

# Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.

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## FORM ADV PART 2 BROCHURE

**This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at 203-798-9873. 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 Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. is also available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The searchable IARD/CRD number for Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. is 113526.**

**Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.**

## **Item 2 Summary of Material Changes**

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since our last annual updating amendment dated January 24, 2017 there are no material changes to report.

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## Item 4 Advisory Business

### Description of Services and Fees

Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. is a registered investment adviser based in Bethel, Connecticut. We are organized as a limited partnership under the laws of the State of Connecticut. We have been providing investment advisory services since 2001. Edward A. Tomasko, Ronald P. Brault, and Steven R. Brill are our principal owners. Currently, we offer the following investment advisory services, which are personalized to each individual client:

- **Investment Management Services**
- **Selection of Other Advisers**

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this Brochure, the words "we", "our" and "us" refer to Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. and the words "you", "your" and "client" refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm. Also, you may see the term Associated Person throughout this Brochure. As used in this Brochure, our Associated Persons are our firm's officers, employees, and all individuals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm. Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. offers investment advice with the assistance of its Investment Adviser Representatives (IARs). The use of these terms is not intended to imply that there is more than one individual associated with this firm. Currently, Ronald P. Brault is our firm's sole investment adviser representative.

### Investment Management Services

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary investment management services. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives. If you retain our firm for investment management services, we will meet with you to determine your investment objectives, risk tolerance, and other relevant information (the "suitability information") at the beginning of our advisory relationship. We will use the suitability information we gather to develop a strategy that enables our firm to give you continuous and focused investment advice and/or to make investments on your behalf. As part of our investment management services, we may customize an investment portfolio for you in accordance with your risk tolerance and investing objectives. Once we construct an investment portfolio for you, we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis, and will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances.

If you participate in our discretionary investment management services, we require you to grant our firm discretionary authority to manage your account. Discretionary authorization will allow our firm to determine the specific securities, and the amount of securities, to be purchased or sold for your account without your approval prior to each transaction. Discretionary authority is typically granted by the investment advisory agreement you sign with our firm or trading authorization forms. You may limit our discretionary authority (for example, limiting the types of securities that can be purchased for your account) by providing our firm with your restrictions and guidelines in writing. If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we must obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions on behalf of your account.

Our fee for investment management services is based on a percentage of your assets we manage and is set forth in the following fee schedule:

<b>Assets Under Management</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Advisory Rate*</b>
\$0 - \$250,000	1.25%
\$250,001 - \$1,000,000	1.00%

\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.85%
\$3,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.75%
Over \$5,000,000	Negotiable

\*Generally, we require an account minimum of \$15,000 for investment management services. However, in our sole discretion, we may waive or lower this minimum.

Our annual investment management fee is billed and payable quarterly in arrears based on the value of your account on the last day of the quarter

If the investment management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client. Our advisory fee is negotiable, depending on individual client circumstances.

At our discretion, we may combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable advisory fee. For example, we may combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts. Combining account values may increase the asset total, which may result in your paying a reduced advisory fee based on the available breakpoints in our fee schedule stated above.

We will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when the following requirements are met:

- You provide our firm with written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account held by the qualified custodian.
- We send you an invoice showing the amount of the fee, the value of the assets on which the fee is based, and the specific manner in which the fee was calculated.
- The qualified custodian agrees to send you a statement, at least quarterly, indicating all amounts dispersed from your account including the amount of the advisory fee paid directly to our firm.

As part of our Investment Management Services, we may provide financial planning services at no additional cost to you. These services are considered financial planning in nature as they will typically involve a variety of services relating to the management of your financial resources based upon an analysis of your individual needs. Such services may include cash flow analysis and retirement planning, among others.

You may terminate the investment management agreement upon written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the investment management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a client.

### **Selection of Other Advisers**

As part of our investment advisory services, we may recommend that you use the services of a third party investment adviser ("TPA") to manage your entire, or a portion of your, investment portfolio. After gathering information about your financial situation and objectives, we will recommend that you engage a specific TPA or investment program. Factors that we take into consideration when making our recommendation(s) include, but are not limited to, the following: the TPA's performance, methods of analysis, fees, your financial needs, investment goals, risk tolerance, and investment objectives. We will periodically monitor the TPA(s)' performance to ensure its management and investment style remains aligned with your investment goals and objectives.

Advisory fees charged by TPAs are separate and apart from our advisory fees. Advisory fees that you pay to the TPA are established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each TPA to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. You should review the recommended TPA's this brochure and take into consideration the TPA's fees along with our fees to determine the total amount of fees associated with this program.

You will be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended TPA(s). You may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPA according to the terms of your agreement with the TPA. You should review each TPA's Brochure for specific information on how you may terminate your advisory relationship with the TPA and how you may receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the TPA directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the TPA.

### **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on equity securities, warrants, corporate debt securities, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, investment company securities, US Government securities, options contracts on securities, and interest in partnerships investing in real estate and oil and gas interests.

Additionally, we may advise you on any type of investment that we deem appropriate based on your stated goals and objectives. We may also provide advice on any type of investment held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship.

You may request that we refrain from investing in particular securities or certain types of securities. You must provide these restrictions to our firm in writing.

### **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2017 we manage approximately \$42,875,000 in client assets on a discretionary basis and no client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Item 5 Fees and Compensation**

Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure for information on our advisory fees, fee deduction arrangements, and refund policy according to each service we offer.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You may also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through which your account transactions are executed. We do not share in any portion of the brokerage fees/transaction charges imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, please refer to the "Brokerage Practices" section of this Brochure.

### **Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are licensed as independent insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to our advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because

persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

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

We do not accept performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance-based fees. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a client's account. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Advisory Business* section above, and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.

## **Item 7 Types of Clients**

We offer investment advisory services to individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations, and other business entities.

In general, we require a minimum of \$15,000 to open and maintain an advisory account. At our discretion, we may waive this minimum account size. For example, we may waive the minimum if you appear to have significant potential for increasing your assets under our management. We may also combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts to meet the stated minimum.

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

### **Our Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

We may use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

- **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.
- **Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns and trends in the financial markets to predict the direction of both the overall market and specific stocks.
- **Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends.
- **Long Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.
- **Short Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

Our investment strategies and advice may vary depending upon each client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial horizon, financial information, liquidity needs, and other various suitability factors. Your restrictions and guidelines may affect the composition of your portfolio.

**Fundamental Analysis** - The risk of fundamental analysis is that 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** - The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that charts may not accurately predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known 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.

**Cyclical Analysis** - 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.

### **Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

### **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

As disclosed under the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure, we recommend all types of securities and we do not necessarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with it.

Commercial Paper (CP) 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. There is a less risk in asset based commercial paper (ABCP). The difference between ABCP and CP is that instead of being an unsecured promissory note representing an obligation of the issuing company, ABCP is backed by securities. Therefore, the perceived quality of the ABCP depends on the underlying securities.

Certificates of deposit are generally the safest type of investment since they are insured by the federal government. However, because the returns are generally very low, it's possible for inflation to outpace the return. Likewise, US Government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government but it's also possible for the rate of inflation to exceed the returns.

Municipal securities, while generally thought of as safe, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the governmental entity that issues the bond; the stability of the revenue stream that is used to pay the interest to the bondholders; when the bond is due to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to: the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, more well established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

Mutual funds and exchange traded funds are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. Exchange traded funds differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely which can dilute other investors' interests.

Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return.

Options and warrants give an investor the right to buy or sell a stock at some future time at a set price. Options are complex investments and can be very risky, especially if the investor does not own the underlying stock. In certain situations, an investor's risk can be unlimited. The main difference between warrants and call options is that warrants are issued and guaranteed by the issuing company, whereas options are traded on an exchange and are not issued by the company. Also, the lifetime of a warrant is often measured in years, while the lifetime of a typical option is measured in months.

A real estate investment trust or REIT is a corporate entity which invests in real estate and/or engages in real estate financing. A REIT reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges. REITs are required to declare 90% of their taxable income as dividends, but they actually pay dividends out of funds from operations, so cash flow has to be strong or the REIT must either dip into reserves, borrow to pay dividends, or distribute them in stock (which causes dilution). After 2012 the IRS will stop permitting stock dividends. Most REITs must refinance or erase large balloon debts this year and next. The credit markets are no longer frozen, but banks are demanding, and getting, harsher terms to re-extend REIT debt. Some REITs may be forced to make secondary stock offerings to repay debt, which will lead to additional dilution of the stockholders. Fluctuations in the real estate market can affect the REIT's value and dividends.

A limited partnership is a financial affiliation that includes at least one general partner and a number of limited partners. The partnership invests in a venture, such as real estate development or oil exploration, for financial gain. The general partner does not usually invest any capital, but has management authority and unlimited liability. That is, the general partner runs the business and, in the

event of bankruptcy, is responsible for all debts not paid or discharged. The limited partners have no management authority and confine their participation to their capital investment. That is, limited partners invest a certain amount of money and have nothing else to do with the business. However, their liability is limited to the amount of the investment. In the worst case scenario for a limited partner, he/she loses what he/she invested. Profits are divided between general and limited partners according to an arrangement formed at the creation of the partnership.

A variable annuity is a form of where the seller or issuer (typically an insurance company) makes a series of future payments to a buyer (annuitant) in exchange for the immediate payment of a lump sum ( single-payment annuity ) or a series of regular payments ( regular-payment annuity ). The payment stream from the issuer to the annuitant has an unknown duration based principally upon the date of death of the annuitant. At this point the contract will terminate and the remainder of the funds accumulated forfeited unless there are other annuitants or beneficiaries in the contract. Annuities can be purchased to provide an income during retirement. Unlike fixed annuities that make payments in fixed amounts or in amounts that increase by a fixed percentage, variable annuities, pay amounts that vary according to the performance of a specified set of investments, typically bond and equity mutual funds. Many variable annuities typically impose asset-based sales charges or surrender charges for withdrawals within a specified period. Variable annuities may impose a variety of fees and expenses, in addition to sales and surrender charges, such as: mortality and expense risk charges; administrative fees; underlying fund expenses; and charges for special features, all of which can reduce the return. Earnings in a variable annuity do not provide all the tax advantages of 401(k)s and other before-tax retirement plans. Once the investor starts withdrawing money from their variable annuity, earnings are taxed at the ordinary income rate, rather than at the lower capital gains rates applied to other non-tax-deferred vehicles which are held for more than one year. Proceeds of most variable annuities do not receive a "step-up" in cost basis when the owner dies like stocks, bonds, and mutual funds do. Some variable annuities offer "bonus credits". These are usually not free. In order to fund them, insurance companies typically impose mortality and expense charges and surrender charge periods. In an exchange of an existing annuity for a new annuity (so-called 1035 exchanges) the new variable annuity may have a lower contract value and a smaller death benefit; may impose new surrender charges or increase the period of time for which the surrender charge applies; may have higher annual fees; and provide another commission for the broker.

## **Item 9 Disciplinary Information**

Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. has been registered and providing investment advisory services since 2001. Neither our firm nor any of our associated persons has any reportable disciplinary information.

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

In addition to being registered as an investment adviser, our firm is also licensed as an insurance corporate agent. Therefore, persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are also licensed as insurance agents. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate from our advisory fees. Please see the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm.

Mr. Tomasko, an owner of our firm, is also in the business of providing tax preparation and consulting services. We expect that advisory clients may also be clients to whom he offers tax services. You are instructed that the fees paid to us for advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees paid for the tax services provided by Mr. Tomasko.

### **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We may recommend that you use a third party adviser ("TPA") based on your needs and suitability. We will not receive compensation from the TPA for recommending that you use their services.

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

### **Description of Our Code of Ethics**

We strive to comply with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Therefore, our Code of Ethics includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for our Associated Persons. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All of our Associated Persons are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by persons associated with our firm.

Our Code of Ethics is available to you upon request. You may obtain a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting Ronald Brault at 203-798-9873.

### **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Neither our firm nor any of our Associated Persons has any material financial interest in client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this Brochure.

### **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may recommend securities to you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm purchase such securities for our own account. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our Associated Persons nor we shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## **Item 12 Brokerage Practices**

We maintain relationships with several broker-dealers. While you are free to choose any broker-dealer or other service provider, we recommend that you establish an account with a brokerage firm with which we have an existing relationship. Such relationships may include benefits provided to our firm, including but not limited to, research, market information, and administrative services that help our firm manage your account(s). We believe that recommended broker-dealers provide quality execution services for our clients at competitive prices. Price is not the sole factor we consider in evaluating best execution. We also consider the quality of the brokerage services provided by recommended broker-dealers, including the value of research provided, the firm's reputation, execution capabilities, commission rates, and responsiveness to our clients and our firm. In recognition of the value of research services and additional brokerage products and services recommended broker-dealers provide, you may pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that may be available elsewhere.

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

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements.

### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We do not receive client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

### **Directed Brokerage**

In limited circumstances, and at our discretion, some clients may instruct our firm to use one or more particular brokers for the transactions in their accounts. If you choose to direct our firm to use a particular broker, you should understand that this might prevent our firm from aggregating trades with other client accounts or from effectively negotiating brokerage commissions on your behalf. This practice may also prevent our firm from obtaining favorable net price and execution. Thus, when directing brokerage business, you should consider whether the commission expenses, execution, clearance, and settlement capabilities that you will obtain through your broker are adequately favorable in comparison to those that we would otherwise obtain for you.

### **Block Trades**

Transactions for each client generally will be effected independently, unless we decide to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. We may, but are not obligated to, 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 factual 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 on any given day. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

## **Item 13 Review of Accounts**

Ronald Brault will monitor your accounts on an ongoing basis and will conduct account reviews at least annually and upon your request to ensure that the advisory services provided to you and/or the portfolio mix are consistent with your current investment needs and objectives. Additional reviews may be conducted based on various circumstances, including, but not limited to:

- contributions and withdrawals,
- year-end tax planning,
- market moving events,
- security specific events, and/or,
- changes in your risk/return objectives.

We will not provide you with additional or regular written reports in conjunction with account reviews. However, you will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

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

We do not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with providing investment advice to you nor do we compensate any individual or firm for client referrals.

As disclosed under the "Fees and Compensation" section in this Brochure, IARs of our firm may be licensed insurance agents. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, please refer to the "Fees and Compensation" section.

## **Item 15 Custody**

We directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other independent, qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the independent, qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

Our firm is deemed to have custody over certain accounts where we have certain access to the client's account. Such accounts are audited annually by an independent accountant consistent with the compliance requirements of the Custody Rule. Please refer to Part 1 Item 9 for more information.

## **Item 16 Investment Discretion**

Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign our discretionary management agreement, a power of attorney, and/or trading authorization forms.

You may grant our firm discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be purchased or sold for your account(s) without obtaining your consent or approval prior to each transaction. You may specify investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you may specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security. Please refer to the "Advisory Business" section in this Brochure for more information on our discretionary management services.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s).

## **Item 17 Voting Client Securities**

### **Proxy Voting**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we may offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of common stock or mutual funds, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

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 any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## **Item 18 Financial Information**

We are not required to provide financial information to our clients because we do not: (1) require the prepayment of more than \$500 in fees and six or more months in advance; or, (2) have a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our commitments to you.

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

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons are compensated for advisory services with performance-based fees. Please refer to the "Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management" section above for additional information on this topic.

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons have any reportable arbitration claims, civil, self-regulatory organization proceeding or administrative proceeding.

Neither our firm, nor any of our Associated Persons have a material relationship or arrangement with any issuer of securities.

For additional information, please refer to the Part 2B's, which are provided supplements, and incorporated by reference, to this Brochure.

## **Item 20 Additional Information**

### **Your Privacy**

We view protecting your private information as a top priority. Pursuant to applicable privacy requirements, we have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that we keep your personal information private and secure.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about you to any nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted by law. In the course of servicing your account, we may share some information with our service providers, such as transfer agents, custodians, broker-dealers, accountants, consultants, and attorneys.

We restrict internal access to nonpublic personal information about you to employees, who need that information in order to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical and procedural safeguards that comply with regulatory standards to guard your nonpublic personal information and to ensure our integrity and confidentiality. We will never sell information about you or your accounts to anyone. We do not share your information unless it is required to process a transaction, at your request, or required by law.

You will receive a copy of our privacy notice prior to or at the time you sign an advisory agreement with our firm. Thereafter, we will deliver a copy of the current privacy policy notice to you on an annual basis. Please contact Ronald Brault at 203-798-9873, if you have any questions regarding this policy.

### **Trade Errors**

In the event a trading error occurs in your account, our policy is to restore your account to the position it should have been in had the trading error not occurred. Depending on the circumstances, corrective actions may include canceling the trade, adjusting an allocation, and/or reimbursing the account. If a trade error results in a profit, you will keep the profit.

# **Ronald P. Brault**

## **Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.**

**8 School Street, P.O. Box 246  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801**

**Phone: 203-798-9873  
Fax: 203-791-9800**

**January 25, 2016**

### **FORM ADV PART 2B BROCHURE SUPPLEMENT**

**This brochure supplement provides information about Ronald P. Brault that supplements the Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Please contact us at 203-798-9873 if you did not receive Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.'s brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.**

**Additional information about Ronald P. Brault is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).**

## Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

**Name : Ronald P. Brault**

*Date of Birth:* 08/12/1953

*Education:*

- College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, 1972-1975, BA Psychology
- University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT, 1981 - 1986, MBA Finance
- Chartered Financial Analyst, 1990

*Employment :*

- 11/2008 - Present, Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc., CEO,CCO
- 07/2009 - 01/2011, Cambridge Investment Research, Registered Representative
- 03/1994 - 10/2008, Alliance Bernstein, SVP and Senior Portfolio Manager

Certifications:

**Chartered Financial Analyst ['CFA']** : This designation is issued by the CFA Institute and is granted to individuals who meet one of the following prerequisites: possess an undergraduate degree and four years of professional experience investment decision making; or four years qualified work experience (full time, but not necessarily investment related). The candidate is required to follow a self study program involving 250 hours of study for each of the following three disciplines: Level One: Ethics & Professional Standards; Level Two: Investment Tools & Asset Classes; and Level Three: Portfolio Management & Wealth Planning. Once the designation is issued, no further Continuing Education is required.

## Item 3 Disciplinary Information

Mr. Brault does not have, nor has he ever had, any disciplinary disclosure.

## Item 4 Other Business Activities

Mr. Brault is separately licensed as an independent insurance agent. In this capacity, he can effect transactions in insurance products for his clients and earn commissions for these activities. The fees you pay our firm for advisory services are separate and distinct from the commissions earned by Mr. Brault for insurance related activities. This presents a conflict of interest because Mr. Brault may have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. However, you are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

## Item 5 Additional Compensation

Please refer to the *Other Business Activities* section above for disclosures on Mr. Brault's receipt of additional compensation as a result of his activities as a licensed insurance agent.

Also, please refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section and the *Client Referrals and Other Compensation* section of Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.'s firm brochure for additional disclosures on this topic.

## **Item 6 Supervision**

Ronald Brault is responsible for supervising the advisory activities of Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. Mr. Brault can be reached at 203-798-9873.

## **Item 7 Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

Ronald Brault does not have, or has ever had, any reportable arbitration claims, has not been found liable in a reportable civil, self-regulatory organization proceeding or administrative proceeding, and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition

**Martin Mezza**

**Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.**

**8 School Street, PO Box 246  
Bethel, CT 06801**

**Telephone: 203-798-9873  
Facsimile: 203-791-9800**

**November 2, 2017**

**FORM ADV PART 2B  
BROCHURE SUPPLEMENT**

This brochure supplement provides information about Martin Mezza that supplements the Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc. brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Contact us at 203-798-9873 if you did not receive Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.'s brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Martin Mezza (CRD # 2768165) is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

### **Martin Mezza**

*Year of Birth:* 1969

*Formal Education After High School:*

- UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN, MS TAX, 4/2012 - 6/2014
- QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, MBA ACCOUNTING, 1/1992 - 6/1993
- QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, BS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, 9/1987 - 5/1991

*Business Background:*

- FINANCIAL STRATEGIES INVESTMENT ADVISOR SERVICES, Investment Adviser Representative, 7/2017 - Present
- FINANCIAL STRATEGIES INVESTMENT ADVISOR SERVICES, Tax Accountant, 1/2013 - Present
- UPS Fran, Owner, 9/2005 - 1/2012
- G4S SECURITY/GE CAPITAL, SECURITY, 9/2011 - 12/2012
- CHIMERA SECURITIES, LLC, Trader, 8/2011 - 8/2012
- ROYAL ALLIANCE ASSOCIATES, INC., Registered Representative, 4/2005 - 6/2006
- METLIFE SECURITIES, INC., Registered Representative/Investment Adviser Representative, 12/2004 - 2/2005
- METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO., Sales, 12/2003 - 2/2005
- A.G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC, Registered Representative/Investment Adviser Representative, 5/2001 - 12/2003

## Item 3 Disciplinary Information

Form ADV Part 2B requires disclosure of certain criminal or civil actions, administrative proceedings, and self-regulatory organization proceedings, as well as certain other proceedings related to suspension or revocation of a professional attainment, designation, or license. Mr. Martin Mezza has no required disclosures under this item.

## Item 4 Other Business Activities

Martin Mezza is also a Tax Accountant with Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services. Mr. Mezza's duties as a Tax Accountant of Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services do not create a conflict of interest to his provision of advisory services through Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.

## Item 5 Additional Compensation

Refer to the *Other Business Activities* section above for disclosures on Mr. Mezza's receipt of additional compensation as a result of his other business activities.

Also, refer to the *Fees and Compensation, Client Referrals and Other Compensation, and Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations* section(s) of Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc.'s firm brochure for additional disclosures on this topic.

## **Item 6 Supervision**

In the supervision of our associated persons, advice provided is limited based on the restrictions set by Financial Strategies Investment Advisor Services, Inc., and by internal decisions as to the types of investments that may be included in client portfolios. We conduct periodic reviews of client holdings and documented suitability information to provide reasonable assurance that the advice provided remains aligned with each client's stated investment objectives and with our internal guidelines.

My supervisor is: Ronald Brault, CEO/jCCO

Supervisor phone number: 203-798-9873

## **Item 7 Requirements for State Registered Advisers**

Martin Mezza does not have any reportable arbitration claims, has not been found liable in a reportable civil, self-regulatory organization or administrative proceeding, and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.