

**Part 2A of Form ADV: *Firm Brochure***

**Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC**

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March 22, 2018

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (602) 212-1040 or [info@vestpointe.com](mailto:info@vestpointe.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Our firm's CRD number is 132591.

## **Item 2 Material Changes**

This Firm Disclosure Brochure, dated March 22, 2018, is our disclosure document prepared according to the SEC's requirements and rules. As a state-registered investment adviser, our firm is required to comply with the reporting and filing requirements. We will inform you of the revision(s) based on the material nature of the updated information.

Consistent with the rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. Furthermore, we will provide you with other interim disclosures about material changes as necessary. This page will provide a summary of the material changes we have made to the disclosure document.

***There has been one material updates since our last Firm Disclosure Brochure, dated March 16, 2017.***

For our full ADV Part 2A Firm Disclosure Brochure, our Privacy Policy or a copy of our Code of Ethics, please contact us at:

### **Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC**

Attn: CCO

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## **Item 4    Advisory Business**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC is a state-registered investment adviser with its principal place of business located in Arizona. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC began conducting business in 2004.

Listed below are the firm's principal shareholders (i.e., those individuals and/or entities controlling 25% or more of this company).

- Joseph Ignatius McCabe III, President
- Michele McCabe, Shareholder

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC offers the following advisory services to our clients:

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

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 and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy. During our data-gathering process, we determine the client's individual objectives, time horizons, risk tolerance, and liquidity needs. As appropriate, we also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities

- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Futures contracts on tangibles
- Futures contracts on intangibles
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in managed futures.

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

Our firm provides portfolio management services to clients using model asset allocation portfolios. Each model portfolio is designed to meet a particular investment goal.

<b><u>Model Portfolio Name</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
Aggressive	Our Aggressive Model Portfolio is designed for the investor who has a long term investment horizon, desires a high level of return and can tolerate a high degree of volatility.
Moderate Aggressive	Our Moderate Aggressive Model Portfolio is designed for the investor who has a long-term investment horizon, desires a high level of return but desires a moderate level of volatility.
Moderate	Our Moderate Model Portfolio is designed for the investor who has a mid-term investment horizon, desires a moderate level of return and wants to balance growth of the portfolio with stability.

## Moderate Conservative

Our Moderate Conservative Model Portfolio is designed for the investor who desires a low exposure to equity investments, a moderate level of income and a low level of risk.

## Conservative

Our Conservative Model Portfolio is designed for the investor who desires a high level of income and a very low level of risk.

We manage these advisory accounts on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. Account supervision is guided by the client's stated objectives (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations.

Through personal discussions with the client in which the client's goals and objectives are established, we determine if the model portfolio is suitable to the client's circumstances. Once we determine the suitability of the portfolio, the portfolio is managed based on the portfolio's goal, rather than on each client's individual needs. Clients, nevertheless, have the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in their account. Clients retain individual ownership of all securities.

Our investment recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker dealer or insurance company and will generally include advice regarding the following securities:

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities

- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Futures contracts on tangibles
- Futures contracts on intangibles
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in managed futures.

Because some types of investments involve certain additional degrees of risk, they will only be implemented/recommended when consistent with the client's stated investment objectives, tolerance for risk, liquidity and suitability.

To ensure that our initial determination of an appropriate portfolio remains suitable and that the account continues to be managed in a manner consistent with the client's financial circumstances, we will:

1. send quarterly written reminders to each Model Portfolio Management Services client requesting any updated information regarding changes in the client's financial situation and investment objectives;
2. at least annually, contact each participating client to determine whether there have been any changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives, and whether the client wishes to impose investment restrictions or modify existing restrictions;
3. be reasonably available to consult with the client; and
4. maintain client suitability information in each client's file.

### **MANAGER OF MANAGERS PROGRAM**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC offers advisory management services to clients through our Manager of Managers Program. We provide the client with an asset allocation strategy developed through personal discussions in which the client's goals and objectives are established based on the client's particular circumstances. This asset allocation strategy is drafted into the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC performs management searches of various registered investment advisers. Based on the client's individual circumstances and needs (as exhibited in the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement) we determine which selected registered investment adviser's ("adviser" or "asset manager") portfolio management style is appropriate for that client. Factors considered in making this determination include account size, risk tolerance, the opinion of each client and the investment philosophy of the selected asset

manager. Clients should refer to the asset manager's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of the services offered. Client meetings are available on a regular basis, or as determined by the client, to review the account.

Once we identify the most appropriate asset manager(s), our firm provides the selected adviser with the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement, who then creates and manages the client's portfolio based on that Personal Investment Policy Statement.

On an ongoing basis, we monitor the performance of the asset manager(s). If we determine that a particular adviser is not providing sufficient management services to the client, or is not managing the client's portfolio in a manner consistent with that client's Personal Investment Policy Statement, then we may move the client's portfolio to a different asset manager and/or program sponsor. Under this scenario, our firm retains the discretion to hire and fire the asset manager and/or move the client's portfolio to a different program.

At least annually, we meet with the client to review and update, as necessary, the client's Personal Investment Advisory Statement. However, should there be any material change in the client's personal and/or financial situation, we should be notified immediately to determine whether any review and/or revision of the client's Personal Investment Advisory Statement is warranted.

## **PENSION CONSULTING SERVICES**

We also provide several advisory services separately or in combination. While the primary clients for these services will be pension, profit sharing and 401(k) plans, we offer these services, where appropriate, to individuals and trusts, estates and charitable organizations. Pension Consulting Services are comprised of four distinct services. Clients may choose to use any or all of these services.

*Investment Policy Statement Preparation (hereinafter referred to as IPS ):*

We will meet with the client (in person or over the telephone) to determine an appropriate investment strategy that reflects the plan sponsor's stated investment objectives for management of the overall plan. Our firm then prepares a written IPS detailing those needs and goals, including an encompassing policy under which these goals are to be achieved. The IPS also lists the criteria for selection of investment vehicles as well as the procedures and timing interval for monitoring of investment performance.

*Selection of Investment Vehicles:*

We assist plan sponsors in constructing appropriate asset allocation models. We will then review various mutual funds (both index and managed) to determine which investments are appropriate to implement the client's IPS. The number of investments to be recommended will be determined by the client, based on the IPS.

*Monitoring of Investment Performance:*

We monitor client investments continually, based on the procedures and timing intervals delineated in the Investment Policy Statement. Although our firm is not involved in any way in



the purchase or sale of these investments, we supervise the client's portfolio and will make recommendations to the client as market factors and the client's needs dictate.

*Employee Communications:*

For pension, profit sharing and 401(k) plan clients with individual plan participants exercising control over assets in their own account ("self-directed plans"), we may also provide quarterly educational support and investment workshops designed for the plan participants. The nature of the topics to be covered will be determined by us and the client under the guidelines established in ERISA Section 404(c). The educational support and investment workshops will NOT provide plan participants with individualized, tailored investment advice or individualized, tailored asset allocation recommendations.

### **SELECTION AND MONITORING OF THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS**

We also offer advisory management services to our clients through our Selection and Monitoring of Third-Party Money Managers programs (hereinafter, "Programs").

Our firm provides the client with an asset allocation strategy developed through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on the client's particular circumstances are established. This asset allocation strategy is drafted into the client's Personal Investment Policy Statement ("PIPS").

Based on the client's individual circumstances and needs (as exhibited in the client's PIPS) we will then perform management searches of various unaffiliated registered investment advisers to identify which registered investment adviser's portfolio management style is appropriate for that client. Factors considered in making this determination include account size, risk tolerance, the opinion of each client and the investment philosophy of the selected registered investment adviser. Clients should refer to the selected registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document for a full description of the services offered. We are available to meet with clients on a regular basis, or as determined by the client, to review the account.

Once we determine the most suitable investment adviser(s) for the client, we provide the selected adviser(s) with the client's PIPS. The adviser(s) then creates and manages the client's portfolio based on the client's individual needs as exhibited in the PIPS.

We monitor the performance of the selected registered investment adviser(s). If we determine that a particular selected registered investment adviser(s) is not providing sufficient management services to the client, or is not managing the client's portfolio in a manner consistent with the client's PIPS, we may suggest that the client contract with a different registered investment adviser and/or program sponsor. Under this scenario, our firm assists the client in selecting a new registered investment adviser and/or program. However, any move to a new registered investment adviser and/or program is solely at the discretion of the client.

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING**

We provide financial planning services. Financial planning is a comprehensive 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. Through the financial planning process, all questions, information and analysis are considered as they impact and are impacted by the entire financial and life situation of the client. Clients purchasing this service receive a written report which provides the client with a detailed financial plan designed to assist the client achieve his or her financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan can address any or all of the following areas:

- **PERSONAL:** We review family records, budgeting, personal liability, estate information and financial goals.
- **TAX & CASH FLOW:** We analyze the client's income tax and spending and planning for past, current and future years; then illustrate the impact of various investments on the client's current income tax and future tax liability.
- **INVESTMENTS:** We analyze investment alternatives and their effect on the client's portfolio.
- **INSURANCE:** We review existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home and automobile.
- **RETIREMENT:** We analyze current strategies and investment plans to help the client achieve his or her retirement goals.
- **DEATH & DISABILITY:** We review the client's cash needs at death, income needs of surviving dependents, estate planning and disability income.
- **ESTATE:** We assist the client in assessing and developing long-term strategies, including as appropriate, living trusts, wills, review estate tax, powers of attorney, asset protection plans, nursing homes, Medicaid and elder law.

We gather required information through in-depth personal interviews. Information gathered includes the client's current financial status, tax status, future goals, returns objectives and attitudes towards risk. We carefully review documents supplied by the client, including a questionnaire completed by the client, and prepare a written report. Should the client choose to implement the recommendations contained in the plan, we suggest the client work closely with his/her attorney, accountant, insurance agent, and/or stockbroker. Implementation of financial plan recommendations is entirely at the client's discretion.

We also provide general non-securities advice on topics that may include tax and budgetary planning, estate planning and business planning.

- Exchange-listed securities
- Securities traded over-the-counter
- Foreign issuers
- Warrants
- Corporate debt securities (other than commercial paper)
- Commercial paper
- Certificates of deposit
- Municipal securities
- Variable annuities
- Mutual fund shares
- United States governmental securities
- Options contracts on securities
- Options contracts on commodities
- Futures contracts on tangibles
- Futures contracts on intangibles
- Interests in partnerships investing in real estate
- Interests in partnerships investing in oil and gas interests
- Interests in partnerships investing in managed futures.

Typically the financial plan is presented to the client within six months of the contract date, provided that all information needed to prepare the financial plan has been promptly provided.

Financial Planning recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company. All recommendations are of a generic nature.

### **CONSULTING SERVICES**

Clients can also receive investment advice on a more focused basis. This may include advice on only an isolated area(s) of concern such as estate planning, retirement planning, or any other specific topic. We also provide specific consultation and administrative services

regarding investment and financial concerns of the client.

Consulting recommendations are not limited to any specific product or service offered by a broker-dealer or insurance company. All recommendations are of a generic nature.

### **AMOUNT OF MANAGED ASSETS**

As of 12/31/2017, we were actively managing \$ 71,791,919 of clients' assets on a discretionary basis plus \$ 1,952,058 of clients' assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

The annualized fee for Investment Supervisory Services are charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$800,000	.8%
\$801,000 to \$2,000,000	.4%
\$2,000,001 and up	.2%

A minimum of **\$500,000** of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's advisory fees are not negotiable.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FEES**

The annualized fee for Model Portfolio Management Services will be charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$800,000	.8%
\$801,000 to \$2,000,000	.4%
\$2,000,001 and up	.2%

A minimum of **\$500,000** of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's advisory fees are not negotiable.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") MANAGER OF MANAGERS FEES**

Our annual fee for the Manager of Managers Program is charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$800,000	.8%
\$801,000 to \$2,000,000	.4%
\$2,000,001 and up	.2%

A minimum of **\$500,000** of assets under management is required for this service. This account size may be negotiable under certain circumstances. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may group certain related client accounts for the purposes of achieving the minimum account size and determining the annualized fee.

### **PENSION CONSULTING FEES**

Our fees for Pension Consulting Services are based on a percentage of assets under advisement, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$800,000	.8%
\$801,000 to \$2,000,000	.4%
\$2,000,001 and up	.2%

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC offers several fee options. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may be compensated based on an annual percentage of plan assets for services involving ongoing reviews, or it may be compensated by an hourly fee or fixed fee. Alternatively, these different types of fees may also be combined as appropriate for the different types of services requested by the client.

Typically, the annual fee ranges from .8% to .2% of plan assets depending on the services requested and the size of the plan. Fees will be based upon the value of the plan at the end of the previous period. Fees will be adjusted based on additions and withdrawals during the calendar quarter, if the additional or withdrawal is greater than \$5,000.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's hourly charges range from \$190 to \$280 per hour. A fixed fee may be quoted based on an estimate of hours for the services requested. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may request a retainer for hourly and fixed fee arrangements. The amount of a requested retainer will never exceed the fee for services to be provided within the first six months of an engagement.

Plan sponsors are invoiced in advance at the beginning of each calendar quarter.

A total minimum fee of \$5,000 is required. This minimum fee may prevent Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC from providing services to very small ERISA plans.

### **SELECTION and MONITORING of THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS FEES**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's fee for this service does not include the independent investment adviser's fee for that entity's advisory/management services. The independent investment adviser's management fee is disclosed in the independent investment adviser's Firm Brochure or other disclosure document.

Our annual fee for the Manager Selection Program is charged as a percentage of assets under management, according to the following schedule:

<b><u>Assets Under Management</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$800,000	.8%
\$801,000 to \$2,000,000	.4%
\$2,000,001 and up	.2%

### **FINANCIAL PLANNING FEES**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's Financial Planning fee is determined based on the nature of the services being provided and the complexity of each client's circumstances. All fees are agreed upon prior to entering into a contract with any client.

Our Financial Planning fees are calculated and charged on an hourly basis, ranging from \$160 to \$260 per hour. Although the length of time it will take to provide a Financial Plan will depend on each client's personal situation, we will provide an estimate for the total hours at the start of the advisory relationship.

***Fees Offset By Commissions:*** If a Financial Planning client executes recommended

securities transactions through associated persons of our firm in their separate capacities as registered representatives of a broker dealer, these individuals will earn commissions which are separate and distinct from fees charged for advisory services. In some instances, depending on the size of the transaction, advisory fees will be discounted, at our discretion, for commissions earned. Commissions will not be credited towards future advisory fees.

**Financial Planning Fee Offset:** Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC reserves the discretion to reduce or waive the hourly fee and/or the minimum fixed fee if a financial planning client chooses to engage us for our Portfolio Management Services.

The client is billed quarterly in arrears based on actual hours accrued.

## **CONSULTING SERVICES FEES**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's Consulting Services fee is determined based on the nature of the services being provided and the complexity of each client's circumstances. All fees are agreed upon prior to entering into a contract with any client.

Our Consulting Services fees are calculated and charged on an hourly basis, ranging from \$160 to \$260 per hour. An estimate for the total hours is determined at the start of the advisory relationship.

The client is billed quarterly in arrears based on our actual Consulting Services fees.

Management personnel and other related persons of our firm are licensed as registered representatives of a broker-dealer and/or licensed as insurance agents or brokers. In their separate capacity(ies), these individuals are able to implement investment recommendations for advisory clients for separate and typical compensation (i.e., commissions, 12b-1 fees or other sales-related forms of compensation). This presents a conflict of interest to the extent that these individuals recommend that a client invest in a security which results in a commission being paid to the individuals. Clients are not under any obligation to engage these individuals when considering implementation of advisory recommendations. The implementation of any or all recommendations is solely at the discretion of the client.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Termination of the Advisory Relationship:** A client agreement may be canceled at any time, by either party, for any reason upon receipt of 30 days written notice. As disclosed above, certain fees are paid in advance of services provided. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded. In calculating a client's reimbursement of fees, we will pro rate the reimbursement according to the number of days remaining in the billing period.

**Mutual Fund Fees:** All fees paid to Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds and/or ETFs to their shareholders. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees will generally include a management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. If the fund also imposes sales charges, a client may pay an initial or deferred sales charge. A client could invest in a mutual fund directly, without our

services. In that case, the client would not receive the services provided by our firm which are designed, among other things, to assist the client in determining which mutual fund or funds are most appropriate to each client's financial condition and objectives. Accordingly, the client should review both the fees charged by the funds and our fees to fully understand the total amount of fees to be paid by the client and to thereby evaluate the advisory services being provided.

***Wrap Fee Programs and Separately Managed Account Fees:*** Clients participating in separately managed account programs may be charged various program fees in addition to the advisory fee charged by our firm. Such fees may include the investment advisory fees of the independent advisers, which may be charged as part of a wrap fee arrangement. In a wrap fee arrangement, clients pay a single fee for advisory, brokerage and custodial services. Client's portfolio transactions may be executed without commission charge in a wrap fee arrangement. In evaluating such an arrangement, the client should also consider that, depending upon the level of the wrap fee charged by the broker-dealer, the amount of portfolio activity in the client's account, and other factors, the wrap fee may or may not exceed the aggregate cost of such services if they were to be provided separately. We will review with clients any separate program fees that may be charged to clients.

***Additional Fees and Expenses:*** In addition to our advisory fees, clients are also responsible for the fees and expenses charged by custodians and imposed by broker dealers, including, but not limited to, any transaction charges imposed by a broker dealer with which an independent investment manager effects transactions for the client's account(s). Please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section (Item 12) of this Form ADV for additional information.

***Grandfathering of Minimum Account Requirements:*** Pre-existing advisory clients are subject to Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's minimum account requirements and advisory fees in effect at the time the client entered into the advisory relationship. Therefore, our firm's minimum account requirements will differ among clients.

***ERISA Accounts:*** Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC is deemed to be a fiduciary to advisory clients that are employee benefit plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs) pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income and Securities Act ("ERISA"), and regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), respectively. . As such, our firm is subject to specific duties and obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code that include among other things, restrictions concerning certain forms of compensation. To avoid engaging in prohibited transactions, Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may only charge fees for investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons do not receive any commissions or 12b-1 fees, or conversely, investment advice about products for which our firm and/or our related persons receive commissions or 12b-1 fees, however, only when such fees are used to offset Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's advisory fees.

***Advisory Fees in General:*** Clients should note that similar advisory services may (or may not) be available from other registered (or unregistered) investment advisers for similar or lower fees.



**Limited Prepayment of Fees:** Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$500 more than six months in advance of services rendered.

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

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC does not charge performance-based fees.

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC provides advisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)
- High net worth individuals
- Pension and profit sharing plans(other than plan participants)
- Corporations or other businesses not listed above

As previously disclosed in Item 5, our firm has established certain initial minimum account requirements, based on the nature of the service(s) being provided. For a more detailed understanding of those requirements, please review the disclosures provided in each applicable service.

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

### **METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

We use the following methods of analysis in formulating our investment advice and/or managing client assets:

**Charting.** In this type of technical analysis, we review charts of market and security activity in an attempt to identify when the market is moving up or down and to predict how long the trend may last and when that trend might reverse.

**Fundamental Analysis.** We attempt to measure the intrinsic value of a security by looking at economic and financial factors (including the overall economy, industry conditions, and the financial condition and management of the company itself) to determine if the company is underpriced (indicating it may be a good time to buy) or overpriced (indicating it may be time to sell).

Fundamental analysis does not attempt to anticipate market movements. This presents a

potential risk, as the price of a security can move up or down along with the overall market regardless of the economic and financial factors considered in evaluating the stock.

**Technical Analysis.** We analyze past market movements and apply that analysis to the present in an attempt to recognize recurring patterns of investor behavior and potentially predict future price movement.

Technical analysis does not consider the underlying financial condition of a company. This presents a risk in that a poorly-managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement.

**Cyclical Analysis.** In this type of technical analysis, we measure the movements of a particular stock against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.

**Quantitative Analysis.** We use mathematical models in an attempt to obtain more accurate measurements of a company's quantifiable data, such as the value of a share price or earnings per share, and predict changes to that data.

A risk in using quantitative analysis is that the models used may be based on assumptions that prove to be incorrect.

**Qualitative Analysis.** We subjectively evaluate non-quantifiable factors such as quality of management, labor relations, and strength of research and development factors not readily subject to measurement, and predict changes to share price based on that data.

A risk is using qualitative analysis is that our subjective judgment may prove incorrect.

**Asset Allocation.** Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash 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 securities, 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.

**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 another fund(s) in the client's portfolio. We also 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 holding(s) less suitable for the client's portfolio.

***Third-Party Money Manager Analysis.*** We examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third-party investment 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 a third-party manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a third-party 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 for all forms of analysis.*** Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly-available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

## ***INVESTMENT STRATEGIES***

We use the following strategy(ies) in managing client accounts, provided that such strategy(ies) are appropriate to the needs of the client and consistent with the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizons, among other considerations:

***Long-term purchases.*** We purchase securities with the idea of holding them in the client's account for a year or longer. Typically we employ this strategy 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.

***Short-term purchases.*** When utilizing this strategy, we purchase securities with the idea of selling them within a relatively short time (typically a year or less). We do this in an attempt to take advantage of conditions that we believe will soon result in a price swing in the securities

we purchase.

**Short sales.** We borrow shares of a stock for your portfolio from someone who owns the stock on a promise to replace the shares on a future date at a certain price. Those borrowed shares are then sold. On the agreed-upon future date, we buy the same stock and return the shares to the original owner. We engage in short selling based on our determination that the stock will go down in price after we have borrowed the shares. If we are correct and the stock price has gone down since the shares were purchased from the original owner, the client account realizes the profit.

**Option writing.** We may use options as an investment strategy. An option is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an asset (such as a share of stock) at a specific price on or before a certain date. An option, just like a stock or bond, is a security. An option is also a derivative, because it derives its value from an underlying asset.

The two types of options are calls and puts:

- A call gives us the right to buy an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a call if we have determined that the stock will increase substantially before the option expires.
- A put gives us the holder the right to sell an asset at a certain price within a specific period of time. We will buy a put if we have determined that the price of the stock will fall before the option expires.

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

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

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

**Risk of Loss.** Securities investments are not guaranteed and you may lose money on your investments. We ask that you work with us to help us understand your tolerance for risk.

## **Item 9    Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

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

Our firm and our related persons are not engaged in other financial industry activities and have no other industry affiliations.

Management personnel of our firm are also partners in the accounting firm of Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C., where they are individually licensed and practicing Certified Public Accountants providing accounting services for separate and typical compensation.

Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C. typically recommends Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC to accounting clients in need of advisory services. Conversely, Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC typically recommends Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C. to advisory clients in need of accounting services. Accounting services provided by Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C. are separate and distinct from our advisory services, and are provided for separate and typical compensation. There are no referral fee arrangements between our firms for these recommendations. No Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC client is obligated to use Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C. for any accounting services and conversely, no accounting client is obligated to use the advisory services provided by us. Joseph I. McCabe III CPA, P.C.'s accounting services do not include the authority to sign checks or otherwise disburse funds on any of our advisory client's behalf.

These individuals will spend the majority of their time on their accounting practice.

Management personnel of our firm, in their individual capacities, are agents for various insurance companies. As such, these individuals are able to receive separate, yet customary commission compensation resulting from implementing product transactions on behalf of advisory clients. Clients, however, are not under any obligation to engage these individuals when considering implementation of advisory recommendations. The implementation of any or all recommendations is solely at the discretion of the client.

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

Our firm has adopted a Code of Ethics which sets forth high ethical standards of business conduct that we require of our employees, including compliance with applicable federal securities laws.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC and our personnel owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards our clients, and have an obligation to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code of Ethics but to the general principles that guide the Code.

Our Code of Ethics includes policies and procedures for the review of quarterly securities transactions reports as well as initial and annual securities holdings reports that must be submitted by the firm's access persons. Among other things, our Code of Ethics also requires the prior approval of any acquisition of securities in a limited offering (e.g., private placement)

or an initial public offering. Our code also provides for oversight, enforcement and recordkeeping provisions.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's Code of Ethics further includes the firm's policy prohibiting the use of material non-public information. While we do not believe that we have any particular access to non-public information, all employees are reminded that such information may not be used in a personal or professional capacity.

A copy of our Code of Ethics is available to our advisory clients and prospective clients. You may request a copy by email sent to [joem@vestpointe.com](mailto:joem@vestpointe.com), or by calling us at (602) 212-1040.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of our employees will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts.

Our firm and/or individuals associated with our firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities identical to or different from those recommended to our clients. In addition, any related person(s) may have an interest or position in a certain security(ies) which may also be recommended to a client.

It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing such employee(s) from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

We may aggregate our employee trades with client transactions where possible and when compliant with our duty to seek best execution for our clients. In these instances, participating clients will receive an average share price and transaction costs will be shared equally and on a pro-rata basis. In the instances where there is a partial fill of a particular batched order, we will allocate all purchases pro-rata, with each account paying the average price. Our employee accounts will be excluded in the pro-rata allocation.

As these situations represent actual or potential conflicts of interest to our clients, we have established the following policies and procedures for implementing our firm's Code of Ethics, to ensure our firm complies with its regulatory obligations and provides our clients and potential clients with full and fair disclosure of such conflicts of interest:

1. No principal or employee of our firm may put his or her own interest above the interest of an advisory client.
2. No principal or employee of our firm may buy or sell securities for their personal portfolio(s) where their decision is a result of information received as a result of his or her employment unless the information is also available to the investing public.
3. It is the expressed policy of our firm that no person employed by us may purchase or sell any security prior to a transaction(s) being implemented for an advisory account. This prevents such employees from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory

accounts.

4. Our firm requires prior approval for any IPO or private placement investments by related persons of the firm.
5. We maintain a list of all reportable securities holdings for our firm and anyone associated with this advisory practice that has access to advisory recommendations ("access person"). These holdings are reviewed on a regular basis by our firm's Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee.
6. We have established procedures for the maintenance of all required books and records.
7. All clients are fully informed that related persons may receive separate commission compensation when effecting transactions during the implementation process.
8. Clients can decline to implement any advice rendered, except in situations where our firm is granted discretionary authority.
9. All of our principals and employees must act in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations governing registered investment advisory practices.
10. We require delivery and acknowledgement of the Code of Ethics by each supervised person of our firm.
11. We have established policies requiring the reporting of Code of Ethics violations to our senior management.
12. Any individual who violates any of the above restrictions may be subject to termination.

As disclosed in the preceding section of this Brochure (Item 10), related persons of our firm are separately registered as a licensed insurance agent. Please refer to Item 10 for a detailed explanation of these relationships and important conflict of interest disclosures.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC requires that clients provide us with written authority to determine the broker-dealer to use and the commission costs that will be charged to our clients for these transactions.

Clients must include any limitations on this discretionary authority in this written authority statement. Clients may change/amend these limitations as required. Such amendments must be provided to us in writing.

As a matter of policy and practice, Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC does not generally block client trades and, therefore, we implement client transactions separately for each account. Consequently, certain client trades may be executed before others, at a different price and/or commission rate. Additionally, our clients may not receive volume discounts

available to advisers who block client trades.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC has an arrangement with National Financial Services LLC and Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC (collectively, and together with all affiliates, "Fidelity") through which Fidelity provides Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC with "institutional platform services." The institutional platform services include, among others, brokerage, custody, and other related services. Fidelity's institutional platform services that assist Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC in managing and administering clients' accounts include software and other technology that (i) provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements); (ii) facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts; (iii) provide research, pricing and other market data; (iv) facilitate payment of fees from its clients' accounts; and (v) assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

Fidelity also offers other services intended to help Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC manage and further develop its advisory practice. Such services include, but are not limited to, performance reporting, financial planning, contact management systems, third party research, publications, access to educational conferences, roundtables and webinars, practice management resources, access to consultants and other third party service providers who provide a wide array of business related services and technology with whom Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC may contract directly.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC is independently operated and owned and is not affiliated with Fidelity.

Fidelity generally does not charge its advisor clients separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions and other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Fidelity or that settle into Fidelity accounts (i.e., transactions fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and debt securities transactions). Fidelity provides access to many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges.

Fidelity is providing Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC with certain brokerage and research products and services that qualify as "brokerage or research services" under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 "). Without this arrangement, we might be compelled to purchase the same or similar services at our own expense.

As a result of receiving such services for no additional cost, we may have an incentive to continue to use or expand the use of Fidelity's services. We examined this potential conflict of interest when we chose to enter into the relationship with Fidelity and have determined that the relationship is in the best interests of Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's clients and satisfies our client obligations, including our duty to seek best execution. A client may pay a commission that is higher than another qualified broker-dealer might charge to effect the same transaction where we determine in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services received. In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker-dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, while Vestpointe Wealth Management,



LLC will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific client account transactions. Although the investment research products and services that may be obtained by us will generally be used to service all of our clients, a brokerage commission paid by a specific client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC and Fidelity are not affiliated and no broker-dealer affiliated with us is involved in the relationship between Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC and Fidelity.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES ("ISS") INDIVIDUAL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**

**REVIEWS:** While the underlying securities within Individual Portfolio Management Services accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least quarterly. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Joseph I. McCabe, President

**REPORTS:** In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide quarterly reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings.

### **INVESTMENT SUPERVISORY SERVICES("ISS") MODEL PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

**REVIEWS:** While the underlying securities within Model Portfolio Management Services accounts are continually monitored, these accounts are reviewed at least quarterly. Accounts are reviewed in the context of the investment objectives and guidelines of each model portfolio as well as any investment restrictions provided by the client. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Joseph I. McCabe III, President

**REPORTS:** In addition to the monthly statements and confirmations of transactions that clients receive from their broker-dealer, we provide quarterly reports summarizing account performance, balances and holdings. These reports will also remind the client to notify us if there have been changes in the client's financial situation or investment objectives and whether the client wishes to impose investment restrictions or modify existing restrictions.

## **MANAGER OF MANAGERS PROGRAM**

**REVIEWS:** The performance of the registered investment adviser(s) selected to manage client portfolios within our Manager of Managers Program is continually monitored by Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC. Furthermore, accounts within this program are formally reviewed at least quarterly. More frequent reviews may be triggered by material changes in variables such as the client's individual circumstances, or the market, political or economic environment.

These accounts are reviewed by: Joseph I. McCabe III, President

**REPORTS:** In addition, Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC provides our Manager of Managers Program clients with reports as contracted for at the inception of the advisory relationship.

## **PENSION CONSULTING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC will review the client's Investment Policy Statement (IPS) whenever the client advises us of a change in circumstances regarding the needs of the plan. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC will also review the investment options of the plan according to the agreed upon time intervals established in the IPS. Such reviews will generally occur quarterly.

These accounts are reviewed by: Joseph I. McCabe III, President

**REPORTS:** These client accounts will receive reports as contracted for at the inception of the advisory relationship.

## **SELECTION and MONITORING of THIRD-PARTY MONEY MANAGERS**

**REVIEWS:** These client accounts should refer to the independent registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure (or other disclosure document used in lieu of the brochure) for information regarding the nature and frequency of reviews provided by that independent registered investment adviser.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC will provide reviews on a quarterly basis.

These accounts are reviewed by: Joseph I. McCabe III

**REPORTS:** These clients should refer to the independent registered investment adviser's Firm Brochure (or other disclosure document used in lieu of the brochure) for information regarding the nature and frequency of reports provided by that independent registered investment adviser.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC will provide these client accounts with reports as contracted for at the inception of the advisory relationship.

## **FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** While reviews may occur at different stages depending on the nature and terms of the specific engagement, typically no formal reviews will be conducted for Financial Planning clients unless otherwise contracted for.

**REPORTS:** Financial Planning clients will receive a completed financial plan. Additional reports will not typically be provided unless otherwise contracted for.

## **CONSULTING SERVICES**

**REVIEWS:** While reviews may occur at different stages depending on the nature and terms of the specific engagement, typically no formal reviews will be conducted for Consulting Services clients unless otherwise contracted for. Such reviews will be conducted by the client's account representative.

**REPORTS:** These client accounts will receive reports as contracted for at the inception of the advisory engagement.

### **Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

It is Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC's policy not to engage solicitors or to pay related or non-related persons for referring potential clients to our firm.

#### **OTHER COMPENSATION**

Our firm and/or our officers and representatives are eligible to receive incentive awards (including prizes such as trips or bonuses) for recommending certain types of insurance policies or other investment products that we recommend.

While we endeavor at all times to put the interest of our clients first as part of our fiduciary duty, the possibility of receiving incentive awards creates a conflict of interest, and may affect the judgment of these individuals when making recommendations.

### **Item 15 Custody**

We previously disclosed in the "Fees and Compensation" section (Item 5) of this Brochure that our firm directly debits advisory fees from client accounts.

As part of this billing process, the client's custodian is advised of the amount of the fee to be deducted from that client's account. On at least a quarterly basis, the custodian is required to send to the client a statement showing all transactions within the account during the reporting period.

Because the custodian does not calculate the amount of the fee to be deducted, it is important for clients to carefully review their custodial statements to verify the accuracy of the

calculation, among other things. Clients should contact us directly if they believe that there may be an error in their statement.

In addition to the periodic statements that clients receive directly from their custodians, we also send account statements directly to our clients on a quarterly basis. We urge our clients to carefully compare the information provided on these statements to ensure that all account transactions, holdings and values are correct and current.

At the end of 2015, our firm began acting as a Trustee for certain clients. As such, we are deemed to have custody. For clients in which we are deemed to have custody, the qualified custodian will issue not less than quarterly statements. The State of Arizona does not require our firm to engage a PCAOB Auditor to conduct an audit of the accounts if they are maintained by a qualified custodian and account statements are issued to clients.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Clients may hire us to provide discretionary asset management services, in which case we place trades in a client's account without contacting the client prior to each trade to obtain the client's permission.

Our discretionary authority includes the ability to do the following without contacting the client:

- determine the security to buy or sell; and/or
- determine the amount of the security to buy or sell

Clients give us discretionary authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may also change/amend such limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

## **MANAGER OF MANAGERS PROGRAM**

As previously disclosed in Item 4 of this brochure, we do not "manage" client portfolios in the traditional sense of the definition, rather Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC manages the managers of client portfolios within this program. Accordingly, clients participating in this program grant us authority to hire and fire the selected asset manager(s) managing client accounts.

Clients give us this authority when they sign a discretionary agreement with our firm, and may limit this authority by giving us written instructions. Clients may change/amend these limitations by once again providing us with written instructions.

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy, we do not vote proxies on behalf of clients. Therefore, although our firm may provide investment advisory services relative to client investment assets, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities beneficially owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy

proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets. Clients are responsible for instructing each custodian of the assets, to forward to the client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the client's investment assets.

We do not offer any consulting assistance regarding proxy issues to clients.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

Under no circumstances do we require or solicit payment of fees in excess of \$500 per client more than six months in advance of services rendered. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement.

As an advisory firm that maintains discretionary authority for client accounts, we are also required to disclose any financial condition that is reasonable likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations. Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC has no additional financial circumstances to report.

Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time during the past ten years.

## **Item 19 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

The following individuals are the principal executive officers and management persons of Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC:

- Joseph Ignatius McCabe III, President

Information regarding the formal education and business background for each of these individuals is provided in their respective Brochure Supplements.

We are required to disclose all material facts regarding certain legal or disciplinary events pertaining to arbitration awards or other civil, regulatory or administrative proceedings in which our firm or management personnel were found liable or against whom an award was granted.

Our firm and our management personnel have no reportable disciplinary events to disclose.

As previously disclosed in "Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations" (Item 10), neither Vestpointe Wealth Management, LLC nor our management personnel have a relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities.