# Regista Financial Strategies, LLC

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# Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

Dated June 15, 2023

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Regista Financial Strategies, LLC, "RFS". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (727) 420-5946 and/or akramhassan@registafinancialstrategies.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.

Regista Financial Strategies, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about RFS is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>, which can be found using the firm's identification number, 326555.

# Item 2: Material Changes

Since this is the first filing of the Form ADV Part 2A for Regista Financial Strategies, LLC, there is nothing to report. In the future, any material changes made during the year will be reported here.

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

# **Description of Advisory Firm**

Regista Financial Strategies, LLC is an Investment Adviser principally located in the state of Colorado. We are a Limited Liability Company founded in April, 2023. Regista Financial Strategies, LLC became registered in 2023. Akram Hassan is the principal owner and Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO").

As used in this brochure, the words "RFS", "we", "our firm", "Advisor" and "us" refer to Regista Financial Strategies, LLC and the words "you", "your" and "Client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

## **Types of Advisory Services**

RFS is a fee-only firm, meaning the only compensation we receive is from our Clients for our services. From time to time, RFS recommends third-party professionals such as attorneys, accountants, tax advisors, insurance agents, or other financial professionals. Clients always have the right to decide whether to utilize any third-party professional we recommend. RFS is not affiliated with nor does RFS receive any compensation from third-party professionals we may recommend.

#### **Investment Management Services**

Our firm provides continuous advice to a Client regarding the investment of Client funds based on the individual needs of the Client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a Client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a Client's personal investment policy statement with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We will also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background. Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the Client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth, and income), as well as risk tolerance and tax considerations.

We primarily advise our Clients regarding investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, U.S. government and municipal securities, and cash and cash equivalents. We may also provide advice regarding investments held in Client's portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship and/or other investment types not listed above, at the Client's request.

When we provide investment management services, Clients grant us limited authority to buy and sell securities on a discretionary. More information on our trading authority is explained in Item 16 of this Brochure. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

When appropriate, we utilize the services of third-party investment advisers ("Outside Managers") to assist with the management of Client accounts. We assist Clients in selecting an appropriate allocation model, completing the Outside Manager's investor profile questionnaire, interacting with the Outside Manager and reviewing the Outside Manager. Our review process and analysis of Outside Managers is further discussed in Item 8 of this Brochure. Additionally, we will meet with the Client on a periodic basis to discuss changes in their personal or financial situation, suitability, and any new or revised restrictions to be applied to the account.

#### Betterment for Advisors as a Outside Manager

We may recommend that certain Clients implement their investment portfolios through Betterment for Advisors, a division of Betterment LLC (herein "Betterment" or the "Investment Platform"). Betterment for Advisors is what is often termed a "robo-advisor", an online wealth management service that provides

automated, algorithm-based portfolio management advice. We utilize Betterment for Advisors due to the Investment Platform's customized portfolio allocations, automated rebalancing, and competitive fees.

Betterment has pre built models such as, core, social impact, and technology based portfolios that can be recommended based on clients risk tolerances. RFS will also be building custom portfolios to add to the line up based on market trends and offered to the appropriate clients based on investment and financial planning goals.

## **Financial Planning Services**

Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address some or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and RFS will work together to select specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for Clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.

Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.

**College Savings**: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).

**Employee Benefits Optimization**: We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.

**Estate Planning**: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you

consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.

**Financial Goals**: We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.

**Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.

**Investment Analysis**: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.

**Retirement Planning**: Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

**Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").

**Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

Financial Planning Services are offered via an ongoing and/or on a project-based engagement.

**Ongoing Financial Planning.** This service involves working one-on-one with a financial advisor over an extended period of time. Through this ongoing arrangement, Clients are expected to collaborate with the advisor to develop and assist in the implementation of their financial plan (the "plan"). The advisor will monitor the plan, recommend any appropriate changes and ensure the plan is up-to-date as the Client's situation, goals, and objectives evolve.

Upon engaging the firm for financial planning, RFS is responsible for obtaining and analyzing all necessary qualitative and quantitative information from the Client that is essential to understanding the Client's personal and financial circumstances; helping the Client identify, select, and prioritize certain financial goals while understanding the effect that pursuing one goal may have on other potential goals; assessing the Client's current course of action and alternative courses of action to identify required changes that provide the best opportunity for the client to meet their financial goals; developing & presenting financial planning recommendations based on the aforementioned actions while including all information that was required to be considered in preparing the recommendations; and ongoing monitoring of the Client's progress toward the goals and objectives that the recommendations are based around. These components all require in-depth communication with the Client in order for RFS to establish a financial plan and implementation strategy that provides the Client with the most appropriate options in pursuing their established goals and objectives.

**Project-Based Financial Planning.** We provide project-based financial planning services on a limited scope one-time engagement. Project-Based Financial Planning is available for Clients looking to address specific questions or issues. The Client may choose from one or more of the above topics to cover or other areas as requested and agreed to by RFS. For Project-Based Financial Planning, the Client will be ultimately responsible for the implementation of the financial plan.

#### **Retirement Plan Consulting**

Our firm provides retirement plan services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors or plan named fiduciaries in establishing, monitoring, and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: design of investment policy statement, investment review and recommendations, fee analysis, participant education, and vendor searches & analysis.

In providing retirement plan services, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly-traded REITs), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets").

Certain plans and/or clients that we may provide services to are regulated under the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). We will provide employee benefit plan services to the plan sponsor and/or fiduciaries as described above for the fees set forth in Item 5 of this brochure. The services we provide are advisory in nature. We are not subject to any disqualifications under Section 411 of ERISA. In performing fiduciary services, we are acting as a fiduciary of the plan as defined in Section 3(21)(A)(ii) under ERISA.

#### **Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We tailor the delivery of our services to meet the individual needs of our Clients. We consult with Clients initially and on an ongoing basis, through the duration of their engagement with us, to determine risk tolerance, time horizon and other factors that may impact the Clients' investment and/or planning needs.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any restrictions they would like to place as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account. All such requests must be provided to RFS in writing and will be incorporated into Client's investment policy statement. RFS will notify Clients if they are unable to accommodate any requests.

## **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

## **Assets Under Management**

As of April, 2023, RFS has \$0 in discretionary assets under management. RFS does not offer non-discretionary investment management services.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received this brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing an Advisory Contract, the Advisory Contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the Advisory Contract without penalty or fee.

How we are paid depends on the type of advisory services we perform. Below is a brief description of our fees, however, you should review your executed Advisory Contract for more detailed information regarding the exact fees you will be paying. No increase to the agreed-upon advisory fees outlined in the Advisory Contract shall occur without prior written Client consent.

#### **Investment Management Services**

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management, is negotiable, and is calculated as follows:

Assets Under Management	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$500,000	1.00%
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	0.85%
\$1,000,001 - \$1,500,000	0.70%
\$1,500,001 and Above	0.55%

The annual advisory fee is paid monthly in arrears and is based on the average daily balance of the Client's account(s). The advisory fee is a breakpoint tier and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart. For example, an account value of \$700,000 would pay a monthly fee of \$495.83 based on the following calculation:  $(\$700,000 \times 0.85\%)/12 = \$495.83$ .

In determining the advisory fee, we will allow accounts of members of the same household to be aggregated, unless the Client instructs RFS otherwise. RFS relies on the valuation as provided by Client's custodian in determining assets under management. Our investment management fee is prorated for any partial billing periods occurring during the engagement, including the initial and terminating billing periods.

If RFS utilizes an Outside Manager, the above fee schedule includes the Outside Manager's fee. At no point will the combined fee charged to the Client exceed 2% of assets under management.

We deduct our advisory fee from one or more account(s) held at an unaffiliated third-party custodian, as directed by the Client. Please refer to Item 15 of this Brochure regarding our policy on direct fee deduction. Clients may also pay by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. We use an independent third-party payment processor in which the Client can securely input their banking information and pay their fee. We do not have access to the Client's banking information at any time. The Client will be provided with their own secure portal in order to make payments.

When an Outside Manager is used, the Outside Manager will debit the Client's account for both the Outside Manager's fee, and RFS's advisory fee.

The Advisory Contract may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the Advisory Contract. Clients will be responsible for payment of earned but unpaid fees based on the number of days services were provided up to the date of termination.

## **Ongoing Financial Planning**

RFS collects an initial fee, no greater than \$10,000. The initial fee covers the initial construction of the comprehensive financial plan. This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid, and the length of time required to complete and deliver the plan is dependent on several factors including the needs of the Client, the Client's ability to provide any necessary information and documentation, as well as the complexity of their financial situation. Advisor may reduce or waive the initial fee at the Advisor's discretion. RFS will collect a portion of the initial fee in advance, and the remainder upon delivery of the plan. At no time do we require prepayment of \$500 or more six months or more in advance of rendering the services.

Upon delivery of the comprehensive financial plan, RFS charges a recurring fixed fee for Ongoing Financial Planning. Fees are paid monthly in advance at a rate of \$250 to \$500 per month. The fee range is dependent upon variables including the specific needs of the Client, complexity, estimated time, research, and resources required to provide services to you, among other factors we deem relevant. Fees are negotiable and the final agreed upon fee will be outlined in your Advisory Contract.

Fees are paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. We use an independent third-party payment processor in which the Client can securely input their banking information and pay their fee. We do not have access to the Client's banking information at any time. The Client will be provided with their own secure portal in order to make payments.

The Advisory Contract may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the Advisory Contract. Clients will be responsible for payment of earned but unpaid fees based on the number of days services were provided up to the date of termination.

## **Project-Based Financial Planning**

RFS charges either a fixed or hourly fee for Project-Based Financial Planning. Fixed fee rates range between \$1,000 to \$10,000. Our hourly rate is \$250.

The fee range is dependent upon variables including the specific needs of the Client, complexity, estimated time, research, and resources required to provide services to you, among other factors we deem relevant. Fees are negotiable and the final agreed upon fee will be outlined in your Advisory Contract. RFS collects a portion of the fee to be collected in advance with the remainder due upon completion of the services. RFS will not bill an amount above \$500 more than 6 months or more in advance of rendering the services.

Fees are paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. We use an independent third-party payment processor in which the Client can securely input their banking information and pay their fee. We do not have access to the Client's banking information at any time. The Client will be provided with their own secure portal in order to make payments.

This service is not an ongoing engagement, thus upon receipt of the final fees and delivery of the plan, the Advisory Contract will automatically be terminated. Clients may terminate at any time by providing written notice. Client shall be charged a pro-rata fee based upon the percentage of the work done up to the date of termination. Any unearned prepaid fees will be refunded, and any earned fees will be collected.

# **Retirement Plan Consulting**

The fee is based on a percentage of assets under management and is negotiable. The annualized fees for retirement plan investment consulting services are based on the following fee schedule:

Assets Under Management	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.85%
\$3,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.70%
\$5,000,001 - \$8,000,000	0.55%
\$8,000,001 and Above	0.15%

The annual advisory fee is paid monthly in arrears based on the value of the account(s) on the last business day of the month. The advisory fee is a breakpoint tier. For example, an account value of 1,200,000 would pay a monthly fee of \$850 based on the following calculation:  $\frac{1,200,000 \times 0.85\%}{12} = 850$ . This does not include fees to other parties, such as record keepers, custodians, or third-party administrators. RFS relies on the valuation as provided by Client's custodian in determining assets under management. Our advisory fee is prorated for any partial billing periods occurring during the engagement, including the initial and terminating billing periods.

Fees are either paid directly by the plan sponsor or deducted directly from the plan assets by the custodian. Please refer to Item 15 of this Brochure regarding our policy on direct fee deduction. Clients may also pay by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. We use an independent third-party payment processor in which the Client can securely input their banking information and pay their fee. We do not have access to the Client's banking information at any time. The Client will be provided with their own secure portal in order to make payments.

The Advisory Contract may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the Advisory Contract. Clients will be responsible for payment of earned but unpaid fees based on the number of days services were provided up to the date of termination.

#### **Other Types of Fees and Expenses**

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending custodians for Client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

Clients may incur fees from third-party professionals such as accountants and attorneys that RFS may recommend, upon Client request. Such fees are separate and distinct from RFS's advisory fees.

#### **Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Advisor and its supervised persons do not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

# Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and investment management services to individuals, high net-worth individuals, pension and profiting sharing plans, and corporations or other businesses.

We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

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

Below is a brief description of our methods of analysis and primary investment strategies.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that the information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Technical analysis** involves using chart patterns, momentum, volume, and relative strength in an effort to pick sectors that may outperform market indices. However, there is no assurance of accurate forecasts or that trends will develop in the markets we follow. In the past, there have been periods without discernible trends and similar periods will presumably occur in the future. Even where major trends develop, outside factors like government intervention could potentially shorten them.

Furthermore, one limitation of technical analysis is that it requires price movement data, which can translate into price trends sufficient to dictate a market entry or exit decision. In a trendless or erratic market, a technical method may fail to identify trends requiring action. In addition, technical methods may overreact to minor price

movements, establishing positions contrary to overall price trends, which may result in losses. Finally, a technical trading method may underperform other trading methods when fundamental factors dominate price moves within a given market.

**Cyclical analysis** is a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends based upon business cycles. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions. The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

**Charting analysis** involves the gathering and processing of price and volume information for a particular security. This price and volume information is analyzed using mathematical equations. The resulting data is then applied to graphing charts, which is used to predict future price movements based on price patterns and trends. Charts may not accurately predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may not reflect all information about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

#### **Investment Strategies**

#### **Asset Allocation**

In implementing our Clients' investment strategy, we begin by attempting to identify an appropriate ratio of equities, fixed income, and cash (i.e. "asset allocation") suitable to the Client's investment goals and risk tolerance.

A risk of asset allocation is that the Client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of equities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the Client's goals. We attempt to closely monitor our asset allocation models and make changes periodically to keep in line with the target risk tolerance model.

#### **Modern Portfolio Theory**

The underlying principles of MPT are:

- Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.
- Markets are efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.
- The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.
- Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.
- Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

#### **Passive and Active Investment Management**

We may choose investment vehicles that are considered passive, active, or a combination of both styles.

Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes

are weighted in a manner to achieve a desired relationship between correlation, risk and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio.

Active investing involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark. Actively managed funds are also designed to reduce volatility and risk.

We may engage in both passive and active investing in Client's portfolio. However, we strive to construct portfolios of funds and individual securities that we believe will have the greatest probability for achieving our Clients' personal financial goals with the least amount of volatility and risk rather than attempt to outperform an arbitrary index or benchmark.

Specific investment selections are based on a number of factors that we evaluate in order to select, what we believe to be, the highest quality funds or individual securities for our Clients. These factors include but are not limited to underlying holdings of funds, percentage weighting of holdings within funds, liquidity, tax efficiency, bid/ask spreads, and other smart/strategic beta factors. These factors may or may not result in the lowest cost ETFs and mutual funds available when utilizing funds in a Client's portfolio, but we strive to keep internal fund expenses as low as possible.

#### **Socially Responsible Investing**

We may utilize various socially conscious investment approaches if a Client desires. RFS may construct portfolios that utilize mutual funds, ETFs, or individual securities with the purpose of incorporating socially conscious principles into a Client's portfolio. These portfolios may sometimes also be customized to reflect the personal values of each individual, family, or organization. This allows our Clients to invest in a way that aligns with their values. RFS may rely on mutual funds and ETFs that incorporate Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") research as well as positive and negative screens related to specific business practices to determine the quality of an investment on values-based merits. Additionally, RFS may construct portfolios of individual securities in order to provide Clients with a greater degree of control over the socially conscious strategies they are utilizing. RFS relies on third-party research when constructing portfolios of individual securities with socially conscious considerations.

If you request your portfolio to be invested according to socially conscious principles, you should note that returns on investments of this type may be limited and because of this limitation you may not be able to be as well diversified among various asset classes. The number of publicly traded companies that meet socially conscious investment parameters is also limited, and due to this limitation, there is a probability of similarity or overlap of holdings, especially among socially conscious mutual funds or ETFs. Therefore, there could be a more pronounced positive or negative impact on a socially conscious portfolio, which could be more volatile than a fully diversified portfolio.

#### Long-term/Short-term purchases

We purchase securities and generally hold them in the Client's account for a year or longer. Short-term purchases may be employed as appropriate when:

- We believe the securities to be currently undervalued, and/or
- We want exposure to a particular asset class over time, regardless of the current projection for this class.

A risk in a long-term purchase strategy is that by holding the security for this length of time, we may not take advantage 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.

#### **Material Risks Involved**

All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear. Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities, and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

**Strategy Risk:** The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Client's portfolio.

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

**Limited markets:** Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Legal or Legislative Risk**: Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation**: Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

**Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis:** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in other funds in the Client's portfolio. In addition, we monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy.

A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the fund or ETF less suitable for the Client's portfolio.

Use of Outside Managers: We may refer Clients to third-party investment advisers ("outside managers"). Our analysis of outside managers involves the examination of the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of the outside managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations, and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as

part of our due diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with an outside manager who has been successful in the past is that he or she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in an outside manager's portfolio. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our Clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

#### **Risks Associated with Securities**

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Commercial Paper** is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

Corporate Bonds are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on factors such as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Bank Obligations** including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

**Municipal Bonds** are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Options and other derivatives** carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

**Exchange Traded Funds Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above (premium) or below (discount) their net asset value and an ETF purchased at a premium may ultimately be sold at a discount; (ii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

**Mutual Funds**: When a Client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the Client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the Client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

RFS and its management have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

## **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

RFS and its management have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

#### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

RFS and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a Client's or prospective Client's evaluation of RFS or the integrity of its management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

#### **Broker-Dealer Affiliation**

No RFS employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

#### **Other Affiliations**

No RFS employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

#### **Related Persons**

Neither RFS or its management persons have any relationship or arrangement with any related parties.

#### **Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers**

As referenced in Item 4 of this brochure, RFS recommends Clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts. In the event that we recommend an Outside Manager, please note that we do not share in their advisory fee. Clients pay one single fee (as noted in Item 5), however our fee is separate to the Outside Managers compensation and the Outside Manager will deduct the single fee from client account(s) and remit our advisory fee to us. In addition, you will be provided a copy of the Outside Manager's Form ADV 2A, Firm Brochure, which also describes the Outside Manager's fee. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any Outside Manager we recommend. Additionally, RFS will only recommend an Outside Manager who is properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser.

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

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities

## **Code of Ethics Description**

This Code of Ethics does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield our firm or its access persons from liability for misconduct that violates a fiduciary duty to our Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Access persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Access persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence Access persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness Access persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality Access persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Access persons conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence Access persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

## **Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest**

Neither our firm, its access persons, or any related person is authorized to recommend to a Client or effect a transaction for a Client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, principal transaction, among others.

#### Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Our firm and its "related persons" may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients for their accounts. In an effort to mitigate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates' transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transactions as required.

## Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities

From time to time our firm, its access persons, or its related persons may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as they buy or sell securities for Clients' account(s). To address this conflict, it is our policy that neither our firm or access persons shall have priority over Clients' accounts in the purchase or sale of

securities. The trading of the firm and its personnel is prohibited from front running or disadvantaging the Firm's trading for Clients.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

## **Factors Used to Select Custodians**

Regista Financial Strategies, LLC does not have any affiliation with Custodians. We use Betterment based on their reputation and services.

We have an obligation to seek the "best execution" of transactions in Client accounts. The determinative factor in the analysis of best execution is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of the custodian's services. The factors we consider when evaluating a custodian for best execution include, without limitation, the custodian's:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody);
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account);
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.);
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), etc.);
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services;
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices;
- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability;
- Prior service to us and our clients.

Investment Management services are available to RFS Clients who use Betterment as their custodian. Betterment is an unaffiliated SEC registered brokerage firm and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC"). We are not affiliated with Betterment, however, we have established access to their institutional platforms in order to provide investment management services. The Client will ultimately make the final decision to use Betterment by signing the custodian's account opening documentation.

#### **Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits**

RFS does not have any soft-dollar arrangements with custodians whereby soft-dollar credits, used to purchase products and services, are earned directly in proportion to the amount of commissions paid by a Client. However, as a result of being on their institutional platform, Betterment for Advisors may provide us with certain services and products that may benefit us. All such soft dollar benefits are consistent with the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

#### **Betterment For Advisors**

Betterment Securities serves as broker-dealer to Betterment For Advisors, an investment and advice platform serving independent investment advisory firms like us ("Betterment For Advisors"). Betterment For Advisors also makes available various support services which may not be available to Betterment's retail customers. Some of those services help us manage or administer our Clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Betterment For Advisors' support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have

to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Betterment For Advisors' support services:

- 1. SERVICES THAT BENEFIT YOU. Betterment For Advisors includes access to a range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client assets through Betterment Securities. Betterment Securities' services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.
- 2. SERVICES THAT MAY NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOU. Betterment For Advisors also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us, but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our Clients' accounts, such as software and technology that may:
  - a. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting of our Clients' accounts.
  - b. Provide access to Client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements).
  - c. Provide pricing and other market data.
  - d. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting.
- 3. SERVICES THAT GENERALLY BENEFIT ONLY US. By using Betterment For Advisors, we will be offered other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:
  - a. Educational conferences and events.
  - b. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs.
  - c. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession.
- 4. YOUR BROKERAGE AND CUSTODY COSTS. For our Clients' accounts that Betterment Securities maintains, Betterment Securities generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated as part of the Betterment For Advisors (defined below) platform fee, which is a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account in lieu of commissions. We have determined that having Betterment Securities execute trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see "Factors Used to Select Custodians").

The availability of these services from Betterment For Advisors benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. In addition, we don't have to pay for Betterment Securities' services. These services may be contingent upon us committing a certain amount of business to Betterment Securities in assets in custody. We may have an incentive to require that you maintain your account with Betterment Securities, based on our interest in receiving Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Betterment Securities as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our Clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Betterment Securities' services and not Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit only us.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We receive no referrals from a custodian, broker-dealer, or third party in exchange for using that custodian, broker-dealer, or third party.

#### Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

We require Betterment as the Client's custodian. We do not trade away from Betterment, nor do we allow Clients to direct us to trade away from Betterment.

## **Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts**

Generally, we combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion, regarding particular circumstances and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or access persons may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

Outside Managers used by RFS may block Client trades at their discretion. Their specific practices are further discussed in Betterment's ADV Part 2A, Item 12, which we will provide to clients.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

#### **Periodic Reviews**

Akram Hassan, Owner and CCO of RFS, will work with Clients to obtain current information regarding their assets and investment holdings and will review this information as part of our financial planning services. RFS does not provide specific reports to financial planning Clients, other than financial plans.

Clients who engage us for investment management services will have their account(s) reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Akram Hassan, Owner and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the Client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels.

## **Triggers of Reviews**

Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of Client-imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs

#### **Review Reports**

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the custodian(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest.

RFS will provide written reports to Investment Advisory Clients on an annual basis. We urge Clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian. We invite clients to meet with RFS on an annual basis.

# Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

# Compensation Received by Regista Financial Strategies, LLC

RFS is a fee-only firm that is compensated solely by its Clients. RFS does not receive commissions or other sales-related compensation. Except as mentioned in Item 12 above, we do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients.

#### Client Referrals from Solicitors

RFS does not, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals.

# Item 15: Custody

RFS does not accept or maintain physical custody of any Client funds or securities, or have any authority to obtain possession of them. However, we do have constructive custody regarding the direct deduction of fees from managed accounts. All Client assets are held at a qualified custodian.

If RFS deducts its advisory fee from Client's account(s), the following safeguards will be applied:

- i. The Client will provide written authorization to RFS, permitting us to be paid directly from Client's accounts held by the custodian.
- ii. The custodian will send monthly statements to the Client showing all disbursements from the accounts, including the amount of the advisory fee.
- iii. In jurisdictions where required, RFS will send an itemized invoice to the Client at the same time it instructs the custodian to debit the advisory fee. Itemization includes the formula used to calculate the fee, the amount of assets under management the fee is based on, and the time period covered by the fee.

We urge you to carefully review custodial statements and compare them to the account invoices or reports that we may provide to you and notify us of any discrepancies. Our invoices or reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, RFS has discretionary authority and limited power of attorney to determine the securities and the amount of securities to be bought or sold for a Client's account without having to obtain prior Client approval for each transaction. Investment discretion is explained to Clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the Client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account(s). Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the Advisory Contract and signed by the Client. Clients may limit our discretion by requesting certain restrictions on investments. However, approval of such requests are at the firm's sole discretion.

# Item 17: Voting Client Securities

We do not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward you any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

# Item 18: Financial Information

We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to our Clients, nor have we been the subject of any bankruptcy proceeding. We do not have custody of Client funds or securities, except as disclosed in Item 15 above, or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees six months or more in advance.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

## **Principal Officers**

Akram Hassan serves as RFS's sole principal and CCO. Information about Akram Hassan's education, business background, and outside business activities can be found on his ADV Part 2B, Brochure Supplement attached to this Brochure.

#### **Outside Business**

RFS is not involved in Outside Business activities.

#### **Performance-Based Fees**

Neither RFS nor Akram Hassan is compensated by performance-based fees.

## **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at RFS has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## **Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities**

RFS nor Akram Hassan have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

# Regista Financial Strategies, LLC

11218 Uptown Ave Broomfield, Colorado 80021 (727) 420-5946

Dated June 15, 2023

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

For

# **Akram Hassan**

Owner, and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Akram Hassan that supplements the Regista Financial Strategies, LLC ("RFS") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Akram Hassan if the RFS brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Akram Hassan is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 6993432.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

## Akram Hassan

Born: 1988

# **Educational Background**

• 2016 – B.S. Finance, University Of South Florida

# **Business Experience**

- 04/2023 Present, Regista Financial Strategies, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 08/2018 04/2023, Edward Jones, Financial Advisor
- 11/2017 8/2018, Synergy BIS, Analyst
- 08/2016 11/2017, DeWolff Boberg & Associates, Management Consultant
- 02/2011 8/2016, US Army, Analyst

# Item 3: Disciplinary Information

Akram Hassan has never been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Akram Hassan is not involved with outside business activities.

# Item 5: Additional Compensation

Akram Hassan does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through RFS.

# Item 6: Supervision

Akram Hassan, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of RFS, will adhere to the firm's policies and procedures. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Akram Hassan has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.