

About Us

Amerant Investments, Inc (“Amerant” or the “Firm”) is dually registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) as a Broker-Dealer and Registered Investment Adviser.

About this Document

This document is meant to provide additional information and disclosures regarding our Firm pursuant to Regulation Best Interest.

Capacity in which your Financial Professional is Acting

Your financial professional may be a Registered Representative of our broker-dealer, an investment adviser representative under our affiliated registered investment adviser, or both. You can check your financial professional at www.brokercheck.finra.org which will allow you to search for your financial professional by name. Their respective profile will show you if they are a broker, investment adviser, or both and you can also find additional information about our firm.

In most cases, when making a recommendation to you regarding investments in your brokerage account or directly with an investment sponsor (known as “direct business”) your financial professional is acting in his/her capacity as a registered representative under the broker-dealer. When providing advice or a recommendation regarding investments in a fee-based account, your professional is acting in the capacity of an investment adviser. Your account application or agreement will identify which type of account you have. However, there are exceptions and whenever your financial professional acts in a capacity inconsistent with this guidance, you will receive updated notice in writing as to the capacity in which they are acting when making a recommendation.

Material Limitations

You should understand there are material limitations to the recommendations your financial professional provides. The Firm approves and offers only certain account types, products, and securities. There may be additional account types, products, and securities that are not offered by the Firm, which may benefit you and your portfolio. In addition, those that we do offer, may be available at a lower cost through another firm.

Additionally, the financial professionals associated with our Firm are licensed to offer certain account types, products, and securities. So, in some cases, even when available through our Firm or an affiliate, your financial professional might not be able to recommend a particular account type, product, and/or security which may benefit you and your portfolio. You can check to see the licenses your financial professional holds, by visiting www.brokercheck.finra.org.

Requirements for You to Open or Maintain an Account with Us

Generally, the Firm requires a minimum balance of \$100,000 to open a brokerage account (\$200,000 for international customers), \$250,000 to open an advisory account, and \$500,000 to open a PAS account. However, the Firm does make exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis. It's also important to note, some products will also require a minimum investment, which can be found on their investment prospectus, offering materials, or similar document.

Our Firm's Investment Approach

The Firm uses its industry knowledge and experience to provide brokerage services to retail clients as well as investment advice, through its affiliated registered investment adviser. The firm seeks to understand our clients' unique investment profiles and recommend investments and strategies consistent with their unique financial needs. However, the products and services offered by the Firm do vary and the investment philosophy, approach, risk, and objective of these investments will too. You should review the prospects or similar offering documents thoroughly before making an investment and contact your financial professional should you have additional questions.

Material Fees, Costs, and Associated Conflicts

The Firm and its associated professionals receive compensation directly from their customers or indirectly from the investments a customer makes. This compensation takes the form of an upfront commission and/or ongoing compensation, known as trailing compensation. It is important to note that the amount of compensation can change over time. In order to receive specific and the most up-to-date information, customers should review the respective prospectus, offering document, and/or other transaction statement. Customers should discuss with their financial professional if they have any questions regarding compensation and/or conflicts of interest.

Sales Compensation

The Firm receives selling compensation when it buys or sells a security. This selling compensation is also referred to as a commission, markup/markdown, placement fee, or sales charge/load. Typically, the Firm receives selling compensation and shares a certain percentage of the selling compensation with your financial professional.

Because the amount of selling compensation charged can vary between different securities and products, this could create an incentive to sell certain investments over others. It could also create an incentive to conduct a higher number of transactions.

- **Equity/ETF/ETN/CEF:** The Firm charges a maximum commission of .25% per transaction on these types of securities and has a minimum charge of \$59.95, but is able to waive or reduce this amount depending on the circumstances and often does.
- **Fixed Income and Bonds:** Typically, fixed income securities, such as a corporate bonds, municipal bonds, collateralized mortgage obligations (CMO), and other types of fixed income securities are charged a markup or markdown. This means when a customer is seeking to purchase one of these securities it is first purchased by the

Firm and placed in a Firm account. The Firm then sells that security to the customer for a higher price and moves the security from the Firm's account into the customer's account. Similarly, when selling one of these securities, the Firm purchases the security from the customer and moves it into a Firm account, the Firm will then sell the security in the marketplace at a higher price. The maximum amount charged in the Form of a markup or markdown is typically 3%, but this amount can go higher in certain circumstances that may make the security harder to buy or sell, including a thinly traded security or a low-priced security. In addition, when acting as agent, we may charge a minimum commission of \$50.

- **Mutual Funds and 529 Plans:** The Firm typically receives a maximum of 5.75% sales load on mutual funds and 529 plans, but this amount can be reduced based on a number of factors, including the amount invested and the share class. The sales load reduces the value of your investment. The Firm also receives trailing compensation on these investments which can vary based on the share class selected. This amount is subject to change and you should review the prospectus to find the most up-to-date information regarding the fees, costs, and risks associated with these investments.
- **Alternative Investments:** The Firm typically receives a maximum upfront commission of 1.5% for the sale of alternatives investments such as structured products.

Understanding Share Classes

The amount of upfront selling compensation versus trailing compensation charged on certain products, such as mutual funds, variable annuities, or 529 investments will vary, depending on the share class selected. For mutual funds, typically, Class A shares will result in a higher upfront sales charge and lower trailing compensation, while the opposite is true for a Class C. In order to see a complete list of the share classes available for a particular investment and their respective costs, you should review the investment prospectus, offering document, and/or other transaction statement.

Product Costs

Financial professionals provide recommendations with respect to a broad range of investment products, including stocks, bonds, ETFs, mutual funds, annuities and alternative investments. Many investment products charge fees and costs that are separate from and in addition to the commissions and fees that the Firm and financial professionals receive. You can learn more about these fees and costs charged by an investment product by reviewing the investment product's prospectus, offering memorandum, or other disclosure documents.

Account Fees

In addition to the commissions and sales charges described above, customers can also be charged direct fees and charges for miscellaneous account services such as wire transfers, account transfers, error corrections, and account maintenance. These fees are typically charged by the clearing firm where your assets are custodied and some of these fees may be shared with the Firm. These fees typically range between \$25 and \$300. For a complete list

of these charges and fees you should review your account agreement and/or fee schedule and discuss with your financial professional.

Registered Representative Specific Compensation

Registered representatives' compensation typically includes a base salary and discretionary bonus that is tied to a number of performance goals, including, but not limited to increasing revenues and referrals to the Firm's affiliates.

Additional Compensation from Third Parties

In addition to the commissions and sales compensation described above, the Firm also receives additional compensation from third-parties. This additional compensation could provide an incentive for the Firm to recommend certain investments over others. It's important to note, however, that the amount of compensation can change and vary between investment sponsors. In order to receive specific and the most up-to-date information, customers should review the respective prospectus, offering document, and/or other transaction statement.

- **Other Trailing Compensation:** The Firm also receives trailing compensation, which are paid from certain investment sponsors for mutual funds. The amount can vary based on the product and amount invested. For mutual funds, the maximum amount is typically 1% of the amount invested.
- **Recordkeeping Fees:** For some of our mutual fund sponsors, the trailing compensation described above includes compensation to perform recordkeeping and administrative services for the mutual fund sponsor.
- **Due Diligence:** The Firm and its financial professionals receive non-cash compensation by attending conferences and meetings (both formal and informal) to conduct due diligence on a particular product and related costs associated with becoming familiar, approving, or onboarding a new product or security.
- **Network Agreements:** The amount of compensation from a mutual fund product sponsor paid to the Firm can be higher based on the collective investments in a particular fund family.
- **Non-Cash Compensation and Marketing:** The Firm and its employees periodically receive compensation that is not transaction based from investment sponsors. This includes entertainments such as tickets to a sports game, costs associated with dinner, small gifts valued at less than \$100, or marketing fees for workshops, events, and advertising.
- **Cash Sweeps:** The Firm receives compensation for moving cash balances to a particular fund/account which the Firm generates additional compensation from. This amount is usually not shared with your financial professional and can vary between 0 and .5% of the balance.
- **Securities Lending:** The Firm along with the customer, may receive compensation for securities lent to the clearing firm as part of a securities lending agreement. As this amount is subject to change based on the security and market conditions, you should review your securities lending agreement, fee schedule, and account agreement to learn more.

- **Margin or Portfolio Line of Credit:** When a customer receives margin or a portfolio line of credit, the Firm will usually receive a percentage of the balance lent, which typically will not exceed 3%, although the total amount you pay for the use of margin, may be more. In order to find the most up-to-date information concerning the use of margin, costs, and the associated risks, you should review your margin agreement and fee schedule.

Additional Conflicts of Interests

Gifts and Entertainment A conflict of interest may arise when an employee receives or offers a gift, entertainment, or anything of value that creates an incentive for an employee, third party service provider, or a client to act in a certain way.

Shared Revenues and Payments from Third Parties We receive shared revenue, fees, and/or payments from product sponsors and our clearing firm which could create an incentive to offer or recommend certain activities and investments.

Outside Business Activities When approved, registered representatives may engage in certain outside business activities. This may include, but is not limited to: real estate, accounting, insurance, legal, and other professions. As a result, financial professionals may be incentivized to recommend certain products or services outside the scope of their relationship with the firm and they may benefit financial from these recommendations. In addition, employees may engage in personal trading or outside business activities (including board memberships/directorships) could conflict with a client or with the firm.

Multiple Roles The firm or its affiliates may perform multiple roles with respect to a client or transaction (e.g., advisor, lender, broker, riskless principal counterparty). These roles mean we might be biased regarding the services we recommend as they relate to these roles.

Political and Charitable Contributions The firm and/or its employees charitable and/or political donations could create the perception that the company or employee is seeking a quid pro quo.

Confidentiality The Firm and its employees are periodically exposed to confidential information which may benefit us or a client.

Supervision Conflicts When a manager is also producing, he/she may be incentivized to spend more time on revenue generating activities than supervision activities.

Recommendations to Other Financial Professionals "Other professionals (e.g., lawyers, accountants, insurance agents, etc.) may be recommended to clients or engaged directly by the client on an as-needed basis. Although not directly compensated for these referrals to outside entities, your financial professional may receive referrals from these professionals, which could incentivize them to recommend a particular professional over another."

Referrals to Affiliated Entities The Firm is affiliated with other entities which provide bank and trust services. This creates an incentive for the Firm and your financial professional to refer you to these affiliates. Although your financial professional is not paid directly for making customers aware of these services and products, it is a component of their performance review which may lead to additional compensation. Similarly bank employees receive a small

fee for qualified referrals made to the Firm, usually \$25 to \$100. However, these referrals are not contingent on whether or not the client elects to open an investment account

Banking Affiliate and other Associated Conflicts Certain products offered by our affiliated bank include loans. With some loans a customer can choose to collateralize securities held with us. As with any collateralized loan involving an investment account, this limits an investor from liquidating or moving those securities until the loan is satisfied. One of our affiliates also includes trust services. When permitted, the trust company will typically outsource wealth management to its affiliate (us) to manage certain investments held under the trust. Lastly, we may also recommend investments in offerings issued by our affiliated bank, such as debt offerings. We have an incentive to recommend a customer invest in these offerings as the capital raised goes to the enterprise in addition to the selling compensation received by the broker-dealer.

Risk Disclosure

Our Firm does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Accordingly, we encourage each customer to consult their own personal tax, legal and/or accounting advisers in order to understand the potential consequences associated with a particular investment strategy.

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that customers should be prepared to bear. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk and there can be no assurance that any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable for a customer's investment portfolio. Past performance is not indicative of future results. A customer should not assume that the future performance of any specific investment, investment strategy, or product will be profitable or equal to past or current performance levels. We cannot assure that the investment objectives of any client will be realized. The following is a non-exhaustive list of risks associated with investing. For additional product-specific risks, customers should review their prospectus, offering document, or similar materials and consider them carefully prior to making an investment decision.

- **Interest-rate Risk:** Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
- **Market Risk:** The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic and social conditions may trigger market events.
- **Inflation Risk:** When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will not buy as much as a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
- **Currency Risk:** Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.
- **Reinvestment Risk:** This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e. interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.

- **Business Risk:** These risks are associated with a particular industry or a particular company within an industry. For example, oil-drilling companies depend on finding oil and then refining it, a lengthy process, before they can generate a profit. They carry a higher risk of profitability than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter what the economic environment is like.
- **Liquidity Risk:** Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many traders are interested in a standardized product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.
- **Financial/Credit Risk:** Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations may result in bankruptcy and/or a declining market value of securities.
- **Third Party Manager Risk:** Third Party portfolio managers typically have full discretion as to how manage the model portfolio based on the objective of the model. Such discretion increases the risk that the TPM may mismanage the portfolio and client's assets which may result in client's loss.