

# **Axxcess Wealth Management, LLC**

# **Code of Ethics**

# Effective Date: June 22, 2022

CONFIDENTIAL – NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE FIRM

This Code of Ethics is the property of Axxcess Wealth Management, LLC ("AWM" or the Advisor), and its contents are confidential and may not be distributed without the prior approval of the Chief Compliance Officer.

Using this Manual Each Supervised Person of AWM must read and understand the Code of Ethics and comply with all of the policies and procedures herein.

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# 1. Background

The Code of Ethics (herein the "COE") for Axxcess Wealth Management, LLC ("AWM" or the "Advisor") defines the fiduciary commitment to each Client and sets forth the standard of business conduct for the Advisor and its owners, employees, independent contractors and other insiders (herein each a "Supervised Person").

# Supervised Persons of the Advisor are bound by the provisions of the COE and shall be required to certify their understanding and willingness to comply with the COE.

Throughout the COE, there are references to various disclosure forms and resources which are made available through the <u>Axxcess Wealth Hub</u>, the Advisor's compliance repository.

#### **Key Definitions**

The following definitions are integral to the understanding of the COE. Additional terms are defined throughout the COE.

<u>Supervised Person</u> – A Supervised Person means any of the Advisor's owners, employees, independent contractors and other insiders (or other persons occupying a similar status or performing similar functions), <u>ALL</u> employees, and/or any other person who provides investment advice on behalf of the Advisor and is subject to supervision and control of the Advisor, or <u>ANY</u> person maintaining an email address through the Advisor's system.

<u>Access Person</u> – Any Supervised Person that has "*access*" to nonpublic information regarding the purchase or sale of securities for any Client. Any Supervised Person that is an Investment Advisor Representative ("IAR") of the Advisor must be classified as an "*Access Person*" due to access to Client information.

<u>Axxcess Wealth Hub</u> – A compliance engine administered by AWM. The <u>Axxcess Wealth Hub</u> will be utilized to access various disclosure forms, including disclosures related to Gifts and Entertainment, Political Contributions, Outside Business Activities, Outside Business Investments, Restricted Securities, Personal Accounts, and Personal Trading. Additionally, the Axxcess Wealth Hub will provide access to the Advisor's current Restricted Securities List.

#### 2. Individuals Covered by the Code

The Advisor has determined that ALL Supervised Persons are also Access Persons based on the Advisor's business model and access to Client information.

#### 3. Standards of Business Conduct

The COE is based on the overriding principle that the Advisor is a fiduciary to <u>every</u> Client and must act in the best interests of its Clients at all times. The confidence and trust placed in the Advisor by each Client is something the Advisor must value and endeavor to protect. Accordingly, the Advisor has adopted this COE and implemented policies and procedures to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and manipulative acts or practices and to ensure compliance with the Securities Laws and the fiduciary duties owed to our Clients.

All Supervised Persons must conduct themselves in accordance with the following tenets:

#### **Client Interests**

Client interests must always take priority. In the course of performing one's duties and responsibilities, Supervised Persons must, at all times, place the interests of their Clients ahead of their own personal interests.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

Supervised Persons must not take advantage of the trust that Clients have placed in them or the Advisor. The Advisor should make every attempt to avoid conflicts of interest (or even the appearance of conflicts). The Advisor and its Supervised Persons should ensure situations that present an actual or perceived conflict of interest are properly disclosed and reflect how the conflict is mitigated. The Advisor and its Supervised Persons

must avoid situations that might be interpreted as an impropriety or a compromise to the fulfillment of their duties and responsibilities to Clients.

# **Advisor and Client Opportunities**

Supervised Persons are prohibited from taking personal advantage of an opportunity properly belonging to the Advisor or its Clients. Supervised Persons are required to advance the interests of the Advisor when a Supervised Person becomes aware of a financial opportunity as a result of that person's relationship with the Advisor or through the use of the Advisor's property. No Supervised Person may take for themselves an opportunity for the sale or purchase of goods and services or interests that belong to the Advisor without the prior written approval of the Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"). If a Supervised Person is presented with an investment opportunity in their capacity as a representative of the Advisor, the Supervised Person may personally take advantage of the opportunity only if the investment is approved in writing by the CCO.

#### **Treating All Clients Fairly**

Neither the Advisor nor its Supervised Persons shall favor the interests of any Client[s] over another. In particular, they will not favor large accounts over small accounts or personal or family accounts over the accounts of other Clients. Although it may not be possible to treat each Client identically in every transaction, no Client or group of Clients will be disadvantaged to benefit another Client or group of Clients.

#### Guarantees

No Supervised Person shall warrant or guarantee the future value of or return on a security. In addition, no Supervised Person shall warrant or guarantee the success or profitability of investment advice that the Advisor renders or trading strategy that the Advisor employs.

#### **Confidential Information**

Supervised Persons may be in a position to know about Clients' identities, investment objectives, funding levels, and future plans, as well as information about the transactions that the Advisor implements on their behalf and the securities holdings, if any, in their accounts. All of this information is considered confidential and must not be shared with persons outside the Advisor, such as vendors, family members, or market participants, unless specifically permitted. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all Supervised Persons shall not share information relating to the Advisor's investment activities with an affiliate unless specifically permitted.

#### **Fair Dealing**

The Advisor is committed to dealing fairly with its Clients, vendors, competitors, and Supervised Persons. No Supervised Person may take unfair advantage of any other person or business through any unfair business practice, including through improper coercion, manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, or misrepresentation of any material fact.

#### **Client Complaints**

Supervised Persons are prohibited from making any payments or account adjustments to Client accounts in order to resolve a Client complaint without the prior approval of the CCO. All Client complaints must be promptly reported to the CCO. Please refer to the Advisor's Compliance Manual for further details on policies and procedures regarding Client complaints.

#### **Personal Trading**

Even where there is no misuse of material nonpublic information ("MNPI"), the purchase or sale of securities by the Advisor or its Access Persons for their own accounts may create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest. The Advisor is compensated for rendering investment advice to its Clients; fiduciary concerns may arise where Access Persons also trade for their own accounts. Therefore, Access Persons must conduct any personal securities trading in a manner that avoids not only actual improprieties but also the appearance of impropriety. In order to achieve these goals, Access Persons must strictly comply with the requirements in the Code regarding personal trading.

These core standards are meant as overriding guidelines to be adhered to in all current and emerging situations and are not limited to the specific behavior discussed explicitly in the COE.

# 4. Duty of Confidentiality

As Supervised Persons may come in contact with nonpublic information, they must, at all times, keep confidential any nonpublic information that they may obtain as a result of their duties and responsibilities with the Advisor. This includes, but is not limited to, information concerning Clients or prospective clients, including their identities, investments, and/or account activity. This also includes any recommendations and actions made to or on behalf of Clients, except communications with third parties in the ordinary course of business. No confidential or nonpublic information is to be released without first consulting the CCO and receiving approval. Supervised Persons should be diligent in ensuring that information is not released and that it is also protected from unlawful or inappropriate third-party access. See Item 9 for additional information.

Nothing in this Duty of Confidentiality precludes a Supervised Person from reporting any potential violations of the Advisor's policies and procedures and applicable laws, including the policies described in this COE. Please refer to the Advisor's Compliance Manual for details on the Advisor's Whistleblower policy.

# 5. Gifts and Entertainment

Supervised Persons must not offer, give, solicit, or accept, in the course of business, any inducements which may lead to conflicts of interest.

Due to the various relationships the Advisor may have with its Clients, vendors, and other entities, Supervised Persons generally must not solicit gifts or gratuities nor give inducements, except in accordance with these policies and procedures. Gifts or entertainment of an extraordinary or extravagant nature to a Supervised Person are to be declined or returned so as not to compromise the reputation of the Supervised Person or the Advisor. Gifts of nominal value, as defined below, are generally acceptable.

#### **Business Entertainment vs. Business Gifts**

<u>Business Entertainment</u> – Entertainment is when a representative of the Advisor is in attendance at an event with a Client, and there is a specific business purpose for the event. For example, if a Supervised Person invites a Client or prospective Client to dinner, this activity would be permissible entertainment, as long as there is no conflict of interest. Reasonable and customary business entertainment, such as an occasional dinner, a ticket to a sporting event, or comparable entertainment, which is neither so frequent nor so extensive as to raise any question of propriety, is appropriate. Events that do not meet the definitions above are to be declined and reported to the CCO. If the individual or firm providing the entertainment is not present, the Advisor considers the event to be a "gift" [as defined below].

<u>Business Gifts</u> – Gifts of nominal value (generally up to \$500 per individual per year) are appropriate. Also, perishable items received or given, such as fruit boutiques, bottles of wine, other food and beverage items, as well as corporate logo apparel, are excluded from these requirements as long as such items do not otherwise conflict with the policies herein. Gifts of extraordinary or extravagant nature to a Supervised Person are to be declined or returned.

A relaxation of, or exemption from, these limits may only be granted by the CCO. The CCO or delegate shall maintain a log of all gifts and entertainment <u>given</u> or <u>received</u> in the course of business, except for any de minimis gifts or entertainment.

ALL gifts and entertainment above the de minimis must be reported to the CCO promptly via the <u>Axxcess</u> <u>Wealth Hub Gifts and Entertainment Submission Form</u>.

#### Prohibitions

Supervised Persons of the Advisor must not:

- Solicit any Gift or Entertainment;
- Accept cash or a gift certificate valued more significant than the de minimis value, as noted below;
- Accept any form of loan from a Client;
- Accept any Gift or Entertainment that might influence an investment decision or that might make the Supervised Person feel beholden to any person or firm;
- · Accept any Business Gift or Entertainment on a standing, recurring or ongoing basis; or

• Receive Business Gifts at home.

### **Key Definitions**

<u>Entertainment</u> – An event (e.g., a dining or social event) is considered *entertainment* if a representative of the Advisor is in attendance and there is a specific business purpose for the event. For example, if a Supervised Person invites a Client or prospective Client to dinner, this activity would be permissible entertainment, as long as there is no conflict of interest.

<u>Inducements</u> – The term "inducements" means gifts, entertainment, and similar benefits which are offered to or given by Supervised Persons.

<u>De Minimis Gifts and Entertainment</u> – De minimis gifts and entertainment are defined as any gifts or entertainment with an estimated value under \$100. Also, perishable items received, such as fruit bouquets, other food, and beverage items, as well as corporate logo apparel from an unaffiliated party, are excluded from these requirements as long as such item does not otherwise conflict with the policies herein.

# 6. Outside Business Activities and Outside Business Investments

Any and all business activities and investments aside from one's role as a Supervised Person of the Advisor must be approved in advance by the CCO.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Advisor differentiates between an Outside Business Activity ("OBA") and an Outside Business Investment ("OBI"). Please carefully review the Advisor's definitions below.

#### **Outside Business Activities**

Any and all OBAs, aside from one's role as a Supervised Person of the Advisor, require the completion of an <u>OBA Disclosure Form</u> via the Axxcess Wealth Hub and <u>prior approval</u> from the CCO before engaging or starting with the OBA. The CCO will determine if the activities interfere with any of the Supervised Person's responsibilities with the Advisor and address any conflicts of interest. The Supervised Person must notify the CCO when an OBA is no longer active.

The OBA Disclosure Form will provide the following information to the CCO:

- (1) the name and address of the outside business organization;
- (2) a description of the business of the organization;
- (3) compensation and ownership, if any, to be received;
- (4) a description of the activities to be performed; and
- (5) the amount of time per month that will be spent on the outside activity.

Records of requests for approval are maintained by the CCO, along with the reasons such requests were granted or denied. If there is any perceived or actual conflict of interest, the CCO will manage this on the Advisor's Conflicts of Interest Log. In addition, on an annual basis, all Supervised Persons will be required to complete an OBA Certification. Finally, each Supervised Person is under a continuing obligation to report any updates of disclosed OBAs on their Form U4 and Form ADV Part 2B ("Brochure Supplement").

#### **Outside Business Investments**

Any and all investments in outside businesses (i.e., non-publicly traded business, corporation, or partnership, including passive investments in private companies), aside from one's investments in securities that are held at a qualified custodian or in pooled investment vehicles, require the completion of a <u>Private Securities Transaction</u> <u>Disclosure Form</u> via the Axxcess Wealth Hub and <u>prior approval</u> from the CCO before investing in any OBI so that a determination may be made that the investment will not create any conflicts of interest with the Advisor or its Clients. The Supervised Person must also notify the CCO when an OBI is terminated.

The Private Securities Transaction Form will provide the following information to the CCO:

- (1) the legal name and mailing address of the outside investment opportunity;
- (2) the type of investment (i.e., non-publicly traded business, partnership, etc.);
- (3) a description of the business of the organization; and
- (4) compensation and ownership, if any, to be received.

Records of requests for approval are maintained by the CCO, along with the reasons such requests were granted or denied. If there is any perceived or actual conflict of interest, the CCO will manage this on the Advisor's Conflicts Log. Finally, each Supervised Person is under a continuing obligation to report any updates or discrepancies of disclosed OBIs on their Form U4 and Brochure Supplement.

# **Key Definitions**

<u>Outside Business Activity ("OBA")</u> – Any employment or other outside activity by a Supervised Person may result in possible conflicts of interest for the Supervised Person and/or for the Advisor. Examples of OBAs include the following:

- Serving as a director, officer, general partner, or trustee of, or as a consultant to, a business, corporation, or partnership, including family-owned businesses and charitable, non-profit, and political organizations. This includes serving as a director of a publicly-traded company, serving as a general partner to a limited partnership, the managing member of a limited liability company, the trustee of a trust, or the executor of an estate if such limited partnership, limited liability company, trust, or estate is a Client of the Advisor;
- Serving as a registered representative of a broker-dealer or an insurance agent;
- Accepting a second job or part-time job of any kind, engaging in another business outside of the duties relating to the Advisor; or
- Receiving compensation of any nature, directly or indirectly, from any person, firm, corporation, estate, trust, or association other than the Advisor, whether as a fee, commission, bonus, or other consideration such as stock, options, or warrants. This includes any public speaking or writing activities.

<u>Outside Business Investments</u> – Any monetary investment in any non-publicly traded business, corporation, or partnership, including passive investments in private companies. OBIs may create the appearance of or actual conflict of interest and must be monitored.

The following investments would *NOT* be deemed an OBI but are subject to the Personal Securities Policy as presented in section 9 below:

- securities held at a qualified custodian; and
- limited offerings such as pooled investment vehicles.

# 7. Political Contributions

Rule 206(4)-5 of the Investment Advisers Act addresses the "Pay-to-Play" issues relating to relationships between investment advisory firms and political officials who have control over, or the ability to appoint someone to control, the investment decision-making for public pension plans. The rule limits the political contributions that investment advisers and their current and prospective employees can make. The rule requires investment advisers who do business with public pension plans to document and monitor all political contributions closely.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Advisor requires employees to report various forms and amounts of contributions made by them or a member of their household on a regular basis and does not require pre-clearance of contributions at this time. Any political campaign support or activity performed by Supervised Persons of the Advisor must be in one's individual, personal capacity and may not entangle the Advisor in any way. ALL political contributions must be reported to the CCO through the <u>Political Contributions Disclosure Form</u>.

The following political contributions are allowed:

- Where you are eligible to vote for the candidate, make a contribution, up to \$350 in the aggregate with
  respect to a single election, to an elected official or candidate for elective office of a state or municipal
  government entity;
- Where you are not eligible to vote for the candidate, make a contribution, up to \$150 in the aggregate with respect to a single election, to an elected official or candidate for elective office of a state or municipal government entity;
- Make a contribution to an elected official or candidate for elective office of the federal government (unless, at the time of the contribution, the candidate is an elected official of a state or municipal government entity, in which case the foregoing limits apply);

- Make a contribution to a federal, local, or state political party in your individual capacity (subject to applicable state or local limitations), provided the contribution is not directed to an elected official or candidate for elective office of a state or municipal government entity; or
- Make a contribution to a political action committee, provided that the contribution is not directed to an elected official or candidate for elective office of a state or municipal government entity.

*Note*: the term "political action committee" is not defined for the purposes of Rule 206(4)-5. The SEC may define this term more broadly than state and federal laws governing the registration of political action committees. Therefore, you should discuss with the CCO whether any group is a political action committee for purposes of complying with your obligations, even if the group is not registered as such.

In addition, the Advisor is prohibited from accepting a government entity as a Client within two (2) years after a contribution is made, above the de minimis amount noted above, to an official of the government entity by the Advisor or its Supervised Persons. This includes government entities receiving contributions by individuals that become Supervised Persons of the Advisor within two years of the individual making the contribution (i.e., contributions before employment).

The Advisor does not engage, as a matter of policy, in any advisory relationship where there is a requirement to compensate an unaffiliated third party in order to obtain the privilege to conduct business with a political entity or individual. These practices are commonly referred to as "Pay to Play" and are considered prohibited transactions under the Securities Laws and the Advisor's policies. Pay to Play situations are typically equated with political contributions but actually include ANY entity where such compensation arrangement exists.

Finally, any solicitors or third parties engaged by the Advisor will be required to disclose any solicitation activities involving Pay to Play arrangements or any activities involving government entities to the Advisor.

<u>Political Contributions Disclosure</u> – All Supervised Persons are required to communicate political contributions to the CCO or Delegate via the <u>Political Contribution Submission Form</u> via the Axxcess Wealth Hub. Annually, Supervised Persons must certify that they have disclosed all political contributions to the CCO or Delegate.

#### **Key Definition**

<u>Political Contribution</u> – A political contribution is defined as any gift, subscription, loan, advance, a deposit of money, or anything of value made to influence any election for federal, state, or local office. This definition includes any payment of debt incurred in connection with any such election; or transition or inaugural expenses incurred by the successful candidate for state or local office.

This includes not only monetary contributions but also in-kind contributions such as payment for services or use of facilities, personnel, or other resources to benefit any federal, state, or local candidate campaign, political party committee, or other political committee or political organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code (such as the Republican or Democratic Governors Association); or the inaugural committee or transition team of a successful candidate.

Volunteer services provided to a campaign by Supervised Persons on their own personal time are not treated as Contributions. However, all-volunteer activities on behalf of a candidate or a campaign must be pre-cleared by the CCO as an outside activity.

# 8. Insider Trading

Supervised Persons may come into possession of MNPI, which is highly sensitive and confidential. The misuse of MNPI is illegal and violates Securities Laws and other regulatory requirements as well as, in most cases, contractual obligations of the Advisor.

The Advisor forbids any Supervised Person from trading, either personally or on behalf of others, on material nonpublic information ("MNPI") or communicating MNPI to others in violation of the Securities Laws. This conduct is frequently referred to as "insider trading." If a Supervised Person comes into the possession of MNPI, whether from a public company, an insider at a public company who might also be a Client, or by any other means, they should contact the CCO immediately. The Supervised Person is strictly prohibited from disclosing either the potential MNPI or the possession of the potential MNPI to any other person.

#### **Sources of Information**

Advisors gain insight into investments from a variety of sources. Some Advisors may have access to individuals who are deemed to have unique expertise in specific industries/sectors. These individuals can include academics, scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, suppliers, and professional participants in the relevant industry, including, in some cases, former employees of the company of interest. If appropriately used, access to these individuals can be a valuable and legitimate research tool that facilitates efficient access by Clients to persons with specialized and valued expertise.

To help reduce the risk of accidentally receiving MNPI, the Advisor or Supervised Persons shall begin discussions with any contacts by reviewing the scope and purpose of the contact's role. The use of these specialized individuals should only be undertaken after these individuals are vetted.

#### **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and Tracking Restricted Securities**

As a fiduciary to Clients, Supervised Persons may encounter situations where there is a potential for a conflict of interest, such as having a personal relationship with an Executive-Level Officer of a publicly-traded company or through the possession of material nonpublic information ("MNPI") as described in the Code.

These conflicts are primarily mitigated by restricting trading activity when in possession or even having the potential of being in possession of MNPI; therefore, it is critical that all Supervised Persons disclose potential security restrictions via the Axxcess Wealth Hub to the CCO for further review and analysis. Additionally, Supervised Persons have the ability to request the removal of a security from the list via the Axxcess Wealth Hub, with the inclusion of the appropriate rationale. Periodically the CCO will review the Restricted List to ensure that all securities are still required to remain on the list.

#### Penalties

Penalties for trading on or communicating MNPI can be severe, both for firms and individuals involved in such unlawful conduct. An individual can be subject to some or all of the penalties below, even if there is no personal benefit from the violation. Penalties may include:

- civil injunctions;
- treble damages;
- disgorgement of profits;
- jail sentences and fines for the individual who committed the violation of up to three (3) times the profit gained, or loss avoided, whether or not the individual benefited; and/or
- fine[s] for the Advisor and/or other controlling person[s] of up to the greater of \$1,000,000 or three (3) times the amount of the profit gained, or loss avoided.

# **Key Definitions**

<u>Insider Trading</u> – The use of MNPI when engaging in securities transactions on behalf of the Supervised Person or others or communicating MNPI to others.

<u>Material Information</u> – Information for which there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would consider it important in making their investment decisions or information that is reasonably certain to have a substantial effect on the price of a company's securities. *Material Information* includes, but is not limited to, dividend changes, earnings estimates, changes in previously released earnings estimates, significant merger or acquisition proposals or agreements, major litigation, liquidation problems, and extraordinary management developments.

<u>Nonpublic Information</u> – Information that has not been effectively communicated to the marketplace. One must be able to point to some fact to show that the information is generally public. For example, the information found in a report filed with the SEC or appearing in Dow Jones, Reuters Economic Services, The Wall Street Journal, or other publications of general circulation would be considered public.

# 9. Personal Securities Transactions

The Advisor seeks to ensure that the personal trading of its Access Persons does not conflict with the interests of any Client. The Advisor has adopted these policies and procedures designed to ensure that trading by Access Persons complies with the Advisor's legal and fiduciary obligations. The purchase or sale of securities

by the Advisor or its Access Persons for their accounts may create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest. The Advisor is compensated for rendering investment advice to Clients; fiduciary concerns may arise where Access Persons also trade for their own accounts.

This Personal Securities Transactions Policy applies to <u>ALL</u> Access Persons and covers <u>ALL</u> covered accounts held by:

- an Access Person;
- their immediate family members;
- any other adult members in their household;
- any trusts of which they are a trustee or beneficiary; and
- any other account for which the Access Person has a "direct or indirect beneficial interest."

The Advisor must maintain a record of all transactions in *Reportable Securities* in which an *Access Person* has a Direct or Indirect Beneficial Interest. The CCO will maintain personal trading records and transactions in keeping with the Advisor's fiduciary and recordkeeping responsibilities.

The Advisor requires Access Persons to establish and maintain all accounts at the Advisor's designated custodian[s] unless approval is granted by the CCO to open/hold accounts at other custodians. Where Access Persons have accounts at the designated custodian, quarterly statements do not need to be separately provided as the Advisor has access to information through its Orion Advisor Services technology platform ("Orion").

The Advisor's approved custodians where Access Persons must hold their covered accounts include:

- Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.;
- TD Ameritrade, Inc.;
- Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC; and/or
- Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC

The CCO may grant an exception to hold an account at a custodian[s] that feeds transactional data through Morningstar's account aggregator, ByAllAccounts, to the Advisor's portfolio management system Orion. Access Persons are responsible for all costs associated with feeding their covered accounts held outside of the Advisor's approved custodians.

To guard against any potential conflicts of interest with Clients, Access Persons are required to disclose <u>ALL</u> Covered Accounts to the CCO or delegate. This information is necessary for the Advisor to meet its regulatory obligation to maintain records required by the Advisers Act and rules thereunder. Access Persons should disclose these accounts via the <u>Personal Investment Account Disclosure Form</u>.

Access Persons shall be required to complete an annual and quarterly certification as detailed in Item 10 below.

If the Advisor is considering (or is in the process thereof) purchasing or selling a security for a Clients' account(s), no Access Person may affect a personal transaction in that same or similar security until the Advisor is through transacting for its Client, or a decision has been made to forgo the transaction. Therefore, Access Persons may only affect personal transactions in their covered accounts at the end of the business day.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Additionally, Access Persons <u>may not</u> take short positions in a security, including purchasing or selling options uncovered option positions, of an issuer in which the Advisor has a long position of the same security or issuer in a client's account.

The Advisor generally does not require the pre-approval of personal trades. However, the Advisor requires preapproval before:

- acquiring direct or indirect beneficial ownership in any initial public offering (IPO); or
- acquiring direct or indirect beneficial ownership in any limited offering.
- Further, the Advisor requires pre-approval of any trades in a security listed on the Advisor's Restricted List. Pre-approval submissions are good for ONLY one (1) business day. Pre-Approval requests can be submitted via the Axxcess Wealth Hub.

The Advisor or its Access Persons may invest in the same or similar securities that they recommend to Clients, as long as such investments do not violate the Advisor's fiduciary duty to place client interests first.

# **Key Definitions**

<u>Direct or Indirect Beneficial Interest</u> – A *Direct or Indirect Beneficial Interest* is any direct ownership or an indirect *pecuniary interest* through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise, including immediate family members (person who is supported directly or indirectly to a material extent by such person), partners in a partnership or beneficiaries of a trust. The term *pecuniary interest* means the opportunity (directly or indirectly) to profit or share in any profit derived from a transaction in Reportable Securities.

<u>Reportable Securities</u> – Section 202(1)(18) of the Advisers Acts defines *Reportable Securities* generally as listed and unlisted securities and private transactions (which include private placements, nonpublic stock, or warrants). For example, reportable securities include but are not limited to equities, derivatives, fixed income products, ETFs, commodities, and/or futures. EXCEPTIONS to reportable securities include:

- Direct obligations of the United States Government;
- Bankers' Acceptances;
- Bank Certificates of Deposit ("CDs");
- Commercial Paper;
- Other High-Quality Short-term Debt Instruments, including Repurchase Agreements;
- Shares issued by Money Market Funds;
- Physical certificates (i.e., shares of Disney)
- Open-end Mutual Funds; and
- Unit Investment Trusts ("UITs").

<u>Covered Accounts</u> – Covered Accounts include ALL brokerage accounts for which the Access Person has a direct or indirect beneficial interest, and such account[s] have the ability to trade in *Reportable Securities* (as defined above). Types of accounts may include:

- brokerage accounts that hold or have the ability to purchase Reportable Securities (i.e., equities, derivatives, fixed income products, ETFs, commodities, and/or futures); and/or
- all accounts for which an Access Person serves as a trustee and/or are the ultimate beneficial owner, and/or exercises investment discretion; and/or
- Accounts where an Access Person has given full discretion to a broker to undertake transactions on the Access Person's behalf unless the Access Person can demonstrate that they have no control over the trading in the account[s].

# 10. Required Reports, Certifications, and Disclosures

Note, with the exception of the Initial Holdings Report defined below, all Access Persons must hold their covered accounts at the Advisor's approved custodian's [ or request approval to hold their accounts at a custodian eligible to feed their account transaction data to Orion through Morningstar's ByAllAccounts data aggregator. As such, Access Persons <u>do not</u> need to provide an annual holdings report or quarterly transaction reports as the Advisor has access to this data through Orion.

<u>Holdings Reports</u> – *Holdings reports* must include: (1) the title and type of security, and (as applicable) exchange ticker symbol or CUSIP number, number of shares, and principal amount of each reportable security in which the Access Person has any direct or indirect beneficial ownership; (2) the name of any broker-dealer or custodian with which the Access Person maintains an account in which any securities are held for the Access Person's direct or indirect benefit; and (3) the date the report is submitted.

*Initial holdings reports* are required to be submitted no later than ten (10) days after an individual becomes an Access Person and must be current as of a date no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date the individual became an Access Person.

Annual holdings reports must be submitted by <u>ALL</u> Access Persons no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each calendar year.

<u>Transaction Reports</u> – *Transaction reports* covering all transactions in Reportable Securities during the prior quarter must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each calendar quarter. Transaction reports must contain the following information about each transaction in any reportable security in which the Access Person had, or by reason of the transaction acquired, any direct or indirect beneficial ownership:

- 1) the date of the transaction, the title, and (as applicable) the exchange ticker symbol or CUSIP number, interest rate and maturity date, number of shares, and principal amount of each reportable security involved;
- 2) the nature of the transaction;
- 3) the price of the security at which the transaction was effected;
- 4) the name of the broker, dealer, or bank with or through which the transaction was effected; and
- 5) the date of the report.

Exceptions from Reporting Requirements – Reports are not required:

- 1) with respect to securities held in accounts over which the Access Person had no direct influence or control;
- 2) with respect to transactions effected pursuant to an automatic investment plan; or
- accounts that can hold ONLY open-end mutual funds (A brokerage account that only has mutual funds but could purchase or sell stocks, bonds, and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") are "Covered Accounts" and must be reported.)

<u>Review of Reports</u> – Upon receipt of each Holding Report or Transaction Report, the CCO or delegate will review it to determine whether or not there are any questions about the contents, including the securities referenced, size, timing, or other aspects of the holding or transaction that require further inquiry.

In particular, these personal securities reports will be reviewed for unauthorized trading relating (but not limited) to the following issues:

- securities currently on the Restricted List;
- initial public offerings;
- private placements;
- any securities that may be potentially affected by inside information that the Advisor or Access Person may possess;
- market timing;
- front running;
- participating in block trades to the disadvantage of Clients;
- trading activity in contravention to the advice given to Clients.

Personal Securities Holdings and Transaction Reports will be reviewed by the CCO or delegate within a time period specified by the CCO. If a problem or concern is detected, the CCO will immediately take appropriate action on any items that may conflict or potentially cause a conflict with the COE. Documentation of any actions taken, including any resolution or remediation, will be created and maintained by the CCO. The CCO shall retain documentation of all reviews with the Advisor's books and records.

<u>Code of Ethics Certification</u> – All Supervised Persons must certify, upon becoming a Supervised Person of the Advisor and annually thereafter, to the CCO that they have read and understood the COE; that they have complied with <u>ALL</u> requirements of the COE, and that they have provided the CCO with all transactions required to be reported under the COE. The CCO will ensure that each Supervised Person has continued access to the current copy of the COE along with required certifications.

<u>Background Verification</u> – All Supervised Persons must communicate any legal, regulatory, or financial matters to the CCO immediately. The CCO will also administer, at least annually, a certification that each Supervised Person shall be required to complete.

<u>Quarterly Personal Securities Certification</u> – All Access Persons are required to submit copies of quarterly brokerage statements of Covered Accounts for compliance review. Each Access Person will be required to complete a quarterly certification regarding their personal accounts and trading activity. <u>Outside Business Activities Disclosure</u> – All Supervised Persons are required to certify and disclose, upon becoming a Supervised Person of the Advisor, before undertaking any such activity and annually thereafter, all Outside Business Activities, at the direction of the CCO or delegate.

<u>Outside Business Investments Disclosure</u> – All Supervised Persons are required to certify and disclose, upon becoming a Supervised Person of the Advisor, before making monetary investments in any non-publicly traded

business, corporation, or partnership, including passive investments in private companies and annually thereafter, all Outside Business Investments, at the direction of the CCO or delegate.

# **11. Reporting Violations**

The Advisor requires all Supervised Persons to promptly disclose concerns of suspected wrongdoing or violations of the COE. Suspected wrongdoing and violations may include, but are not limited to:

- violation[s] of the Securities Laws;
- misuse of corporate assets;
- use of material nonpublic information;
- misuse of Client nonpublic information; and/or
- failure to follow any provision outlined in the COE.

Reports of any violations should be made directly to the CCO.

# 12. Sanctions

In the event of a violation of this Code, the CCO will impose such sanctions as deemed necessary and appropriate. Sanctions range from a letter of censure, suspension of employment without pay, referral to the appropriate regulatory agency, or permanent termination of employment.

# 13. Review of Compliance Reports on the Code of Ethics

The COE is a dynamic document that is subject to periodic review by the CCO or delegate[s] as the Advisor's business evolves. The CCO will capture in its records all issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- a description of issues that have arisen under the COE since the last reporting period, including such items as any violations of the COE;
- sanctions imposed in response to the violations; and
- changes in the COE and any recommended changes.

# 14. Books and Records

Rule 204-2 of the Advisers Act defines requirements for maintaining Books & Records. Accordingly, the CCO or delegate will maintain all records required, including copies of the COE, records of violations and sanctions, if applicable, holdings and transactions reports, copies of Supervised Persons' certifications, a list of all Access Persons within the last five (5) years, and copies of the annual reports.

# **15. Exceptions to the Code of Ethics**

The CCO may grant exceptions to certain substantive restrictions in appropriate circumstances (e.g., personal hardship) and will maintain records to justify such limitations.

# 16. Certification of the Code of Ethics

Supervised persons must read and certify their understanding and willingness to comply with the COE. Certifications are provided online through the *Axxcess Wealth Hub*. Certifications will be administered by or on behalf of the CCO.