# THE H GROUP, INC.

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March 28, 2022

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of The H Group, Inc. ("THG"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, you may contact us at (503) 292-5853 or info@thehgroup.com to obtain answers and additional information. The H Group, Inc. is a registered investment adviser with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about The H Group, Inc. is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. The searchable IARD/CRD number for The H Group, Inc. is 106801.

#### Item 2 Material Changes

We will ensure that when required, all current clients will receive a Summary of Material Changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. When required, a Summary of Material Changes will also be included with our Brochure on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. The searchable IARD/CRD number for The H Group, Inc. is 106801. Any Summary of Material Changes will be listed as "Exhibit A" to our Brochure. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary and will further provide you with a new Brochure as necessary based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge.

Currently, our Brochure may be requested by contacting us at (503) 292-5853 or info@thehgroup.com. Our Brochure is provided free of charge.

#### The H Group, Inc. Part 2A of Form ADV – Brochure

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#### Item 4 Advisory Business

THG is an SEC registered investment advisory firm located in Portland, Oregon. We provide feeonly investment supervisory, portfolio management, investment consulting and financial planning services. The firm, and its predecessor entity, have been in business since 1991 and the principal owner and President is Christopher K. Hicks. Our investment advisory services are coordinated through our Advisory Affiliates. Our investment approach utilizes broadly diversified portfolios and a systematic strategy to manage client portfolios.

Through our Advisory Affiliates, we help Clients coordinate and prioritize their financial lives with all aspects of their life goals. Integrating investments across all individual retirement accounts, taxable accounts, and employee retirement accounts is crucial to the process. Client input and involvement are critical parts of the financial planning process and implementation of investment decisions. After Client assets are invested, we continuously monitor their investments and provide advice related to ongoing financial and investment needs.

We offer initial financial planning services to Clients under a separate Financial Planning Agreement. After completion of an initial financial planning engagement, Clients may elect to enter into a retainer agreement for ongoing Wealth Management services which include financial planning and portfolio management.

Advice and services are tailored to the stated objectives of the Client(s). Our Advisory Affiliates discuss with the Client critically important information such as the Client's risk tolerance, time horizon, and projected future needs, to formulate an investment strategy. This information and strategy guides us in objectively and suitably managing the Client's account. Our Advisory Affiliates meet with Clients as needed to review portfolio performance, discuss current issues, and re-assess goals and plans.

Our investment recommendations include mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and exchange-listed equity securities, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, U.S. government securities and money market funds when suitable and appropriate for a Client's particular situation. If Clients hold other types of investments, we will advise them on those investments also. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities. We consider such restrictions when formulating the Client's investment strategy. See Item 8 for a description of our investment strategy.

We do not manage Wrap Fee programs.

We manage \$891,237,188 of Client assets on a discretionary basis and \$0 of Client assets on a nondiscretionary basis. These amounts were calculated as of December 31, 2021.

#### Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

We provide investment supervisory, financial planning and investment consulting services to Clients primarily under the following fee schedules below:

#### Assets Under Management:

Maximum Annual Wealth Management Retainer Fees: 2.05% on assets under \$250,000 1.85% on assets between \$250,001 and \$500,000 1.60% on assets between \$500,001 and \$750,000 1.35% on assets between \$750,001 and \$1,000,000 1.10% on assets between \$1,000,001 and \$3,000,000 0.85% on assets between \$3,000,001 and \$5,000,000 0.60% on assets in excess of \$5,000,000

We may also provide investment advice or financial planning to Clients on an hourly or fixed rate fee. Our maximum hourly rate is \$250.00 per hour depending on the complexity of the issue being addressed. Fixed fee project pricing is quoted for each project, depending on the scope of work performed. Notwithstanding the above, fees are generally negotiable.

Client's asset management accounts are billed quarterly in arrears. Fees are paid to us from the client's account by the custodian upon our submission of an invoice. Payment of fees may result in the liquidation of Client's securities if there is insufficient cash in the account. The fee is based on the market value of the Client's account on the last trading day of the prior quarter.

Market value includes all account values and transaction information as of the end of each quarter (not adjusted by any margin debit). To determine value, securities and other instruments traded on a market for which actual transaction prices are publicly reported are generally valued at the last reported sale price on the principal market in which they are traded. Mutual Funds are only valued once per day after the close of the market. Whenever valuation information for specific, illiquid, foreign, private or other investments is not available through the custodian, our approach will be to value at zero. We do this in order to not overvalue a position which could potentially over inflate billing calculations. Alternatively, we may also seek to obtain and document price information from at least one independent source, whether it be a broker-dealer, bank, pricing service or other source.

The quarterly fee will be equal to the agreed upon annual rate, multiplied by the market value of the account for that quarter. This number is then divided by four.

Fees for a partial quarter at the commencement or termination of an agreement will be prorated based on the number of days the account was open during the quarter. Quarterly fee adjustments for additional assets received into an account during a quarter or for partial withdrawals may also be provided as negotiated. We may modify the terms of the fee agreement by giving Clients 30 days written notice in advance.

Clients may be charged a one-time set-up fee of up to \$250.00 per account. A quarterly fee of up to \$37.50 may be charged per account for administrative services. Clients also pay trading fees and commissions on discretionary trades initiated by us. Clients will also be charged up to \$35.00 per trade as an administrative fee by us for any Client directed trades. Notwithstanding the foregoing, fees are generally negotiable.

Clients may be required to pay other miscellaneous charges or fees directly to the custodian (e.g. wire fees) as stated in the custodial agreements. Additionally, mutual funds and/or exchange traded funds have additional internal expenses which generally include a fund management fee, other fund expenses, and a possible distribution fee. In addition, some funds charge a redemption fee on shares bought and sold within a short period. Funds describe their expenses in their prospectuses, summary prospectuses, or product descriptions. Clients are advised that these fees are separate and additional expenses incurred by the Client. See Item 12 for additional information on Brokerage Practices.

Our fees include the time necessary to work with Client's attorney, accountant or other third party professionals in reaching agreement on financial planning or investment solutions, as well as assisting those advisors in implementation of all appropriate documents. However, we are not responsible for attorney, accountant or other third party professional fees charged to Client as a result of these activities.

In some instances, we may recommend that all or a portion of Client assets be managed by an unrelated Third Party Asset Manager ("TPAM") or sub-advisor. These arrangements are more fully disclosed in Section 10, below.

Clients pay all Wealth Management Retainer fees quarterly in arrears. As such, there are never any pre-paid fees for Assets Under Management which would be subject to refund. All Wealth Management agreements may be terminated at any time by providing us with 30 days written notice. Upon termination, any fees that have been earned by us but not yet paid will be immediately due and payable. Clients are also responsible for all applicable charges including, but not limited to, account administrative fees, account closure fees and all trading costs due to the termination, including any fees the mutual funds may assess. Upon request, we will provide a good-faith estimate of these fees.

Payment of fixed fee projects shall be made as agreed by the parties. Hourly rate projects are generally invoiced by us with payment due by Client upon receipt of the invoice. We may estimate the number of hours necessary to complete a project, and we may collect a portion of this estimate up front and invoice the balance. However, under no circumstances will the Client be required to pay more than \$1,200 for services more than six months in advance. Upon termination of any hourly or fixed fee project, any prepaid but unearned fees will be promptly refunded to the Client.

THG is a fee only registered investment adviser and does not act as an insurance brokerage or agency and is not otherwise affiliated with any insurance brokerages or agencies.

#### Rollover Recommendations

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may recommend that you roll assets from your employer's retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 457, or ERISA 403(b) account (collectively, a "Plan Account"), to an individual retirement account, such as a SIMPLE IRA, SEP IRA, Traditional IRA, or Roth IRA (collectively, an "IRA Account") that we will manage on your behalf. We may also recommend rollovers from IRA Accounts to Plan Accounts, from Plan Accounts to Plan Accounts, and from IRA Accounts to IRA Accounts. When we provide any of the foregoing rollover recommendations we are acting as fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA") and/or the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"), as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts.

If you elect to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an assetbased fee as set forth in the advisory agreement you executed with our firm. This creates a conflict of interest because it creates a financial incentive for our firm to recommend the rollover to you (*i.e.*, receipt of additional fee-based compensation). You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm. Due to the foregoing conflict of interest, when we make rollover recommendations, we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interests and not put our interests ahead of yours.

Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

- meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- > avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interests;
- charge no more than a reasonable fee for our services; and
- > give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

Many employers permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of a rollover.

Note that an employee will typically have four options in this situation:

- 1. leaving the funds in your employer's (former employer's) plan;
- 2. moving the funds to a new employer's retirement plan;
- 3. cashing out and taking a taxable distribution from the plan; or
- 4. rolling the funds into an IRA rollover account.

Each of these options has positives and negatives. Because of that, along with the importance of understanding the differences between these types of accounts, we will provide you with a written explanation of the advantages and disadvantages of both account types and the basis for our belief that the rollover transaction we recommend is in your best interests.

As an alternative to providing you with a rollover recommendation, we may instead take an entirely educational approach in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor's Interpretive Bulletin 96-1. Under this approach, our role will be limited only to providing you with general educational materials regarding the pros and cons of rollover transactions. We will make no recommendation to you regarding the prospective rollover of your assets and you are advised to speak with your trusted tax and legal advisors with respect to rollover decisions. As part of this educational approach, we may provide you with materials discussing some or all of the following topics: the general pros and cons

of rollover transactions; the benefits of retirement plan participation; the impact of pre-retirement withdrawals on retirement income; the investment options available inside your Plan Account; and high level discussion of general investment concepts (*e.g.*, risk versus return, the benefits of diversification and asset allocation, historical returns of certain asset classes, etc.). We may also provide you with questionnaires and/or interactive investment materials that may provide a means for you to independently determine your future retirement income needs and to assess the impact of different asset allocations on your retirement income. You will make the final rollover decision.

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

We do not charge any performance-based fees for our services or engage in side-by-side management.

#### Item 7 – Types of Clients

We provide investment advice to individuals, businesses, pension and profit sharing plans, trusts, estates, and charitable organizations. Because each Client is unique, they must be willing to be involved in the planning and ongoing processes. Such involvement does not have to be time consuming, however we want our Clients to remain informed about their overall financial situation.

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

We create broadly diversified portfolios in the worldwide fixed-income and equity markets, combined with periodic rebalancing. Our Advisory Affiliates create an investment strategy with each Client, outlining the investment philosophy, management procedures, and long-term goals for the investor. Portfolio design is tailored to each Client's risk tolerance and preferences.

#### Types of Investments

As part of our core investment approach, we offer advice on investments including mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. However, we may also utilize other investments such as: equity securities, debt securities, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, U.S. government securities and money market funds when suitable and appropriate. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it, and it would not be possible to disclose all of the specific risks of every type of investment in this brochure. If our Clients have any questions regarding the risks associated with a particular investment, they are encouraged to contact us.

<u>Mutual funds</u> are professionally managed collective investment companies that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual or exchange traded funds, other securities or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. Other fund risks include foreign securities and currency risk, emerging markets risk, small-cap, mid-cap and large-cap risk,

trading risk, and turnover risk that can increase fund expenses and may decrease fund performance. Brokerage and transactions costs incurred by the fund will reduce returns.

<u>ETFs</u> are investment funds traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks or equities. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, commodities, or bonds and trades at approximately the same price as the net asset value of its underlying assets over the course of the trading day. Most ETFs track an index, such as the S&P 500. However, some ETFs are fully transparent actively managed funds. Market risk is, perhaps, the most significant risk associated with ETFs. This risk is defined by the day to day fluctuations associated with any exchange traded security, where fluctuations occur in part based on the perception of investors.

<u>Individual equity securities</u> (also known simply as "equities" or "stock") are assessed for risk in numerous ways. Price fluctuations and market risk are the most significant risk concerns. As such, the value of your investment can increase or decrease over time. Furthermore, you should understand that stock prices can be affected by many factors including, but not limited to, the overall health of the economy, the health of the market sector or industry of the issuing company, and national and political events. When investing in stock, it is important to focus on the average returns achieved over a given period of time, across a well-diversified portfolio.

<u>Individual debt securities</u> (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return.

Primarily we invest with a focus on Long Term Purchases, where securities are purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year. Sometimes we will employ a Short Term Purchase strategy where securities are purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short term price fluctuations. Short-term trading (in general, selling securities within 30 days of purchasing the same securities) is not a fundamental part of our overall investment strategy.

#### Methods of Analysis

We may use one or more of the following methods of analysis when formulating investment advice: <u>*Top-Down Global Macro-Economic Analysis*</u> involves a big-picture analysis of the prevailing economic, demographic and social trends followed by a more focused analysis at the country level, then the industry level and ultimately the specific security level.

<u>Mutual Fund/Exchange Traded Fund Analysis</u> involves qualitative analysis looking at factors such as the background and experience of the fund manager and/or the fund company (style, consistency, risk-adjusted performance, management expenses, average daily trading volume, etc.).

*<u>Fundamental analysis</u>* involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages. This type of analysis

concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

#### Investment Risk of Loss

As indicated in the descriptions above, investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We <u>do not</u> represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate Clients from losses due to market corrections or declines. We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance.

Except as may otherwise be provided by law, we are not liable to Clients for:

- Any loss that a Client may suffer by reason of any investment decision made or other action taken or omitted in good faith by us with that degree of care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances that a prudent person acting in a fiduciary capacity would use;
- Any loss arising from our adherence to a Client's instructions, or the disregard of our recommendations made to a Client; or
- Any act or failure to act by a custodian or other third party to a Client's account.

It is the responsibility of the Client to give us complete information and to notify us of any changes in financial circumstances or goals.

#### Item 9 – Disciplinary Information

On September 6, 2012, THG reached a consent settlement with the SEC based on a proxy voting violation (voting proxies in favor of the appointment of related entity, FocusPoint Solutions, to act as a sub-advisor to a mutual fund) under section 206(2) and 206(4) of the Advisers Act and Rule 206(4)-6. Without admitting or denying any of the SEC's findings, pursuant to the SEC Order and Offer of Settlement, THG and its owner, Chris Hicks, agreed to the following: Payment of a \$50,000 fine by THG. Mr. Hicks was also assessed a fine of \$50,000 in his capacity as owner of THG. We welcome any inquiries regarding this matter.

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

We are affiliated through common ownership and control with The H Group Washington, Inc., ("THGWA"), CS Planning Corp ("CSP"), FocusPoint Solutions, Inc. ("FPS"), and MGM, LLC ("MGM"). THG, THGWA, CSP, FPS, and MGM are all under common control of Christopher K. Hicks who is considered a control person of each firm because he holds more than 25% ownership interest in each firm.

THGWA, CSP, and MGM are investment advisors registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. THGWA, CSP and MGM offer a wide range of financial planning and investment advisory services through numerous Advisory Affiliates to the firm.

Further, Scott L. Maxwell and Fred King, Jr. are Investment Advisor Representatives registered with both THG and THG-WA. Because clients of Mr. Maxwell and Mr. King are provided the Form ADV 2A and enter into a Wealth Management Agreement for the specific firm for whom Mr. Maxwell and Mr. King are representing prior to providing individualized financial services, there is no client confusion or conflict of interest.

FPS also provides turnkey asset management, back office, and administrative services to both affiliated and non-affiliated registered investment advisory firms, including THG. These services may include, but are not limited to the following:

- research,
- due diligence,
- reporting,
- portfolio analysis,
- investment execution services, and
- back-office administration.

For certain RIA Firm clients, FPS also provides non-discretionary sub-advisory services, including investment recommendations.

FPS generally does not have any direct contact with our Clients. FPS provides services directly to us and we are solely responsible for Client accounts. Upon entering into an agreement for advisory services with us, Clients authorize us to use FPS to service their account, including billing and the deduction of fees. Clients agree to allow us to share non-public, personal information with FPS for the purpose of administering and managing Client's account. We require FPS to execute a confidentiality agreement and not share Client information with any unauthorized person or entity. The use of FPS will not cause Clients to incur any additional fees. We pay FPS for services out of the Wealth Management Retainer fee charged to Clients. Our fee schedule is disclosed under Item 5 above.

The use of an affiliated service provider such as FPS creates a conflict of interest because we have an incentive to hire FPS over other unrelated third party service providers. In order to mitigate this conflict of interest, we conduct regular assessments to evaluate the continued use of all third party service providers, whether or not affiliated.

#### Solicitor Relationships:

We may enter into Solicitor arrangement with individuals or other registered investment advisors. Solicitor arrangements and requirements are more fully described in Item 14 ("Client Referrals and Other Compensation"), below. We do not believe this arrangement creates any conflicts of interest with any of our Clients.

#### Other Investment Managers:

On occasion, we may recommend and engage unaffiliated Third Party Asset Managers (TPAM) or sub-advisors who provide customized investment portfolio management services. These services may include the construction of investment portfolios, execution of securities purchase and sale transactions, and portfolio administration, including tracking of and reporting on portfolio performance and investment results.

We are authorized by our Clients to share non-public, personal information with TPAMs or subadvisors for the purpose of managing their portfolios. However we require any TPAM or sub-advisor to execute a confidentiality agreement and not share non-public personal information with any unauthorized person or entity.

Clients are generally required to enter into a separate advisory agreement with any TPAM or subadvisor. The use of TPAMs or sub-advisors may cause Clients to incur additional fees. If applicable, any additional fees will be fully disclosed to Clients in a separate agreement with the TPAM or subadvisor.

#### Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in *Client* Transaction & Personal Trading

We have a Code of Ethics which all employees are required to follow. The Code of Ethics outlines our high standard of business conduct, and fiduciary duty to Clients. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to the confidentiality of Client information, a prohibition on insider trading, personal securities trading procedures, improper use of Firm property, and diversion of investment and business opportunities, among other things. A copy of the Code of Ethics is available to any Client or prospective Client upon request by contacting us at (503) 292-5853 or info@thehgroup.com. Brochures are provided free of charge.

We or individuals associated with our firm may buy and sell some of the same securities for their own account that we buy and sell for Clients. When appropriate we will purchase or sell securities for Clients before purchasing the same for our account or allowing representatives to purchase or sell the same for their own account. However, we do allow the accounts of employees to be included in block trading alongside the accounts of Clients. In some cases we or our representatives may buy or sell securities for our own account for reasons not related to the strategies adopted for our Clients. Our employees are required to follow the Code of Ethics when making trades for their own accounts in securities which are recommended to and/or purchased for Clients. The Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions will not interfere with decisions made in the best interest of advisory Clients while at the same time, allowing employees to invest their own accounts.

In the event a material conflict of interest not already discussed in this document should arise, we will disclose to our advisory Clients any material conflict of interest relating to us, our representatives, or any of our employees which could reasonably be expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

As any advisory situation could present a conflict of interest, we have established the following restrictions to ensure our fiduciary responsibilities:

• A director, officer, associated person, or employee of THG shall not buy or sell securities for his personal portfolio where his decision is substantially derived, in whole or in part, by reason of his employment unless the information is also available to the investing

public on reasonable inquiry. No person of THG shall prefer his or her own interest to that of the advisory Client.

- We maintain a list of all securities holdings for the firm and for anyone associated with its advisory practice who has access to advisory recommendations. An appropriate officer reviews these holdings on a regular basis.
- Any individual not in observance of the above may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

#### Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

Our Clients' assets are held by independent third-party qualified custodians. We do recommend certain custodians to Clients, however, Clients are not obligated to use any particular custodian recommended by us. We reserve the right to decline acceptance of any Client account for which the Client directs the use of a particular custodian if we believe that this choice would hinder either our fiduciary duty to the Client or our ability to service the account.

In recommending custodians, we will comply with its fiduciary duty to seek best execution and with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. We will take into account such relevant factors as:

- Price;
- The custodian's facilities, reliability and financial responsibility;
- The ability of the custodian to effect transactions, particularly with regard to such aspects as timing, order size and execution of order;
- The research and related brokerage services provided by such custodian to us, notwithstanding that the account may not be the direct or exclusive beneficiary of such services; and
- Any other factors that we consider to be relevant.

Due to our relationship with FPS and the aggregation of Client accounts with custodians, we do receive investment research products and/or services which assist us in our investment decision-making process. Such research generally will be used to service all Client accounts. The receipt of investment research products and/or services poses a conflict of interest because we do not have to produce or pay for the products or services.

Indirectly and through our relationship with FPS, THG receives, without cost to us, computer software and related systems support, which allow us to better monitor accounts. We receive software and related support without cost because our Clients maintain assets with these custodians. The software and related systems support benefits us, but may not benefit the Clients directly. Our receipt of these types of benefits from a custodian creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence our recommendation of one custodian over another that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services. Additionally, we receive: receipt of duplicate client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk that exclusively service the custodians' respective institutional division participants; access to block trading which provides the ability to

aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to accounts; and access to an electronic communication network for order entry and account information.

Many of the above benefits are generally considered to be "soft dollar" arrangements. As a result of receiving such products and services for no cost, we have an incentive to recommend to Clients custodians that offer soft dollar arrangements. However, these types of arrangements are similar and common to the custodial relationships of other registered investment advisory firms in the industry. We periodically evaluate custodians to determine whether the benefits we receive are reasonable in relation to the value of services provided to our Clients.

Due to our affiliation with FPS, we have an incentive to recommend Fidelity as a custodian for Client accounts. FPS, has entered into a support services agreement with Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC and National Financial Services LLC (together referred to as "Fidelity"). Under this agreement, Fidelity pays FPS a support fee based on a portion of Client assets in the custody of Fidelity. However, FPS and Fidelity have agreed that no support fee payments will be made with respect to investments in transaction fee funds and Fidelity sponsored funds. Under this arrangement, FPS provides numerous and substantial services to RIA firms like THG that would normally be provided by the custodian (for example, back office, administrative, transition and clerical services). While this arrangement results in cost savings for the custodian and increased costs for FPS, the receipt of this additional compensation may create an incentive for THG to recommend funds available through the Fidelity platform for which (i) Fidelity is not a sponsor or manager, and (ii) transaction fees are not imposed (together, "NTF Funds"). It would not be unusual for the majority of investments made through the Fidelity platform to be in NTF Funds, for which FPS would receive support fees. These conflicts of interest may influence our recommendation of one custodian over another that does not furnish similar benefits. However, these conflicts are mitigated by our fiduciary duty to put our Clients' interests first. We review what types of funds are available for use in Client portfolio allocations and seek those that are the most suitable, appropriate and in the Client's best interest.

We may aggregate trades for Clients. The allocations of a particular security will be determined by us before the trade is placed with the broker. When practical, Client trades in the same security will be bunched in a single order (a "block") in an effort to obtain best execution at the best security price available. When employing a block trade:

- We will make reasonable efforts to attempt to fill Client orders by day-end.
- If the block order is not filled by day-end, we will allocate shares executed to underlying accounts on a pro rata basis, adjusted as necessary to keep Client transaction costs to a minimum.
- If a block order is filled (full or partial fill) at several prices through multiple trades, an average price and commission will be used for all trades executed;
- All participants receiving securities from the block trade will receive the average price.
- Multiple blocks may be executed within a single day. However, only trades executed within the block on the single day may be combined for purposes of calculating the average price.

It is expected that this trade aggregation and allocation policy will be applied consistently. However, if application of this policy results in unfair or inequitable treatment to some or all of our Clients, we may deviate from this policy.

Finally, it is our policy to minimize the occurrence of trade errors. Should any trade errors which are attributable to THG occur, we shall take any steps necessary to put the Client in the position it should have been as if the trade error never occurred. In the event we determine that a bona fide trade error has occurred which is attributable to THG, we will correct the trade error using funds from our error account. Depending on the internal trade error policies and procedures of the particular custodian, our error account may be debited if the correction results in a loss. Likewise, our error account may be credited if the correction creates a conflict of interest as THG has an incentive to recommend particular custodians over others that may not have a similar policy.

#### Item 13 – Review of Accounts

We hold monthly meetings with Advisory Affiliates, or more frequently if required, where strategic changes to portfolio are discussed. While the underlying securities within accounts are continually monitored, Client accounts are formally reviewed at least annually. Accounts are reviewed in the context of each Client's stated investment objectives and guidelines.

We have a number of Advisory Affiliates who are assigned as the primary representative to a particular Client's account. The Advisory Affiliate assigned to a particular Client's account will be responsible for the periodic reviews to that account. Clients will be provided the Supplemental Brochure (Form ADV Part 2B) of any Advisory Affiliate providing advice related to their account.

More frequent reviews may be triggered by a number of reasons including: a change in Client's investment objectives; tax considerations; large deposits or withdrawals; large sales or purchases; or changes in the economic climate.

Investment advisory Clients receive standard account statements from the custodian of their accounts generally on a monthly basis, but in any event, no less than quarterly. Advisor Affiliates may also provide Clients with periodic written reports summarizing the account activity and performance. Along with these reports, we discuss the asset allocation of the portfolio compared to the portfolio target allocations.

Financial Planning Clients will typically receive a completed written financial plan unless otherwise agreed at the start of the engagement. However additional review or reports will not typically be provided unless otherwise provided for under the terms of the engagement. Consulting Services Clients will not typically receive reports or formal reviews due to the nature of the service.

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

As disclosed under Item 12 (above), we (or our Affiliates) may receive "soft dollars" from certain custodians. Further, FPS has also entered into a Custodial Support Services Agreement with Fidelity. The conflicts of interest these types of arrangements present and how we deal with these conflicts are described in detail under Section 12, above.

We may pay a fee to individuals or entities which refer Clients to our firm. These persons are commonly called "Solicitors." Any arrangements we may have with a Solicitor will be in compliance with SEC Rule 206(4)-3 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Act").

Any Solicitor referral arrangement between us and a third-party will be in writing. The writing will set forth the following:

(a) the scope of the Solicitor's activities;

(b) a covenant that the Solicitor will perform its activities consistent with our instructions and in compliance with the Act and associated rules; and

(c) a covenant that the Solicitor will provide the Client with:

- a copy of our Form ADV Part 2 and Part 3 Client Relationship Summary; and
- a separate written solicitor disclosure.

The separate written Solicitor disclosure must include the following information:

- The name of the Solicitor;
- The nature of the relationship between the Solicitor and us;
- A statement that the Solicitor will be compensated by us for the referral;
- The terms of the compensation arrangement including a description of the fees paid or to be paid to the Solicitor; and
- The amount the Client will be charged in addition to the Wealth Management Retainer fee (if any).

We may pay a portion of ongoing Wealth Management Retainer fees charged to a Client so as long as the payments are consistent with the written Solicitor disclosures provided to the Client (and in accordance with the requirements of SEC Rule 206(4)-3).

We will not engage any Solicitors who are disqualified from acting as a Solicitor under Section 203 of the Act. For example, we will not pay a Solicitor a referral fee to any person who has been barred or prohibited from acting as an investment adviser or broker-dealer, or convicted within the past ten years of certain felonies or misdemeanors.

#### Item 15 – Custody

With the exception of our ability to debit fees, and our ability to disburse or transfer certain funds pursuant to Standing Letters of Authorization executed by Clients, we do not otherwise have custody of the assets in the account.

We shall have no liability to a Client for any loss or other harm to any property in the account, including any harm to any property in the account resulting from the insolvency of the custodian or any acts of the agents or employees of the custodian and whether or not the full amount or such loss is covered by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC") or any other insurance which may be carried by the custodian. The Client understands that SIPC provides only limited protection for the loss of property held by a custodian.

Clients receive standard account statements from the custodian of their accounts generally on a monthly basis, but in any event, no less than quarterly. Our Advisory Affiliate's may also provide Clients with periodic written reports summarizing the account activity and performance. We urge all Clients to carefully review statements from the custodian and compare these to any reports that we may provide to you. Our reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

#### Item 16 – Investment Discretion

Generally, Clients grant us ongoing and continuous discretionary authority to execute investment recommendations in accordance with an agreed upon investment strategy or plan <u>without</u> the Client's prior approval of each specific transaction. Under this discretionary authority, Client allows us to purchase and sell securities and instruments in their account(s), arrange for delivery and payment in connection with the foregoing, select and retain sub-advisors, and act on behalf of the Client in matters necessary or incidental to the handling of the account, including monitoring certain assets. The only restrictions on this discretionary authority are those set by the Client on a case by case basis. We make it a practice to question Clients to determine if there are any limitations to the Advisor's discretionary authority on such matters.

#### Item 17 – Voting Client Securities

Generally, we do have the authority to vote proxies for Client accounts. However, Clients may retain the right to vote their own proxies.

Generally, it is THG's policy that our Clients proxies will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of management. However, all proxy votes are ultimately cast on a case-by-case basis, taking into account relevant facts and circumstances at the time of the vote. For this reason, consistent with our fiduciary duty to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of our Clients, proxies may be voted against management recommendations.

THG will review the proxy proposal for conflicts of interest as part of the overall vote review process. Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between us (including our affiliated entities) and a Client's interest, we will resolve the conflict as follows:

<u>Independent Third Party Recommendation</u>. For those proxy matters in which there is a material conflict of interest, the Client's proxy will be voted based on the recommendation of an independent third party.

We will maintain for the time periods set forth in the Rule (currently 5 years; 2 of which shall be in our office):

- (i) proxy voting procedures and policies, and all amendments;
- (ii) a record of all proxy statements received by us regarding Client securities (provided however, that we may rely on the proxy statement filed on EDGAR as our records);
- (iii) a record of all votes cast on behalf of Clients;
- (iv) records of all Client requests for proxy voting information;

- (v) any documents prepared by us which were material to making a decision how to vote or that memorialized the basis for the decision; and
- (vi) all records relating to requests made to Clients regarding conflicts of interest in voting the proxy.

Clients may obtain information on how proxies were voted with respect to the Clients' portfolio securities or a copy of our Policies and Procedures by contacting us at: (503) 292-5853 or info@thehgroup.com.

The H Group, Inc. ("THG") does not accept any authority or responsibility to take any action regarding any claim or potential claim in any bankruptcy proceeding, class action securities litigation or other litigation or proceeding relating to securities held at any time in a client account, including, without limitation, to filing of proofs of claim or other documents related to such proceeding, or the investigation, initiation, supervision or monitoring of class action or other litigation involving client assets. Any documents received in relation to a class action lawsuit will be forwarded to the Client. THG neither instructs nor provides advice to clients on whether or not to participate as a member of class action lawsuits and will not automatically file claims on a client's behalf. However, if a client notifies THG that a client wishes to participate in a class action lawsuit, THG will provide the client with transaction information pertaining to the client's account necessary for client to file a proof of claim in a class action.

#### Item 18 – Financial Information

We do not require Wealth Management Retainer fees to be paid in advance. A portion of hourly rate or fixed fee projects are generally required to be paid in advance, however under no circumstances will we retain more than \$1,200.00, more than six months in advance from any Client.

We do have discretionary authority over Client funds or securities, but we have no financial commitments that would impair our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients.

Neither THG, nor any of the principals, have been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time in the past. We have no financial conditions that would impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to our Clients.

#### Exhibit A – Summary of Material Changes

This Item discusses only specific material changes that have been made to our Brochure since our March 26, 2021, annual update. Since that date we have made no material changes.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. When required, a Summary of Material Changes will also be included with our Brochure on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. The searchable IARD/CRD number for The H Group, Inc. is 106801. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary and will further provide you with a new Brochure as necessary based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge.

Currently, our Brochure may be requested by contacting us at (503) 292-5853 or info@thehgroup.com. Our Brochure is provided free of charge.

### LAURENCE T. HANSLITS, CFP<sup>®</sup>

The H Group, Inc. 3395 SW Garden View Avenue Portland, Oregon 97225

(503) 292-5853

March 20, 2022

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Laurence T. Hanslits, Independent Contractor and Advisor Affiliate with The H Group, Inc ("THG"). You should have received a copy of THG's Brochure. Please contact us at (503) 292-5853 if you did not receive a Brochure, or if you have any questions about the contents of this Supplement.

THG requires any employees involved in the practice of providing investment advice to Clients to have at a minimum, a bachelor degree from an accredited university, preferably with a major in finance, economics, or business, etc., or a professional designation or be enrolled in a course of study to complete a designation. These employees must also pass appropriate licensing examinations and are strongly encouraged to seek continuing education opportunities available in the industry, including appropriate certifications or designations.

Laurence T. Hanslits has achieved the designation of Certified Financial Planner (CFP<sup>®</sup>). This designation is explained more fully under Item 2, below. Additional information about THG and/or Laurence T. Hanslits is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

#### Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

#### Laurence T. Hanslits, CFP®

Year of Birth: 1962 Independent Contractor/Advisor Affiliate, The H Group, Inc.

<u>Education</u> B.S., Oregon State University, Portland State University, Corvallis, Oregon, 1985

Business Background

1997 - Present: The H Group, Inc., Advisor Affiliate (Independent Contractor)

#### Industry Examinations and Professional Designations:

Laurence Hanslits has previously taken and passed the following industry examinations: Series 7, 63. He has also obtained the following designation: Certified Financial Planner<sup>®</sup> (CFP<sup>®</sup>). The minimum qualifications required for this designation are provided below to assist you in understanding the value of the designation.

**Information regarding the Certified Financial Planner<sup>™</sup> designation: CFP<sup>®</sup>** and federally registered CFP (with a flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP<sup>®</sup> marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board).

The CFP<sup>®</sup> certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP<sup>®</sup> 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.

To attain the right to use the CFP<sup>®</sup> 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 are 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<sup>®</sup> 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 (1) Complete at least three years (at least 6,000 hours) of full-time financial planningrelated experience or (2) complete at least two years (at least 4,000 hours) of full-time financial planning-related experience while under the supervision of a CFP<sup>®</sup> professional; and

• Ethics – Agree to be bound by the CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP<sup>®</sup> 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 Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

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

#### Item 3 Disciplinary Information

Mr. Hanslits has not been subject to any legal or disciplinary proceedings which would be considered material (or otherwise) to a Client's evaluation of him or any of the services THG provides.

#### Item 4 Other Business Activities

Mr. Hanslits does not have any investment-related outside business activities to disclose. Mr. Hanslits does not participate in any outside business activities that require a substantial amount of time outside of his work with THG.

#### Item 5 Additional Compensation

Mr. Hanslits only receives compensation from Clients in the form of advisory fees. He receives no compensation in relation to the investment advice provided to Clients from any third parties.

#### Item 6 Supervision

Mr. Hanslits is responsible for advice provided to certain Clients of THG. Chris Hicks, Chief Compliance Officer, (503) 292-5853 is involved in supervising the activities of Mr. Hanslits. Oversight is done through a review of several activities in our management systems which incorporate documentation of client interactions, paper flows and trading activities.

## KATHERINE M. KEPPEL, CFP<sup>®</sup>

The H Group, Inc. 3395 SW Garden View Avenue Portland, Oregon 97225

(503) 292-5853

March 20, 2022

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Katherine M. Keppel with The H Group, Inc ("THG"). You should have received a copy of THG's Brochure. Please contact us at (503) 292-5853 if you did not receive a Brochure, or if you have any questions about the contents of this Supplement.

THG requires any employees involved in the practice of providing investment advice to Clients to have at a minimum, a bachelor degree from an accredited university, preferably with a major in finance, economics, or business, etc., or a professional designation or be enrolled in a course of study to complete a designation. These employees must also pass appropriate licensing examinations and are strongly encouraged to seek continuing education opportunities available in the industry, including appropriate certifications or designations.

Katherine M. Keppel has achieved the designation of Certified Financial Planner (CFP<sup>®</sup>). This designation is explained more fully under Item 2, below. Additional information about THG and/or Katherine M. Keppel is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

#### Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

#### Katherine M. Keppel, CFP®

Year of Birth: 1962 Investment Advisor Representative

#### **Education**

Certificate in Personal Financial Planning, College for Financial Planning, 2005

#### Business Background

01/2016 - Present:	The H Group, Inc., Investment Advisor Representative
09/2013 – 12/2015:	Journey Tree Financial Planning & Investments, Investment Advisor Representative
04/2011 - 08/2013:	MCS Financial Advisors, Client Services / Marketing, Wealth Counselor
09/2010 - 02/2011:	Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Financial Advisor
08/2010 - 02/2011:	Carter & Carter, Operations Manager

#### Industry Examinations and Professional Designations:

Ms. Keppel has previously taken and passed the following industry examinations: Series 6, 7, 63, and 66. She has also obtained the designation of Certified Financial Planner<sup>®</sup> (CFP<sup>®</sup>). The minimum qualifications required for the CFP<sup>®</sup> designation are provided below to assist you in understanding the value of the designation.

**Information regarding the Certified Financial Planner<sup>™</sup> designation: CFP**<sup>®</sup> and federally registered CFP (with a flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP<sup>®</sup> marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board).

The CFP<sup>®</sup> certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP<sup>®</sup> 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.

To attain the right to use the CFP<sup>®</sup> 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 are 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<sup>®</sup> 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 (1) Complete at least three years (at least 6,000 hours) of full-time financial planningrelated experience or (2) complete at least two years (at least 4,000 hours) of full-time financial planning-related experience while under the supervision of a CFP<sup>®</sup> professional; and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by the CFP Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP<sup>®</sup> 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 Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP<sup>®</sup> professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

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

#### Item 3 Disciplinary Information

Ms. Keppel has not been subject to any legal or disciplinary proceedings which would be considered material (or otherwise) to a Client's evaluation of her or any of the services THG provides.

#### Item 4 Other Business Activities

Ms. Keppel is not involved in any other investment related business activity or occupation other than through THG.

#### Item 5 Additional Compensation

Ms. Keppel only receives compensation from Clients in the form of advisory fees. She receives no compensation in relation to the investment advice provided to Clients from any third parties.

#### Item 6 Supervision

Ms. Keppel is responsible for advice provided to certain Clients of THG. Christopher K. Hicks, Chief Compliance Officer, (503) 292-5853 is involved in supervising the activities of Ms. Keppel. Oversight is done through a review of several activities in our management systems which incorporate documentation of client interactions, paper flows and trading activities.

### SARAH A. SEPULVEDA

### The H Group, Inc.

500 Liberty Street SE, Suite 310 Salem, Oregon 97301

(503) 371-3333

March 20, 2022

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Sarah A. Sepulveda, an Investment Advisor Representative with The H Group, Inc ("THG"). You should have received a copy of THG's Brochure. Please contact us at (503) 292-5853 if you did not receive a Brochure, or if you have any questions about the contents of this Supplement.

THG requires any employees involved in the practice of providing investment advice to Clients to have at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from an accredited university, preferably with a major in finance, economics, or business, etc., or a professional designation or be enrolled in a course of study to complete a designation. These employees must also pass appropriate licensing examinations and are strongly encouraged to seek continuing education opportunities available in the industry, including appropriate certifications or designations.

Additional information about THG and/or Sarah A. Sepulveda is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

#### Item 2 Educational Background and Business Experience

#### Sarah A. Sepulveda

Year of Birth: 1993 Investment Advisor Representative

#### Education

B.A., Major: Economics, Minors: Statistics and Management, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, 2015

#### Business Background

11/2018 – Present	The H Group, Inc., Investment Advisor Representative
10/2016 - 11/2018	Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties, Marketing and Resource
	Development Assistant
06/2015 - 05/2016	Arts Midwest, Program Associate

#### Industry Examinations:

Mrs. Sepulveda has previously taken and passed the Series 65 NASAA Investment Advisers Law Examination.

#### Item 3 Disciplinary Information

Mrs. Sepulveda has not been subject to any legal or disciplinary proceedings which would be considered material (or otherwise) to a Client's evaluation of her or any of the services THG provides.

#### **Item 4 Other Business Activities**

Mrs. Sepulveda has no investment-related outside business activities to disclose.

#### Item 5 Additional Compensation

Mrs. Sepulveda only receives compensation from Clients in the form of advisory fees. Mrs. Sepulveda receives no compensation in relation to the investment advice provided to Clients of THG from any third parties.

#### Item 6 Supervision

Mrs. Sepulveda is responsible for advice provided to certain Clients of THG. Chris Hicks, Chief Compliance Officer, (503) 292-5853 is involved in supervising the activities of Mrs. Sepulveda. Oversight is done through a review of several activities in our management systems which incorporate documentation of client interactions, paper flows and trading activities.