

## Item 1: Cover Page

Crest Wealth Advisors LLC

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### Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

(443) 973-4901

Dated February 19, 2024

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Crest Wealth Advisors LLC, "CWA". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at 443-973-4901. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Crest Wealth Advisors LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Maryland. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about CWA is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>, which can be found using the firm's identification number, 311760.

# Item 2: Material Changes

The last annual update of this Brochure was filed on February 21, 2023. Since this filing, the following changes have been made:

- We have updated our principal place of business.
- We have updated the fees for our Comprehensive Financial Planning services.
- We have increased the amount of assets under management required in order to qualify for complementary comprehensive financial planning.

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

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

### **Description of Advisory Firm**

Crest Wealth Advisors LLC became registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Maryland in 2021. Jason Dall'Acqua is the principal owner of CWA. CWA reports \$ 35,239,656 in discretionary Assets Under Management and \$ 12,416,623 in non-discretionary Assets Under Management. Assets Under Management were calculated as of December 31, 2023.

### **Types of Advisory Services**

#### **Investment Management Services**

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a Client regarding the investment of Client funds based on the individual needs of the Client. Through extensive personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a Client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a Client's personal investment policy statement, which will be the basis for crafting an investment plan with an agreed upon asset allocation target and risk tolerance. We will then create, implement, and continuously manage the Client's portfolio based on that policy, allocation targets, and risk tolerance. We will also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the Client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth, and income), their agreed upon risk tolerance, as well as tax considerations. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly fee, Clients get to work with a planner who will work with them to develop and implement their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes and ensure the plan is up to date.

Upon desiring a comprehensive plan, the Client and the advisor will work together in establishing the Client's goals and values around money. The Client will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefits, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning, and estate planning. Once the Client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the Client. Clients subscribing to this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow-up meeting is required, we will meet at the Client's convenience. The plan and the Client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the Client to confirm that any agreed upon action steps have been carried out. On an annual basis, there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time. The advisor will be available on an ongoing basis should the Client have any questions, concerns, or need to address changes in their financial lives.

#### **Project Based Financial Planning Services**

We provide project based financial planning services on topics such as retirement planning, risk management, college savings, cash flow, debt management, work benefits, and estate and incapacity planning.

Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

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

- Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.
- **College Savings**: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other postsecondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).
- Employee Benefits Optimization: We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.
- Estate Planning: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.
- **Financial Goals**: We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time

you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.

- **Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- **Investment Analysis**: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- **Retirement Planning**: Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments). If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.
- **Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").
- **Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

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

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Our firm provides employee benefit plan services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment recommendations to be included in the plan, plan structure, administrative assistance with the Third Party Administrator and custodian, and participant education. The advisor will be available to the plan sponsor for additional assistance as needed. No specific investment recommendations will be made to any plan participant.

In providing employee benefit plan services, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets").

#### Held Away Account Services

We provide an additional service for accounts not custodied at one of our preferred custodians, but where we do have discretion and may leverage the FeeX Order Management System to implement asset location and rebalancing strategies on behalf of the client. These held away accounts are primarily employer sponsored retirement plans, HSA's, 529 college savings accounts and any other accounts not able to be transferred to our preferred custodians. We regularly review the available investment options in these accounts, monitor them, and rebalance and implement our strategies in the same way we do with accounts held at our preferred custodian. The client's asset allocation for these held away accounts will be mutually determined and agreed upon while developing their investment policy statement.

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

We offer the same suite of services to all of our Clients. However, specific Client financial plans and their implementation are dependent upon the Client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each Client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and is used to construct a Client specific plan to aid in the construction of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

#### Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received the firm's Disclosure Brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory contract, the investment advisory contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we are performing. Please review the fee and compensation information below.

#### **Investment Management Services**

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management and is calculated as follows:

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$1,000,000	0.95%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.75%
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.60%
\$3,000,001 - \$4,000,000	0.45%
\$4,000,001 and Above	Negotiable

The annual fees are negotiable, prorated and paid in advance on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a blended fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter, resulting in a combined weighted fee. For example, an account valued at \$2,000,000 would pay an effective fee of 0.85% with the annual fee of \$17,000.00. The quarterly fee is determined by the following calculation: ((\$1,000,000 x 0.95%) + (\$1,000,000 x 0.75%)  $\div$  4 = \$4,250.00. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the Client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Advisory fees are directly debited from Client accounts, or the Client may choose to pay by electronic funds transfer or check. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 10 calendar days in advance. Upon termination of the account, any unearned fee will be calculated on a prorated basis and refunded to the Client.

Clients with Assets Under Management in excess of \$400,000 may receive comprehensive financial planning at no additional charge.

If CWA utilizes an Outside Manager, the above fee schedule does not include the Outside Manager's fee. The Outside Manager will debit the Client's account for both the Outside Manager's fee, and CWA's advisory fee, and will remit CWA's fee to CWA.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

This service consists of an upfront charge of \$1,000-\$3,000 and an ongoing fee that is paid monthly, in advance, at the rate of \$200-\$600 per month. The ongoing fee may be paid quarterly if the client chooses to do so. Fees are based on complexity and needs of the Client and may be negotiable in certain cases. The fee will be determined and agreed upon with the Client before any work commences. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, check, credit card or directly debited from the client's investment account at Charles Schwab & Co. if the client has assets being directly managed by CWA. This service may be terminated with 30 days' notice. Upon termination of any agreement, any unearned fee will be calculated on a prorated basis and refunded to the Client.

The upfront portion of the Comprehensive Financial Planning fee is for Client onboarding, data gathering, and setting the basis for the financial plan. This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid and will be completed within the first 60 days of the date the fee is paid. Therefore, the upfront portion of the fee will not be paid more than 6 months in advance.

Investment management will be included for Clients under a comprehensive financial planning agreement on assets up to \$400,000 at no additional charge. Clients who accumulate \$400,000 or more in Assets Under Management will be moved to the fee model described in the previous section.

#### **Project Based Financial Planning Fixed Fee**

Project based Financial Planning will generally be offered on a fixed fee basis and will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee can range between \$1,500-\$5,000 depending on the needs of the client and the complexity of the plan. The fee is negotiable, with 50% due at the start of the engagement and the remaining 50% due upon completion and presentation of the plan. However, CWA will not bill an amount above \$500 more than 6 months in advance. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. In the event of early termination any prepaid but unearned fees will be refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged.

#### Held Away Account Services

For clients who engage CWA for "Investment Management Services" as listed above and wish to have held away accounts directly managed as well then, the value of those held away accounts will be taken into consideration when calculating the "standard advisory fee". The advisory fee is a blended fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the "Investment Management Services" chart above and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter, resulting in a combined weighted fee. Investment management fees are generally directly debited from client accounts. The exception for this is directly managed held-away accounts, such as 401(k)'s. As it is impossible to directly debit the fees from these accounts, those fees will be assigned to the client's taxable account held at our preferred custodian. If the client does not have a taxable account, those fees will be billed directly to the client. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases.

If a client is engaged in an ongoing comprehensive financial planning engagement, then the AUM fee on those held away accounts may be waived as long as the total amount of assets, including held away accounts, does not exceed \$400,000. Once client Assets Under Management exceed \$400,000, including directly managed held away accounts, then the client will transition to the "Investment Management Services" model.

Held away accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 10 calendar days in advance. Upon termination of the account, any unearned fee will be calculated on a prorated basis and refunded to the Client.

Account Value	CWA's Fee
\$0 - \$1,000,000	0.50%
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.40%
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	0.30%
\$10,000,000 and Above	Negotiable

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

The annual fees are negotiable and are prorated and paid in advance on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a tiered fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter. CWA's fee does not include fees to other parties, such as Recordkeepers, Custodians, or Third-Party-Administrators. Fees for this service are either paid directly by the plan sponsor or deducted directly from the plan assets by the Custodian on a quarterly basis, and CWA's fee is remitted to CWA. The minimum annual fee for employee benefit plan services will be \$2,500. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 10 calendar days in advance. Upon termination of the account, a prorated refund will be issued based on the amount of time remaining in the quarter.

#### **Other Types of Fees and Expenses**

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and

electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

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

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

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

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

# Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services to individuals, high net-worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans.

We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

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

Our primary methods of investment analysis are Strategic Asset Allocation, Fundamental Analysis and Modern Portfolio Theory.

**Strategic Asset Allocation** is the focus of our investment strategy. In the portfolio construction process, we focus not only on asset classes such as equities, fixed income, and cash, but also on investment strategy and style such as active, passive, fundamental, quantitative, factor based, and sector specific. We believe that diversification across both asset classes and investment strategies plays an important role in achieving an attractive reward-to-risk ratio in the portfolio. Through strategic asset allocation, we construct our long-term target weights for asset classes based on the client's time horizon, risk tolerance, and required rate of return to meet his or her financial goals. Rebalancing to those long-term target weights will occur when the asset allocation weights materially deviate from the strategic asset allocation weights determined with the Client.

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

#### **Modern Portfolio Theory**

The underlying principles of MPT are:

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

#### **Passive and Active Investment Management**

We may choose investment vehicles that are considered passive, active, or a combination of both styles.

Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve a desired relationship between correlation, risk and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio.

Active investing involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark. Actively managed funds are also designed to reduce volatility and risk.

We may engage in both passive and active investing in your portfolio. However, we strive to construct portfolios of funds and individual securities that we believe will have the greatest probability for achieving our clients' personal financial goals with the least amount of volatility and risk rather than attempt to outperform an arbitrary index or benchmark.

Specific investment selections are based on a number of factors that we evaluate in order to select, what we believe to be, the highest quality funds or individual securities for our clients. These factors include but are not limited to underlying holdings of funds, percentage weighting of holdings within funds, liquidity, tax efficiency, bid/ask spreads, and other smart/strategic beta factors. These factors may or may not result in the lowest cost ETFs and mutual funds available when utilizing funds in a client's portfolio, but we strive to keep internal fund expenses as low as possible.

#### **Material Risks Involved**

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

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

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

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

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

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

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

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

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

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

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

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

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

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

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

#### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

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

#### Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings

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

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

No CWA employee is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

No CWA employee is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

CWA does not have any related parties. As a result, we do not have a relationship with any related parties.

CWA only receives compensation directly from Clients. We do not receive compensation from any outside source. We do not have any conflicts of interest with any outside party.

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

CWA does not recommend Clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts.

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

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

#### **Code of Ethics Description**

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence Associated persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.

- Fairness Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality Associated persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Associated persons' conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

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

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

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

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

Our firm and its "related persons" may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates' transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

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

From time to time, our firm or its "related persons" may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as Clients. We will not trade non-mutual fund securities 5 days prior to the same security for Clients.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

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

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

#### 1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

We receive soft dollar benefits as a result of our relationship with Charles Schwab and Apex since we do not have to produce or pay for the research, products or services and we may have an incentive to select or recommend Charles Schwab or Apex's services based on our interest in receiving research or other products or services, rather than on our clients' interest in receiving most favorable execution.

#### 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### How we select brokers/custodians

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared with other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including:

• Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate

fee for custody)

- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account)
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill

payment, etc.)

• Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs),

etc.)

- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees,

etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices

- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability
- Prior service to us and our clients
- Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see "Products and

services available to us from Schwab")

#### Your brokerage and custody costs

For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account. Certain trades (for example, many mutual funds and ETFs) may not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees. Schwab is also compensated by earning interest on the uninvested cash in your account in Schwab's Cash Features Program.

#### Products and services available to us from Schwab

Schwab Advisor ServicesTM is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (trading, custody, reporting and related services), many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

#### Services that benefit you

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

#### Services that may not directly benefit you

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- provide pricing and other market data
- facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

#### Services that generally benefit only us

Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs

• Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession do not require that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business and Schwab's payment for services for which we would otherwise have to pay rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "How we select brokers/ custodians") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

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

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

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

# Item 13: Review of Accounts

Client accounts with the Investment Management Service will be reviewed at least annually by Jason Dall'Acqua, Founder, Advisor and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the Client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels. Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of Client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs.

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

CWA will provide written reports to Investment Advisory Clients on a quarterly basis. We urge Clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian.

# Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors whose clients maintain their accounts at Schwab. In addition, Schwab has also agreed to pay for certain products and services for which we would otherwise have to pay once the value of our clients' assets in accounts at Schwab reaches a certain size. You do not pay more for assets maintained at Schwab as a result of these arrangements. However, we benefit from the arrangement because the cost of these services would otherwise be borne directly by us. You should consider these conflicts of interest when selecting a custodian. The products and services provided by Schwab, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices).

#### **<u>Client Referrals from Solicitors</u>**

The Advisor engages independent solicitors to provide Client referrals. If a Client is referred to us by a solicitor, this practice is disclosed to the Client in writing by the solicitor and the Advisor pays the solicitor out of its own funds—specifically, the Advisor generally pays the solicitor a portion of the advisory fees earned for managing the capital of the Client or investor that was referred. The use of solicitors is strictly regulated under applicable federal and state law. The Advisor's policy is to fully comply with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3, under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and similar state rules, as applicable.

The Advisor may receive Client referrals from Zoe Financial, Inc through its participation in Zoe Advisor Network (ZAN). Zoe Financial, Inc is independent of and unaffiliated with the Advisor and there is no employee relationship between them. Zoe Financial established the Zoe Advisor Network as a means of referring individuals and other investors seeking fiduciary personal investment management services or financial planning services to independent investment advisors. Zoe Financial does not supervise the Advisor and has no

responsibility for the Advisor's management of Client portfolios or the Advisor's other advice or services. The Advisor pays Zoe Financial an on-going fee for each successful Client referral. This fee is 25% of the advisory fee that the Client pays to the Advisor ("Solicitation Fee"). The Advisor will not charge Clients referred through Zoe Advisor Network any fees or costs higher than its standard fee schedule offered to its Clients. For information regarding additional or other fees paid directly or indirectly to Zoe Financial Inc, please refer to the Zoe Financial Disclosure and Acknowledgement Form.

We also participate in the Zoe Financial Digital Wealth Platform in partnership with Zoe Financial for which we have agreed to pay Zoe Financial a fee based on the percentage of our clients' assets we manage using its web-based portfolio management services in conjunction with Apex.

# Item 15: Custody

CWA does not accept custody of Client funds except in the instance of withdrawing Client fees.

For Client accounts in which CWA directly debits their advisory fee:

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

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

# Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, we maintain discretion over Client accounts with respect to securities to be bought and sold and the amount of securities to be bought and sold. Investment discretion is explained to Clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the Client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account. Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the advisory contract and signed by the Client.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any limitations they would like to place on discretionary authority as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account, by notating these items on the executed advisory agreement.

# Item 17: Voting Client Securities

We do not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the

Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

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

# Item 18: Financial Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients, and we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of Client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per Client six months in advance.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

### Jason Dall'Acqua

Born: 1989

### **Educational Background**

• 2011 – Bachelors of Science in Economics, University of Maryland

### **Business Experience**

- 05/2020 Present, Crest Wealth Advisors LLC, Founder, Advisor and CCO
- 08/2012 11/2020, Investment Planning Associates, Inc, Vice President
- 01/2012 07/2012, Extended Travel
- 01/2011 12/2011, Scottrade, Intern

### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

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

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

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

- Education Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

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

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

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

### **Other Business Activities**

Jason Dall'Acqua is not involved with outside business activities.

### **Performance-Based Fees**

CWA is not compensated by performance-based fees.

### **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

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

### Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities

Crest Wealth Advisors LLC, nor Jason Dall'Acqua, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

### **Additional Compensation**

Jason Dall'Acqua does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through CWA.

### **Supervision**

Jason Dall'Acqua, as Founder, Advisor and Chief Compliance Officer of CWA, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

### **Requirements for State Registered Advisers**

Jason Dall'Acqua has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.

## Crest Wealth Advisors LLC

111 Forbes St. Ste 100 Annapolis, MD 21401 (443)973-4901

Dated February 19, 2024

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

### For

### Jason Dall'Acqua 5658911

Founder, Advisor, and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Jason Dall'Acqua that supplements the Crest Wealth Advisors LLC ("CWA") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Jason Dall'Acqua if the CWA brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Jason Dall'Acqua is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 5658911.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

### Jason Dall'Acqua

Born: 1989

### **Educational Background**

• 2011 – Bachelors of Science in Economics, University of Maryland

### **Business Experience**

- 05/2020 Present, Crest Wealth Advisors LLC, Founder, Advisor and CCO
- 08/2012 11/2020, Investment Planning Associates, Inc, Vice President
- 01/2012 07/2012, Extended Travel
- 01/2011 12/2011, Scottrade, Intern

### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

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

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

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

- Education Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
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Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

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

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

# Item 3: Disciplinary Information

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

# Item 4: Other Business Activities

Jason Dall'Acqua is not involved with outside business activities.

# Item 5: Additional Compensation

Jason Dall'Acqua does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through CWA.

# Item 6: Supervision

Jason Dall'Acqua, as Founder, Advisor and Chief Compliance Officer of CWA, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

CWA maintains written supervisory procedures, in conformance with the Maryland Securities Act, that shall be followed by all firm personnel when carrying out their responsibilities with CWA. Client accounts will be reviewed by Jason Dall'Acqua on at least a quarterly basis, as outlined in Item 13 above.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Jason Dall'Acqua has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.