| Mountain Capital Investment Advisors, Inc.  |
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| Form ADV Part 2A – Disclosure Brochure  |
| Effective: April 28, 2025   |
| This Form ADV Part 2A ("Disclosure Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Mountain Capital Investment Advisors, Inc. ("Mountain Capital" or the "Advisor"). If you have any questions about the content of this Disclosure Brochure, please contact the Advisor at (720) 500-0050 or by email at <a href="mailto:info@mountaincapital.us">info@mountaincapital.us</a> .   |
| Mountain Capital is a registered investment advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The information in this Disclosure Brochure has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority. Registration of an investment advisor does not imply any specific level of skill or training. This Disclosure Brochure provides information about Mountain Capital to assist you in determining whether to retain the Advisor. |
| Additional information about Mountain Capital and its Advisory Persons is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 156660.   |

Mountain Capital Investment Advisors, Inc. 12235 Pecos Street, Suite 100, Westminster, CO 80234 Phone: (720) 500-0050 \* Fax: (720) 554-8052 <a href="https://www.mountaincapital.us/">https://www.mountaincapital.us/</a>

### Item 2 - Material Changes

Form ADV 2 is divided into two parts: *Part 2A (the "Disclosure Brochure")* and *Part 2B (the "Brochure Supplement")*. The Disclosure Brochure provides information about a variety of topics relating to an Advisor's business practices and conflicts of interest. The Brochure Supplement provides information about the Advisory Persons of Mountain Capital.

Mountain Capital believes that communication and transparency are the foundation of its relationship with clients and will continually strive to provide you with complete and accurate information at all times. Mountain Capital encourages all current and prospective clients to read this Disclosure Brochure and discuss any questions you may have with the Advisor.

### **Material Changes**

The following material changes have been made to this Disclosure Brochure since the last filing and distribution to Clients.

- The Advisor no longer compensates unaffiliated third parties for Client referrals. Please see Item 14 for additional information.
- The Advisor no longer accepts proxy voting authority. Please see Item 17 for additional information.

### **Future Changes**

From time to time, the Advisor may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in business practices, changes in regulations or routine annual updates as required by the securities regulators. This complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to you annually and if a material change occurs.

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure on-line at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 156660. You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time by contacting the Advisor at (720) 500-0050 or by email at <a href="mailto:info@mountaincapital.us">info@mountaincapital.us</a>.

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## Item 4 - Advisory Services

#### A. Firm Information

Mountain Capital Investment Advisors, Inc. ("Mountain Capital" or the "Advisor") is a registered investment advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Advisor is organized as a Corporation under the laws of the State of Colorado. Mountain Capital was founded in 2011 and became a Registered Investment Advisor in 2017. Mountain Capital and is owned by Brandt Burns, Michelle Burns, and Isaia Casas and operated by Brandt Burns (Founder and Chief Executive Officer), Michelle Burns (Co-Founder and Vice President) Isaia Casas (President), Brian Quint (Chief Compliance Officer), and Jeremy Sanchez (Director of Operations). This Disclosure Brochure provides information regarding the qualifications, business practices, and the advisory services provided by Mountain Capital.

### **B. Advisory Services Offered**

Mountain Capital offers investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, estates, and charitable organizations (each referred to as a "Client").

The Advisor serves as a fiduciary to Clients, as defined under the applicable laws and regulations. As a fiduciary, the Advisor upholds a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client and seeks to mitigate potential conflicts of interest. Mountain Capital's fiduciary commitment is further described in the Advisor's Code of Ethics. For more information regarding the Code of Ethics, please see Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading.

### Wealth Management Services

Mountain Capital provides wealth management services for its Clients. These services generally include a broad range of comprehensive financial planning in connection with discretionary investment management of Client portfolios. These services are described below.

Investment Management Services- Mountain Capital provides customized investment advisory solutions for its Clients. This is achieved through continuous personal Client contact and interaction while providing discretionary investment management and related advisory services. Mountain Capital works closely with each Client to identify their investment goals and objectives as well as risk tolerance and financial situation in order to create a portfolio strategy. Mountain Capital will then construct an investment portfolio, consisting of low-cost, diversified mutual funds and/or exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") to achieve the Client's investment goals. The Advisor may also utilize individual stocks, bonds or other investment products to meet the needs of its Clients. The Advisor may retain other types of investments from the Client's legacy portfolio due to fit with the overall portfolio strategy, tax-related reasons, or other reasons as identified between the Advisor and the Client.

Mountain Capital's investment strategies are primarily long-term focused, but the Advisor may buy, sell or reallocate positions that have been held for less than one year to meet the objectives of the Client or due to market conditions. Mountain Capital will construct, implement and monitor the portfolio to ensure it meets the goals, objectives, circumstances, and risk tolerance agreed to by the Client. Each Client will have the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in their respective portfolio, subject to acceptance by the Advisor.

Mountain Capital evaluates and selects investments for inclusion in Client portfolios only after applying its internal due diligence process. Mountain Capital may recommend, on occasion, redistributing investment allocations to diversify the portfolio. Mountain Capital may recommend specific positions to increase sector or asset class weightings. The Advisor may recommend employing cash positions as a possible hedge against market movement.

Mountain Capital may recommend selling positions for reasons that include, but are not limited to, harvesting capital gains or losses, business or sector risk exposure to a specific security or class of securities, overvaluation or overweighting of the position[s] in the portfolio, change in risk tolerance of the Client, generating cash to meet Client needs, or any risk deemed unacceptable for the Client's risk tolerance.

At no time will Mountain Capital accept or maintain custody of a Client's funds or securities, except for the limited authority as outlined in Item 15 – Custody. All Client assets will be managed within the designated account[s] at the Custodian, pursuant to the terms of the advisory agreement. Please see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

Retirement Accounts – When the Advisor provides investment advice to Clients regarding ERISA retirement accounts or individual retirement accounts ("IRAs"), the Advisor is a fiduciary within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") and/or the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"), as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. When deemed to be in the Client's best interest, the Advisor will provide investment advice to a Client regarding a distribution from an ERISA retirement account or to roll over the assets to an IRA, or recommend a similar transaction including rollovers from one ERISA sponsored Plan to another, one IRA to another IRA, or from one type of account to another account (e.g. commission-based account to fee-based account). Such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Advisor will earn a new (or increase its current) advisory fee as a result of the transaction. No client is under any obligation to roll over a retirement account to an account managed by the Advisor.

Financial Planning Services- Mountain Capital will typically provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to Clients as part of its overall wealth management services. Services are offered in several areas of a Client's financial situation, depending on their goals and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services involve preparing a financial plan, rendering a specific financial consultation based on the Client's financial goals and objectives, or ongoing financial planning. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more areas of need, including but not limited to, investment planning, retirement planning, personal savings, education savings, and other areas of a Client's financial situation.

A financial plan developed for, or financial consultation rendered to the Client will usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the Client. For example, recommendations may be made that the Client start or revise their investment programs, commence or alter retirement savings, establish education savings and/or charitable giving programs.

Mountain Capital may also refer Clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialists, as appropriate for their unique situation. For certain financial planning engagements, the Advisor will provide a written summary of the Client's financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For consulting or ad-hoc engagements, the Advisor may not provide a written summary. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of contract date, assuming all information and documents requested are provided promptly.

Financial planning and consulting recommendations pose a conflict between the interests of the Advisor and the interests of the Client. For example, the Advisor has an incentive to recommend that Clients engage the Advisor for investment management services or to increase the level of investment assets with the Advisor, as it would increase the amount of advisory fees paid to the Advisor. Clients are not obligated to implement any recommendations made by the Advisor or maintain an ongoing relationship with the Advisor. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations made by the Advisor, the Client is under no obligation to implement the transaction through the Advisor.

### C. Client Account Management

Prior to engaging Mountain Capital to provide investment advisory services, each Client is required to enter into one or more agreements with the Advisor that define the terms, conditions, authority and responsibilities of the Advisor and the Client. These services may include:

- <u>Establishing an Investment Strategy</u> Mountain Capital, in connection with the Client, will develop a strategy that seeks to achieve the Client's goals and objectives.
- <u>Asset Allocation</u> Mountain Capital will develop a strategic asset allocation that is targeted to meet the investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation and tolerance for risk for each Client.
- <u>Portfolio Construction</u> Mountain Capital will develop a portfolio for the Client that is intended to meet the stated goals and objectives of the Client.

• <u>Investment Management and Supervision</u> – Mountain Capital will provide investment management and ongoing oversight of the Client's investment portfolio.

# D. Wrap Fee Programs

Mountain Capital does not manage or place Client assets into a wrap fee program. Investment management services are provided directly by Mountain Capital.

## **E.** Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2024, Mountain Capital manages approximately \$744,700,000 in Client assets, all of which is managed on a discretionary. Clients may request more current information at any time by contacting the Advisor.

## Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

The following paragraphs detail the fee structure and compensation methodology for services provided by the Advisor. Each Client engaging the Advisor for services described herein shall be required to enter into a written agreement with the Advisor.

### A. Fees for Advisory Services

### Wealth Management Services

Investment advisory fees are paid quarterly, in advance of each calendar quarter, pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory agreement. Investment advisory fees are based on the market value of assets under management at the end of the prior calendar quarterly. Investment advisory fees are based on the following schedule:

| Assets Under Management (\$) | Annual Rate (%) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| First \$1,500,000            | 1.50%           |
| Above \$1,500,000            | Negotiable      |

The investment advisory fee in the first quarter of service is prorated from the inception date of the account[s] to the end of the first quarter. Fees may be negotiable at the sole discretion of the Advisor. The Client's fees will take into consideration the aggregate assets under management with the Advisor. All securities held in accounts managed by Mountain Capital will be independently valued by the Custodian. The Advisor will conduct periodic reviews of the Custodian's valuation to ensure accurate billing.

The Advisor's fee is exclusive of, and in addition to any applicable securities transaction and custody fees, and other related costs and expenses described in Item 5.C below, which may be incurred by the Client. However, the Advisor shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

#### B. Fee Billing

### Wealth Management Services

Investment advisory fees are calculated by the Advisor or its delegate and deducted from the Client's account[s] at the Custodian. The Advisor shall send an invoice to the Custodian indicating the amount of the fees to be deducted from the Client's account[s] at the beginning of the respective quarter. The amount due is calculated by applying the annual rate (annual rate divided by 4) to the total assets under management with Mountain Capital at the end of the prior quarter. Clients will be provided with a statement, at least quarterly, from the Custodian reflecting deduction of the investment advisory fee. Clients are urged to also review and compare the statement provided by the Advisor to the brokerage statement from the Custodian, as the Custodian does not perform a verification of fees. Clients provide written authorization permitting advisory fees to be deducted by Mountain Capital to be paid directly from their account[s] held by the Custodian as part of the investment advisory agreement and separate account forms provided by the Custodian.

### C. Other Fees and Expenses

Clients may incur certain fees or charges imposed by third parties, other than Mountain Capital, in connection with investments made on behalf of the Client's account[s]. The Client is responsible for all custody and securities execution fees charged by the Custodian, as applicable. The Advisor's recommended Custodian does not charge

securities transaction fees for ETF and equity trades in a Client's account, provided that the account meets the terms and conditions of the Custodian's brokerage requirements. However, the Custodian typically charges for mutual funds and other types of investments. The fees charged by Mountain Capital are separate and distinct from these custody and execution fees.

In addition, all fees paid to Mountain Capital for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the expenses charged by mutual funds and ETFs to their shareholders, if applicable. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees and expenses will generally be used to pay management fees for the funds, other fund expenses, account administration (e.g., custody, brokerage and account reporting), and a possible distribution fee. A Client may be able to invest in these products directly, without the services of Mountain Capital, but would not receive the services provided by Mountain Capital which are designed, among other things, to assist the Client in determining which products or services are most appropriate for each Client's financial situation and objectives. Accordingly, the Client should review both the fees charged by the fund[s] and the fees charged by Mountain Capital to fully understand the total fees to be paid. Please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices for additional information.

## D. Advance Payment of Fees and Termination

## Wealth Management Services

Mountain Capital may be compensated for its investment management services in advance of the quarter in which services are rendered. Either party may terminate the investment advisory agreement, at any time, by providing advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the investment advisory agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. Upon termination, the Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid investment advisory fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's investment advisory agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

### E. Compensation for Sales of Securities

Mountain Capital does not buy or sell securities to earn commissions and does not receive any compensation for securities transactions in any Client account, other than the investment advisory fees noted above.

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

Mountain Capital does not charge performance-based fees for its investment advisory services. The fees charged by Mountain Capital are as described in Item 5 above and <u>are not</u> based upon the capital appreciation of the funds or securities held by any Client.

Mountain Capital does not manage any proprietary investment funds or limited partnerships (for example, a mutual fund or a hedge fund) and has no financial incentive to recommend any particular investment options to its Clients.

# Item 7 – Types of Clients

Mountain Capital offers investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, estates, and charitable organizations. Mountain Capital generally does not impose a minimum relationship size.

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

### A. Methods of Analysis

Mountain Capital primarily employs fundamental and technical analysis methods in developing investment strategies for its Clients. Research and analysis from Mountain Capital are derived from numerous sources, including financial media companies, third-party research materials, Internet sources, and review of company activities, including annual reports, prospectuses, press releases and research prepared by others.

Fundamental analysis utilizes economic and business indicators as investment selection criteria. This criteria consists generally of ratios and trends that may indicate the overall strength and financial viability of the entity being analyzed. Assets are deemed suitable if they meet certain criteria to indicate that they are a strong investment with a value discounted by the market. While this type of analysis helps the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in the fundamental analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

Technical analysis involves the analysis of past market data rather than specific company data in determining the recommendations made to clients. Technical analysis may involve the use of charts to identify market patterns and trends, which may be based on investor sentiment rather than the fundamentals of the company. The primary risk in using technical analysis is that spotting historical trends may not help to predict such trends in the future. Even if the trend will eventually reoccur, there is no guarantee that Mountain Capital will be able to accurately predict such a reoccurrence.

As noted above, Mountain Capital generally employs a long-term investment strategy for its Clients, as consistent with their financial goals. Mountain Capital will typically hold all or a portion of a security for more than a year, but may hold for shorter periods for the purpose of rebalancing a portfolio or meeting the cash needs of Clients. At times, Mountain Capital may also buy and sell positions that are more short-term in nature, depending on the goals of the Client and/or the fundamentals of the security, sector or asset class.

#### B. Risk of Loss

Investing in securities involves certain investment risks. Securities may fluctuate in value or lose value. Clients should be prepared to bear the potential risk of loss. Mountain Capital will assist Clients in determining an appropriate strategy based on their tolerance for risk and other factors noted above. However, there is no guarantee that a Client will meet their investment goals. Please see Item 8.B. for risks associated with the Advisor's investment strategies as well as general risks of investing.

While the methods of analysis help the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in these methods of analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

Each Client engagement will entail a review of the Client's investment goals, financial situation, time horizon, tolerance for risk and other factors to develop an appropriate strategy for managing a Client's account. Client participation in this process, including full and accurate disclosure of requested information, is essential for the analysis of a Client's account[s]. The Advisor shall rely on the financial and other information provided by the Client or their designees without the duty or obligation to validate the accuracy and completeness of the provided information. It is the responsibility of the Client to inform the Advisor of any changes in financial condition, goals or other factors that may affect this analysis.

The risks associated with a particular strategy are provided to each Client in advance of investing Client accounts. The Advisor will work with each Client to determine their tolerance for risk as part of the portfolio construction process. Following are some of the risks associated with the Advisor's investment strategies:

#### Market Risks

The value of a Client's holdings may fluctuate in response to events specific to companies or markets, as well as economic, political, or social events in the U.S. and abroad. This risk is linked to the performance of the overall financial markets.

### **ETF Risks**

The performance of ETFs is subject to market risk, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the ETFs will fluctuate with the price of the underlying securities that make up the funds. In addition, ETFs have a trading risk

based on the loss of cost efficiency if the ETFs are traded actively and a liquidity risk if the ETFs has a large bidask spread and low trading volume. The price of an ETF fluctuates based upon the market movements and may dissociate from the index being tracked by the ETF or the price of the underlying investments. An ETF purchased or sold at one point in the day may have a different price than the same ETF purchased or sold a short time later.

#### **Bond Risks**

Bonds are subject to specific risks, including the following: (1) interest rate risks, i.e. the risk that bond prices will fall if interest rates rise, and vice versa, the risk depends on two things, the bond's time to maturity, and the coupon rate of the bond. (2) reinvestment risk, i.e. the risk that any profit gained must be reinvested at a lower rate than was previously being earned, (3) inflation risk, i.e. the risk that the cost of living and inflation increase at a rate that exceeds the income investment thereby decreasing the investor's rate of return, (4) credit default risk, i.e. the risk associated with purchasing a debt instrument which includes the possibility of the company defaulting on its repayment obligation, (5) rating downgrades, i.e. the risk associated with a rating agency's downgrade of the company's rating which impacts the investor's confidence in the company's ability to repay its debt and (6) Liquidity Risks, i.e. the risk that a bond may not be sold as quickly as there is no readily available market for the bond.

#### Mutual Fund Risks

The performance of mutual funds is subject to market risk, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the mutual funds will fluctuate with the value of the underlying securities that make up the funds. The price of a mutual fund is typically set daily therefore a mutual fund purchased at one point in the day will typically have the same price as a mutual fund purchased later that same day.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Investing in securities and other investments involve a risk of loss that each Client should understand and be willing to bear. Clients are reminded to discuss these risks with the Advisor.

## Item 9 - Disciplinary Information

There are no legal, regulatory or disciplinary events involving Mountain Capital or its owner [OR] management persons. Mountain Capital values the trust Clients place in the Advisor. The Advisor encourages Clients to perform the requisite due diligence on any advisor or service provider that the Client engages. The backgrounds of the Advisor or Advisory Persons are available on the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 156660.

# Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

### Merchant Wealth Management Holdings, LLC

Merchant Wealth Management Holdings, LLC ("Merchant Wealth"), a subsidiary of Merchant Investment Management, LLC ("Merchant Investment"), owns a minority, non-controlling interest in the Advisor. Merchant Investment, through subsidiaries other than Merchant Wealth, has ownership interests in various companies that provide investment and other consulting services to financial firms, including investment advisors ("Investment Solutions"). The Advisor is provided access to use these Investment Solutions, where the Advisor may utilize the Investment Solutions pursuant to an engagement that the Advisor enters into directly with the third party providing the investment solution. These Investment Solutions may include, but are not limited to, third party money managers, private investments, pooled investment vehicles, or other investment products for which a commission is earned. Engagement of and with these Investment Solutions poses a conflict of interest due to the minority ownership interest that Merchant Investment's various subsidiaries own in the third parties providing these Investment Solutions. Through Merchant Investment's minority ownership interests in the third parties that provide these Investment Solutions, Merchant Investment will benefit from additional revenue that is generated when the Advisor engages any of these third-party service providers. Accordingly, the Advisor may have an incentive to engage one or more of these Investment Solutions. In an effort to ensure these conflicts of interest are addressed, the Advisor has implemented a risk control and disclosure framework, the objective of which is for the Advisor to select Investment Solutions that are in the best interest of the Client, The Advisor is not controlled by Merchant Wealth or Merchant Investment and is operated independently where Merchant Investment and all other related subsidiaries are not involved with the services offered by the Advisor and maintains its own office space.

### Mountain Capital CPAs

Mountain Capital is affiliated, through common control, with Mountain Capital CPAs. Mountain Capital CPAs provides accounting, tax planning, business consulting, and business bookkeeping services. These services provided by Mountain Capital CPAs are separate and distinct from the advisory services provided by Mountain Capital. The Advisor may recommend that Clients engage Mountain Capital CPAs for accounting or tax services. Clients are under no obligation to utilize the services offered by Mountain Capital CPAs.

#### Mountain Capital Consulting

Mountain Capital is affiliated, through common control, with Mountain Capital Consulting. Mountain Capital Consulting provides career coaching and interview preparation services. These services provided by Mountain Capital Consulting are separate and distinct from the advisory services provided by Mountain Capital. The Advisor may recommend that Clients engage Mountain Capital Consulting. Clients are under no obligation to utilize the services offered by Mountain Capital Consulting.

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

#### A. Code of Ethics

Mountain Capital has implemented a Code of Ethics (the "Code") that defines the Advisor's fiduciary commitment to each Client. This Code applies to all persons associated with Mountain Capital ("Supervised Persons"). The Code was developed to provide general ethical guidelines and specific instructions regarding the Advisor's duties to each Client. Mountain Capital and its Supervised Persons owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client. It is the obligation of Mountain Capital's Supervised Persons to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code, but also to the general principles that guide the Code. The Code covers a range of topics that address employee ethics and conflicts of interest. To request a copy of the Code, please contact the Advisor at (720) 500-0050 or via email at <a href="info@mountaincapital.us">info@mountaincapital.us</a>.

### **B. Personal Trading with Material Interest**

Mountain Capital allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Mountain Capital does not act as principal in any transactions. In addition, the Advisor does not act as the general partner of a fund, or advise an investment company. Mountain Capital does not have a material interest in any securities traded in Client accounts.

### C. Personal Trading in Same Securities as Clients

Mountain Capital allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Owning the same securities that are recommended (purchase or sell) to Clients presents a conflict of interest that, as fiduciaries, must be disclosed to Clients and mitigated through policies and procedures. As noted above, the Advisor has adopted the Code to address insider trading (material non-public information controls); gifts and entertainment; outside business activities and personal securities reporting. When trading for personal accounts, Supervised Persons have a conflict of interest if trading in the same securities. The fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of its Clients can be violated if personal trades are made with more advantageous terms than Client trades, or by trading based on material non-public information. This risk is mitigated by Mountain Capital conducting a coordinated review of personal accounts and the accounts of the Clients. The Advisor has also adopted written policies and procedures to detect the misuse of material, non-public information.

### D. Personal Trading at Same Time as Client

While Mountain Capital allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients, such trades are typically aggregated with Client orders or traded afterwards. At no time will Mountain Capital, or any Supervised Person of Mountain Capital, transact in any security to the detriment of any Client.

### Item 12 - Brokerage Practices

### A. Recommendation of Custodian[s]

Mountain Capital does not have discretionary authority to select the broker-dealer/custodian for custody and execution services. The Client will engage the broker-dealer/custodian (herein the "Custodian") to safeguard Client assets and authorize Mountain Capital to direct trades to the Custodian as agreed upon in the investment advisory agreement. Further, Mountain Capital does not have the discretionary authority to negotiate commissions on behalf of Clients on a trade-by-trade basis.

Where Mountain Capital does not exercise discretion over the selection of the Custodian, it may recommend the Custodian to Clients for custody and execution services. Clients are not obligated to use the recommended Custodian and will not incur any extra fee or cost from the Advisor associated with using a custodian not recommended by Mountain Capital. However, the Advisor may be limited in the services it can provide if the recommended Custodian is not engaged. Mountain Capital may recommend the Custodian based on criteria such as, but not limited to, reasonableness of commissions charged to the Client, services made available to the Client, and its reputation and/or the location of the Custodian's offices.

Mountain Capital will generally recommend that Clients establish their account[s] at Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer and member SIPC. Schwab will serve as the Client's "qualified custodian". Mountain Capital maintains an institutional relationship with Schwab, whereby the Advisor receives economic benefits from Schwab (Please see Item 14 below.)

Following are additional details regarding the brokerage practices of the Advisor:

- 1. Soft Dollars Soft dollars are revenue programs offered by broker-dealers/custodians whereby an advisor enters into an agreement to place security trades with a broker-dealer/custodian in exchange for research and other services. Mountain Capital does not participate in soft dollar programs sponsored or offered by any broker-dealer/custodian. However, the Advisor receives certain economic benefits from the Custodian. Please see Item 14 below.
- **2. Brokerage Referrals -** Mountain Capital does not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with the recommendation for establishing an account.
- 3. Directed Brokerage All Clients are serviced on a "directed brokerage basis", where Mountain Capital will place trades within the established account[s] at the Custodian designated by the Client. Further, all Client accounts are traded within their respective account[s]. The Advisor will not engage in any principal transactions (i.e., trade of any security from or to the Advisor's own account) or cross transactions with other Client accounts (i.e., purchase of a security into one Client account from another Client's account[s]). Mountain Capital will not be obligated to select competitive bids on securities transactions and does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available transaction costs. These costs are determined by the Custodian.

### **B.** Aggregating and Allocating Trades

The primary objective in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities for Client accounts is to obtain the most favorable net results taking into account such factors as 1) price, 2) size of the order, 3) difficulty of execution, 4) confidentiality and 5) skill required of the Custodian. Mountain Capital will execute its transactions through the Custodian as authorized by the Client. Mountain Capital may aggregate orders in a block trade or trades when securities are purchased or sold through the Custodian for multiple (discretionary) accounts in the same trading day. If a block trade cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated in a manner that is consistent with the initial pre-allocation or other written statement. This must be done in a way that does not consistently advantage or disadvantage any particular Clients' accounts.

### Item 13 - Review of Accounts

# A. Frequency of Reviews

Securities in Client accounts are monitored on a regular and continuous basis by Brian Quint, Chief Compliance Officer of Mountain Capital. Formal reviews are generally conducted at least annually or more frequently depending on the needs of the Client.

#### **B.** Causes for Reviews

In addition to the investment monitoring noted in Item 13.A., each Client account shall be reviewed at least annually. Reviews may be conducted more frequently at the Client's request. Accounts may be reviewed as a result of major changes in economic conditions, known changes in the Client's financial situation, and/or large deposits or withdrawals in the Client's account[s]. The Client is encouraged to notify Mountain Capital if changes occur in the Client's personal financial situation that might adversely affect the Client's investment plan. Additional reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events.

### C. Review Reports

The Client will receive brokerage statements no less than quarterly from the Custodian. These brokerage statements are sent directly from the Custodian to the Client. The Client may also establish electronic access to the Custodian's website so that the Client may view these reports and their account activity. Client brokerage statements will include all positions, transactions and fees relating to the Client's account[s]. The Advisor may also provide Clients with periodic reports regarding their holdings, allocations, and performance.

### Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation

### A. Compensation Received by Mountain Capital

Participation in Institutional Advisor Platform- Schwab

Mountain Capital has established an institutional relationship with Schwab through its "Schwab Advisor Services" unit, a division of Schwab dedicated to serving independent advisory firms like Mountain Capital. As a registered investment advisor participating on the Schwab Advisor Services platform, Mountain Capital receives access to software and related support without cost because the Advisor renders investment management services to Clients that maintain assets at Schwab. Services provided by Schwab Advisor Services benefit the Advisor and many, but not all services provided by Schwab will benefit Clients. In fulfilling its duties to its Clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits from a custodian creates a potential conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Advisor's recommendation of this custodian over one that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services.

Services that Benefit the Client – Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client's funds and securities. Through Schwab, the Advisor may be able to access certain investments and asset classes that the Client would not be able to obtain directly or through other sources. Further, the Advisor may be able to invest in certain mutual funds and other investments without having to adhere to investment minimums that might be required if the Client were to directly access the investments.

Services that May Indirectly Benefit the Client – Schwab provides participating advisors with access to technology, research, discounts and other services. In addition, the Advisor receives duplicate statements for Client accounts, the ability to deduct advisory fees, trading tools, and back office support services as part of its relationship with Schwab. These services are intended to assist the Advisor in effectively managing accounts for its Clients, but may not directly benefit all Clients.

Services that May Only Benefit the Advisor – Schwab also offers other services to Mountain Capital that may not benefit the Client, including: educational conferences and events, financial start-up support, consulting services and discounts for various service providers. Access to these services creates a financial incentive for the Advisor to recommend Schwab, which results in a potential conflict of interest. Mountain Capital believes, however, that the

selection of Schwab as Custodian is in the best interests of its Clients.

### **B.** Compensation for Client Referrals

The Advisor does not compensate, either directly or indirectly, any persons who are not supervised persons, for Client referrals.

### Item 15 - Custody

Mountain Capital does not accept or maintain custody of Client accounts, except for the limited circumstances outlined below:

Deduction of Advisory Fees - To ensure compliance with regulatory requirements associated with the deduction of advisory fees, all Clients for whom Mountain Capital exercises discretionary authority must hold their assets with a "qualified custodian." Clients are responsible for engaging a "qualified custodian" to safeguard their funds and securities and must instruct Mountain Capital to utilize that Custodian for securities transactions on their behalf. Clients are encouraged to review statements provided by the Custodian and compare to any reports provided by Mountain Capital to ensure accuracy, as the Custodian does not perform this review.

Money Movement Authorization - For instances where Clients authorize Mountain Capital to move funds between their accounts, Mountain Capital and the Custodian have implemented safeguards to ensure that all money movement activities are conducted strictly in accordance with the Client's documented instructions.

#### Item 16 – Investment Discretion

Mountain Capital generally has discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be bought or sold in Client accounts without obtaining prior consent or approval from the Client. However, these purchases or sales may be subject to specified investment objectives, guidelines, or limitations previously set forth by the Client and agreed to by Mountain Capital. Discretionary authority will only be authorized upon full disclosure to the Client. The granting of such authority will be evidenced by the Client's execution of an investment advisory agreement containing all applicable limitations to such authority. All discretionary trades made by Mountain Capital will be in accordance with each Client's investment objectives and goals.

### **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

The Advisor does not accept proxy voting authority for any Client. Clients will receive proxy statements directly from the Custodian. The Advisor will assist in answering questions relating to proxies, however, the Client retains the sole responsibility for proxy decisions and voting.

#### Item 18 - Financial Information

Neither Mountain Capital, nor its management, have any adverse financial situations that would reasonably impair the ability of Mountain Capital to meet all obligations to its Clients. Neither Mountain Capital, nor any of its Advisory Persons, have been subject to a bankruptcy or financial compromise. Mountain Capital is not required to deliver a balance sheet along with this Disclosure Brochure as the Advisor does not collect advance fees of \$1,200 or more for services to be performed six months or more in the future.

## **Privacy Policy**

Effective: April 28, 2025

### **Our Commitment to You**

Mountain Capital Investment Advisors, Inc. ("Mountain Capital" or the "Advisor") is committed to safeguarding the use of personal information of our Clients (also referred to as "you" and "your") that we obtain as your Investment Advisor, as described here in our Privacy Policy ("Policy").

Our relationship with you is our most important asset. We understand that you have entrusted us with your private information, and we do everything that we can to maintain that trust. Mountain Capital (also referred to as "we", "our" and "us") protects the security and confidentiality of the personal information we have and implements controls to ensure that such information is used for proper business purposes in connection with the management or servicing of our relationship with you.

Mountain Capital does not sell your non-public personal information to anyone. Nor do we provide such information to others except for discrete and reasonable business purposes in connection with the servicing and management of our relationship with you, as discussed below.

Details of our approach to privacy and how your personal non-public information is collected and used are set forth in this Policy.

### Why you need to know?

Registered Investment Advisors ("RIAs") must share some of your personal information in the course of servicing your account. Federal and State laws give you the right to limit some of this sharing and require RIAs to disclose how we collect, share, and protect your personal information.

### What information do we collect from you?

| Driver's license number                            | Date of birth                   |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Social security or taxpayer identification number  | Assets and liabilities          |
| Name, address and phone number[s]                  | Income and expenses             |
| E-mail address[es]                                 | Investment activity             |
| Account information (including other institutions) | Investment experience and goals |

### What Information do we collect from other sources?

| Custody, brokerage and advisory agreements    | Account applications and forms                      |
|---|---|
| Other advisory agreements and legal documents | Investment questionnaires and suitability documents |
| Transactional information with us or others   | Other information needed to service account         |

### How do we protect your information?

To safeguard your personal information from unauthorized access and use we maintain physical, procedural and electronic security measures. These include such safeguards as secure passwords, encrypted file storage and a secure office environment. Our technology vendors provide security and access control over personal information and have policies over the transmission of data. Our associates are trained on their responsibilities to protect Client's personal information.

We require third parties that assist in providing our services to you to protect the personal information they receive from us.

# How do we share your information?

An RIA shares Client personal information to effectively implement its services. In the section below, we list some reasons we may share your personal information.

| Basis For Sharing   | Do we share? | Can you limit? |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| Servicing our Clients We may share non-public personal information with non-affiliated third parties (such as administrators, brokers, custodians, regulators, credit agencies, other financial institutions) as necessary for us to provide agreed upon services to you, consistent with applicable law, including but not limited to: processing transactions; general account maintenance; responding to regulators or legal investigations; and credit reporting.                                 | Yes          | No             |
| Marketing Purposes  Mountain Capital does not disclose, and does not intend to disclose, personal information with non-affiliated third parties to offer you services. Certain laws may give us the right to share your personal information with financial institutions where you are a customer and where Mountain Capital or the client has a formal agreement with the financial institution. We will only share information for purposes of servicing your accounts, not for marketing purposes. | No           | Not Shared     |
| Authorized Users Your non-public personal information may be disclosed to you and persons that we believe to be your authorized agent[s] or representative[s].  | Yes          | Yes            |
| Information About Former Clients  Mountain Capital does not disclose and does not intend to disclose, non- public personal information to non-affiliated third parties with respect to persons who are no longer our Clients.   | No           | Not Shared     |

# State-specific Regulations

| California    | In response to a California law, to be conservative, we assume accounts with California addresses do not want us to disclose personal information about you to non-affiliated third parties, except as permitted by California law. We also limit the sharing of personal information about you with our affiliates to ensure compliance with California privacy laws.  |
|---------------|---|
| Massachusetts | In response to a Massachusetts law, clients must "opt-in" to share non-public personal information with non-affiliated third parties before any personal information is disclosed. We may disclose non-public personal information to other financial institutions with whom we have joint business arrangements for proper business purposes in connection with the management or servicing of your account. |

#### **Changes to our Privacy Policy**

We will send you a copy of this Policy annually for as long as you maintain an ongoing relationship with us.

Periodically we may revise this Policy and will provide you with a revised Policy if the changes materially alter the previous Privacy Policy. We will not, however, revise our Privacy Policy to permit the sharing of non-public personal information other than as described in this notice unless we first notify you and provide you with an opportunity to prevent the information sharing.

### **Any Questions?**

You may ask questions or voice any concerns, as well as obtain a copy of our current Privacy Policy by contacting us at (720) 500-0050 or via email at <a href="mailto:info@mountaincapital.us">info@mountaincapital.us</a>.