Circle Advisers Inc. - Form CRS

Item 1 – Introduction

Circle Advisers Inc. ("we" or "us") is registered with the Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an investment adviser. Our services and compensation structure differ from a registered broker-dealer, and it is important for you to understand the differences between those structures. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at www.investor.gov/CRS. The site also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers and investing. The italicized sentences appearing in text boxes below are intended to be "conversation starters" for you to have with us, as required by the instructions to Form CRS.

<u>Item 2 – Relationships and Services</u>

What investment services and advice can you provide me?

As fiduciaries, we provide customized investment advisory and financial planning and consulting services to individuals and their trusts and estates ("you" or "clients"). We provide these services based on each client's unique circumstances, including their investment objectives, risk tolerance, investment time horizon, withdrawal requirements, tax considerations, and other special circumstances, which we develop through discussions/meetings with our clients. We monitor portfolios periodically and suggest changes to them as we deem necessary. Because we manage your portfolio on a non-discretionary basis, you make the ultimate decision regarding the purchase or sale of investments, and we cannot execute any account transactions without obtaining your prior consent. Therefore, if we would like to execute a transaction for your account and you are not available to provide consent, we would not be able to execute that transaction, which could place your portfolio at a disadvantage. We do not have to limit the type of securities we trade for clients to proprietary products or a limited group or type of investment, but we generally construct and manage portfolios containing individual equities, mutual funds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs") and various bonds. We may also agree to provide financial planning and consulting services on a stand-alone separate fee basis. When we provide those services, we rely upon the information clients provide and do not verify or monitor that information because we do not directly implement any aspect of a client's financial plan, except for the ongoing management of a client's investments. We generally require an annual minimum fee of \$2,500 for our investment advisory services. For more detailed information about our Advisory Business and the Types of Clients we generally service, please see Items 4 and 7, respectively in our Form ADV Part 2A.

Conversation Starters:

Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Why or why not?

How will you choose investments to recommend to me?

What is now relaxest among including your linear search at long and other gualifications?

What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?

<u>Item 3 – Fees, Costs, Conflicts, and Standard of Conduct</u>

What fees will I pay?

For investment advisory services, our fee is based on a percentage of the market value of the assets placed under our management, on a stepped-up schedule ranging between 1% for the first \$1M under management to 0.40% of the value of assets above \$5M. We also charge a flat fee of 0.50% of any cash positions or fixed income holdings of \$500k or more, both subject to the fee of 0.4% for any account assets above \$5M under our fee schedule. Because this fee is based on the amount of your assets under our management, the more assets you designate to us for management, the more you will pay us for our services. Therefore, we have an incentive to encourage you to increase the amount of assets that you designate for our management. Our fee schedule may also present a conflict of interest to the extent that it incentivizes us to allocate less of your investment assets to cash or fixed income holdings to increase our compensation. We either deduct our fees from one or more of your investment accounts or bill you for our services quarterly in advance. Our financial planning and consulting fees are negotiable, but generally range from \$2,500 to \$6,000 on a fixed fee basis or \$125 to \$500 per hour subject to the terms of a separate agreement. For more detailed information about our investment advisory and other fees and expenses, please see Item 5 in our Form ADV Part 2A.

Your account will be held with a qualified custodian. You will be responsible for the fees and expenses charged by qualified custodians and imposed by broker dealers according to their fee schedules. Those fees and expenses include but are not limited to certain transaction charges, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees, taxes and costs related to maintaining an account. If your assets are invested in mutual funds, ETFs, or other registered and unregistered investment companies, you will bear your pro rata share of the investment management fees and other fees of the funds, which are in addition to the fees you pay us. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus or other

offering documents.

You will pay fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying. For more detailed information about our fees and costs related to our management of your account, please see Item 5 in our Form ADV Part 2A.

Conversation Starters:

Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?

What are your legal obligations to me when acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the investment advice we provide you. Here are some examples to help you understand what this means:

- * We may recommend that you engage a particular custodian from whom we receive support services. This presents a conflict of interest, because our receipt of their support makes us more inclined to continue using and recommending them.
- * We may recommend rollovers out of employer-sponsored retirement plans and into Individual Retirement Accounts that we manage for an asset-based fee. If we do not currently manage your account held with your employer's plan, this will increase our compensation.
- * Certain of our financial professionals may offer commission-based insurance products. This presents a conflict of interest, because they can recommend that you purchase insurance commission-based products based upon the compensation they will receive, rather than your individual need. You are not under any obligation to purchase those products.

Conversation Starters:

How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?

<u>For more detailed information</u> about our conflicts of interest, please review Items 5, 10, 11, 12, and 14 of our <u>Form ADV</u> Part 2A.

How do your financial professionals make money?

Our financial professionals are generally compensated on a salary basis and receive additional income based on the amount of assets they manage. Others are equity owners of the firm, who stand to receive a share of the firm's income. These structures present conflicts of interest, because they can incentivize our financial professionals to recommend that you place additional assets under our management. We mitigate that conflict by adhering to our fiduciary duty when making investment recommendations, so that we make recommendations in conformity with each client's investment strategy and objectives. You should discuss your financial professional's compensation directly with your financial professional.

Item 4 – Disciplinary History

Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?

No. We encourage you to visit www.Investor.gov/CRS to research our firm and our financial professionals.

Conversation Starters:

As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history? If so, for what type of conduct?

Item 5 – Additional Information

Additional information about our firm is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. You may contact our Chief Compliance Officer at 212-885-4200 to request a current copy of our Form ADV Part 2B, or our relationship summary.

Conversation Starters:

Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?