Item 1: Cover Page



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# Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure March 22, 2024

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (559) 345-5059. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of California. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. Additional information about Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>, which can be found using the firm's identification number, 317286.

# Item 2: Material Changes

From time to time, we may amend this Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations, and routine annual updates as required by securities regulators. Either this complete Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to each Client annually and if a material change occurs in the business practices of Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC.

Since our last Annual Amendment in March 2023, we added language in Item 16 for potential management of investments on both a discretionary and non-discretionary basis.

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

## **Description of Advisory Firm**

Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC (hereinafter referred to as "OWA", "we", "firm", and "us") is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of California in 2021. Evon Mendrin is the principal owner of OWA.

#### **Types of Advisory Services**

#### **Combined Financial Planning and Investment Management**

We provide a combined service that include both financial planning and investment management and advice tailored to the needs and investment objectives of our clients. Through personal discussions - as part of our financial planning process - we establish goals, objectives, and risk tolerance based on a Client's particular circumstance. We then develop a Client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a model portfolio based on that policy and allocation target. Our model portfolios generally consist of no-load mutual funds, as well as exchange traded funds (ETFs). We will also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background. We provide investment management services on either a discretionary or non-discretionary basis. More information on our trading authority is explained in Item 16 of this Brochure.

Once we construct an investment portfolio for a Client, we will rebalance the portfolio as required by changes in market conditions and in your financial circumstances, and we will monitor your portfolio's performance on an ongoing basis. Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the Client. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. However, it is important to note such restrictions may adversely affect the performance of the model portfolio.

As a part of our services, we will provide advice on Client investments both held and managed at our recommended custodian and held at outside custodians. This may include, for example, investments held in workplace retirement accounts.

At the request of the Client, and with the agreement of OWA, the Client may maintain direct management of their investments, while receiving investment guidance and direction from OWA along with other services provided.

Investment management is not offered as a standalone service.

We provide comprehensive financial planning services to our clients. Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. Over the course of several meetings, we determine financial goals and values of the Client, complete an initial evaluation of the Client's financial circumstance, and explore a number of financial areas.

The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service may receive written or electronic reports, providing the Client with detailed financial planning information designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address some or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and OWA will work together to select specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for Clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business particularly optometric practices. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.
- Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired
- **College Savings**: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are

included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).

- Employee Benefits Optimization: We will provide review and analysis as to whether
  you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee
  benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various
  benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal
  retirement
- **Estate Planning**: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.
- **Financial Goals**: We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.
- **Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- Investment Analysis: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- Retirement Planning: Our retirement planning services typically include projections
  of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial
  independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less
  than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may

impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

- Risk Management: A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure
  to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture,
  such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for
  long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and
  about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so
  and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").
- Tax Planning Strategies: Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

Financial Planning Services are offered on an Ongoing or Limited Scope Engagement:

**Ongoing Financial Planning and Investment Management** This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly fee, Clients work with a planner to develop and implement their plan and manage Client investments. The planner will provide ongoing financial planning and consulting over the course of the relationship, recommend any changes, ensure the planning is up to date, and manage client investments accordingly.

Upon hiring for Ongoing Financial Planning, a Client will be taken through a process establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow,

insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefits, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning, and estate planning. Once the Client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the Client. Clients subscribing to this service may receive written or electronic reports, providing the Client with detailed financial planning information designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow-up meeting is required, we will meet at the Client's convenience. The plan and the Client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the Client to confirm that any agreed-upon actionable steps have been carried out. On an annual basis, there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time.

Our services rely on open and regular communication. We offer timely, meaningful reports and meet at least annually to discuss our Client's financial circumstances. As changes unfold in our Clients' lives, open communication about those changes allows us to perform our services at the highest level. We also coordinate and communicate closely with the tax, legal, and other professionals involved in our Clients' lives.

At the request of the Client, and with the agreement of OWA, the Client may maintain direct management of their investments, while receiving investment guidance and direction from OWA along with other services provided.

**Limited Scope Financial Planning** We provide hourly and project-based financial planning services on a limited scope short-term engagement. Limited Scope Financial Planning is available for Clients looking to address specific questions or issues. The Client may choose from one or more of the above topics to cover or other areas as requested and agreed to by OWA. For Limited Scope Financial Planning, the Client will be ultimately responsible for the implementation of the financial plan. Ongoing investment management is not included.

## **Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We tailor the delivery of our services to meet the individual needs of our Clients. We consult with Clients initially and on an ongoing basis, through the duration of their engagement with us, to determine risk tolerance, time horizon and other factors that may impact the Clients' investment and/or planning needs.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any restrictions they would like to place as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account. All such

requests must be provided to OWA in writing. OWA will notify Clients if they are unable to accommodate any requests.

#### **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

#### **Assets under Management**

OWA currently reports no discretionary and \$885,266 non-discretionary assets under management ("AUM"). AUM were calculated as of December 31, 2023.

For Clients residing in California CCR Section 260.235.2 Disclosure: For Clients who receive our Financial Planning services, we must state when a conflict exists between the interests of our firm and the interests of our Client. The Client is under no obligation to act upon our recommendation. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the Client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through our firm.

#### **Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements**

We may provide seminars for groups seeking general advice on investments and other areas of personal finance. These seminars are purely educational in nature and do not involve the sale of any investment products. Information presented will not be based on any individual's need, nor does OWA provide individualized investment advice to attendees during these seminars. Topics covered during educational seminars will be determined by the Client and OWA.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received this brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing an investment advisory and/or Financial Planning Agreement (collectively, "Client Contract"), the Client Contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the Client Contract without incurring any fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory services we perform. Below is a brief description of our fees, however, you should review your executed Client Contract for more detailed information regarding the exact fees you will be paying.

#### **Ongoing Financial Planning and Investment Management Combined Services**

Ongoing Financial Planning and Investment Management are bundled services paid under one fee. The fee consists of an ongoing flat fee broken into monthly payments at the rate of \$255 - \$2,000 per month. Ongoing fees are paid monthly in arrears. The initial fee may be collected at the signing of the agreement.

The fee may be negotiable in certain cases at the discretion of OWA. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit/debit card, or check. The fee may be deducted from investment accounts managed by OWA at the request of the client and agreement of OWA. This service may be terminated by either party with 15 days' notice. Since fees after the first month are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the account. If the service is terminated within the first month, a refund will be issued for the first half payment adjusted for the amount of days in that month the client was provided services.

The monthly fee will increase annually at the contract anniversary date by 3%.

#### **Limited Scope Financial Planning**

- Project-Based The fixed fee for project-based financial planning will be agreed upon before the start of any work, will range between \$400 and \$10,000, and may be negotiable. Half of the fee is due at the beginning of the process and the remainder is due upon completion of the work. OWA will not bill an amount above \$500 more than 6 months in advance. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit/debit card or check. In the event of early termination, any prepaid but unearned fees will be refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged.
- **Hourly** We also provide financial planning services at the rate of \$250 per hour. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases and is due at the completion of the engagement. In the event of early termination by the Client, any fees for the hours already worked will be due. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit/debit card or check.

# Other Types of Fees and Expenses

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for Client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

For Clients residing in California CCR Section 260.238(j) Disclosure: Please note, lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

Seminars and speaking engagements are offered to organizations and the public on a variety of financial topics. Fees range from \$0 to \$5,000 per seminar. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. Fees are due at the conclusion of the Seminar. Advisor offers its services in a virtual or in-person setting. Should the event require travel arrangements, both parties must agree to the terms of travel (i.e. cost, distance, hotel arrangements) at the start of the engagement. Fees are paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check.

Clients may cancel the event with 30 days' advance written notice. Should the Client cancel the event within 30 days of the event (with the exception of weather or similar unforeseen causes), the Client will be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred and a prorated fee for any work conducted in preparation of the event, based on the percentage of work done and the flat fee agreed upon by both parties.

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

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

# Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services primarily to individuals, high net-worth individuals, and small businesses and their owners.

We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

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

#### **Passive Investment Management**

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes and investment characteristics are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are often index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds, or similar rules-based, systematic funds. Passive-style funds may also be "factor" style investments, aiming to provide exposure to certain broad "factors" or "characteristics" of investments, such as value or profitability.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal), and trading based on a transparent set of rules or system.

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark.

# **Modern Portfolio Theory**

The underlying principles of MPT are:

- Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.
- Markets are relatively efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.
- The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.
- Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.

• Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that the information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

#### **Material Risks Involved**

All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear. Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities, and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

**Business Risk:** The risk that the price of an investment will change due to factors unique to that company, investment or market segment and not the market in general.

**Strategy Risk:** The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Client's portfolio.

**Limited markets:** Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Credit Risk:** The risk that the issuer (or other obligor) of a security owned by the account (or by any mutual fund, money market fund, or variable product owned by the account) may fail to pay principal or interest, or otherwise default, or may be perceived to be less creditworthy, or the security's credit rating may be downgraded, or the credit quality or value of any underlying asset may decline. This risk is greater for high yield securities than for securities of higher credit quality. Depending on a Client's investment objective and the Account's parameter for risk/volatility, any of the Portfolios may have a portion of the Account's portfolio allocated to high yield securities.

**Market Volatility Risk**: The prices of securities may be volatile. Price movements of securities in which Dentist Advisors invests are influenced by, among other things: interest rates; changing supply and demand relationships; trade, fiscal, monetary and exchange control programs and policies of governments; and U.S. and international political and economic events and policies. In addition, governments from time to time intervene, directly or by regulation, in certain markets, particularly those in currencies and interest rate related futures and options. Such intervention often is intended directly to influence prices and may, together with other factors, cause all of such markets to move rapidly in the same direction because of, among other things, interest rate fluctuations.

**Legal or Legislative Risk**: Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation**: Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

#### **Risks Associated with Securities**

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a

market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

**Mutual Funds** When a Client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the Client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the Client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

OWA and its management persons have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

#### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

OWA and its management persons have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

## **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

OWA and its management persons have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a Client's or prospective Client's evaluation of OWA or the integrity of its management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Neither OWA or its management persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

Neither OWA or its management persons is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

Neither OWA or its management persons have any relationship or arrangement with any related parties.

OWA only receives compensation directly from Clients. OWA does not receive compensation from any outside source.

In addition, Evon Mendrin is licensed as an investment adviser representative of SmartPath Advisors, LLC, a registered investment adviser. As such, Mr. Mendrin, in his separate capacity as an investment adviser representative, is able to provide advisory services apart from OWA, for which he will receive separate and customary compensation. OWA does not refer clients to SmartPath Advisors, LLC and SmartPath Advisors, LLC does not refer clients to OWA. Mr. Mendrin endeavors at all times to put the interest of OWA's clients first as part of the firm's fiduciary duty.

#### **Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers**

OWA does not recommend or select other investment advisers for our Clients. For Clients residing in California All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238(k) are disclosed regarding OWA, its representatives or any of its employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

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

As a fiduciary, our firm has a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

## **Code of Ethics Description**

This Code of Ethics does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield our firm or its access persons from liability for misconduct that violates a fiduciary duty to our Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Access persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Access persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.

- Competence Access persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness Access persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality Access persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Access persons conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence Access persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

# Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest

Neither our firm, its access persons, or any related person is authorized to recommend to a Client or effect a transaction for a Client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, principal transaction, among others.

# Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Our firm, its access persons, and its related persons may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest, our Code of Ethics may require that we restrict or prohibit access to persons' transactions in specific reportable securities. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by OWA's Chief Compliance Officer in advance of the transaction in an account. OWA maintains a copy of access persons' personal securities transactions as required.

## Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities

From time to time our firm, its access persons, or its related persons may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as they buy or sell securities for Clients' account(s). To address this conflict, our Code of Ethics requires that we purchase or

sell securities for our clients' accounts, if suitable and appropriate, before purchasing or selling any of the same securities for any accounts owned by us or our access persons. The only exception to this policy is where our firm or its access persons' transactions are bundled in an aggregate ("block") trade simultaneously with client accounts. This policy is not applicable to securities where no conflict of interest exists, such as shares of mutual funds that are equally priced daily.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

#### Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers

Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC does not have any affiliation with Broker-Dealers. Specific custodian recommendations are made to the Client based on their need for such services. We recommend custodians based on the reputation and services provided by the firm.

In recommending broker-dealers, we have an obligation to seek the "best execution" of transactions in Client accounts. The determinative factor in the analysis of best execution is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of the broker-dealer's services. The factors we consider when evaluating a broker-dealer for best execution include, without limitation, the broker-dealer's:

- Execution capability;
- Commission rate;
- Financial responsibility;
- Responsiveness and customer service;
- Custodian capabilities;
- Research services/ancillary brokerage services provided; and
- Any other factors that we consider relevant.

With this in consideration, our firm recommends Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), an independent and unaffiliated SEC registered broker-dealer firm and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC"). However, we regularly review our recommended choice of custodian. Although clients may request us to use a broker-dealer of their choosing, we generally recommend that clients open brokerage accounts with Schwab. We are not affiliated with Schwab. The Client will ultimately make the final decision of the Custodian to be used to hold the Client's investments by signing the selected broker-dealer's account opening documentation.

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

Schwab may provide us with certain brokerage and research products and services that qualify as "brokerage or research services" under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"). This is commonly referred to as a "soft dollar" arrangement. These research products and/or services will assist us in our investment decision making process. Such research generally will be used to service all of our client accounts, but brokerage charges paid by the client may be used to pay for research that is not used in managing that specific client's account.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We receive no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

## Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

We do recommend a specific custodian for Clients to use, however, Clients may custody their assets at a custodian of their choice. Clients may also direct us to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. By allowing Clients to choose a specific custodian, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of Client transactions and this may cost Clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

## The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Charles Schwab)

The custodian and brokers we use maintain custody of your assets that we manage, although we may be deemed to have limited custody of your assets due to our ability to withdraw fees from your account (see Item 15 – Custody, below).

We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated and are not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to. While we recommend that you use Schwab as custodian broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for you, although we may assist you in doing so. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account as described below (see "Your brokerage and custody costs")

**How we select brokers/custodians** We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous

when compared with other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate
- fee for custody)
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account)
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill
- payment, etc.)
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchangetraded funds (ETFs),
- etc.)
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees,
- etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability
- Prior service to us and our clients
- Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see "Products and services available to us from 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. Certain trades (for example, many mutual funds and ETFs) may not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees.

**Products and services available to us from Schwab** Schwab Advisor ServicesTM is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (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 are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us. 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

## **Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts**

Generally, we may combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of

the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion, regarding particular circumstances and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or access persons may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

#### Item 13: Review of Accounts

Clients who engage us for investment management services will have their account(s) reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Evon Mendrin, Founder and CCO. The account(s) are reviewed with regards to the Client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels.

Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of Client-imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs.

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the broker(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest.

# Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients. Nor do we, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals.

# Item 15: Custody

OWA does not accept custody of Client funds except in the instance of withdrawing OWA's management fees. For Client accounts in which OWA directly debits their management fee:

- i. OWA will send a copy of its invoice to the custodian at the same time that it sends the Client a copy.
- ii. The custodian will send at least quarterly statements to the Client showing all disbursements for the account, including the amount of the management fee.
- iii. The Client will provide written authorization to OWA, permitting them to be paid directly for their accounts held by the custodian.

Clients should receive at least quarterly statements from the broker-dealer, bank or other qualified custodian that holds and maintains Client's investment assets. We urge you to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the account invoices or reports that we may provide to you and notify us of any discrepancies. Our invoices or reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

OWA can establish standing letter of instructions or other similar asset transfer authorization arrangements ("SLOA") with qualified custodians in order for us to disburse funds to accounts as specifically designated by the client. With a SLOA a client can typically authorize first-party and/or third-party transfers. If transfers are third-party, OWA complies with each of the requirements and conditions enumerated below, as outlined in the SEC's no action letter to the Investment Adviser Association dated February 21, 2017:

- 1. The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
- 2. The client authorizes OWA, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
- 3. The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
- 4. The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.
- 5. OWA has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
- 6. OWA maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of OWA or located at the same address as OWA.
- 7. The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

#### Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, OWA may have discretionary or non-discretionary authority. With discretionary authority, OWA uses a limited power of attorney to determine the securities and the amount of securities to be bought or sold for a Client's account without having to obtain prior Client approval for each transaction.

Investment discretion is explained to Clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the Client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account(s). Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the Advisory Contract and signed by the Client. Clients may limit our discretion by requesting certain restrictions on investments. However, approval of such requests are at the firm's sole discretion.

If you enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

# Item 17: Voting Client Securities

We do not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward you any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

# Item 18: Financial Information

We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to our Clients, nor have we been the subject of any bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of Client funds or securities, except as disclosed in Item 15 above, or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees six months in advance.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

#### **Principal Officers**

Evon Mendrin serves as OWA's sole principal. Information about Evon Mendrin's education, business background, and outside business activities can be found on his ADV Part 2B, Brochure Supplement attached to this Brochure.

#### **Outside Business**

Neither OWA nor Evon Mendrin are involved in outside business activities.

#### **Performance-Based Fees**

Neither OWA nor Evon Mendrin is compensated by performance-based fees.

## **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at OWA has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities OWA nor Evon Mendrin have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

#### **Business Continuity Plan**

OWA maintains a written Business Continuity Plan that identifies procedures related to an emergency or significant business disruptions, including the death of the investment adviser or any of its representatives.



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# Form ADV Part 2B - Brochure Supplement

March 22, 2024

# **Evon Mendrin**

# Founder and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Evon Mendrin that supplements the Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC ("OWA") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Evon Mendrin if the OWA brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Evon Mendrin is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> which can be found using the identification number 6348026.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

#### **Evon Mendrin**

Born: 1991

#### **Educational Background**

 2013 - B.A. in Business Administration - Finance and Marketing, Fresno Pacific University

#### **Business Experience**

- 01/2022 Present, SmartPath Advisors, LLC, Financial Advisor
- 09/2021 Present, Optometry Wealth Advisors LLC, Founder and CCO
- 12/2016 10/2021, Pathways Advisory Group, Inc, Financial Planner
- 03/2015 12/2016, Princor Financial Services Corporation, Investment Advisor Representative
- 06/2014 12/2016, Principal Life Insurance Company, Financial Representative/Agent
- 06/2014 12/2016, Princor Financial Services Corporation, Registered Representative
- 02/2013 05/2014, MJR Creative Group, Social Media Data Analyst
- 01/2011 05/2013, Fresno Pacific University, Financial Aid Admin

# **Professional Designations**

**CFP (Certified Financial Planner)**®: The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP® marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board").

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with Clients. Currently, more than 71,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

• Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning

services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;

- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two
  years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of
  Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in
  the financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

**Certified Student Loan Professional (CSLP)®:** Knowledge of student loan programs and personal financial counseling is critical. CSLPs offer advising services as part of their daily business activities such as financial planning, tax advice, investment services, and insurance.

Using a CSLP can provide an additional measure of safety that the advice you receive is based on advanced knowledge about student loan advising and personal finance. A CSLP will have completed a rigorous curriculum of coursework, and should have years of experience as a financial professional, with a commitment to a high set of ethical standards in their practice.

# Item 3: Disciplinary Information

Evon Mendrin has never been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

#### Item 4: Other Business Activities

Evon Mendrin is licensed as an investment adviser representative of SmartPath Advisors, LLC, a registered investment adviser. As such, Mr. Mendrin, in his separate capacity as an investment adviser representative, is able to provide advisory services apart from OWA, for which he will receive separate and customary compensation. OWA does not refer clients to SmartPath Advisors, LLC and SmartPath Advisors, LLC does not refer clients to OWA. Mr. Mendrin endeavors at all times to put the interest of OWA's clients first as part of the firm's fiduciary duty.

# Item 5: Additional Compensation

Evon Mendrin does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through OWA.

# Item 6: Supervision

Evon Mendrin as Chief Compliance Officer of OWA, is the sole investment adviser representative. Should there be additional representatives in the future, Evon Mendrin would be responsible for their supervision. Evon Mendrin is bound by OWA's Code of Ethics. Clients may contact Evon Mendrin at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Evon Mendrin has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.