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# Form ADV Part 2A

## June 26, 2023

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*This Form ADV Part 2A ("the Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of HighMark Capital Management, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 1-800-582-4734. 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.*

*HighMark Capital Management, Inc. is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.*

*Additional information about HighMark Capital Management, Inc. is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).*

## Item 2: Material Changes

Below is a summary of material changes made by HighMark Capital Management, Inc. (“HighMark”) to its Form ADV Part 2A (the “Brochure”), since its last update on March 27, 2023:

Upon the completed merger of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. (“Union Bank”), HighMark’s prior parent entity, into U.S. Bank, National Association (“U.S. Bank”) references to Union Bank have been updated to reflect U.S. Bank, where applicable.

Additionally – Item 4 Advisory Business descriptions have been updated to clarify the services HighMark provides U.S. Bank (as a sub-advisor) and remove references to asset advisement services no longer provided to Union Bank.

You may also request a free copy of the Brochure by calling 1-800-582-4734 or b by visiting <https://www.usbank.com/highmark-capital.html>, or on the SEC’s website at <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov>.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

HighMark is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), and a subsidiary of U.S. Bank National Association (“U.S. Bank”). U.S. Bank is a separate entity and subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp (“USB”) and is a national banking association regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Please refer to Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations, for additional information regarding HighMark’s affiliates.

Including its predecessor organizations, HighMark has been managing client assets since 1919, and has been registered as an investment adviser with the SEC since 1998. As of December 31, 2022, HighMark had approximately \$8.66 billion in assets under management, with approximately \$8.3 billion of these assets managed on a discretionary basis, and over \$300 million managed on a non-discretionary basis.

### Managed Accounts

HighMark manages accounts for clients with which it has a direct investment management agreement and. In addition to directly managed accounts, HighMark has a sub-advisory agreement with its parent U.S. Bank under which HighMark manages certain accounts for U.S. Bank. HighMark clients includes institutional separate account portfolios for a wide variety of for-profit and non-profit organizations, public agencies, and public and private retirement plans. Services include some or all of the following:

- Assisting the client in developing and modifying investment objectives, guidelines, and restrictions.
- Determining an appropriate investment strategy, including asset allocation, consistent with the investment objectives, guidelines and restrictions established by the client, and reviewing and periodically modifying the strategy through meetings and consultations with the client or its agent.
- Implementing the client’s investment strategy through the purchase and sale of securities and other financial instruments, the exercise of options, warrants, and subscription rights, and the investment and re-investment of cash balances for the account.
- Providing information and instructions to the client or its custodian (or trustee) so that transactions for the account are settled in an accurate and timely manner.
- Reconciling its records with those of the client or its custodian (or trustee) on a periodic basis.
- Reviewing the client’s overall accounts and monitoring individual instruments so that the overall portfolio remains consistent with the account’s investment strategy, as well as the client’s investment objectives, guidelines and restrictions.
- Furnishing reports to the client on a periodic basis concerning account activity and performance.
- Proxy voting and monitoring of independent proxy voting services, as further described in Item 17.

For certain clients, HighMark provides clients access to third-party investment platforms.

As a wholly owned subsidiary of U.S. Bank and its parent USB, HighMark is required to comply with U.S. Bank and USB’s applicable compliance policies and procedures, which include reporting obligations that are not generally required by unaffiliated clients

### Sub-Advisory Services Provided to Affiliated Parties

HighMark has a sub-advisory agreement with U.S. Bank to sub-advise certain client accounts. The range of services HighMark provides for these accounts is similar to the services described above. U.S. Bank pays HighMark a fee to provide these investment advisory services, as described in the agreement between U.S. Bank and HighMark.

### Consulting Services

HighMark provides investment consulting services, including supplying investment research and information, on a non-discretionary basis. These services consist of providing sample portfolios, investment strategies, general overviews of certain securities markets, or similar services. Fees for consulting services are negotiated in each case based on the nature and complexity of the services to be provided. Such fees may be fixed or based on a percentage of the assets subject to the consulting arrangement and such fees are generally payable upon provision of the services.

## **Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

Fees are generally charged as a percentage of assets under management as described in the investment advisory agreement between HighMark and the client. Fees may be negotiated on a relationship basis.

HighMark's investment advisory fees range from .15% (typically charged for liquidity management strategies) to .75% (typically charged for equity management strategies). HighMark requires a minimum annual fee of \$10,000 for managed account investment management services. In certain circumstances, the fees charged for managed accounts and/or the minimum fee may be negotiable.

In addition to the investment advisory fee, it is possible that clients will pay other fees or expenses related to the management of their account depending on the type of account and investment such as, brokerage, trading, custody, transfer agent, fund accounting and administration, 12b-1, shareholder servicing and investment management fees associated with any third-party fund. Please see Item 12: Brokerage Practices.

For clients' assets custodied at U.S. Bank, clients generally choose to deduct fees from assets or receive a bill for fees incurred. For those clients' assets custodied outside of U.S. Bank, clients will be invoiced. Fees are paid in arrears and clients have the option to pay fees monthly or quarterly.

Fees are prorated for the billing period at the beginning or end of a client relationship. The method of fee calculations is disclosed to clients in their investment advisory agreements. For other accounts described under Item 4: Advisory Business, HighMark receives a fee for providing investment advisory services, as described in the agreement between HighMark and the respective party.

Portfolio managers receive a salary from HighMark and participate in the USB incentive compensation plan, which is an annual plan that pays a bonus.

On occasion, HighMark employees may receive gifts of nominal value from product or service vendors. Certain vendors may also invite our employees to training or educational events or host reasonable business entertainment that is deemed necessary and/or customary industry practice. HighMark has

implemented policies and procedures governing receipt of gifts and entertainment to mitigate actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

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

Performance-based fee structures create a potential conflict of interest by creating incentives regarding portfolio investments that could compromise the independent judgment of the investment adviser. Although there are currently none, it is possible that HighMark might enter into performance-based fee arrangements to the extent permitted by applicable law. If HighMark had performance-based fee arrangements, they could vary depending on the client's needs and individual circumstances.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients**

HighMark provides investment advice to pension and profit-sharing plans, charitable organizations, corporations, state and municipal government entities, corporate employee benefit plans, public agencies, foundations and endowments, Taft-Hartley plans, hospital and religious organizations, and treasury departments.

HighMark generally requires a minimum account size of \$3 million for the client types described above, and \$10 million for liquidity accounts. HighMark may lower the minimum account size in its sole discretion.

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

### Methods of Analysis

HighMark equity professionals combine fundamental and quantitative analyses to build diversified equity portfolios that aim to outperform respective benchmarks. Different style strategies focus on different criteria. The equity research team seeks companies that carry attractive return and growth profiles, sustainable competitive advantages, and are priced at reasonable valuations relative to those characteristics. We consider the risks involved in specific holdings and how such risk might affect the total portfolio.

HighMark's fixed income investment professionals utilize both a top down and bottom-up investment process to build diversified fixed income portfolios that seek to capture investment opportunities by actively managing risk through the various stages of the business and economic cycle. The top-down process seeks to allocate sector, portfolio quality, duration, yield curve positioning, and implementation of key themes. Individual security and industry allocation uses extensive bottom-up credit research with a keen focus on identification of high-quality issues and downside protection. To minimize volatility in client portfolios, HighMark carefully manages interest rate and credit risk and repositions portfolios it deems appropriate to take advantage of opportunities arising from changes in interest rates, the yield curve and sector and issuer spreads. HighMark strives to avoid securities that are leveraged with respect to interest rate or prepayment risk.

HighMark's cash management specialists utilize extensive analysis of market sectors and individual issues to enhance diversification and reduce portfolio volatility. HighMark invests in a wide range of investment grade domestic and foreign dollar-denominated securities according to each client's specific liquidity needs.

### Investment Strategies

HighMark provides a range of style-specific strategies using both internal and external managers. HighMark's approach is a disciplined, consistent process to actively manage portfolios including equity, fixed income, liquidity management and multi-asset strategies. Active management includes a variety of data sources, which includes data generated by third-party models.

Equity strategies include U.S. Large Cap Fundamental research-based strategies including Large Cap Value, Core Value, Fundamental Advantage, Dividend Advantage and Large Cap Growth. HighMark also employs fixed income strategies in the areas of Core, Intermediate Term, Investment Grade Corporates, Short Term, as well as taxable and tax-exempt liquidity management. For management of institutions' cash and excess working capital, HighMark offers liquidity strategies invested principally in money market instruments. Multi-asset strategies include a variety of asset allocation-based portfolios across a spectrum of risk profiles implemented with proprietary and / or third-party investment strategies.

### Risk of Loss

Investments in HighMark strategies are not bank deposits, are not guaranteed by any agency of the U.S. government, and involve risk, including the possible loss of principal, a risk that clients should be prepared to bear.

Investment performance can also be affected by other risks such as:

- *Market Risk:* The risk of a security's market value declining, especially rapidly and unpredictably for short or extended periods. These fluctuations may cause a security to be worth less than the price the investor originally paid for it. Market risk can affect a single issuer, sector or the market as a whole.
- *Liquidity Risk:* The risk that a security is difficult or impossible to sell at the time and price the seller wishes. The seller may have to accept a lower price for the security, sell other securities instead, or forego a more attractive investment opportunity.
- *Credit Risk:* The risk that the issuer of a security, or the counterparty to a contract, will default or otherwise become unable to honor a financial obligation. Generally speaking, the lower a security's credit rating, the higher its credit risks. If a security's credit rating is downgraded, its price tends to decline sharply, especially as it becomes more probable that the issuer will default.
- *Interest Rate Risk:* The risk that debt prices overall will decline over short or long periods due to rising interest rates. Interest rate risk usually is modest for shorter-term securities, moderate for intermediate-term securities, and high for longer-term securities. A change in a central bank's monetary policy or improving economic conditions may result in an increase in interest rates. Rising interest rates could decrease liquidity in the fixed income securities markets, making it more difficult to sell fixed income securities. In addition, decreased market liquidity also could make it more difficult to value a fixed income security.

- *Counterparty Risk:* The risk that the counterparty to a repurchase agreement or reverse repurchase agreement will not fulfill its obligation which would cause the income and the value of the investment to decline.
- *Foreign Risk:* Compared with investing in the United States, investing in foreign markets involves a greater degree and variety of risks including the possibility of delayed settlements, currency controls, adverse economic developments, and higher overall transaction costs. In addition, fluctuations in the U.S. dollar's value could erode or reverse gains from investments denominated in foreign currencies or widen losses. Exchange rate fluctuations also could impair an issuer's ability to repay U.S. dollar denominated debt, increasing credit risk of such debt. Finally, the value of foreign securities could be affected by incomplete or inaccurate financial information, smaller and less liquid securities markets, social upheavals or political actions ranging from tax code changes to significant governmental restructuring or collapse.
- *Reinvestment Risk:* The risk that the proceeds, dividends, or interest generated from an investment are reinvested in a security that offers a lower rate of return compared to the returns generated by the original investment.
- *Non-diversification Risk:* The risk involved with excessive exposure to securities in any one issuer, industry or sector.
- *Alternative Investment Risk:* Alternative mutual funds and other managers that employ alternative investment strategies primarily invest in non-traditional asset classes and implement speculative investment techniques. Alternative investments often offer investment return characteristics that are not correlated to traditional investments, but also present greater and/or unique risks to investors. Such risks include: loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, short selling or other speculative practices; management risk; lack of liquidity; restrictions on transferring interests; higher or excessive volatility; absence of information for valuations and pricing; less transparency on underlying investments, complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting; less regulation; and potentially higher fees than traditional investments.
- *Management Risk:* The risk that a strategy or investment technique used by HighMark may fail to produce the intended result or achieve its investment objective.
- *Model Risk:* Highmark uses a variety of data, including data from third-party models, as inputs into the investment management process. Use of data generated by investment-related models invariably presents model risk, which is the potential for adverse consequences from asset allocation or investment management decisions based on incorrect or misused data output and reports.
- *Third-Party Risk:* HighMark relies on services from third-parties in the execution of investment management and servicing of clients' accounts. Types of such third parties may include but are not limited to: broker-dealers, reporting, pricing, proxy voting, research, investment-related models and technology providers.
- *Tax Risk:* The risk of unfavorable tax consequences to a client that could result from the administration of a client account pursuant to the advisory services described in this Brochure.



## **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

HighMark has not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to its advisory business or the integrity of its management.

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

### Material Related Party Arrangements

As noted in Item 4: Advisory Business, HighMark is a wholly owned subsidiary of U.S. Bank. U.S. Bank is a principal subsidiary of USB, a bank holding company regulated by the Federal Reserve Board.

Certain employees of HighMark, including its board of directors, are also employees of U.S. Bank. Certain employees of HighMark may also perform work for U.S. Bank. U.S. Bank provides a variety of administrative services to HighMark, including, but not limited to, human resources, legal, IT and accounting services.

U.S. Bank serves (and potentially other USB subsidiaries that are qualified custodians may serve) as the custodian for many of the accounts for which HighMark provides advisory services. In addition, U.S. Bank or one or more USB subsidiaries may refer clients to HighMark for advisory services and HighMark may refer clients to U.S. Bank or USB for banking or other financial services.

In addition, USB has other SEC-registered broker-dealer or investment advisor affiliates, including U.S. Bank Asset Management, U.S. Bank, U.S. Bank, Global Fund Services (USBGFS), U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. (USBII), PFM Asset Management, LLC and , PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. HighMark currently has no arrangements with these other USB affiliates to provide broker-dealer or advisory services to HighMark or its advisory clients, except for the sub-advisory services HighMark provides to U.S. Bank, noted in Item 4 above.

HighMark's President, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board, who is an employee of US Bank, is a registered representative with UBIS.

HighMark currently has no arrangements with UBIS to provide broker-dealer or advisory services to HighMark or its advisory clients. UBIS may refer a client to HighMark for advisory services.

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

### Personal Transactions in Recommended Securities

HighMark generally does not buy or sell securities that it recommends to clients. HighMark's related persons may, however, transact or hold securities that are or have been recommended by HighMark to its clients.

HighMark has adopted a Code of Ethics for all employees in accordance with Rule 204A-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 which describes standards for business conduct, fiduciary duty to clients and rules surrounding personal securities transactions. HighMark's officers and directors, and certain employees are required to report certain personal securities transactions and holdings. These personal securities transactions may raise potential conflicts with the interests of HighMark clients. The Code of Ethics mitigates potential conflicts of interest by requiring, among other things, prior approval of certain securities transactions. The Code of Ethics also requires regular employee certification and reporting and outlines disciplinary actions for exceptions. All Code of Ethics exceptions are reported to HighMark's Board of Directors. A copy of HighMark's Code of Ethics is available upon request by calling 1-800-582-4734.

### Principal Transactions

HighMark does not, as principal, buy securities from or sell securities to its clients. HighMark also does not use its investment discretion to direct or authorize securities transactions between its related persons and its clients except in accordance with HighMark policy, and to the extent permitted by law. Certain related persons of HighMark, such as USB (and its broker-dealer and investment advisory affiliate), U.S. Bank, and UBIS, from time to time, may buy securities from or sell securities to HighMark's clients in connection with their own separate relationship with HighMark's clients. These activities of HighMark's related parties are not connected to HighMark's advisory business. The related persons engage in these activities in a manner that is consistent with customary commercial practice and applicable federal and state regulations.

### Agency Transactions

HighMark does not process securities transactions for compensation as broker or agent for its clients. HighMark also does not use its investment discretion to direct or authorize client securities transactions in which a related person is a broker or agent except in accordance with HighMark policy, and to the extent permitted by law. Certain related persons of HighMark, such as USB broker-dealer and investment advisory affiliate, U.S. Bank and UBIS, from time to time, may effect securities transactions for compensation as broker or agent for clients of HighMark or their counterparties in connection with their own separate relationships with such clients or other persons. These activities are not connected to HighMark's advisory business. The related persons engage in these activities in a manner that is consistent with customary commercial practice and applicable federal and state regulations.

### Interest in Client Recommendations

Generally, HighMark does not recommend to clients that they buy or sell securities or investment products in which HighMark has a financial interest. However, HighMark may recommend to clients securities in which HighMark's related persons have a financial interest. HighMark considers that the range of the potential holdings of HighMark's related persons, and the range of the potential issuers to whom HighMark's related persons provide banking, custodial, brokerage, fund administration and other services, is such that it would be inadvisable to exclude these securities from consideration for a client's portfolio solely because of these potential conflicts of interest. HighMark makes portfolio transaction decisions or recommendations independently and not based on the interests of any related person.

HighMark may also engage in cross transactions, most likely in a format where client accounts are matched to provide liquidity and avoid brokerage fees. These are broker-less and non-principal transactions and there is no compensation earned by HighMark. There may be nominal transaction processing fees involved in cross transactions. Cross transactions are done in compliance with applicable rules and procedures.

HighMark may purchase or recommend securities for clients issued by other clients. HighMark receives no additional compensation in this situation.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

HighMark provides investment advice to clients on both a discretionary and non-discretionary basis, depending upon clients' wishes. For more information about the advisory services offered by HighMark, please refer to Item 4: Advisory Business.

Most clients authorize HighMark to use broker-dealers selected by HighMark, and to pay commission rates negotiated by HighMark with the broker-dealer. HighMark however, may, agree to take written direction from a client to use a broker-dealer selected by the client. Please see discussion below about "Client Directed Brokerage."

### Client Directed Brokerage

HighMark may accept a client's written request for client directed brokerage by executing a transaction with the broker-dealer selected by the client, which may or may not be a broker-dealer used by HighMark for other trades in the same security during that period. In accordance with client directed brokerage instructions, the brokerage transactions may result in higher commissions, greater spreads, or less favorable net prices than would be the case if HighMark were authorized to select the broker-dealer. Client directed brokerage may not, in all cases, result in the best execution of securities transactions for the client. Clients acknowledge the possibility of paying higher commission rates and not obtaining best execution when they enter into their agreement with HighMark. HighMark may limit the extent to which it will agree to client directed brokerage.

Although HighMark has no brokerage commission recapture program, from time to time, certain clients may direct HighMark to a certain broker as part of their participation in such a program. Where a client directs the use of a particular broker-dealer, HighMark may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of client transactions and the client may pay more in execution fees than if HighMark was permitted to choose the executing broker-dealer. In such cases, HighMark may not be able to determine the terms of how an order will be handled with such broker-dealer and may not be able to freely negotiate commission rates. In addition, HighMark may not be able to aggregate the client's orders with other client orders, even to reduce transaction costs. As a result, a client's direction that HighMark use a particular broker-dealer may cause a client to pay higher commissions or receive less favorable net prices than would be the case if HighMark were given discretion to choose the broker-dealer through which to execute the transaction for the client's account.

### Broker Selection

In selecting a broker-dealer for a transaction, HighMark endeavors to choose the broker-dealer most capable of providing the services necessary to obtain best execution of the transaction. HighMark maintains a list of approved broker-dealers from which its traders select a broker-dealer for a particular transaction. HighMark's Investment Policy Committee ("IPC"), a committee composed of HighMark's senior investment personnel, reviews and determines the approved broker-dealers list at least once a year. Broker-dealers are evaluated on various criteria, including the commissions charged, as well as the reliability, integrity, and financial condition of the firm, the timeliness and accuracy of trade execution skills, operational and settlement capabilities, and any research services or products offered. HighMark does not commit a specific amount of business to any broker-dealer, but does set an overall target based

on what is required to gain the best arrangement of services, products, and best execution of client transactions. Actual brokerage business directed to any broker-dealer may not reach or may exceed the target. HighMark does not place brokerage orders for a client with UBIS, or with any other affiliate of HighMark, except in accordance with HighMark's policy, and to the extent permitted by law.

On a continuing basis, HighMark seeks to determine what levels of commission rates are reasonable for specific transactions. Consideration is given to factors including historical commission rates, market commission rates (based on publicly available information), the size and complexity of the transaction, the type and level of business done with a firm over a period of time, and the extent to which the broker-dealer has capital at risk in the transaction.

For each transaction, HighMark's trading desk determines which broker-dealer on the approved list can provide the best execution of a specific transaction. Consideration is given to various factors including consistency of quality execution, general order flow, market-making skills, ability or willingness to commit capital and provide liquidity, and sales trading and coverage skills. HighMark's policy does allow the use of a broker-dealer not on the approved list when HighMark deems it will be able to achieve best execution. Trades with brokers not on the approved list are reported to HighMark's Client Commissions Committee at its next meeting with an explanation as to why a broker not on the approved list was selected to provide best execution.

HighMark may effect transactions through an electronic crossing network ("ECN") in an attempt to find liquidity per price improvement not available through traditional trading methods. In selecting among market makers, and non-market makers or ECNs, HighMark generally seeks to select those it believes to be actively and effectively trading the security being purchased or sold. HighMark may select an ECN offered by a provider of services to HighMark in addition to ECNs offered by other vendors.

In some cases, HighMark aggregates as a block transaction multiple transaction orders that are received at about the same time. HighMark's policy is to engage in block transactions in a fair and equitable manner to all participating clients, so that the price of the securities purchased or sold of all participating clients will be the average share price for the block transaction with commissions and costs shared among the participating clients on a pro-rata basis. There can be no assurance, however, that any particular investment will be proportionally allocated among clients, or that the allocation process will achieve the same results for each client. HighMark does not receive additional compensation for aggregating orders in block transactions. HighMark believes that the use of block transactions may prevent the transaction of one client from affecting the purchase or sale price of a transaction for another client, and that the use of block transactions may enable HighMark, on average and over time, to obtain enhanced execution and lower brokerage commissions.

#### Client Commissions

HighMark may process securities transactions that result in a client paying an amount of commission in excess of the amount of commission another broker would have charged. In selecting such broker-dealer, HighMark will make a good faith determination that the amount of commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage services, research and investment information, viewed in terms of either the specific transaction or HighMark's overall responsibility to the accounts for which it exercises investment discretion.

In processing client brokerage transactions through broker-dealers, HighMark may receive from such broker-dealers, at no direct cost, certain investment information and research services, including conferences, research reports, oral advice, or data regarding particular companies, industries, or general market or economic conditions. To the extent legally allowed, certain of such services include the use of

or delivery of quotation or computer systems whose software components are provided to HighMark as part of the services.

In any case in which information and other services can be used for both research and non-research purposes, HighMark will make an appropriate good faith allocation of those uses and will pay directly for that portion of the services to be used for non-research purposes.

HighMark uses investment information and research services that it receives from broker-dealers to evaluate securities and formulate investment recommendations for both discretionary and non-discretionary clients. These recommendations, as well as HighMark's analyses and the information and research services used to formulate recommendations, may be made available to HighMark's affiliates and all of HighMark's clients and are used by HighMark in providing services to all of its clients. A client account may pay commissions to a broker-dealer which supplies research services not utilized by the account. Non-discretionary clients for whom HighMark does not ordinarily place brokerage orders may benefit from such investment information, even though such information was generated through commission paid by other clients.

The procedure to determine the allocation amounts includes an evaluation by HighMark's traders of the broker-dealers' execution capability, and an evaluation by a committee of HighMark's equity advisory personnel of the quality and usefulness of the broker-dealers' research. The minutes of this committee are then reviewed and approved by HighMark's IPC. No absolute dollar amounts are required to be met, and in no case will an order be placed if the broker-dealer is not believed to be able to provide best execution of a particular transaction in light of all the factors HighMark considers. HighMark does endeavor to direct sufficient orders to such broker-dealers to ensure continued receipt of research services that HighMark believes are useful to all HighMark accounts. Substantial portions of brokerage commissions are paid to broker-dealers who supply investment information and research services to HighMark.

At HighMark's discretion, HighMark can choose to trade on an execution-only basis for a particular transaction or client account.

#### Initial Public Offerings

From time to time, HighMark may be offered securities in an initial public offering ("IPO") and HighMark will determine in its sole discretion whether to accept any such offer. Generally, HighMark does not accept offers to participate in IPOs. In the event that HighMark accepts an offer of IPO securities, HighMark's policy is to allocate the securities proportionally, based on asset value, among client portfolios for which the securities are deemed suitable. Suitability will be determined by HighMark's portfolio managers based on a number of factors, including but not limited to, investment goals, existing securities in the portfolio available cash and purchasing power, portfolio investment restrictions, and the subjective judgments of the portfolio managers. A small IPO offering may be allocated only to one client portfolio, if HighMark determines in its sole discretion that allocation among more than one portfolio would be inefficient for client accounts. While generally based on objective criteria, HighMark does not make IPO allocations based on strict, mathematical formulas. HighMark's allocation of any specific IPO offering may not result in proportional allocation across all its client portfolios. HighMark however, will treat all client portfolios fairly and will not give preferences to any particular client or type of clients when allocating IPOs.

HighMark may occasionally purchase securities for a client in an initial or secondary offering in which an affiliate is a syndicate member, which may create an indirect benefit to the affiliate. In such event, HighMark will purchase the security from a syndicate member that is not an affiliate and under procedures designed to minimize conflicts of interest.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

### Account Review Process

Investment strategies, risk characteristics and performance are set and reviewed regularly by HighMark's IPC. HighMark's portfolio managers then review accounts on an ongoing basis to assess the appropriateness of client investments relative to the investment strategy and in accordance with the client's specific investment objective, guidelines and restrictions for the account. HighMark Operations routinely reviews direct account custodian reconciliations.

### Trade Errors

It is HighMark's policy to ensure trading errors are handled and corrected in a timely manner in the best interests of the client affected by the error. All trade errors should be corrected within a reasonable period of time following discovery of the error. HighMark will not use commissions from client accounts to correct trade errors. It is the strict policy of HighMark that HighMark employees are not permitted to make payments to clients or to client accounts.

### Reports to Clients

HighMark issues periodic reports to direct clients (or ad hoc data, as requested by the client), which include transaction summaries, portfolio valuation, and performance data. These reports often include information compiled by others including U.S. Bank and USB.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

HighMark or its related persons may from time to time receive some economic benefit from non-clients, such as a broker-dealer, in connection with giving advice to clients. See Item 12, Brokerage Practices.

Compensation for Client Referrals to U.S. Bank (which includes prior MUFG Union Bank, N.A. clients) and Relationship Management of Clients Participating in U.S. Bank Services  
U.S. Bank generally compensates certain employees and employees of its affiliates, such as UBIS and HighMark, when clients they refer to U.S. Bank establish an account, relationship or service. In addition, U.S. Bank generally pays certain U.S. Bank employees and employees of U.S. Bank's affiliates compensation for providing relationship management services that facilitate the coordination of the review, recommendation and integration of suitable products and services of U.S. Bank and its affiliates, including UBIS and HighMark, that are relevant to the client's overall financial situation. Such compensation can vary depending on the account, relationship, or service.

## Item 15: Custody

The custodian of each client account (either U.S. Bank or other client-directed custodian) sends a periodic statement of the account to the client on at least a quarterly basis. HighMark recommends that clients compare the security positions shown on the investment statement they receive from HighMark to those shown on the statement they receive from the applicable custodian. Differences in reported security positions may exist because investment statements are presented on a trade date basis and custodial statements are often shown on a settlement date basis. Differences in the reported security values may exist due to the timing of posting of accrued but uncollected income and/or the use of differing valuation

sources and methods by HighMark and the custodian. For clients who utilize U.S. Bank as their custodian, HighMark may be deemed to have custody of those assets because certain of HighMark's staff hold positions at U.S. Bank and HighMark shares premises with U.S. Bank. At no time does HighMark have physical custody of such client assets.

## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients grant discretionary authority to HighMark at the outset of an advisory relationship when they execute an investment management agreement with HighMark. At such time, the client communicates the investment parameters, including limitations, restrictions, asset allocation requirements, and/or market capitalization thresholds that apply; any desire to invest only in socially responsible companies; and any other client-defined investment specifications.

## **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

HighMark's clients have the option to vote their proxies themselves or to authorize HighMark to vote such proxies on their behalf. Most clients authorize HighMark to vote proxies for securities held in the client's account. HighMark has established policies for voting these proxies in the interests of the clients.

HighMark retains ISS Governance Services ("ISS"), an independent proxy voting service, as its agent. HighMark delegates to ISS the authority to vote the proxies according to ISS' policies, subject to monitoring and review by HighMark. HighMark reserves the right to withdraw any proxy from ISS and vote the proxy with review and approval by the IPC. HighMark will withdraw a proposed proxy vote from ISS in the event that HighMark determines that the proposed vote by ISS would not be consistent with HighMark's fiduciary duty to one or more of its clients.

HighMark has written policies and procedures in place to address any situation where there is a conflict of interest between HighMark and a client. Before HighMark votes a proxy, the IPC will take steps to determine if HighMark has a conflict of interest in voting the proxy. If the IPC finds that a material conflict exists, HighMark or U.S. Bank will retain an independent fiduciary to vote the proxy.

The majority of the proxy voting records for HighMark are maintained by ISS. HighMark will make proxy voting records available to client as required by law. Clients may obtain a copy of HighMark's proxy voting policies and procedures and/or proxy voting records for their account by calling 1-800-582-4734.

## **Item 18: Financial Information**

HighMark is not aware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair its ability to meet contractual commitments. HighMark has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.