



# BUCKHORN

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## INVESTMENT ADVISORS

### **Form ADV Part 2A – Disclosure Brochure**

**Effective: March 13, 2023**

This Form ADV Part 2A (“Disclosure Brochure”) provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC formerly known as Veritas Investment & Wealth Advisory (“Buckhorn” or the “Advisor”). If you have any questions about the content of this Disclosure Brochure, please contact the Advisor at (704) 887-4942.

Buckhorn is a registered investment advisor located in the State of North Carolina. The information in this Disclosure Brochure has not been approved or verified by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or by any state securities authority. Registration of an investment advisor does not imply any specific level of skill or training. This Disclosure Brochure provides information about Buckhorn to assist you in determining whether to retain the Advisor.

Additional information about Buckhorn and its Advisory Persons is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor’s firm name or CRD# 291890.

**Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC**  
**15720 Brixham Hill Avenue, Suite 300, Charlotte, NC 28277**  
**Phone: (704) 887-4942**  
<http://www.buckhornadvisors.com/>

## Item 2 – Material Changes

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Form ADV 2 is divided into two parts: *Part 2A (the "Disclosure Brochure")* and *Part 2B (the "Brochure Supplement")*. The Disclosure Brochure provides information about a variety of topics relating to an Advisor's business practices and conflicts of interest. The Brochure Supplement provides information about the Advisory Persons of Buckhorn. For convenience, the Advisor has combined these documents into a single disclosure document.

Buckhorn believes that communication and transparency are the foundation of its relationship with clients and will continually strive to provide you with complete and accurate information at all times. Buckhorn encourages all current and prospective clients to read this Disclosure Brochure and discuss any questions you may have with the Advisor.

### Material Changes

The following material changes have been made to this Disclosure Brochure since the last annual amendment filing:

- The advisor no longer compensates for client referrals. Please see Item 14 for additional information.

### Future Changes

From time to time, the Advisor may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in business practices, changes in regulations or routine annual updates as required by the securities regulators. This complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to you annually and if a material change occurs.

You may view the current Disclosure Brochure on-line at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 291890. You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time, by contacting the Advisor at (704) 887-4942.

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## Item 4 – Advisory Services

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### A. Firm Information

Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC formerly known as Veritas Investment & Wealth Advisory (“Buckhorn” or the “Advisor”) is a registered investment advisor located in the State of North Carolina. The Advisor is organized as a Limited Liability Company (“LLC”) under the laws of the State of Wyoming. Buckhorn was founded in November 2017 and is owned and operated by Julian F. Patton Jr (President & Chief Compliance Officer). This Disclosure Brochure provides information regarding the qualifications, business practices, and the advisory services provided by Buckhorn.

### B. Advisory Services Offered

Buckhorn offers investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, estates, corporations and retirement plans (each referred to as a “Client”).

The Advisor serves as a fiduciary to Clients, as defined under the applicable laws and regulations. As a fiduciary, the Advisor upholds a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client and seeks to mitigate potential conflicts of interest. Buckhorn’s fiduciary commitment is further described in the Advisor’s Code of Ethics. For more information regarding the Code of Ethics, please see Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading.

#### Investment Management Services

Buckhorn provides customized investment advisory solutions for its Clients. This is achieved through continuous personal Client contact and interaction while providing discretionary investment management and related advisory services. Buckhorn works closely with each Client to identify their investment goals and objectives, as well as risk tolerance and financial situation in order to create a portfolio strategy. Buckhorn will then construct a portfolio, consisting of low-cost, diversified mutual funds and/or exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) to achieve the Client’s investment goals. The Advisor may also utilize individual stocks, bonds or options contracts to meet the needs of its Clients. The Advisor may retain certain legacy investments based on portfolio fit and/or tax considerations.

Buckhorn’s investment approach is primarily long-term focused, but the Advisor may buy, sell or re-allocate positions that have been held for less than one year to meet the objectives of the Client or due to market conditions. Buckhorn will construct, implement and monitor the portfolio to ensure it meets the goals, objectives, circumstances, and risk tolerance agreed to by the Client. Each Client will have the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in their respective portfolio, subject to acceptance by the Advisor.

Buckhorn evaluates and selects investments for inclusion in Client portfolios only after applying its internal due diligence process. Buckhorn may recommend, on occasion, redistributing investment allocations to diversify the portfolio. Buckhorn may recommend specific positions to increase sector or asset class weightings. The Advisor may recommend employing cash positions as a possible hedge against market movement. Buckhorn may recommend selling positions for reasons that include, but are not limited to, harvesting capital gains or losses, business or sector risk exposure to a specific security or class of securities, overvaluation or overweighting of the position[s] in the portfolio, change in risk tolerance of the Client, generating cash to meet Client needs, or any risk deemed unacceptable for the Client’s risk tolerance.

*Retirement Accounts* – When the Advisor provides investment advice to Clients regarding ERISA retirement accounts or individual retirement accounts (“IRAs”), the Advisor is a fiduciary 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. When deemed to be in the Client’s best interest, the Advisor will provide investment advice to a Client regarding a distribution from an ERISA retirement account or to roll over the assets to an IRA, or recommend a similar transaction including rollovers from one ERISA sponsored Plan to another, one IRA to another IRA, or from one type of account to another account (e.g. commission-based

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account to fee-based account). Such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if the Advisor will earn a new (or increase its current) advisory fee as a result of the transaction. No client is under any obligation to roll over a retirement account to an account managed by the Advisor.

At no time will Buckhorn accept or maintain custody of a Client's funds or securities, except for the limited authority as outlined in Item 15 – Custody. All Client assets will be managed within their designated account[s] at the Custodian, pursuant to the terms of the advisory agreement. For additional information, please see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

#### Financial Planning Services

Buckhorn will typically provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to Clients, pursuant to a written financial planning agreement. Services are offered in several areas of a Client's financial situation, depending on their goals and objectives.

Generally, such financial planning services involve preparing a formal financial plan or rendering a specific financial consultation based on the Client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more areas of need, including but not limited to, investment planning, retirement planning, personal savings, education savings, and other areas of a Client's financial situation.

A financial plan developed for, or financial consultation rendered to the Client will usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the Client. For example, recommendations may be made that the Client start or revise their investment programs, commence or alter retirement savings, establish education savings and/or charitable giving programs.

Buckhorn may also refer Clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialists, as appropriate for their unique situation. For certain financial planning engagements, the Advisor will provide a written summary of the Client's financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For consulting or ad-hoc engagements, the Advisor may not provide a written summary. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six months of contract date, assuming all information and documents requested are provided promptly.

Financial planning and consulting recommendations pose a conflict between the interests of the Advisor and the interests of the Client. For example, the Advisor has an incentive to recommend that Clients engage the Advisor for investment management services or to increase the level of investment assets with the Advisor, as it would increase the amount of advisory fees paid to the Advisor. Clients are not obligated to implement any recommendations made by the Advisor or maintain an ongoing relationship with the Advisor. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations made by the Advisor, the Client is under no obligation to implement the transaction through the Advisor.

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Buckhorn provides advisory services on behalf of company retirement plans (each a "Plan") and the company/sponsor (the "Plan Sponsor"). The Advisor's retirement plan advisory services are designed to assist the Plan Sponsor in meeting its fiduciary obligations to the Plan and its Plan Participants. Each engagement is customized to the needs of the Plan and Plan Sponsor. Services generally include:

- Investment Oversight Services (ERISA 3(21))
- Investment Management Services (ERISA 3(38))
- Ongoing Investment Recommendation and Assistance
- Vendor Analysis
- Plan Participant Enrollment and Education Tracking
- Investment Policy Statement ("IPS") Design and Monitoring
- Performance Reporting

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These services are provided by Buckhorn serving in the capacity as a fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). In accordance with ERISA Section 408(b)(2), the Plan Sponsor is provided with a written description of Buckhorn’s fiduciary status, the specific services to be rendered and all direct and indirect compensation the Advisor reasonably expects under the engagement.

### **C. Client Account Management**

Prior to engaging Buckhorn to provide investment advisory services, each Client is required to enter into one or more agreements with the Advisor that define the terms, conditions, authority and responsibilities of the Advisor and the Client. These services may include:

- Establishing an Investment Strategy – Buckhorn, in connection with the Client, will develop a strategy that seeks to achieve the Client’s goals and objectives.
- Asset Allocation – Buckhorn will develop a strategic asset allocation that is targeted to meet the investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation and tolerance for risk of each Client.
- Portfolio Construction – Buckhorn will develop a portfolio for the Client that is intended to meet the stated goals and objectives of the Client.
- Investment Management and Supervision – Buckhorn will provide investment management and ongoing oversight of the Client’s investment portfolio.

### **D. Wrap Fee Programs**

Buckhorn does not manage or place Client assets into a wrap fee program. Investment management services are provided directly by Buckhorn.

### **E. Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2022, Buckhorn manages \$64,472,652 in Client assets, all of which is managed on a discretionary basis. Clients may request more current information at any time by contacting the Advisor.

## **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

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The following paragraphs detail the fee structure and compensation methodology for services provided by the Advisor. Each Client engaging the Advisor for services described herein shall be required to enter into one or more written agreements with the Advisor.

### **A. Fees for Advisory Services**

#### Investment Management Services

Investment advisory fees are paid quarterly, in advance of each calendar quarter, pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory agreement. Investment advisory fees are based on the market value of assets under management at the end of the prior calendar quarter. The Advisor has several different fee schedules depending on the strategy Clients are placed in. Those fee schedules are as follows:

#### 1.00% Tiered Fee Schedule

<b>Assets Under Management (\$)</b>	<b>Annual Rate (%)</b>
Up to \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	0.90%
\$2,000,001 to \$5,000,000	0.80%
\$5,000,001 to \$10,000,000	0.70%
Over \$10,000,000	0.60%

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### 0.90% Tiered Fee Schedule

<b>Assets Under Management (\$)</b>	<b>Annual Rate (%)</b>
Up to \$1,000,000	0.90%
\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	0.80%
\$2,000,001 to \$5,000,000	0.70%
\$5,000,001 to \$10,000,000	0.60%
Over \$10,000,000	0.50%

### 0.85% Tiered Fee Schedule

<b>Assets Under Management (\$)</b>	<b>Annual Rate (%)</b>
Up to \$1,000,000	0.85%
\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	0.75%
\$2,000,001 to \$5,000,000	0.65%
Over \$5,000,000	0.50%

Certain Clients will be charged a flat fee up to 0.75%

The investment advisory fee in the first quarter of service is prorated from the inception date of the account[s] to the end of the first quarter. Fees may be negotiable at the sole discretion of the Advisor. The Client's fees will take into consideration the aggregate assets under management with the Advisor. All securities held in accounts managed by Buckhorn will be independently valued by the Custodian. Buckhorn will conduct periodic reviews of the Custodian's valuations.

The Advisor's fee is exclusive of, and in addition to, any applicable securities transaction and custody fees, and other related costs and expenses described in Item 5C. below, which may be incurred by the Client. However, the Advisor shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

### Financial Planning Services

Buckhorn offers financial planning services either on an hourly basis or for a fixed engagement fee. Hourly fees range up to \$250. Fixed engagement fees will be based upon the expected hours to complete the engagement at the hourly rate. Fees may be negotiable based on the nature and complexity of the services to be provided and the overall relationship with the Advisor. An estimate for total hours and total costs will be provided to the Client prior to engaging for these services.

### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Fees for retirement plan advisory services are charged an annual asset-based fee of up to 0.50% and are billed quarterly in advance, pursuant to the terms of the retirement plan advisory agreement. Retirement plan advisory fees are based on the market value of assets under management in the Plan at the end of the prior quarter. Fees may be negotiable depending on the size and complexity of the Plan.

## **B. Fee Billing**

### Investment Management Services

Investment advisory fees are calculated by the Advisor or its delegate and deducted from the Client's account[s] by the Custodian. The Advisor shall send an invoice to the Custodian indicating the amount of the fees to be deducted from the Client's account[s] at the beginning of the respective quarter. The investment advisory fee is then forwarded to the Advisor or deposited into an account designated by the Advisor. The amount due is calculated by applying the quarterly rate (annual rate divided by 4) to the total assets under management with Buckhorn at the end of the prior quarter. Clients will be provided with a statement, at least quarterly, from the Custodian reflecting deduction of the investment advisory fee. In addition, the Advisor will provide the Client a report itemizing the fee, including the calculation period covered by the fee, the account value and the methodology used to calculate the fee. It is the responsibility of the Client to verify the accuracy of these fees as listed on the Custodian's brokerage

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statement as the Custodian does not assume this responsibility. Clients provide written authorization permitting advisory fees to be deducted by Buckhorn directly from their account[s] held by the Custodian as part of the investment advisory agreement and separate account forms provided by the Custodian.

#### Financial Planning Services

Financial planning fees are invoiced 100% upon completion for the agreed upon deliverable[s] and are due upon receipt.

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Retirement plan advisory fees may be directly invoiced to the Plan Sponsor or deducted from the assets of the Plan, depending on the terms of the retirement plan advisory agreement.

### **C. Other Fees and Expenses**

Clients may incur certain fees or charges imposed by third parties, other than Buckhorn, in connection with investments made on behalf of the Client's account[s]. The Client is responsible for all custody and securities execution fees charged by the Custodian, if applicable. The Advisor's recommended Custodian does not charge securities transaction fees for ETF and equity trades in a Client's account, provided that the account meets the terms and conditions of the Custodian's brokerage requirements. However, the Custodian typically charges for mutual funds and other types of investments. The fees charged by Buckhorn are separate and distinct from these custody and execution fees.

In addition, all fees paid to Buckhorn for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the expenses charged by mutual funds and ETFs to their shareholders, if applicable. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees and expenses will generally be used to pay management fees for the funds, other fund expenses, account administration (e.g., custody, brokerage and account reporting), and a possible distribution fee. A Client may be able to invest in these products directly, without the services of Buckhorn, but would not receive the services provided by Buckhorn which are designed, among other things, to assist the Client in determining which products or services are most appropriate for each Client's financial situation and objectives. Accordingly, the Client should review both the fees charged by the fund[s] and the fees charged by Buckhorn to fully understand the total fees to be paid. Please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices for additional information.

### **D. Advance Payment of Fees and Termination**

#### Investment Management Services

Buckhorn is compensated for its services in advance of the quarter investment management services are rendered. Either party may terminate the investment advisory agreement, at any time, by providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the investment advisory agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client may terminate an agreement with 30 days prior written notice and will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. The Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid investment advisory fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's investment advisory agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

#### Financial Planning Services

Buckhorn requires an advance deposit as described above. Either party may terminate the financial planning agreement, at any time, by providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the financial planning agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. Upon termination, the Client shall be billed for actual hours logged on the planning project times the contractual hourly rate. The Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid financial planning fees from the effective date of termination. The Client's financial planning agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Buckhorn is compensated for its services in advance of the quarter, before retirement plan advisory services are rendered. Either party may terminate the retirement plan advisory agreement, at any time, by providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the retirement plan advisory agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. The Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid retirement plan advisory fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's retirement plan advisory agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

### **E. Compensation for Sales of Securities**

Buckhorn does not buy or sell securities to earn commissions and does not receive any compensation for securities transactions in any Client account, other than the investment advisory fees noted above.

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

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Buckhorn does not charge performance-based fees for its investment advisory services. The fees charged by Buckhorn are as described in Item 5 above and are not based upon the capital appreciation of the funds or securities held by any Client.

Buckhorn does not manage any proprietary investment funds or limited partnerships (for example, a mutual fund or a hedge fund) and has no financial incentive to recommend any particular investment options to its Clients.

### **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

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Buckhorn offers investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, estates corporations and retirement plans. The amount of each type of Client is available on the Advisor's Form ADV Part 1A. These amounts may change over time and are updated at least annually by the Advisor. Buckhorn generally prefers a minimum relationship size of \$250,000 to establish a relationship, but on occasion will accept relationships below \$250,000 if the circumstances warrant it.

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

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#### **A. Methods of Analysis**

Buckhorn employs fundamental, technical and cyclical analysis in developing investment strategies for its Clients. Cyclical and Technical analysis may also be utilized at times when deemed appropriate to achieve a Client's specific goal. Research and analysis from Buckhorn are derived from numerous sources, including financial media companies, third party research materials, Internet sources, and review of company activities, including annual reports, prospectuses, press releases and research prepared by others.

*Fundamental analysis* utilizes economic and business indicators as investment selection criteria. These criteria generally consist of ratios and trends that may indicate the overall strength and financial viability of the entity being analyzed. Assets are deemed suitable if they meet certain criteria to indicate that they are a strong investment with a value discounted by the market. While this type of analysis helps the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in the fundamental analysis may lose value and may have a negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

*Technical analysis* involves the analysis of past market data rather than specific company data in determining the recommendations made to clients. Technical analysis may involve the use of charts to identify market patterns and trends, which may be based on investor sentiment rather than the fundamentals of the company. The

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primary risk in using technical analysis is that spotting historical trends may not help to predict such trends in the future. Even if the trend will eventually reoccur, there is no guarantee that the Advisor will be able to accurately predict such a reoccurrence.

*Cyclical analysis* is similar to technical analysis in that it involves the analysis of market conditions at a macro (entire market/economy) or micro (company specific) level, rather than the overall fundamental analysis of the health of the particular company that Buckhorn is recommending. The risks with cyclical analysis are similar to those of technical analysis.

As noted above, Buckhorn generally employs a long-term investment strategy for its Clients, as consistent with their financial goals. Buckhorn will typically hold all or a portion of a security for more than a year, but may hold for shorter periods for the purpose of rebalancing a portfolio or meeting the cash needs of Clients. At times, Buckhorn may also buy and sell positions that are more short-term in nature, depending on the goals of the Client and/or the fundamentals of the security, sector or asset class.

## **B. Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves certain investment risks. Securities may fluctuate in value or lose value. Clients should be prepared to bear the potential risk of loss. Buckhorn will assist Clients in determining an appropriate strategy based on their tolerance for risk and other factors noted above. However, there is no guarantee that a Client will meet their investment goals.

While the methods of analysis help the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in these methods of analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

Each Client engagement will entail a review of the Client's investment goals, financial situation, time horizon, tolerance for risk and other factors to develop an appropriate strategy for managing a Client's account. Client participation in this process, including full and accurate disclosure of requested information, is essential for the analysis of a Client's account[s]. The Advisor shall rely on the financial and other information provided by the Client or their designees without the duty or obligation to validate the accuracy and completeness of the provided information. It is the responsibility of the Client to inform the Advisor of any changes in financial condition, goals or other factors that may affect this analysis.

The risks associated with a particular strategy are provided to each Client in advance of investing Client accounts. The Advisor will work with each Client to determine their tolerance for risk as part of the portfolio construction process. Following are some of the risks associated with the Advisor's investment approach:

### Market Risks

The value of a Client's holdings may fluctuate in response to events specific to companies or markets, as well as economic, political, or social events in the U.S. and abroad. This risk is linked to the performance of the overall financial markets.

### ETF Risks

The performance of ETFs is subject to market risks, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the ETFs will fluctuate with the price of the underlying securities that make up the funds. In addition, ETFs have a trading risk based on the loss of cost efficiency if the ETFs are traded actively and a liquidity risk if the ETFs have a large bid-ask spread and low trading volume. The price of an ETF fluctuates based upon the market movements and may dissociate from the index being tracked by the ETF or the price of the underlying investments. An ETF purchased or sold at one point in the day may have a different price than the same ETF purchased or sold a short time later.

### Mutual Fund Risks

The performance of mutual funds is subject to market risks, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the mutual funds will fluctuate with the value of the underlying securities that make up the funds. The price of a mutual fund is typically set daily therefore a mutual fund purchased at one point in the day will typically have the same price as a mutual fund purchased later that same day.

**Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Investing in securities and other investments involve a risk of loss that each Client should understand and be willing to bear. Clients are reminded to discuss these risks with the Advisor.**

### **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

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**There are no legal, regulatory or disciplinary events involving Buckhorn or Mr. Patton.** Buckhorn values the trust Clients place in the Advisor. The Advisor encourages Clients to perform the requisite due diligence on any advisor or service provider that the Client engages. The backgrounds of the Advisor and its Advisory Persons are available on the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 291890.

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

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#### Insurance Agency Affiliation

Mr. Patton is also a licensed insurance professional. Implementations of insurance recommendations are separate and apart from Mr. Patton's role with Buckhorn. As an insurance professional, Mr. Patton will receive customary commissions and other related revenues from the various insurance companies whose products are sold. Mr. Patton is not required to offer the products of any particular insurance company. Commissions generated by insurance sales do not offset regular advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest in recommending certain products of the insurance companies. Clients are under no obligation to implement any recommendations made by Mr. Patton or the Advisor.

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

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#### **A. Code of Ethics**

Buckhorn has implemented a Code of Ethics (the "Code") that defines the Advisor's fiduciary commitment to each Client. This Code applies to all persons associated with Buckhorn ("Supervised Persons"). The Code was developed to provide general ethical guidelines and specific instructions regarding the Advisor's duties to each Client. Buckhorn and its Supervised Persons owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client. It is the obligation of Buckhorn's Supervised Persons to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code, but also to the general principles that guide the Code. The Code covers a range of topics that address employee ethics and conflicts of interest. To request a copy of the Code, please contact the Advisor at (704) 887-4942.

#### **B. Personal Trading with Material Interest**

Buckhorn allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Buckhorn does not act as principal in any transactions. In addition, the Advisor does not act as the general partner of a fund, or advise an investment company. Buckhorn does not have a material interest in any securities traded in Client accounts.

#### **C. Personal Trading in Same Securities as Clients**

Buckhorn allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that are recommended (purchase or sell) to Clients presents a conflict of interest that, as fiduciaries, must be disclosed to Clients and mitigated through policies and procedures. As noted above, the Advisor has adopted the Code to address insider trading (material, non-public information controls); gifts and entertainment; outside business activities and personal securities reporting. When trading for personal accounts, Supervised Persons have a conflict of interest if trading

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in the same securities. The fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of its Clients can be violated if personal trades are made with more advantageous terms than Client trades, or by trading based on material, non-public information. This risk is mitigated by Paragon requiring reporting of personal securities trades by its Supervised Persons for review by the Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”). The Advisor has also adopted written policies and procedures to detect the misuse of material, non-public information.

#### **D. Personal Trading at Same Time as Client**

While Buckhorn allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients, such trades are typically aggregated with Client orders or traded afterward. **At no time will Buckhorn, or any Supervised Person of Buckhorn, transact in any security to the detriment of any Client.**

### **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

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#### **A. Recommendation of Custodian[s]**

Buckhorn does not have discretionary authority to select the broker-dealer/custodian for custody and execution services. The Client will engage the broker-dealer/custodian (herein the "Custodian") to safeguard Client assets and authorize Buckhorn to direct trades to the Custodian as agreed upon in the investment advisory agreement. Furthermore, Buckhorn does not have the discretionary authority to negotiate commissions on behalf of Clients on a trade-by-trade basis.

While Buckhorn does not exercise discretion over the selection of the Custodian, it may recommend the Custodian to Clients for custody and execution services. Clients are not obligated to use the Custodian recommended by the Advisor and will not incur any extra fee or cost associated with using a custodian not recommended by Buckhorn. However, the Advisor may be limited in the services it can provide if the recommended Custodian is not engaged. Buckhorn may recommend the Custodian based on criteria such as, but not limited to, reasonableness of commissions charged to the Client, services made available to the Client, its reputation and/or the location of the Custodian's offices. Buckhorn will generally recommend that Clients establish their account[s] with TD Ameritrade Institutional, a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. (“TD Ameritrade”). TD Ameritrade is an independent and unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade will serve as the Client's “qualified custodian.” TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment Advisors services, which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. Advisor receives some benefits from TD Ameritrade through its participation in the program. Please see Item 14 below.

Buckhorn will also generally recommend that Clients establish their account[s] at Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“Schwab”), a FINRA-registered broker-dealer and member SIPC. Schwab will serve as the Client's “qualified custodian.” Buckhorn maintains an institutional relationship with Schwab, whereby the Advisor receives economic benefits from Schwab. Please see Item 14 below.

**1. Soft Dollars** – Soft dollars are revenue programs offered by broker-dealers/custodians whereby an advisor enters into an agreement to place security trades with a broker-dealer/custodian in exchange for research and other services. Buckhorn does not participate in soft dollar programs sponsored or offered by any broker-dealer/custodian. However, the Advisor receives certain economic benefits from the Custodian. Please see Item 14.

**2. Brokerage Referrals** – Buckhorn does not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with the recommendation for establishing an account.

**3. Directed Brokerage** – All Clients are serviced on a “directed brokerage basis,” where Buckhorn will place trades within the established account[s] at the Custodian designated by the Client. Furthermore, all Client accounts are traded within their respective account[s]. The Advisor will not engage in any principal transactions (i.e., trade of any security from or to the Advisor's own account) or cross transactions with other Client accounts

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(i.e., purchase of a security into one Client account from another Client's account[s]). In selecting the Custodian, Buckhorn will not be obligated to select competitive bids on securities transactions and does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available transaction costs. These costs are determined by the Custodian.

### **B. Aggregating and Allocating Trades**

The primary objective in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities for Client accounts is to obtain the most favorable net results taking into account such factors as 1) price, 2) size of the order, 3) difficulty of execution, 4) confidentiality and 5) skill required of the Custodian. Buckhorn will execute its transactions through the Custodian as authorized by the Client. Buckhorn may aggregate orders in a block trade or trades when securities are purchased or sold through the Custodian for multiple (discretionary) accounts in the same trading day. If a block trade cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated in a manner that is consistent with the initial pre-allocation or other written statement. This must be done in a way that does not consistently advantage or disadvantage any particular Client accounts.

## **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

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### **A. Frequency of Reviews**

Securities in Client accounts are monitored on a regular and continuous basis by Julian F. Patton Jr, President and Chief Compliance Officer of Buckhorn. Formal reviews are generally conducted at least annually or more frequently depending on the needs of the Client.

### **B. Causes for Reviews**

In addition to the investment monitoring noted in Item 13.A., each Client account shall be reviewed at least annually. Reviews may be conducted more frequently at the Client's request. Accounts may be reviewed as a result of major changes in economic conditions, known changes in the Client's financial situation, and/or large deposits or withdrawals in the Client's account. The Client is encouraged to notify Buckhorn if changes occur in the Client's personal financial situation that might adversely affect the Client's investment plan. Additional reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events.

### **C. Review Reports**

The Client will receive brokerage statements no less than quarterly from the Custodian. These brokerage statements are sent directly from the Custodian to the Client. The Client may also establish electronic access to the Custodian's website so that the Client may view these reports and their account activity. Client brokerage statements will include all positions, transactions and fees relating to the Client's account[s]. The Advisor may also provide Clients with periodic reports regarding their holdings, allocations, and performance.

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

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### **A. Compensation Received by Buckhorn**

Buckhorn does not receive commissions or other compensation from product sponsors, broker-dealers or any unrelated third party. Buckhorn may refer Clients to various unaffiliated, non-advisory professionals (e.g. attorneys, accountants, estate planners) to provide certain financial services necessary to meet the goals of its Clients. Likewise, Buckhorn may receive non-compensated referrals of new Clients from various third-parties.

#### Participation in Institutional Advisor Platform

As disclosed under Item 12, above, the Advisor participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and the Advisor may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between the Advisor's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its Clients, although the Advisor receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting

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services; access to a trading desk serving the Advisor participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to the Advisor by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by the Advisor's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit the Advisor but may not benefit its Client accounts. These products or services may assist the Advisor in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help the Advisor manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by the Advisor or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to Clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by the Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

As disclosed under Item 12 above, Buckhorn has established an institutional relationship with Schwab through its "Schwab Advisor Services" unit, a division of Schwab dedicated to serving independent advisory firms like Buckhorn. As a registered investment advisor participating on the Schwab Advisor Services platform, Buckhorn receives access to software and related support without cost because the Advisor renders investment management services to Clients that maintain assets at Schwab. Services provided by Schwab Advisor Services benefit the Advisor and many, but not all services provided by Schwab will benefit Clients. In fulfilling its duties to its Clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits from a custodian creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Advisor's recommendation of this custodian over one that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services.

Services that Benefit the Client – Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client's funds and securities. Through Schwab, the Advisor may be able to access certain investments and asset classes that the Client would not be able to obtain directly or through other sources. Further, the Advisor may be able to invest in certain mutual funds and other investments without having to adhere to investment minimums that might be required if the Client were to directly access the investments.

Services that May Indirectly Benefit the Client – Schwab provides participating advisors with access to technology, research, discounts and other services. In addition, the Advisor receives duplicate statements for Client accounts, the ability to deduct advisory fees, trading tools, and back office support services as part of its relationship with Schwab. These services are intended to assist the Advisor in effectively managing accounts for its Clients, but may not directly benefit all Clients.

Services that May Only Benefit the Advisor – Schwab also offers other services and financial support to Buckhorn that may not benefit the Client, including: educational conferences and events, consulting services and discounts for various service providers. Access to these services creates a financial incentive for the Advisor to recommend Schwab, which results in a conflict of interest. Buckhorn believes, however, that the selection of Schwab as Custodian is in the best interests of its Clients.

## **B. Compensation for Client Referrals**

The Advisor does not compensate, either directly or indirectly, any persons who are not supervised persons, for Client referrals.

## **Item 15 – Custody**

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Buckhorn does not accept or maintain custody of any Client accounts, except for the authorized deduction of the Advisor's fees. All Clients must place their assets with a "qualified custodian." Clients are required to engage the Custodian to retain their funds and securities and direct Buckhorn to utilize that Custodian for the Client's security transactions. Clients should review statements provided by the Custodian and compare to any reports provided by Buckhorn to ensure accuracy, as the Custodian does not perform this review. For more information about custodians and brokerage practices, see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

## **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

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Buckhorn generally has discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be bought or sold in Client accounts without obtaining prior consent or approval from the Client. However, these purchases or sales may be subject to specified investment objectives, guidelines, or limitations previously set forth by the Client and agreed to by Buckhorn. Discretionary authority will only be authorized upon full disclosure to the Client. The granting of such authority will be evidenced by the Client's execution of an investment advisory agreement containing all applicable limitations to such authority. All discretionary trades made by Buckhorn will be in accordance with each Client's investment objectives and goals.

## **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

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Buckhorn has the authority to vote client securities. The Advisor has adopted proxy-voting guidelines to ensure all votes are made in the best interest of the Advisor's Clients. Clients of the Advisor may obtain upon request a copy of our Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures and a record of how the Advisor voted a Client's securities by contacting the Advisor at (704) 887-4942.

## **Item 18 – Financial Information**

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Neither Buckhorn nor Mr. Patton have any adverse financial situations that would reasonably impair the ability of Buckhorn to meet all obligations to its Clients. Neither Buckhorn nor Mr. Patton have been subject to a bankruptcy or financial compromise. Buckhorn is not required to deliver a balance sheet along with this Disclosure Brochure as the Advisor does not collect advance fees of \$500 or more for services to be performed six months or more in the future.

## **Item 19 – Requirements for State Registered Advisors**

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### **A. Educational Background and Business Experience of Principal Officer**

The Principal Officer of Buckhorn is Julian F. Patton. Information regarding the formal education and background of Mr. Patton is included in Item 2 of his Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement below.

### **B. Other Business Activities of Principal Officer**

#### Insurance Agency Affiliation

Mr. Patton is also a licensed insurance professional. Implementations of insurance recommendations are separate and apart from Mr. Patton's role with Buckhorn. As an insurance professional, Mr. Patton will receive customary commissions and other related revenues from the various insurance companies whose products are sold. Mr. Patton is not required to offer the products of any particular insurance company. Commissions generated by insurance sales do not offset regular advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest in recommending certain products of the insurance companies. Clients are under no obligation to implement any recommendations made by Mr. Patton or the Advisor.

### **C. Performance Fee Calculations**

Buckhorn does not charge performance-based fees for its investment advisory services. The fees charged by Buckhorn are as described in Item 5 – Fees and Compensation above and are not based upon the capital appreciation of the funds or securities held by any Client.

### **D. Disciplinary Information**

***There are no legal, civil or disciplinary events to disclose regarding Buckhorn or Mr. Patton.*** Neither Buckhorn nor Mr. Patton have ever been involved in any regulatory, civil or criminal action. There have been no client complaints, lawsuits, arbitration claims or administrative proceedings against Buckhorn or Mr. Patton.

Securities laws require an advisor to disclose any instances where the advisor or its Advisory Persons have been found liable in a legal, regulatory, civil or arbitration matter that alleges violation of securities and other statutes; fraud; false statements or omissions; theft, embezzlement or wrongful taking of property; bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; and/or dishonest, unfair or unethical practices. As previously noted, there are no legal, civil or disciplinary events to disclose regarding Buckhorn or Mr. Patton.

### **E. Material Relationships with Issuers of Securities**

Neither Buckhorn nor Mr. Patton have any relationships or arrangements with issuers of securities.

# **Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement**

**for**

**Julian F. Patton, Jr  
President and Chief Compliance Officer**

**Effective: March 13, 2023**

This Form ADV 2B (“Brochure Supplement”) provides information about the background and qualifications of Julian F. Patton (CRD# 4922289) in addition to the information contained in the Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC formerly known as Veritas Investment & Wealth Advisory (“Buckhorn” or the “Advisor”, CRD# 291890) Disclosure Brochure. If you have not received a copy of the Disclosure Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of the Buckhorn Disclosure Brochure or this Brochure Supplement, please contact the Advisor at (704) 887-4942.

Additional information about Mr. Patton is available on the SEC’s Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with his full name or his Individual CRD# 4922289.

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## Item 2 – Educational Background and Business Experience

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Julian F. Patton, born in 1979, is dedicated to advising Clients of Buckhorn as the President & Chief Compliance Officer. Mr. Patton earned a Financial Planning Certificate from the University of Georgia in 2005. Additional information regarding Mr. Patton's employment history is included below.

### Employment History:

President & Chief Compliance Officer, Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC	12/2017 to Present
Portfolio Manager, Queens Oak Advisors	08/2013 to 05/2018
Assistant Portfolio Manager, Buckhorn Capital Management LLC	11/2011 to 08/2013
Consultant, AppenButlerHill	06/2011 to 12/2011
Registered Rep, USAA Financial Advisors Inc	06/2008 to 06/2011
Registered Rep, USAA Financial Planning	06/2008 to 06/2011
Investment Advisor Rep, PPA Advisory Services, Inc	02/2005 to 05/2008
Associate Financial Planner, PPA Investments, Inc.	02/2005 to 05/2008

## Item 3 – Disciplinary Information

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**There are no legal, civil or disciplinary events to disclose regarding Mr. Patton.** Mr. Patton has never been involved in any regulatory, civil or criminal action. There have been no client complaints, lawsuits, arbitration claims or administrative proceedings against Mr. Patton.

Securities laws require an advisor to disclose any instances where the advisor or its Advisory Persons have been found liable in a legal, regulatory, civil or arbitration matter that alleges violation of securities and other statutes; fraud; false statements or omissions; theft, embezzlement or wrongful taking of property; bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; and/or dishonest, unfair or unethical practices. **As previously noted, there are no legal, civil or disciplinary events to disclose regarding Mr. Patton.**

However, the Advisor does encourage you to independently view the background of Mr. Patton on the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with his full name or his Individual CRD# 4922289.

## Item 4 – Other Business Activities

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### Insurance Agency Affiliation

Mr. Patton is also a licensed insurance professional. Implementations of insurance recommendations are separate and apart from Mr. Patton's role with Buckhorn. As an insurance professional, Mr. Patton will receive customary commissions and other related revenues from the various insurance companies whose products are sold. Mr. Patton is not required to offer the products of any particular insurance company. Commissions generated by insurance sales do not offset regular advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest in recommending certain products of the insurance companies. Clients are under no obligation to implement any recommendations made by Mr. Patton or the Advisor.

## Item 5 – Additional Compensation

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Mr. Patton has additional business activities where compensation is received that are detailed in Item 4 above.

## Item 6 – Supervision

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Mr. Patton serves as the President and Chief Compliance Officer of Buckhorn. Mr. Patton can be reached at (704) 887-4942.

Buckhorn has implemented a Code of Ethics, an internal compliance document that guides each Supervised Person in meeting their fiduciary obligations to Clients of Buckhorn. Furthermore, Buckhorn is subject to

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regulatory oversight by various agencies. These agencies require registration by Buckhorn and its Supervised Persons. As a registered entity, Buckhorn is subject to examinations by regulators, which may be announced or unannounced. Buckhorn is required to periodically update the information provided to these agencies and to provide various reports regarding the business activities and assets of the Advisor.

## **Item 7 – Requirements for State Registered Advisors**

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### **A. Arbitrations and Regulatory Proceedings**

State regulations require disclosure if any Supervised Person of the Advisor is subject to:

1. An award or otherwise being found liable in an arbitration claim alleging damages in excess of \$2,500, involving any of the following:
  - a. an investment or an investment-related business or activity;
  - b. fraud, false statement[s], or omissions;
  - c. theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
  - d. bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
  - e. dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.
  
2. An award or otherwise being found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding involving any of the following:
  - a. an investment or an investment-related business or activity;
  - b. fraud, false statement[s], or omissions;
  - c. theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property;
  - d. bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion; or
  - e. dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices.

Mr. Patton does not have any disclosures to make regarding this Item.

### **B. Bankruptcy**

If a Supervised Person has been the subject of a bankruptcy petition, that fact and the details must be disclosed.

Mr. Patton does not have any disclosures to make regarding this Item.

## Privacy Policy

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Effective: March 13, 2023

### Our Commitment to You

Buckhorn Investment Advisors LLC formerly known as Veritas Investment & Wealth Advisory (“Buckhorn” or the “Advisor”) is committed to safeguarding the use of personal information of our Clients (also referred to as “you” and “your”) that we obtain as your Investment Advisor, as described here in our Privacy Policy (“Policy”).

Our relationship with you is our most important asset. We understand that you have entrusted us with your private information, and we do everything that we can to maintain that trust. Buckhorn (also referred to as “we,” “our” and “us”) protects the security and confidentiality of the personal information we have and implements controls to ensure that such information is used for proper business purposes in connection with the management or servicing of our relationship with you.

Buckhorn does not sell your non-public, personal information to anyone. Nor do we provide such information to others except for discrete and reasonable business purposes in connection with the servicing and management of our relationship with you, as discussed below.

Details of our approach to privacy and how your personal, non-public information is collected and used are set forth in this Policy.

### Why you need to know?

Registered Investment Advisors (“RIAs”) must share some of your personal information in the course of servicing your account. Federal and State laws give you the right to limit some of this sharing and require RIAs to disclose how we collect, share, and protect your personal information.

### What information do we collect from you?

Driver’s license number	Date of birth
Social security or taxpayer identification number	Assets and liabilities
Name, address and phone number[s]	Income and expenses
E-mail address[es]	Investment activity
Account information (including other institutions)	Investment experience and goals

### What Information do we collect from other sources?

Custody, brokerage and advisory agreements	Account applications and forms
Other advisory agreements and legal documents	Investment questionnaires and suitability documents
Transactional information with us or others	Other information needed to service account

### How do we protect your information?

To safeguard your personal information from unauthorized access and use we maintain physical, procedural and electronic security measures. These include such safeguards as secure passwords, encrypted file storage and a secure office environment. Our technology vendors provide security and access control over personal information and have policies over the transmission of data. Our associates are trained on their responsibilities to protect Client’s personal information.

We require third parties that assist in providing our services to you to protect the personal information they receive from us.

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### How do we share your information?

An RIA shares Client personal information to effectively implement its services. In the section below, we list some reasons we may share your personal information.

Basis For Sharing	Do we share?	Can you limit?
<b>Servicing our Clients</b> We may share non-public, personal information with non-affiliated third parties (such as administrators, brokers, custodians, regulators, credit agencies, other financial institutions) as necessary for us to provide agreed upon services to you, consistent with applicable law, including but not limited to: processing transactions; general account maintenance; responding to regulators or legal investigations; and credit reporting.	Yes	No
<b>Marketing Purposes</b> Buckhorn does not disclose, and does not intend to disclose, personal information with non-affiliated third parties to offer you services. Certain laws may give us the right to share your personal information with financial institutions where you are a customer and where Buckhorn or the client has a formal agreement with the financial institution. <b>We will only share information for purposes of servicing your accounts, not for marketing purposes.</b>	No	Not Shared
<b>Authorized Users</b> Your non-public, personal information may be disclosed to you and persons that we believe to be your authorized agent[s] or representative[s].	Yes	Yes
<b>Information About Former Clients</b> Buckhorn does not disclose and does not intend to disclose non-public, personal information to non-affiliated third parties with respect to persons who are no longer our Clients.	No	Not Shared

### Changes to our Privacy Policy

We will send you a copy of this Policy annually for as long as you maintain an ongoing relationship with us.

Periodically, we may revise this Policy, and will provide you with a revised policy if the changes materially alter the previous Privacy Policy. We will not, however, revise our Privacy Policy to permit the sharing of non-public, personal information other than as described in this notice unless we first notify you and provide you with an opportunity to prevent the information sharing.

### Any Questions?

You may ask questions or voice any concerns, as well as obtain a copy of our current Privacy Policy by contacting us at (704) 887-4942.