our fee is based on the amount of your assets under our management, the more assets you designate to us for management, the more you will pay us for our services. Therefore, we have an incentive to encourage you to increase the amount of assets that you designate for our management. Our financial planning and consulting fees range between \$500 and \$5,000 on a fixed fee basis. We either deduct our fees from one or more of your investment accounts or bill you for our services quarterly in arrears. *For more detailed information* about our investment advisory fees, please see Item 5 in our <u>ADV Part 2A Brochure</u>.

Your account will be held with a qualified custodian. You will also be responsible for the fees and expenses charged by qualified custodians and imposed by broker dealers according to their fee schedules. Those fees and expenses include but are not limited to, transaction charges, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. In addition, if your assets are invested in mutual funds, ETFs, or other registered and unregistered investment companies, you will bear your pro rata share of the investment management fees and other fees of the funds,

A copy of our Form ADV Part 2A is available by selecting "Part 2 Brochures" at: <u>https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/firm/summary/121356</u>.

which are in addition to the fees you pay us. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus or other offering documents. *You will pay fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying. For more detailed information about our fees and costs related to our management of your account, please see Item 5 in our <u>ADV Part 2A Brochure</u>.* 

#### Conversation Starters:

Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?

# What are your legal obligations to me when acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the investment advice we provide you. Here are some examples to help you understand what this means:

\* We may recommend a particular custodian from whom we receive support services. This presents a conflict of interest, because our receipt of their support makes us more inclined to continue using and recommending them.

\* We may recommend rollovers out of employer-sponsored retirement plans and into Individual Retirement Accounts that we manage for an asset-based fee. If we don't currently manage your account held with your employer's plan, this will increase our compensation.

#### Conversation Starters:

How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?

For more detailed information about our conflicts of interest, please review Items 4, 11, and 12 of ADV Part 2A Brochure.

#### How do your financial professionals make money?

Our financial professionals are generally compensated on a salary basis and are eligible to receive additional income as described below. One of our financial professionals is an equity owner of the firm, who stands to receive a share of the firm's annual profits. A portion of our financial professionals' additional income is based on the value of client assets under management. Therefore, their compensation may be contingent on the acquisition of new clients and the growth of their assets. This presents a conflict of interest because it incentivizes our financial professionals to recommend that you place additional assets under our management. We mitigate that conflict by making investment recommendations in conformity with each client's investment objectives. You should discuss your financial professional's compensation directly with your financial professional.

#### Item 4 – Disciplinary History

### Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?

Yes. We encourage you to visit <u>www.Investor.gov/CRS</u> for a free and simple search tool to research our firm and our financial professionals.

#### Conversation Starters:

As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history. For what type of conduct?

#### Item 5 – Additional Information

Additional information about our firm is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. You may contact our Chief Compliance Officer to request a current copy of our <u>ADV Part 2A Brochure</u> or our relationship summary. Our Chief Compliance Officer may be reached by phone at 908-789-1100.

#### Conversation Starters:

Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?