Meritas Wealth Management, LLC - Form CRS

September 14, 2023

Meritas Wealth Management, LLC ("we," "our," or "us") is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment adviser. Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ, and it is important for you to understand these differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at Investor.gov/CRS, which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

What investment services and advice can you provide me?

We offer investment advisory services to retail investors such as you through the management of your separate account. As part of our standard services, we monitor each account on an ongoing basis, using our current model portfolios as a guide, and we typically furnish clients with a quarterly report summarizing account activity, current position and performance analysis. Our authority to manage a retail investor's account is discretionary, which means that you authorize us to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold, subject to your chosen strategy and stated investment objectives. For most retail investors, we generally limit purchases to mutual funds and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). When we determine it is appropriate for you, we will also purchase publicly traded equity and debt securities. There is no investment account minimum to secure our services; however, we do require a minimum annual fee (see additional details in the following section – *What fees will I pay?*) Limitations on investments typically include limitations by plan sponsors, mutual fund selections of no-load or waived load funds, and client-imposed limitations. We also offer comprehensive financial planning services including but not limited to goal setting discussions, investment and retirement planning.

Additional Information: Please also see Items 4, 7 and 13 of Form ADV, Part 2A.

Conversation Starters – Ask your financial professional:

- Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Why or why not?
- How will you choose investments to recommend to me?
- What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?

What fees will I pay?

We charge a fee based on the total assets in your account. This fee, which is payable quarterly in advance, is calculated from sliding fee schedules with an annual rate of 1% on the first \$2 million, 0.75% on the next \$3 million, 0.5% on the next \$5 million, and 0.40% on amounts over \$10 million in your account. There is a minimum annual fee of \$7,500 per client. The more assets there are in your account, the more you will pay in fees, and we may therefore have an incentive to encourage you to increase the assets in your account. Our fee does not include (and you will pay separately) any applicable charges imposed by custodians, brokers and other third parties such as brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on your account and on the securities transactions in your account. Money market funds, mutual funds, and ETFs also charge their own internal management fees. Fees for financial planning services are separate from our investment advisory service. They are billed based on hourly and fixed fee arrangements. Fixed fee arrangements typically total between \$4,000 and \$7,000 for a comprehensive financial plan. Hourly planning ranges between \$175 - \$350/hr. depending on the personnel we deem necessary to complete the client's project(s).

Additional Information: You will pay fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees

and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying. Please also see Item 5 of Form ADV, Part 2A.

Conversation Starter - Ask your financial professional:

 Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?

What are your legal obligations to me when acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the investment advice we provide you. Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. ("Schwab") makes an economic benefit available to us in the form of the support products and services they generally make available to independent investment advisers whose clients maintain their accounts at Schwab. These products and services, and the conflicts of interest they create if/when we utilize them, are described further in Item 12 of our Form ADV, Part 2A brochure. We do not base particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients, on the availability of Schwab's products and services to us.

Additional Information: Please also see <u>Items 10-12, 14 of Form ADV, Part 2A</u>.

Conversation Starter - Ask your financial professional:

How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?

How do your financial professionals make money?

Our financial professionals earn a salary and, when applicable, merit bonuses for performing advisory functions. Additionally, owners of the firm participate in company profits. Some of our financial professionals earn additional compensation from unaffiliated outside business activities such as serving as an adjunct professor. For more information regarding these activities, please refer to your financial professional's <u>Form ADV</u>, <u>Part 2B Supplement</u>.

Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?

No, we do not. You may visit <u>Investor.gov/CRS</u> for a free and simple search tool to research us and our financial professionals.

Conversation Starter - Ask your financial professional:

As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history? For what type of conduct?

You can find additional information about us and our advisory services at http://www.meritaswealth.com/ and https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/. If you would like up-to-date information and/or a copy of this relationship summary, please call (415) 300-4560.

Conversation Starter - Ask your financial professional:

• Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?

Material Changes Made to this Form CRS

We have recommended TD Ameritrade as custodian and broker-dealer to our clients for many years. TD Ameritrade was purchased by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab") and all accounts under our management are now at Schwab. We currently recommend Schwab as custodian and broker-dealer. We have updated all references in this Form CRS to Schwab from TD Ameritrade.