Item 1: Cover Page for Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure February 2023

CBL Wealth Management 18564 US Highway 18 Suite 205 Unit B1 Apple Valley, Ca. 92307

CRD #289564

Firm Contact: Christopher Lindsay Chief Compliance Officer

**Firm Website Address:** 

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of CBL Wealth Management If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at 760-214-9146 or email <u>CBLindsayWealthManagement@gma</u>il.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 CBL Wealth Management also is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>.

Please note that the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of CBL Wealth Management and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Brochure and Brochure Supplements for our firm's associates who advise you for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

# Item 2: Material Changes to Our Part 2A of Form ADV: Firm Brochure

CBL Wealth Management is required to advise you of any material changes to our Firm Brochure ("Brochure") from our last annual update, identify those changes on the cover page of our Brochure or on the page immediately following the cover page, or in a separate communication accompanying our Brochure. We must state clearly that we are discussing only material changes since the last annual update of our Brochure, and we must provide the date of the last annual update of our Brochure. Please note that we do not have to provide this information to a client or prospective client who has not received a previous version of our brochure.

Effective December 31, 2022 CBLWM has moved to a new address: 18564 US Highway 18 Suite 205, unit B1, Apple Valley, Ca. 92307.

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#### **Item 4: Advisory Business**

We specialize in the following types of services: Asset Management, Financial Planning & Consulting. Our assets under management are \$22,764,866 as of December 31, 2022. All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238(k) are disclosed below regarding our firm, our representatives or our employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice. To comply with CCR Section 260.238(j), we disclose that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

# A. <u>Description of our advisory firm, including how long we have been in business and our principal</u> <u>owner(s).</u>

We are dedicated to providing individuals and other types of clients with a wide array of investment advisory services. Our firm is a Sole Proprietor formed in the State of California. Our firm has been in business as an investment adviser since 2017 and is wholly owned by Mr. Christopher Lindsay.

#### B. Description of the Types of Advisory Services We Offer.

#### (i) Asset Management:

We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), options, mutual funds and other public and private securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be initially designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least quarterly and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals, market valuations and objectives. Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio.

#### (ii) Financial Planning & Consulting:

We provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services will involve preparing a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Planning, Education Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Segregation Study, Corporate Structure, Planning, Cost Real Estate Analysis, Mortgage/Debt Analysis, Insurance Analysis, Lines of Credit Evaluation, Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Our written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise

Investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. It should also be noted that we refer clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialist, as necessary for non-advisory related services. For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations as the process is less formal than our planning service. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client. CCR Section 260.235.2 requires that we disclose to our financial planning clients that a conflict of interest exists between us and our clients. The client is under no obligation to act upon the investment adviser's recommendation. If the client elects to act on our recommendations, the client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through us.

#### (iii) Educational Seminars and/or workshops:

We offer ongoing educational opportunities to our clients, prospective clients and community at large. We do this through the use of seminars and/or workshops designed to increase understanding of relevant investment topics. Topics covered include: General Retirement planning concepts, Basic Financial Planning concepts, Planned Giving and philanthropy, Basic Insurance and annuity concepts (non-product specific) and General Investment and/or market updates.

- C. <u>Explanation of whether (and, if so, how) we tailor our advisory services to the individual needs</u> of clients, whether clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.
  - (i) Individual Tailoring of Advice to Clients:

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Asset Management service. Additionally, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing the following services offered by our firm: Financial Planning & Consulting.

# (ii) <u>Ability of Clients to Impose Restrictions on Investing in Certain Securities or Types of Securities:</u>

Each client has the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in the portfolio. Restrictions on investments in certain securities or types of securities may not be possible due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing the account. Restrictions would be limited to our Asset Management services. We do not manage assets through our other services.

D. Participation in Wrap Fee Programs.

We do not offer wrap fee programs.

E. <u>Disclosure of the amount of client assets we manage on a discretionary basis and the amount of client assets we manage on a non-discretionary basis as of December 31, 2020.</u>

We manage<sup>1</sup> \$16,496,036 on a discretionary basis and \$6,268,830.73 on a non-discretionary basis.

### Item 5: Fees & Compensation

We are required to describe our brokerage, custody, fees, and fund expenses so you will know how much you are charged and by whom our advisory services are provided to you. Our fees are generally not negotiable.

- A. <u>Description of how we are compensated for our advisory services provided to you.</u>
  - (i) Asset Management:

Assets Under Management	Annual Percentage	Quarterly
\$0 to \$500,000	1.50%	0.3750%
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	1.25%	0.3125%
\$1,000,001 to \$5,000,000	1.00%	0.250%
\$5,000,001 to \$10,000,000	0.90%	0.225%
\$10,000,001 or more	Negotiable	

Our firm's fees are billed on a quarterly pro-rata annualized basis. Fee calculations will be based on the value of your account on the last day of the previous quarter. The fee assessed and applicable billing cycle will be outlined in the client's signed agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Please note that our method for computing the amount of "client assets we manage" can be different from the method for computing "assets under management" required for Item 5.F in Part 1A of Form ADV. However, we have chosen to follow the method outlined for Item 5.F in Part 1A of Form ADV. If we decide to use a different method at a later date to compute "client assets we manage," we must keep documentation describing the method we use and inform you of the change. The amount of assets we manage may be disclosed by rounding to the nearest \$100,000. Our "as of" date must not be more than three months before the date we last updated our Brochure in response to Item 4.E of Form ADV Part 2A.

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#### (ii) Financial Planning & Consulting:

We charge on an hourly or flat fee basis for financial planning and consulting services. The total estimated fee, as well as the ultimate fee that we charge you, is based on the scope and complexity of our engagement with you. The minimum fee for financial planning will be \$350. Our hourly fees range from \$150 to \$350 for financial advice/consultation. Flat fees for consulting will generally range from \$350 to \$5,000.

#### (iii) Educational Seminars and/or Workshops:

Educational Seminars and/or Workshops are offered to clients, prospective clients and the community at no charge or fee. Seminars and/or Workshops are intended to provide basic educational background and/or increase investor understanding. No products or services will be sold.

#### B. Description of whether we deduct fees from clients' assets or bill clients for fees incurred.

#### (i) Asset Management:

Fees will be deducted from your managed account. In rare cases, we will agree to directly bill clients. As part of this process, you understand and acknowledge the following:

- a) Your independent custodian sends statements at least quarterly to you showing the market values for each security included in the Assets and all disbursements in your account including the amount of the advisory fees paid to us;
- b) You provide authorization permitting us to be directly paid by these terms;
- c) We send a copy of our invoice to the independent custodian at the same time we send the invoice to you;
- d) Our invoice includes a legend that urges the client to compare information provided in their statements with those from the qualified custodian in account opening notices and subsequent statements sent to the client for whom the adviser opens custodial accounts with the qualified custodian.

#### (ii) Financial Planning & Consulting:

We may require a retainer of fifty-percent (50%) of the ultimate financial planning or consulting fee with the remainder of the fee directly billed to you and due to us within thirty (30) days of your financial plan being delivered or consultation rendered to you. In all cases, we will not require a retainer exceeding \$500 when services cannot be rendered within 6 (six) months.

#### (iii) <u>Referrals to Third Party Money Managers:</u>

We do not refer to Third Party Money Managers

C. <u>Description of any other types of fees or expenses clients may pay in connection with our</u> advisory services, such as custodian fees or mutual fund expenses.

Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees and will be disclosed by the firm that the trades are executed through. Also, clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, which we do not receive any part of: charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses).

D. <u>We must disclose if client's advisory fees are due quarterly in advance. Explain how a client may obtain a refund of a pre-paid fee if the advisory contract is terminated before the end of the billing period. Explain how you will determine the amount of the refund.</u>

We charge our advisory fees quarterly in advance. Termination of services must be done so in writing. Upon receipt of termination, we will begin the process of closing out your account with our firm. If charged in advance, you will receive a pro-rata refund of unearned advisory fees. If advisory fees cannot be deducted, our firm will send an invoice for due advisory fees to the client.

E. <u>Commissionable Securities Sales</u>.

We do not sell securities for a commission. In order to sell securities for a commission, we would need to have our associated persons registered with a broker-dealer. We have chosen not to do so.

# Item 6: Performance-Based Fees & Side-By-Side Management

We do not charge performance fees to our clients.

# Item 7: Types of Clients & Account Requirements

We have the following types of clients:

- Individuals and High Net worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans;
- Corporations, Limited Liability Companies and/or Other Business Types

Our requirements for opening and maintaining accounts or otherwise engaging us:

- We do not have any minimum required to open or maintain an account.
- We generally charge a minimum fee of \$500 for written financial plans. The Advisor may at their sole discretion offer a discount or charge less than the typical minimum.

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

A. <u>Description of the methods of analysis and investment strategies we use in formulating investment advice or managing assets.</u>

Methods of Analysis:

- **Charting:** In this type of technical analysis, we review charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict when how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.
- **Cyclical Analysis:** In this type of technical analysis, we measure the movements of a particular stock against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.
- **Fundamental Analysis:** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell). Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.
- **Technical Analysis:** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement. Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

# Investment Strategies We Use:

Our investment policy is based on five basic rules of investing; diversify, buy value – sell expensive, identify risks and take steps to reduce them, control costs, and have a personalized plan. Our strategy is based on an understanding that risks and opportunities associated with various asset class's change constantly as a result of changes in the market and economic conditions. We believe it is vital to maintain adequate liquidity at all times and to tactically adjust asset allocations as market and economic conditions change.

We utilize an investor profile to obtain detailed client information and document client risk tolerances and investment objectives. Information is reviewed annually (or as needed) and changes to client objectives or tolerances are noted. Included on the investor profile is a section used to determine maximum risk tolerances, including a description of desired stock/bond allocations.

• **Long-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, we may purchase securities with the idea of holding them for a relatively long time (typically held for at least a year). A risk in a

long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantages of short-term gains that could be profitable to a client. Moreover, if our predictions are incorrect, a security may decline sharply in value before we make the decision to sell. Typically we employ this sub-strategy when we believe the securities to be well valued; and/or we want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

- **Short-Term Purchases:** When utilizing this strategy, we may also purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities we purchase.
- **Short Sales:** We borrow shares of a stock for your portfolio from someone who owns the stock on a promise to replace the shares on a future date at a certain price. Those borrowed shares are then sold. On the agreed-upon future date, we buy the same stock and return the shares to the original owner. We engage in short selling based on our determination that the stock will go down in price after we have borrowed the shares. If we are correct and the stock price has gone down since the shares were purchased from the original owner, the client account realizes the profit.
- **Margin Transactions:** We will purchase stocks for your portfolio with money borrowed from your brokerage account. This allows you to purchase more stock than you would be able to with your available cash, and allows us to purchase stock without selling other holdings.
- **Option Writing:** We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset. The two types of options are calls and puts:
  - A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
  - A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

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

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

We use a "spreading strategy", in which we purchase two or more option contracts (for example, a call option that you buy and a call option that you sell) for the same underlying security. This effectively puts you on both sides of the market, but with the ability to vary price, time and other factors.

- **Frequency of Trades**: Trading frequency in client portfolios is typically determined by the need to address risks or seize an opportunity. A typical client account may experience trades as frequent as once or twice a month, or as little as once per year, depending on market conditions and client's need.
- **Rebalancing:** We believe rebalancing to maintain the proper risk exposure is necessary. Because risks and opportunities within different asset classes are subject to change, based on current or expected market conditions, we employ a unique strategy when rebalancing. We will reduce exposure to a particular asset class when the portfolio has become significantly overweight, the asset class has become expensive or the asset class has become too risky. We will increase exposure to an asset class when the portfolio has become significantly underweight, the asset class is of significant value or the asset class present has added opportunity.
- **Mutual Funds:** Our primary concern in selecting and evaluating mutual funds for use in a client portfolio is the need they address or its ability to exploit an opportunity better than other investment options. When selecting a mutual fund for use in our portfolios, we generally consider cost, management philosophy and history, objective, track record, tax efficiency, holdings, and the availability of other investment options.
- **Risk of Loss:** Securities investments are not guaranteed and you may lose money on your investments. We measure risk on three levels. In broad terms, we identify total portfolio Beta to ensure proper exposure to equities and duration and credit quality to asses fixed income investments. We tactically adjust Beta, duration and credit quality to achieve desired risk exposure. We also monitor for risks that may affect individual securities or specific types of investments or asset classes. We believe that risk is best addressed through tactical asset allocation rather than diversification across all asset classes. Owning or avoiding specific asset classes at the right time is a key component of risk management. We do, however, believe broad diversification within asset classes is an important risk management measure.

#### Please Note:

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and your account(s) could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and your account(s) could suffer a loss. It is important that you understand the risks associated with investing in the stock market, are appropriately diversified in your investments, and ask us any questions you may have.

#### **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

There are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to the evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities & Affiliations

A. <u>If our firm or our management persons are registered, or have an application pending to</u> <u>register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer, we must disclose</u> <u>this fact.</u>

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.

B. <u>If our management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities, we must disclose this fact.</u>

We have determined we have nothing to disclose in this regard.

- C. <u>Description of any relationship or arrangement that is material to our advisory business or to</u> <u>our clients that we or any of our management persons have with any related person<sup>2</sup> listed</u> <u>below. We are required to identify the related person and if the relationship or arrangement creates</u> <u>a material conflict of interest with clients, describe the nature of the conflict and how we address</u> <u>it.</u>
  - Insurance company or agency Representatives of our firm are insurance agents/brokers. They may offer insurance products and receive customary fees as a result of insurance sales. A conflict of interest may arise as these insurance sales may create an incentive to recommend products based on the compensation adviser and/or our supervised persons may earn and may not necessarily be in the best interests of the client.
- D. <u>If we recommend or select other investment advisers for our clients and we receive</u> compensation directly or indirectly from those advisers, or we have other business relationships with those advisers, we are required to describe these practices and discuss the conflicts of interest these practices create and how we address them.

We have nothing to disclose in the regard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Our Related Persons are any advisory affiliates and any person that is under common control with our firm. Advisory Affiliate: Our advisory affiliates are (1) all of our officers, partners, or directors (or any person performing similar functions); (2) all persons directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by us; and (3) all of our current employees (other than employees performing only clerical, administrative, support or similar functions). Person: A natural person (an individual) or a company. A company includes any partnership, corporation, trust, limited liability company ("LLC"), limited liability partnership ("LLP"), sole proprietorship, or other organization.

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

We recognize that the personal investment transactions of members and employees of our firm demand the application of a high Code of Ethics and require that all such transactions be carried out in a way that does not endanger the interest of any client. At the same time, we believe that if investment goals are similar for clients and for members and employees of our firm, it is logical and even desirable that there be common ownership of some securities.

Therefore, in order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including a pre-clearing procedure) with respect to transactions effected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts<sup>3</sup>. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have a quarterly securities transaction reporting system for all of our associates.

Furthermore, our firm has established a Code of Ethics which applies to all of our associated persons. An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary. As a fiduciary, it is an investment adviser's responsibility to provide fair and full disclosure of all material facts and to act solely in the best interest of each of our clients at all times. We have a fiduciary duty to all clients. Our fiduciary duty is considered the core underlying principle for our Code of Ethics which also includes Insider Trading and Personal Securities Transactions Policies and Procedures. We require all of our supervised persons to conduct business with the highest level of ethical standards and to comply with all federal and state securities laws at all times. Upon employment or affiliation and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons will sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. Our firm and supervised persons must conduct business in an honest, ethical, and fair manner and avoid all circumstances that might negatively affect or appear to affect our duty of complete loyalty to all clients. This disclosure is provided to give all clients a summary of our Code of Ethics. However, if a client or a potential client wishes to review our Code of Ethics in its entirety, a copy will be provided promptly upon request.

Neither our firm nor a related person recommends, buys or sells for client accounts, securities in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest without prior disclosure to the client.

Related persons of our firm may buy or sell securities and other investments that are also recommended to clients. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request.

Likewise, related persons of our firm buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. In order to minimize this conflict of interest, our related persons will place client interests ahead of their own interests and adhere to our firm's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is available upon request. Further, our related persons will refrain from buying or selling the same securities prior to buying or selling for our clients in the same day. If related persons' accounts are included in a block trade, our related persons will always trade personal accounts last.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For purposes of the policy, our associate's personal account generally includes any account (a) in the name of our associate, his/her spouse, his/her minor children or other dependents residing in the same household, (b) for which our associate is a trustee or executor, or (c) which our associate controls, including our client accounts which our associate controls and/or a member of his/her household has a direct or indirect beneficial interest in.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

#### A. <u>Description of the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for</u> <u>client transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g.,</u> <u>commissions).</u>

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker who will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared to other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including, among others, these:

- Ability to maintain the confidentiality of trading intentions
- Timeliness of execution
- Timeliness and accuracy of trade confirmations
- Liquidity of the securities traded
- Willingness to commit capital
- Ability to place trades in difficult market environments
- Research services provided
- Ability to provide investment ideas
- Execution facilitation services provided
- Record keeping services provided
- Custody services provided
- Frequency and correction of trading errors
- Ability to access a variety of market venues
- Expertise as it relates to specific securities
- Financial condition
- Business reputation

With this in consideration, our firm participates in the TD Ameritrade Institutional program. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade is an independent [and unaffiliated] SEC-registered broker- dealer. TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment Advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. We receive some benefits from TD Ameritrade through our participation in the program. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 of this Brochure.)

1. <u>Research & Other Soft Dollar Benefits.</u>

TD Ameritrade may make certain research and brokerage services available at no additional cost to our firm. These services may be directly from independent research companies, as selected by our firm (within specific parameters). Research products and services provided by TD Ameritrade may include research reports on recommendations or other information about, particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making; and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance by TD Ameritrade to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities.

a. <u>Explanation of when we use client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns)</u> to obtain research or other products or services, and how we receive a benefit because our firm does not have to produce or pay for the research, products or services.

The aforementioned research and brokerage services are used by our firm to manage accounts for which we have investment discretion. Without this arrangement, our firm might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

b. <u>Incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on our interest in receiving the</u> research or other products or services, rather than on our clients' interest in receiving <u>best execution.</u>

As a result of receiving the services discussed in 12A.1, we may have an incentive to continue to use or expand the use of TD Ameritrade services. Our firm examined this potential conflict of interest when we chose to enter into the relationship with TD Ameritrade and we have determined that the relationship is in the best interest of our firm's clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

TD Ameritrade charges brokerage commissions and transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e., transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and debt securities transactions). TD Ameritrade enables us to obtain many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges. TD Ameritrade commission rates are generally discounted from customary retail commission rates. However, the commission and transaction fees charged by TD Ameritrade may be higher or lower than those charged by other custodians and broker-dealers.

c. <u>Causing clients to pay commissions (or markups or markdowns) higher than those</u> <u>charged by other broker-dealers in return for soft dollar benefits (known as paying-up).</u>

Our clients may pay a commission to TD Ameritrade that is higher than another qualified broker dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where we determine in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although we will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions.

d. <u>Disclosure of whether we use soft dollar benefits to service all of our clients' accounts or</u> only those that paid for the benefits, as well as whether we seek to allocate soft dollar benefits to client accounts proportionately to the soft dollar credits the accounts generate.

Although the non-soft dollar investment research products and services that may be obtained by our firm will generally be used to service all of our clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account.

e. <u>Description of the types of products and services our firm or any of our related persons</u> <u>acquired with client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns within our last</u> <u>fiscal year.</u>

We do not acquire client brokerage commissions (or markups or markdowns).

f. <u>Explanation of the procedures we used during our last fiscal year to direct client</u> transactions to a particular broker-dealer in return for soft dollar benefits we received.

All soft dollars arrangements must be approved in writing by our Chief Compliance Officer. A brief description of the purpose of the soft dollar arrangement outlining the benefits received by our firm and clients along with any noted concerns about increased costs to our clients and how such concerns were alleviated will be maintained on file. Our Chief Compliance Officer undertakes a review of parties which propose to pay our firm in soft dollars and analyzes a number of criteria. When deciding whether to approve or disapprove of a soft dollar relationship, the following criteria is reviewed: the broker-dealer's business reputation and financial position and our ability to consistently execute orders professionally and on a cost effective basis, provide prompt and accurate execution reports, prepare timely and accurate confirms, deliver securities or cash proceeds promptly and provide meaningful research services that are useful to us in investment decision-making or other desired and appropriate services. Our Chief Compliance Officer also annually reviews all our soft dollar relationships for appropriateness, benefits to our clients, etc.

At times, a product or service we would like to purchase with soft dollars may have a "mixed use", meaning that a portion of the product is used to provide bona fide research as part of the investment decision-making process and part of it may be used for a non-research purpose. In these situations, our Chief Compliance Officer will make a pro-rata allocation of the cost of such service based on our evaluation of the research and non-research uses of the product. The cost of the product must be paid using both hard and soft dollars, the hard dollars being paid by our firm for the non-research portion and soft dollars for the research portion. For services that have a "mixed use", our Chief Compliance Officer will make a fair and reasonable determination as to how much of the cost may be paid with soft dollars. The basis for such determination shall be documented and will include an explanation as to how the computation of such percentage was reached. Our Chief Compliance Officer's computation shall be retained in our firm's files along with any records used to determine the "mixed use" percentages. Whenever there is a substantial change in the use of "mixed use" services, our Chief Compliance Officer will reevaluate such services. Providers of services that have a "mixed use" will be directed to either bill the paying broker for such service and the broker will be directed to bill us for the non-research portion, or to send separate bills to us and the paying broker for the appropriate amounts.

As a fiduciary, we have an obligation to obtain "best execution" of clients' transactions under the circumstances of the particular transaction. Consequently, notwithstanding the safe harbor provided under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, no allocation for soft dollar payments shall be made unless best execution of the transaction is reasonably expected to be obtained.

#### 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals.

Our firm does not receive brokerage for client referrals.

#### 3. Directed Brokerage.

a. If we routinely recommend, request or require that a client directs us to execute transactions through a specified broker-dealer, we are required to describe our practice or policy. Further, we must explain that not all advisers require their clients to direct brokerage. If our firm and the broker-dealer are affiliates or have another economic relationship that creates a material conflict of interest, we are further required to describe the relationship and discuss the conflicts of interest it presents by explaining that through the direction of brokerage we may be unable to achieve best execution of client transactions, and that this practice may cost our clients more money.

In certain instances, clients may seek to limit or restrict our discretionary authority in making the determination of the brokers with whom orders for the purchase or sale of securities are placed for execution, and the commission rates at which such securities transactions are effected. Clients may seek to limit our authority in this area by directing that transactions (or some specified percentage of transactions) be executed through specified brokers in return for portfolio evaluation or other services deemed by the client to be of value. Any such client direction must be in writing (often through our advisory agreement), and may contain a representation from the client that the arrangement is permissible under its governing laws and documents, if this is relevant.

We provide appropriate disclosure in writing to clients who direct trades to particular brokers, that with respect to their directed trades, they will be treated as if they have retained the investment discretion that we otherwise would have in selecting brokers to effect transactions and in negotiating commissions and that such direction may adversely affect our ability to obtain best price and execution. In addition, we will inform you in writing that your trade orders may not be aggregated with other clients' orders and that direction of brokerage may hinder best execution.

#### **Special Considerations for ERISA Clients**

A retirement or ERISA plan client may direct all or part of portfolio transactions for its account through a specific broker or dealer in order to obtain goods or services on behalf of the plan. Such direction is permitted provided that the goods and services provided are reasonable expenses of the plan incurred in the ordinary course of its business for which it otherwise would be obligated and empowered to pay. ERISA prohibits directed brokerage arrangements when the goods or services purchased are not for the exclusive benefit of the plan. Consequently, we will request that plan sponsors who direct plan brokerage provide us with a letter documenting that this arrangement will be for the exclusive benefit of the plan.

#### b. <u>Permissibility of Client-Directed Brokerage.</u>

We allow clients to direct brokerage. However, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions. Client directed brokerage may cost clients more money. For example, in a directed brokerage account, you may pay higher brokerage commissions because we may not be able to aggregate orders to reduce transaction costs, or you may receive less favorable prices.

#### **Special Considerations for Sub-advisory Management Clients**

- a. We select brokers and dealers for any purchase or sale of assets of Client Accounts and are responsible for obtaining best execution for transactions. Consistent with this idea, we may, in the allocation of portfolio brokerage business and the payment of brokerage commissions, consider the brokerage and research services furnished the Sub-Adviser by brokers and dealers, in accordance with the provisions of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such research generally will be used to service all of our clients, but brokerage commissions paid by the Client Accounts may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing the Client Accounts.
- b. Should a Client direct in writing that the Adviser or our firm use a particular broker or dealer, then such Client will negotiate terms and arrangements for their Account with that broker or dealer and we will not seek better execution services or prices from other broker-dealers. As a result, such Client Account may pay higher commissions or greater spreads, or receive less favorable net prices, on transactions for the Client Account than would otherwise be the case.
- c. Adviser and our firm are not responsible or liable for the acts or omissions of any broker-dealer.
- B. Discussion of whether, and under what conditions, we aggregate the purchase or sale of securities for various client accounts in quantities sufficient to obtain reduced transaction costs (known as bunching). If we do not bunch orders when we have the opportunity to do so, we are required to explain our practice and describe the costs to clients of not bunching.

We perform investment management services for various clients. There are occasions on which portfolio transactions may be executed as part of concurrent authorizations to purchase or sell the same security for numerous accounts served by our firm, which involve accounts with similar investment objectives. Although such concurrent authorizations potentially could be either advantageous or disadvantageous to any one or more particular accounts, they are affected only when we believe that to do so will be in the best interest of the effected accounts. When such concurrent authorizations occur, the objective is to allocate the executions in a manner which is deemed equitable to the accounts involved. In any given situation, we attempt to allocate trade executions in the most equitable manner possible, taking into consideration client objectives, current asset allocation and availability of funds using price averaging, proration and consistently non-arbitrary methods of allocation.

# Item 13: Review of Accounts or Financial Plans

# A. <u>Review of client accounts or financial plans, along with a description of the frequency and nature of our review, and the titles of our employees who conduct the review.</u>

We review accounts on at least a quarterly basis for our clients subscribing to Asset Management services. The nature of these reviews is to learn whether clients' accounts are in line with their investment objectives, appropriately positioned based on market conditions, and investment policies, if applicable. Reviews are done by Christopher Lindsay, Investment Advisor Representative/sole proprietor of CBL Wealth Management.

Financial Planning clients do not receive reviews of their written plans unless they take action to schedule a financial consultation with us. We do not provide ongoing services to financial planning clients, but are willing to meet with such clients upon their request to discuss updates to their plans, changes in their circumstances, etc.

B. <u>Review of client accounts on other than a periodic basis, along with a description of the factors that trigger a review.</u>

We may review client accounts more frequently than described above. Among the factors which may trigger an off-cycle review are major market or economic events, the client's life events, requests by the client, etc.

C. <u>Description of the content and indication of the frequency of written or verbal regular reports</u> we provide to clients regarding their accounts.

We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis. All reports, verbal or written will be provided by Christopher Lindsay, Investment Advisor Representative CBL Wealth Management.

As also mentioned in Item 13A of this Brochure, financial planning clients do not receive written or verbal updated reports regarding their financial plans unless they separately contract with us for a post-financial plan meeting or update to their initial written financial plan.

# Item 14: Client Referrals & Other Compensation

A. <u>If someone who is not a client provides an economic benefit to our firm for providing</u> <u>investment advice or other advisory services to our clients, we must generally describe the</u> <u>arrangement. For purposes of this Item, economic benefits include any sales awards or other prizes.</u>

Apart from the arrangements outlined in Item 12 of this brochure, we have no additional arrangements to disclose.

B. <u>If our firm or a related person directly or indirectly compensates any person who is not our</u> <u>employee for client referrals, we are required to describe the arrangement and the</u> <u>compensation.</u>

We do not directly or indirectly compensate any person(s) who is not our employee for referrals.

## Item 15: Custody

A. If we have custody of client funds or securities and a qualified custodian as defined in SEC rule 206(4)-2 or similar state rules (for example, a broker-dealer or bank) and do not send account statements with respect to those funds or securities directly to our clients, we must disclose that we have custody and explain the risks that you will face because of this.

State Securities Bureaus, or their equivalents, generally take the position that any arrangement under which a registered investment adviser is authorized or permitted to withdraw client funds or securities maintained with a custodian upon the adviser's instruction to the custodian is deemed to have custody of client funds and securities. As such, we have adopted the following safeguarding procedures:

- Our clients must provide us with written authorization permitting direct payment to us of our advisory fees from their account(s) maintained by a custodian who is independent of our firm;
- 2) We must send a statement to our clients showing the amount of our fee, the value of your assets upon which our fee was based, and the specific manner in which our fee was calculated;
- 3) We must disclose to you that it is your responsibility to verify the accuracy of our fee calculation, and that the custodian will not determine whether the fee is properly calculated; and
- 4) Your account custodian must agree to send you a statement, at least quarterly, showing all disbursements from your account, including advisory fees.
- B. <u>If we have custody of client funds or securities and a qualified custodian sends quarterly, or</u> more frequent, account statements directly to our clients, we are required to explain that you will receive account statements from the broker-dealer, bank, or other qualified custodian and that you should carefully review those statements.

The custodians we do business with will send you independent account statements listing your account balance(s), transaction history and any fee debits or other fees taken out of your account. You are encouraged to carefully review those statements.

Our invoice includes a legend that urges the client to compare information provided in their statements with those received from the qualified custodian in account opening notices and subsequent statements sent to the client for whom the adviser opens custodial accounts with the qualified custodian

## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Our clients need to sign a discretionary investment advisory agreement with our firm for the management of their account. This type of agreement only applies to our Asset Management clients. We do not take or exercise discretion with respect to our other clients. The firm will have discretionary authority to determine the securities to be bought or sold for the clients account, and the amount of securities to be bought or sold for a client's account.

Non- Portfolio management services are offered on Non-Discretionary basis. The firm will properly secure the clients permission prior to effecting securities transaction in client accounts managed on a non-discretionary basis pursuant to California Code of Regulation, Section 260.237.2(f)(1)

# **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

We do not and will not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, we will forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. Clients may call, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

# **Item 18: Financial Information**

Our firm is not required to provide financial information in this Brochure because:

- Our firm does not require the prepayment of more than \$500 in fees and six or more months in advance.
- Our firm does not take custody of client funds or securities.
- Our firm does not have a financial condition or commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary obligations to clients.

Our firm has never been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

A. <u>Identification of each of our principal executive officers and management persons, and</u> <u>description of their formal educations and business backgrounds.</u>

Christopher B. Lindsay Year of Birth: 1974

**Educational Background:** 

• 2003: California Polytechnic University, Pomona; Bachelor of Science in Animal Science

Business Background:

- 10/2017 Present CBL Wealth Management; Investment Advisor
- 09/2010-10/2017 Starfox Financial Services, LLC; Investment Advisor
- 08/2006 09/2010 Edward Jones; Financial Advisor
- 07/2005 08/2006 Morgan Stanley; Financial Advisor
- 06/2003 07/2005 Transwestern Publishing; Account Executive

Exams, Licenses & Other Professional Designations:

- 2005: Series 7, Series 31 & Series 66 Exams
- 2005: California Insurance
- B. <u>Description of any business in which we are actively engaged (other than giving investment advice) and the approximate amount of time spent on that business.</u>

Please see Item 10 of this Firm Brochure.

C. <u>In addition to the description of our fees in response to Item 5 of Part 2A, if our firm or a supervised</u> person is compensated for advisory services with performance-based fees, we must explain how these fees will be calculated. Further, we must disclose specifically that performancebased compensation may create an incentive for the adviser to recommend an investment that may carry a higher degree of risk to the client.

We do not charge performance-based fees.

- D. <u>If our firm or a management person has been involved in one of the events listed below, we must disclose all material facts regarding the event.</u>
  - 1. <u>An award or otherwise being found liable in an arbitration claim alleging damages in excess</u> of \$2,500, involving any of the following:
    - (a) an investment or an investment-related business or activity;
    - (b) fraud, false statement(s), or omissions;
    - (c) theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
    - (d) bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
    - (e) dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.

- 2. <u>An award or otherwise being found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding involving any of the following:</u>
  - (a) an investment or an investment-related business or activity;
  - (b) fraud, false statement(s), or omissions;
  - (c) theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
  - (d) bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
  - (e) dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.

E. <u>In addition to any relationship or arrangement described in response to Item 10.C. of Part 2A,</u> we must describe any relationship or arrangement that our firm or any of our management persons have with any issuer of securities that is not listed in Item 10.C. of Part 2A.

We have nothing to disclose in this regard.

# **Item 20: Business Continuity Plan**

Our firm has established a business continuity plan (BCP) which is available in its entirety on our website. Clients may also request a copy to be mailed/emailed.

Critical Elements Addressed in our BCP Include:

(1) Data back-up and recovery (hard copy and electronic);

(2) All mission critical systems;

(3) Financial and operational assessments;

(4) Alternate communications between customers and the member;

(5) Alternate communications between the member and its employees;

(6) Alternate physical location of employees;

(7) Critical business constituent, bank, and counter-party impact;

(8) Regulatory reporting;

(9) Communications with regulators; and

(10) How the firm will assure customers' prompt access to their funds and securities in the event that the member determines that it is unable to continue its business.