

# Bluestone Capital Management, LLC

And Its Affiliates, Strategic Wealth Management, LLC & Omega Retirement Solutions, LLC.

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June 4, 2018

Form ADV, Part 2, our “Disclosure Brochure” or “Brochure” as required by the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is a very important document between Clients (you, your) and Bluestone Capital Management, LLC (us, we, our). This Brochure provides information about our qualifications and business practices.

***This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Bluestone Capital Management, LLC and its affiliates, Strategic Wealth Management, LLC and Omega Retirement Solutions. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (610) 337-6500 or [ksmith@bluestonecm.com](mailto:ksmith@bluestonecm.com). The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Authority.***

***Additional information about Bluestone Capital Management, LLC also is available at the SEC’s website [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) (click on the link, select “investment adviser firm” and type in our firm name). Results will provide you both Part 1 and 2 of our Form ADV.***

We are a registered investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our registration as an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications we provide to you, including this Brochure, is information you use to evaluate us (and other advisers) which are factors in your decision to hire us or to continue to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship.

## Item 2 – Material Changes

1. This section of the Brochure will address only those “material changes” that have been incorporated since our last delivery or posting of this document on the SEC’s public disclosure website (IAPD) [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).
2. The following items have been materially changed since our last brochure dated August 3, 2017:
  - a. Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations: We added our affiliation with Alden Capital Management, Inc., a investment adviser registered with the SEC. J. Alden Associates, Inc. Registered Broker Dealer.
3. We may, at any time, update this Brochure and either send you a copy or offer to send you a copy (either by electronic means (email) or in hard copy form).
4. If you would like another copy of this Brochure, please download it from the SEC Website as indicated above or you may contact our Chief Compliance Officer, Ken Smith, at (610) 3376500 or [ksmith@bluestonecm.com](mailto:ksmith@bluestonecm.com).

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## Item 4 – Advisory Business

### Description of Advisory Services:

Bluestone Capital Management, LLC (“Bluestone”, “we” or “us”) became a state registered investment adviser in September 2011 and became registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) in February 2013. We are wholly owned by R5 Partners, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation. Our total assets under management as of January 31, 2018 were \$3,163,774,117, of which \$255,683,782 are managed on a discretionary basis and \$2,908,090,335 are managed on a non-discretionary basis.

We provide a variety of asset management services, including the discretionary management of separate accounts, limited partnership funds, sub-advisory services to 1940 Act funds, retirement plans and non-discretionary asset management services. We also provide subadvisory services to several structured credit deals. Bluestone focuses on managing clearly defined investment strategies that are generally differentiated from the vast majority of strategies offered by traditional asset management firms. These include tactically managed portfolios and investment funds that have the ability to access non-traditional asset classes that are uncorrelated to public equity and debt securities or focus on niche investment areas. Bluestone Capital Management claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

We have two Investment Adviser Representatives who do business under their own names and legal entities of, Strategic Wealth Management Advisors, LLC (“Strategic”) & Omega Retirement Solutions, LLC (“Omega”), through which we conduct a portion of our advisory business. These business names and logos may appear on marketing materials as approved by us, or client statements as approved by the custodian of your account assets. You should understand that these businesses are legal entities of those Investment Adviser Representatives and not of Bluestone or the custodian. Strategic and Omega may provide services other than investment advisory services as disclosed in this Brochure. However, all investment advisory services are provided through us.

### Asset Management Services

The investment management services that we provide to individuals involve determining the risk/return profile of the client then selecting the appropriate Bluestone strategy. Clients are free to impose restrictions or limitation on our selection of investments in certain securities or types of securities. We mainly provide recommendations in accordance with our structured model portfolios of funds for our individual clients. Our recommendations are based on information that you provide to us regarding your financial needs, retirement and financial goals, investment objectives, net worth, time horizon, risk profile, tax situation, and liquidity needs.

We generally manage individual client accounts on a discretionary basis, which allows us to change your portfolio allocation as we deem prudent without your prior authorization.

However, you may choose to have your account managed on a non-discretionary basis. If you chose a non-discretionary account, we will need to discuss any changes to your account before repositioning your assets, which may delay our ability to reallocate your assets in response to market conditions.

### **Collateral Management Services**

We provide sub-advisory services to nine private structured credit deals. As sub-adviser, we provide collateral management services to the deals which include supervising and directing the administration of the collateral, determining how payments will be processed, advising with respect to the use of sale proceeds, facilitating the acquisition of collateral debt securities, monitoring the collateral, and reporting to the trustees.

## **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

### **Asset Management Services**

Our fees for asset management services are negotiable. For certain accounts, we may charge advisory fees on a share of the capital appreciation of the funds or securities in a client account (so-called performance-based fees). Our maximum fees are:

- Customized Management – 2.00% Annual Fee
- Bluestone Income – 1.25% Annual Fee
- Bluestone Income Plus – 1.50% Annual Fee (including Option Overlay Strategy)
- Bluestone Asset Allocation Portfolio – 1.25% Annual Fee
- Bluestone Elite – 1.25% Annual Fee

We may change our fee schedules upon 30-days prior written notice to you. No fee adjustments will be made for additional deposits, partial withdrawals, account appreciation or depreciation. Fee adjustments will be made if accounts are added or closed. We aggregate all your managed accounts together to determine the amount of your quarterly fee. Each of our Investment Advisory Representatives determines the fees that they will charge for their services. As a result, you may be able to obtain advisory services from other Investment Advisory Representatives at a lower cost. There is no correlation between the education and business experience of the Investment Advisory Representative and the fee charged. Depending on your account balance, our fees may be higher than those charged by other investment advisers. Similar advisory services may be obtained elsewhere at a lower cost.

Advisory fees will be charged in advance of each calendar quarter, or on a daily basis if supported by the custodian; our private limited partnership funds charge advisory fees on a monthly basis in arrears. The quarterly advisory fee will be based on the value of the

managed portfolio on the last business day of the just completed calendar quarter. Fees for partial periods will be pro-rated. The initial advisory fees will be calculated based on the value of the account when it is opened.

### **Fee Payment Options**

As indicated in our advisory agreement with you, advisory fees will generally be collected directly from your account, provided you have given us written authorization to do so. At the inception of our relationship with you and each quarter thereafter, we will notify your custodian of the amount of the fee due and payable to us through our fee schedule and contract. The custodian does not validate or check our fee, its calculation on the assets on which the fee is based. They will “deduct” the fee from your Account(s) or, if you have more than one account from the account you have designated to pay our advisory fees. If your account does not contain sufficient cash to pay advisory fees, we have limited authority to sell or redeem securities in amounts sufficient to cover the advisory fees.

Each month, you will receive a statement directly from your custodian showing all transactions, positions and credits / debits into or from your account; the statements after the quarter end will reflect these transactions, including the advisory fee paid by you to us. We will also provide you with a report itemizing the fee, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the time period covered by the fee, and the amount of assets under management on which the fee was based upon your request. This information is available on each of our custodians’ monthly statements and is accessible at any time through the custodians’ online systems. If you chose, you may also pay our advisory fees by check. At the inception of your account and each quarter thereafter, we will issue you an invoice for our services and you pay us by check or wire transfer within 15 days of the date of the invoice.

### **Additional Fees and Expenses:**

Advisory fees payable to us do not include all the fees you will pay when we purchase or sell securities for your account(s). The following list of fees or expenses are what you pay directly to third parties, whether a security is being purchased, sold or held in your account(s) under our management. Fees charged are by the broker dealer / custodian.

We do not receive, directly or indirectly any of these fees charged to you. They are paid to your broker, custodian or the mutual fund or other investment you hold. The fees include:

- Brokerage commissions;
- Transaction fees;
- Exchange fees;
- SEC fees;
- Advisory fees and administrative fees charged by Mutual Funds (MF), Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Advisory fees charged by sub-advisers (if any are used for your account);
- Custodial Fees;

- Deferred sales charges (on MF or annuities);
- Odd-Lot differentials;
- Deferred sales charges (charged by MFs);
- Transfer taxes;
- Wire transfer and electronic fund processing fees;
- Commissions or mark-ups / mark-downs on security transactions; • Among others that may be incurred.

Investment Advisory Representatives of Bluestone are also registered representatives of MCG Securities, LLC (“MCG”), a registered broker-dealer. These Investment Advisory Representatives may receive 12b-1 fees, or trail commissions, for a period of time as a result of directing mutual fund transactions in your advisory account through MCG. The receipt of 12b-1 fee creates a conflict of interest and could provide an incentive for Investment Advisory Representatives to recommend funds with 12b-1 fees over funds that do not have these fees or have lower fees. We will manage this conflict by regularly reviewing your account to ensure that all mutual fund recommendations are suitable for you.

### **Termination Provisions**

You may terminate your advisory agreement with us, without penalty, upon written notice within five (5) business days after entering into the advisory agreement. You will be responsible for any fees and charges incurred from third parties as a result of maintaining your account, including transaction fees and account maintenance or custodial fees. Thereafter, you may terminate your advisory agreement with us upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to us. Should you terminate the advisory agreement during a calendar quarter, you will be issued a pro-rated refund of the advisory fee from the date of termination to the end of the calendar quarter. Termination of third party management agreements must be done in accordance with the terms of the third-party management agreement.

### **Collateral Management Service Fees**

We receive a service fee for our collateral management services. Currently, we receive fees based on the number of structured credit deals we service and the scope of services we provide during each calendar month.

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

For certain accounts, we may charge advisory fees on a share of the capital appreciation of the funds or securities in a client account (so-called performance-based fees). Our performance-based fee calculations include a high-water mark feature where fees are only charged on amounts that represent new highs for your account each month. This may create a conflict of interest which could provide an incentive for us to recommend investments in the strategies with performance-based fees. We manage this conflict of interest by carefully

screening the qualifications of the investors in these accounts as well as their risk and return objectives to determine suitability.

The Aalii Fund, LP awards performance-based fees to its General Partner, Aalii Capital, LLC. Aalii Capital, LLC's sole and managing member is R5 Partners, Inc. R5 Partners, Inc. is also the managing member of Bluestone Capital Management, LLC. Generally, at the end of each fiscal year, 20% of the excess of the net capital appreciation of the Fund for such fiscal year over the Management Fee for such fiscal year, will be reallocated to the capital account of the General Partner in its capacity as the General Partner of the Fund, adjusted for fees, trading costs and factoring in a highwater mark based on previous performance. This may create a conflict of interest which could provide an incentive for us to recommend investments in the Fund. We manage this conflict of interest by carefully screening the qualifications of the investors in the Fund as well as their risk and return objectives to determine suitability.

The Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund awards performance-based fees to its General Partner, Bluestone Finance Partners, LLC. Bluestone Finance Partners, LLC has three managing members, one of which is R5 Partners, Inc. The other two managing members are not affiliated with us. Generally, at the end of each fiscal year, 20% of the excess of the net capital appreciation of the Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund for such fiscal year over the Management Fee for such fiscal year, will be reallocated to the capital account of the General Partner in its capacity as the General Partner of the Bluestone Fund, adjusted for fees, trading costs and factoring in a highwater mark based on previous performance. This may create a conflict of interest which could provide an incentive for us to recommend investments in the Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund. We manage this conflict of interest by carefully screening the qualifications of the investors in the Bluestone Fund as well as their risk and return objectives to determine suitability.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

We provide our services to several types of clients, including individuals, including high net worth individuals, other financial advisors, pooled investment vehicles including private limited partnership funds and mutual funds, and retirement plans. We also provide collateral management services as a sub-adviser to managers of structured credit portfolios. We generally require a minimum account size of \$100,000. However, under certain circumstances, we may waive this minimum. However, please be aware that account performance may suffer as a result of the difficulty of diversifying smaller accounts or due to trading fees or other costs charged by custodians representing a higher percentage of total account value.

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

### **Analysis:**

We use a wide variety of sources to gather, analyze, and interpret information relating to the securities we recommend. These sources include communicating directly with issuers to



gather information on a particular investment opportunity, reviewing public filings and financial information provided by data services, third party research, and analysis of quantitative or qualitative information. Our advisers also follow media sources to keep abreast of news that may affect the markets in general or particular investments held by clients. In addition to standard reference sources for information regarding economic conditions and corporate data, we also rely on pricing data analysis and portfolio research services as well as internally generated research.

### **Investment Strategies:**

We employ various strategies for our asset management services:

### **Portfolio Management Services**

- **Bluestone Elite**

Our Bluestone Elite strategy utilizes tactical asset management to improve the risk adjusted return versus a traditional all equity portfolio over the course of a full market cycle. The strategy primarily utilizes ETFs and equities but may access fixed income and preferred securities for the purposes of portfolio construction. The Manager uses a top-down approach to identify sectors that we believe will produce strong or weak relative performance to the overall market and makes investments to capitalize on these market opinions. When we deem it appropriate to position the portfolio defensively, this strategy considers cash to be an asset class and will allocate a significant percentage to cash and cash equivalents. The risk profile of the Bluestone Elite portfolios will range significantly over time from very conservative to very aggressive. We will occasionally make significant allocations to cash or cash equivalents based upon our view of the market. We may trade securities over a shorter-term when our research uncovers opportunities. The Elite strategy holds publicly traded securities such as equities and ETFs and is subject to fluctuations similar to the equity markets. The Elite strategy is appropriate for investors seeking growth that are comfortable with the full risk of the equity market.

- **Bluestone Income Portfolio**

Our Bluestone Income Portfolio model is a separately managed account with a primary objective of income generation and a secondary objective of capital appreciation. The strategy is managed to have less volatility than a pure equity allocation. We use in-depth, fundamental research to select securities to achieve these objectives. The Bluestone Income managed accounts invest in exchange-traded common, preferred and debt securities. The percentage allocation of each asset class may vary significantly, depending on market conditions. The investment strategy employed in this portfolio seeks to generate current income by selecting securities that pay dividends or interest. We manage accounts utilizing this portfolio strategy to produce income while attempting to reduce volatility with a more conservative

profile than an all equity portfolio. The Income strategy holds publicly traded securities such as equities and ETFs and is subject to fluctuations similar to, but generally less than, the equity markets. The Bluestone Income strategy is appropriate for a balanced investor who seeks current income.

- **Bluestone Income Plus**

Our Bluestone Income Plus model portfolio follows our Bluestone Income model, but also utilizes a buy-write options strategy, which seeks to provide additional income to the investor. This strategy is primarily focused on writing calls on long positions of underlying equities in the income strategy. While the Bluestone Income Plus strategy will hold similar securities and have significant overlap to the Bluestone Income strategy it will have different allocations and securities in many cases. The Income Plus strategy holds publicly traded securities such as equities and ETFs and is subject to fluctuations similar to, but generally less than, the equity markets. The Bluestone Income strategy is appropriate for a balanced investor who seeks current income.

- **Bluestone Asset Allocation Portfolio (“AAP”)**

We have several Asset Allocation Portfolios based on unique risk/return profiles – Conservative, Moderate, Balanced, Growth and Aggressive. Based on your investment objectives and financial needs, we offer separately managed accounts that invest in various securities designed to meet the risk/return profile of the chosen model. These AAP portfolios primarily utilize ETFs and mutual funds. The AAP Portfolios hold publicly traded securities such as equities and ETFs and are subject to fluctuations that vary based on the risk they take. The Conservative strategy is managed to have the least amount of fluctuation and lowest return while the Aggressive strategy has the highest return potential and most fluctuation.

- **Customized Portfolio Management**

We also offer customized asset allocation and portfolio management strategies to individual clients. A wide variety of securities, including mutual funds, ETFs, stock, bonds, preferred securities, limited partnerships and third-party managed accounts, may be used to customize client portfolios depending on the risk/return criteria of each client.

- **Aalii Fund, LP**

The Aalii Fund, LP (“Fund”) is a Delaware limited partnership managed by us that seeks to maximize risk-adjusted returns over a full market cycle while providing significantly greater protection against major market downturns than a traditional all equity portfolio. The Fund seeks to identify and exploit inefficiencies in the market wherever they exist by looking beyond traditional equity and debt securities into alternative investments and niche strategies. This flexible mandate promotes improved risk adjusted returns as well as a significant reduction in portfolio volatility

while reducing stock market correlation. The Aalii Fund attempts to provide protection against capital losses in bear and recessionary markets. The Aalii Fund is less liquid than our separate account strategies and not appropriate for investors who need direct access to their investment funds on a short-term basis. The Aalii Fund seeks to blend risky assets such as equities with private funds that offer more stable and predictable returns that are uncorrelated to traditional public equity and debt securities. There are risks that these private funds do not perform as expected or that their returns are more volatile than expected. The Aalii Fund is only available for investors who meet the Accredited Investor and Qualified Client standards.

If you select the Aalii Fund LP as an investment option for your account, you will not be billed a separate advisory fee by us. You will only incur the fees charged by the Fund. We have been retained as the investment advisor by the Fund's general partner whose principals are also principals of Bluestone.

- **Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund, LP**

The Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund, LP, is a Delaware limited partnership formed in January 2015 to operate as a private investment limited partnership for the benefit of U.S. taxable investors. Bluestone Capital Management has been retained as the Investment Manager for this fund. The Bluestone Fund is a directional, long-short hedge fund that is focused on investing in the common equity of publicly traded micro, small, and mid-capitalization banks, bank holding companies and financial holding companies based in the U.S. and other financial companies. The Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund is appropriate for investors seeking equity like returns and comfortable with full equity risk. While the fund is generally hedged, both long and short securities, investment returns may be more volatile than the overall market during certain time periods. The Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund is only available for investors who meet the Accredited Investor and Qualified Client standards.

If you select the Bluestone Fund as an investment option for your account, you will not be billed a separate advisory fee by us. You will only incur the fees charged by the Fund. The principals of the general partner of the Bluestone Fund are also principals of Bluestone.

- **Retirement Plan Advisory Services**

We charge asset-based fees ranging from 0.25% to 1.00% of plan assets for our retirement plan advisory services, depending on the scope of services provided. Our fees for retirement plan advisory services are negotiated with each client.

### **Third-Party Asset Management Services**

We also offer the services of various third-party investment advisers to allow our clients access to additional asset management services and strategies. We will assist you in reviewing and analyzing the services of these third-party advisers as they relate to your investment objectives and risk profile. We will also assist you with ongoing performance monitoring and communication with the third-party advisers that you choose. If needed, we will recommend to you changes to other third-party managers.

Third party managers may share a portion of their management fees with us, or otherwise compensate us, for referring clients to them. This may create a conflict of interest. We manage this conflict by advising our clients of such fee arrangements and by performing due diligence on the third-party managers to ensure that they put the needs of our clients first. Our maximum fee for accounts utilizing third party separate account asset management services is one percent (1%), although our fees are negotiable. In addition to our fee, you will pay a fee to the third-party manager as well as transaction, account maintenance, and other account fees and expenses. The third-party manager's Disclosure Brochure will provide additional details of the fees and expenses that apply to their services. We will cap the total management fees that you pay to us and the third party separate account manager at three percent (3%). However, if the third-party manager charges performance-based fees, these will be in addition to the 3% advisory fee cap.

Fees paid by our clients for third party management services arranged through us may be higher or lower than if the clients were to contract directly with the third-party manager. We will provide additional disclosures specific to each managed program to you for your consideration should you decide to utilize third party management services.

### **Retirement Plan Advisory Services – Omega Retirement Solutions**

We provide retirement plan advisory services through our affiliate, Omega Retirement Solutions ("Omega"). The team at Omega specializes in evaluating, designing, and implementing retirement programs and executive benefits packages for small and mid-sized companies. Using information such as corporate objectives, industry specific data, competitive dynamics, and budgetary considerations, Omega assists employers to design retirement packages to attract, retain, and motivate employees.

Omega also analyzes existing employer-sponsored 401(k) Plans with respect to the Investment Policy Statement, Asset Allocation, Automatic Enrollment, Catch-up Provisions, Company Stock, Eligibility, Employee Participation Rate, Employer Contributions, Hardship Withdrawals, Use of Investment Advice, Investment Choices, Fund Performance, Loans, NonQualified Supplements, Roth 401(k), Safe Harbor Plan Design, and Vesting Schedule.

Additionally, Omega provides customized employee educational services and will meet one-on-one with employees up to twice per year. We also conduct group meetings with employees to ensure that they understand the plan, are knowledgeable about their investment choices, and recognize the value of participating. On an ongoing basis, our team at Omega is available to provide market updates or address other issues relevant to your

company in a group setting. In-between scheduled meetings, employees always have access to our Retirement Specialists through website access, emails, and phone support.

### **Risk of Loss:**

All investments in securities include a risk of loss of your principal (invested amount) and any profits that have not been realized (the securities were not sold to “lock in” the profit). As you know, stock markets, bond markets fluctuate substantially over time. In addition, as recent global and domestic economic events have indicated, performance of any investment is not guaranteed. As a result, there is a risk of loss of the assets we manage that may be out of our control. We will do our very best in the management of your assets; however, we cannot guarantee any level of performance or that you will not experience a loss of your account assets. Your participation in any of the management programs offered by us will require you to be prepared to bear the risk of loss and fluctuating performance.

We do not represent, warrant, or imply that the services or analytical methods we employ can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to major market corrections or crashes. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. We cannot guarantee that your goals or objectives will be achieved, or that advisory services offered by us will provide a better return than other investment strategies.

In situations when we employ a shorter-term trading approach which results in more frequent trading, investment performance may be negatively impacted as a result of increased transaction fees and capital gains taxes.

We detailed above, we primarily invest in stocks, bonds, ETFs, and mutual funds and employ a long-term strategy. We also offer investments in options and limited partnerships and the use of third party managers. There are specific risks associated with each type of investment:

- **Stocks:** Investing in stocks involves risks relating to:
  - **Financial risk:** risk that the companies we recommend to you may perform poorly, which will affect the price of your investment.
  - **Market risk:** risk that the stock market will decline, decreasing the value of the securities we recommend.
  - **Inflation risk:** risk that the rate of price increases in the economy will lessen the relative returns associated with the stock.
  - **Political and governmental risk:** risk that the value of your investment may change with the introduction of new laws or regulations.
- **Bonds:** Investing in bonds involves risks relating to:

- **Interest rate risk:** risk that the value of the bonds we recommend to you will fall if interest rates rise.
  - **Call risk:** risk that your bond will be called or purchase back from you when conditions are favorable to the bond issuer and unfavorable to you.
  - **Default risk:** risk that the bond issuer may be unable to pay you the contractual interest or principal on the bond in a timely manner or at all.
  - **Inflation risk:** risk that the price increases in the economy will negatively impact the relative returns associated with the bond.
- **Mutual Funds:** Investing in mutual funds involves risks relating to:
    - **Manager risk:** risk that the investment manager of an actively managed mutual fund will fail to execute the fund's stated investment strategy.
    - **Market risk:** risk that the stock market will decline, decreasing the value of the securities contained in the mutual funds we recommend to you.
    - **Industry risk:** risk that a group of stocks in a single industry will decline in price due to adverse developments in that industry, decreasing the value of mutual funds that are significantly invested in that industry.
    - **Inflation risk:** risk that the rate of price increases in the economy lessens the relative rate of return associated with the mutual fund.
- **ETFs:** ETF performance may not exactly match the performance of the index or market benchmark that the ETF is designed to track because the ETF will incur expenses and transaction costs not incurred by any applicable index or market benchmark; certain securities comprising the index or market benchmark tracked by the ETF may, from time to time, temporarily be unavailable; and supply and demand in the market for either the ETF and/or for the securities held by the ETF may cause the ETF shares to trade at a premium or discount to the actual net asset value of the securities owned by the ETF. Certain ETF strategies may from time to time include the purchase of fixed income, commodities, foreign securities, American Depositary Receipts, or other securities for which expenses and commission rates could be higher than normally charged for exchange-traded equity securities, and for which market quotations or valuation may be limited or inaccurate. Clients should be aware that to the extent they invest in ETF securities they will pay two levels of advisory compensation – advisory fees charged by Bluestone plus any management fees charged by the issuer of the ETF. This scenario may cause a higher advisory cost (and potentially lower investment returns) than if a Client purchased the ETF directly. An ETF typically includes embedded expenses that may reduce the fund's net asset value, and therefore directly affect the fund's performance and indirectly affect a Client's

portfolio performance or an index benchmark comparison. Expenses of the fund may include investment advisor management fees, custodian fees, brokerage commissions, and legal and accounting fees. ETF expenses may change from time to time at the sole discretion of the ETF issuer. Bluestone discloses each ETF's current information, including expenses, on the Site. ETF tracking error and expenses may vary.

- **Options:** The use of put and call options may result in account losses, force the sale or purchase of underlying securities at inopportune times or at unfavorable prices, limit the amount of appreciation an account may realize, or cause an account to hold a security it otherwise might sell. The use of options as a hedging instrument may involve losses that are greater than the value of the assets in the account. Options may not be able to be readily sold, resulting in substantial losses. Although option hedging strategies are used to minimize the risk of loss, they also tend to limit potential gains.
- **Limited Partnerships:** Investments in limited partnership interests are often not registered under the securities laws and may not be able to be readily sold. Redemption options may be limited or may not exist at all. Because of the limited market for these investments, it is difficult to accurately value the investment over time. Generally, you must meet certain criteria in order to be able to invest in limited partnership interests. You may also incur tax liabilities for which you will not receive an associated cash distribution, and you may also be subject to alternative minimum tax (AMT).
- **Third Party Managers:** In instances when we recommend that you use a third-party manager to manage your account, we will provide you with a disclosure brochure for the third-party manager that will detail its investment strategies, methods of analysis, and associated risks.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** A long-term strategy generally assumes that the financial markets will rise over time, which may not occur within your time horizon. Holding investments long-term may involve a lost opportunity costs by tying up assets that may be used for more beneficial short-term investments.

## Item 9 – Disciplinary Information

We do not have any legal, financial or other “disciplinary” item to report to you. We are obligated to disclose any disciplinary event that would be material to you when evaluating us to initiate a Client / Adviser relationship, or to continue a Client /Adviser relationship with us. This statement applies to our Firm, and every employee.

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

We are affiliated with MCG Securities, LLC (“MCG”), a broker-dealer registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), through our common ownership by R5 Partners, Inc.

R5 Partners, Inc. is our sole owner, the majority owner of MCG, the sole and managing member of the General Partner of the Aalii Fund, LP, and a managing member of the General Partner of the Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund, LP. R5 Partners, Inc. is owned by Lee A. Calfo and Brian C. Shevland, who are both registered as Investment Advisory Representatives with us and as Registered Representatives of MCG.

Our Investment Advisory Representatives are dually registered as Registered Representatives of MCG. You are not obligated to purchase securities through MCG. However, if you chose to do so, your Investment Advisory Representative may receive commissions from MCG in addition to any fees paid by you for advisory services. Commissions charged by MCG may be higher or lower than at other broker-dealers. Investment Advisory Representatives have a conflict of interest that may encourage them to recommend that you purchase securities or insurance products through MCG. We manage this conflict by disclosing it to you and allowing you to choose where your securities transactions are executed.

Under FINRA rules, MCG has certain supervisory obligations relating to the activities of its Registered Representatives that are also registered with us. We may pay MCG a portion of the advisory fees that we receive to compensate them for these supervisory activities.

We have several Investment Adviser Representatives who also have registrations with Alden Capital Management, Inc. SEC. As discussed in Item 4 – Advisory Business, we recommend third-party asset managers from whom we will receive a portion of the advisory fees charges to you by the third-party manager. This is a conflict of interest which we manage by selecting only third-party managers that provide services advantageous to our clients based on cost, management styles, past history, ability to meet client needs, and unique services not otherwise available to our clients. The portion of the fee that we receive is based on the performance of your account, so our interests are aligned with yours to work to achieve your performance objectives.

Our Chief Compliance Officer, Ken Smith, is also the founder of Compass Financial Advisors, LLC, a registered investment adviser that is not affiliated with us. Mr. Smith only provides investment advisory services through Compass Financial Advisors. He also serves as the Chief Compliance Officer of MCG, Cohen & Company Financial Management, LLC, Dekania Capital Management, LLC, and Alden Capital Management, Inc.

## **Item 11 – Code of Ethics**

As required by regulation and because it’s good business, we have adopted a Code of Ethics that governs a number of potential conflicts of interest we have when providing our advisory



services to you. This Code of Ethics is designed to ensure we meet our fiduciary obligation to you, our Client (or Prospective Client) and to drive home a culture of compliance within our firm.

An additional benefit of our Code is to detect and prevent violations of securities laws, including our obligations we owe to you.

Our Code is comprehensive, is distributed to each employee at the time of hire, and annually thereafter (if there are changes). We also supplement the Code with annual training and ongoing monitoring of employee activity.

Our Code includes the following:

- Requirements related to the confidentiality of your information;
- Prohibitions on:
  - Insider trading (if we are in possession of material, non-public information);
  - Rumor mongering;
  - The acceptance of gifts and entertainment that exceed our policy standards;
- Reporting of gifts and business entertainment;
- Pre-clearance of employee and firm transactions;
- Reporting (on an on-going and quarterly basis) all personal securities transactions (what we call “reportable securities” as mandated by regulation); and,
- On an annual basis, we require all employees to re-certify to our Code, identify members of their household and any account to which they have a beneficial ownership (they “own” the account or have “authority” over the account), securities held in certificate form and all securities they own at that time).

Our Code does not prohibit personal trading by employees (or our firm). As you may imagine, as a professional investment adviser, we follow our own advice. As a result, we may purchase or sell the same or similar securities (or securities that are suitable for an employee or related account but not suitable for any client, including you) at the same time that we place transactions for your account and the accounts of our other Clients. We will not put our interests first in doing so by trading ahead of client orders to obtain a better price.

With the exception of recommendations to invest in the Aalii Fund, LP or the Bluestone Financial Institutions Fund, LP, we do not recommend to clients that they buy or sell securities in which we have a material financial interest.

You may request a complete copy of our Code by contacting us at the address, telephone or email on the cover page of this Part 2; attn.: Ken Smith, Chief Compliance Officer.

## Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

### General Considerations:

We have established relationships with several brokerage firms to provide transaction execution, clearance and settlement, and custodial services for our clients. We have entered into an agreement with National Financial Services, LLC and Fidelity Brokerage Services, LLC (together referred to as “Fidelity”) to participate in the Fidelity Institutional Wealth Services platform (“FIWS”). We have also entered into relationships with Charles Schwab & Co. (“Schwab”), Interactive Brokers, TD Ameritrade, Stifel Nicolaus, Cowen Prime Services, FIG Partners and Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. We are not affiliated in any way with these brokerage firms.

You may choose to hold your account assets at other brokerage firms with which we do not maintain relationships. In the event you choose to do so, our advisory services will include advice only. We will not implement our recommendations by instructing these firms to execute securities transactions for you.

The general considerations that we use in selecting the brokerage firms include:

- Ability to provide quality service
- Financial stability and viability
- Industry reputation
- Ability to provide quality reports
- Availability of an efficient trading platform
- Products and services available
- Technology resources
- Educational resources
- Execution capability
- Confidentiality and security of your information
- Responsiveness
- Other factors that may bear on the overall evaluation of best price and execution

### Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits:

As further described in detail below, we receive “soft dollar” benefits from the brokerage firms with which we have relationships. These benefits include access to research and other products and services that we receive in exchange for directing our clients to use the execution services of the brokerage firms and pay commissions for these services. We use these “soft dollar” benefits to pay for research and other services that enhance our investment decision process and trade execution. The receipt of “soft dollar” benefits creates a conflict of interest because we may have an incentive to select or recommend

brokerdealers based on our receipt of these benefits, rather than on our clients' receiving best execution for their transactions. We do not allocate "soft dollar" benefits to client accounts proportionately to the "soft dollar" benefits the accounts generate.

We have policies and procedures that address and monitor the use of client commissions to pay for eligible "soft dollar" services. We regularly review the amount of costs allocated to brokers that provide soft dollar services. If certain items obtained with soft dollars are not used exclusively for research or execution services, we will fairly allocate the cost of these products or services to Bluestone Capital Management for payment.

We receive the following services from these brokers:

- **Schwab:**

*Your Brokerage and Custody Costs*

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account. In addition to commissions, Schwab charges you a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that we have executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into your Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation you pay the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize your trading costs, we have Schwab execute most trades for your account. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above.

*Products and Services Available to Us From Schwab*

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide us and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage—trading, custody, reporting, and related services—many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services generally are available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us as long as our clients collectively maintain a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. If our clients collectively have less than \$10 million in assets at Schwab, Schwab may charge us quarterly service fees of \$1,200. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

*Services That Benefit You.*

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

*Services That May Not Directly Benefit You.*

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- Provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- Facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- Provide pricing and other market data
- Facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

*Services That Generally Benefit Only Us.*

Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
- Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

### *Our Interest in Schwab's Services*

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. We don't have to pay for Schwab's services so long as our clients collectively keep a total of at least \$10 million of their assets in accounts at Schwab. Beyond that, these services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody. The \$10 million minimum may give us an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "*General Considerations*" above) and not Schwab's services that benefit only us. We will expect to have \$10 million in client assets under management, and we do not believe that recommending our clients to collectively maintain at least \$10 million of those assets at Schwab in order to avoid paying Schwab quarterly service fees presents a material conflict of interest.

- **Fidelity:**

The institutional platform services provided by Fidelity include brokerage, custody, and other related services. Fidelity's institutional platform services that assist us in managing and administering clients' accounts include software and other technology that (i) provide access to client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements); (ii) facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts; (iii) provide research, pricing and other market data; (iv) facilitate payment of fees from its clients' accounts; and (v) assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and client reporting.

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

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

- **Interactive Brokers:**

Interactive Brokers is often our recommended brokerage for new clients because of its superior trading software, lower client costs and enhanced security features. We have no incentive to recommend Interactive Brokers nor do we receive any compensation from Interactive Brokers. Interactive Brokers' trading platform, Trader Workstation, allows us to efficiently manage clients' funds providing real-time market data and news. The software allows us to group clients' portfolios into models, which can then be traded simultaneously so clients receive the same timing benefit across all accounts. Additionally, Interactive Brokers provides very low cost trade execution, which benefits our clients.

- **Cowen Prime Services, FIG Partners and Keefe, Bruyette & Woods:**

We sometimes choose to direct client trades through Cowen Prime Services, FIG Partners and Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. These brokers are experts at trading certain types of securities which may be less liquid or be able to obtain better prices in certain securities than we feel we can. We review all executions from these brokers on a real-time basis to ensure we are receiving best execution. Some of these brokers may provide us access to their research which we utilize for your benefit to manage our client portfolios.

**Brokerage For Client Referrals:** We do not select brokerage firms based on client referrals.

**Block Trading Procedures:** We may aggregate transactions in the same security on behalf of more than one client in an effort to obtain best execution and reduce the average price per share. Participating clients will obtain the average price per share for the security for which trades are bunched but will not necessarily realize reduced trading costs. Our procedures are designed to ensure that all participating clients are treated equally. If an aggregated order is not entirely filled, the shares transacted will be allocated on a random basis. Under certain circumstances, the number of shares may be increased or decreased to avoid odd-lot differentials or a minimal share allocation.

**Principal Trading:** We do not purchase or sell securities for our clients from accounts in which we have a beneficial interest.

**Cross Transactions – Agency Cross Transactions:** We do not purchase or sell securities for our clients from other client accounts.

### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

We review all accounts at least quarterly. All accounts receive the same level of review. Reviews are conducted by the following individuals:

- Lee A. Calfo, Advisory Representative
- Brian C. Shevland, Advisory Representative
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- Andrew G. Giannone, Advisory Representative
- Kenneth Smith, Compliance Officer

On an ongoing basis, we also monitor all accounts for performance in relation to general market and economic conditions in light of each client's specific objectives and current asset mix. We request that you notify your Investment Advisory Representative promptly of any changes to your financial goals, investment objectives, or financial situation so that we may adjust our reviews accordingly.

If you participate in Asset Management Services, you will be invited to participate in a review at least annually, either in person or by telephone. You may request more frequent reviews and may set thresholds or triggering events that would generate a review.

You will receive statements at least quarterly directly from the broke-dealer carrying your account, as well as transaction confirmations. We will also provide you with a quarterly report reflecting the performance of your managed portfolio. You should compare our report with the statements you receive from the custodian broker-dealer and notify us promptly of any discrepancies.

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

In addition to the “soft dollar” benefits described above in Item 12 regarding Brokerage Practices, we may also receive benefits from product vendors. These vendors may provide us with monetary and non-monetary assistance with client events and provide educational tools and resources. We do not select products based on this assistance.

We may enter into arrangements with individuals who refer clients to us (“Solicitors”). In return for these referrals, we agree to compensate each Solicitor if the referred client enters into an advisory agreement with us. This compensation is based on a percentage of the advisory fee paid to us by the client. The amount of the advisory fee paid by clients referred to us by a Solicitor will not increase as a result of this compensation. All of our Solicitor arrangements comply with SEC rules.

## **Item 15 – Custody**

We do not maintain custody of client funds. However, we do directly debit advisory fees from client accounts as discussed in Item 5 of this brochure.

You will receive account statements directly from the broker-dealer carrying your account. You should carefully review these statements and if you have any questions or concerns you should contact us immediately. If you are receiving separate statements from us, we urge you to compare our statements with the statements that you receive from your brokerdealer.

## **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

Under our advisory agreement with you, you grant us authorization to manage your account on a discretionary basis. This allows us to buy, sell, exchange and convert securities in your managed accounts without contacting you first. You may terminate discretionary authorization at any time by providing us with prior written notice as explained in your advisory agreement with us.

Additionally, you are advised that:

- 1) You may set parameters with respect to when your account should be rebalanced;
- 2) You may set trading restrictions or limitations;
- 3) Your written consent is required to establish any mutual fund, variable annuity, or brokerage account;
- 4) With the exception of deduction of our advisory fees from your account, if you have authorized automatic deductions, we will not have the ability to withdraw your funds or securities from the account to satisfy these deductions.

## **Item 17 – Voting *Client* Securities (i.e., Proxy Voting)**

We generally do not have authority to vote client securities. You will receive proxy voting material directly from the brokerage firm carrying your account. You are responsible for voting all proxies. We may provide information or advice regarding proxy issues. If you have any questions regarding a particular proxy solicitation, please call us.

You may request that we vote proxies on your behalf, which request will be honored solely at our discretion. If we agree to vote proxies on your behalf, we will follow our Proxy Voting Policies. We will maintain specific records as to how we voted your proxies, which are available upon request. You may also request to receive a copy of our Proxy Voting Policies by sending us a written request. If you designate us to vote proxies, you are advised of the following:

1. As a general policy, votes will be cast in the best interest of the client.
2. On certain occasions, we may determine not to vote a proxy in the best interests of the client.
3. Proxies will be voted consistently.
4. Generally, issues related to executive compensation, incentive stock options, executive recruiting or any matter giving the company latitude in compensation matters or similar matters that could potentially be used to act in the company's best interest rather than clients' best interest will typically be voted no.
5. Neutral issues such as the retention or appointment of accounting or audit services are typically voted yes.



## **Item 18 – Financial Information**

We do not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees per client six months or more in advance. There is no financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet our contractual commitments to you. We have not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition and neither have any of our Investment Advisor Representatives.