WMS Group LLC Firm Brochure - Form ADV Part 2A

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of WMS Group LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (985) 809-0530 or by email at: wmsgroup@advisormike.com. 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.

Additional information about WMS Group LLC is also available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>. WMS Group LLC's CRD number is: 164327.

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Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Version Date: 02/06/2023

Item 2: Material Changes

The material changes in this brochure from the last annual updating amendment of WMS Group LLC on 02/14/2022 are described below. Material changes relate to WMS Group LLC's policies, practices or conflicts of interests.

- WMS Group LLC is utilizing Pontera for managing held away retirement accounts. (Items 4 and 5)
- WMS Group LLC does not utilize nor select third-party investment advisers. (Items 4,5,10 & 14)

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Item 4: Advisory Business

A. Description of the Advisory Firm

WMS Group LLC is a Limited Liability Company organized in the state of Louisiana.

This firm was formed in May of 2012, and the principal owner is William M. Stewart.

B. Types of Advisory Services

WMS Group LLC (hereinafter "WMSG") offers the following services to advisory clients:

Investment Supervisory Services

WMSG offers ongoing portfolio management services based on the individual goals, objectives, time horizon, and risk tolerance of each client. WMSG creates an Investment Policy Statement for each client, which outlines the client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and then constructs a plan (the Investment Policy Statement) to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches each client's specific situation. Investment Supervisory Services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Investment strategy
 Personal investment policy
 - Asset allocation
- Asset selection
- Risk tolerance
 Regular portfolio monitoring

WMSG evaluates the current investments of each client with respect to their risk tolerance levels and time horizon. WMSG will request discretionary authority from clients in order to select securities and execute transactions without permission from the client prior to each transaction. Risk tolerance levels are documented in the Investment Policy Statement, which is given to each client.

Participant Account Management (Discretionary)

WMSG uses a third-party platform to facilitate management of held away assets such as defined contribution plan participant accounts, with discretion. The platform allows us to avoid being considered to have custody of Client funds since we do not have direct access to Client log-in credentials to affect trades. We are not affiliated with the platform in any way and receive no compensation from them for using their platform. A link will be provided to the Client allowing them to connect an account(s) to the platform. Once Client account(s) is connected to the platform, Adviser will review the current account allocations. When deemed necessary, Adviser will rebalance the account considering client investment goals and risk tolerance, and any change in allocations will consider current economic and market trends. The goal is to improve account performance over time, minimize loss during difficult markets, and manage internal fees that harm

account performance. Client account(s) will be reviewed at least quarterly, and allocation changes will be made as deemed necessary.

Financial Planning

Financial plans and financial planning may include, but are not limited to: investment planning, life insurance; tax concerns; retirement planning; college planning; and debt/credit planning. These services are based on hourly fees and the final fee structure is documented in Exhibit II of the Financial Planning Agreement.

Written Acknowledgement of Fiduciary Status

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

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

Services Limited to Specific Types of Investments

WMSG generally limits its investment advice and money management to mutual funds, equities, bonds, fixed income, debt securities, ETFs, real estate, hedge funds, REITs, insurance products including annuities, private placements, government securities, and structured products. WMSG may use other securities as well to help diversify a portfolio when applicable.

C. Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions

WMSG offers the same suite of services to all of its 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 selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

Clients may not impose restrictions in investing in certain securities or types of securities in accordance with their values or beliefs.

D. Wrap Fee Programs

A wrap fee program is an investment program where the investor pays one stated fee that includes management fees, transaction costs, fund expenses, and any other administrative fees. WMSG does not participate in any wrap fee programs.

E. Amounts Under Management

WMSG has the following assets under management:

Discretionary Amounts:	Non-discretionary Amounts:	Date Calculated:
\$ 79,865,341.00	\$ 0.00	December 2022

Item 5: Fees and Compensation

A. Fee Schedule

Investment Supervisory Services Fees

Total Assets Under Management	Annual Fee
First \$2,000,000	1.50%
\$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.75%
Above \$5,000,000	0.60%

These fees are negotiable depending upon the needs of the client and complexity of the situation, and the final fee schedule is attached as Exhibit II of the Investment Advisory Contract. Clients may terminate the agreement without penalty, for full refund of WMSG's fees, within five business days of signing the Investment Advisory Contract. Thereafter, clients may terminate their contracts with thirty days' written notice.

Participant Account Management (Discretionary) Fees

WMSG provides an additional service for accounts not directly held in our custody, but where WMSG does have discretion, and may leverage an Order Management System to implement investment choices. These are primarily 401(k) accounts, HSA's, and other

assets WMSG does not custody. WMSG regularly reviews the available investment options in these accounts, monitor them, and rebalance and implement our strategies in the same way WMSG does for other accounts, though using different tools as necessary.

Financial Planning Fees

Depending upon the complexity of the situation and the needs of the client, the hourly fee for these services is \$250. The fees are negotiable and the final fee schedule will be attached as Exhibit II of the Financial Planning Agreement. Fees are paid in arrears. Because fees are charged in arrears, no refund is necessary. Clients may terminate their contracts without penalty within five business days of signing the advisory contract.

B. Payment of Fees

Payment of Investment Supervisory Fees

Advisory fees are withdrawn directly from the client's accounts with client written authorization. Fees are paid monthly in advance. Advisory fees may also be invoiced and billed directly to the client quarterly, 15th of the month, in advance. Clients may select the method in which they are billed.

Payment of Participant Account Management (Discretionary) Fees

Fees will be assessed and billed monthly in advance. Specifically, the exact amount charged is determined by the account balance on the last day of the previous month. As it is impossible to directly debit the fees from these accounts, those fees will be assigned to the client's other qualified accounts or taxable accounts. If the client does not have an account to debit, those fees will be billed directly to the client or paid by direct debit or credit card debit. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice of at least 90 calendar days in advance. Should fees charged in advance become unused as a result of termination, those fees will be rebated on a pro rata basis.

Payment of Financial Planning Fees

Hourly Financial Planning fees are paid via check or credit card in arrears. Because fees are charged in arrears, no refund is necessary.

C. Clients Are Responsible For Third Party Fees

Clients are responsible for the payment of all third party fees (i.e. custodian fees, brokerage fees, mutual fund fees, transaction fees, etc.). Those fees are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by WMSG. Please see Item 12 of this brochure regarding broker/custodian.

D. Prepayment of Fees

WMSG may collect fees in arrears and in advance, as set forth above. Fees that are collected in advance will be refunded based on the prorated amount of work completed at the point of termination and the total days during the billing period. All unused fees on amounts exceeding \$50,000 will be returned within fourteen days to the client via return to credit card or be deposited back into client's account within fourteen days.

E. Outside Compensation For the Sale of Securities to Clients

Neither WMSG nor its supervised persons accept any compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or services fees from the sale of mutual funds.

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

WMSG does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

Item 7: Types of Clients

WMSG generally provides investment advice and management supervisory services to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- High-Net-Worth Individuals
- Pension and Profit-Sharing Plans
- Trusts, Estates, or Charitable Organizations
- Corporations or Business Entities

There is no account minimum.

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

A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies

Methods of Analysis

WMSG's methods of analysis include fundamental analysis and cyclical analysis.

Fundamental analysis involves the analysis of financial statements, the general financial health of companies, and/or the analysis of management or competitive advantages.

Cyclical analysis involved the analysis of business cycles to find favorable conditions for buying and/or selling a security.

Investment Strategies

WMSG uses long term trading, short term trading, margin transactions, and options writing (including covered options, uncovered options, or spreading strategies).

Long term trading is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various other types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

Short term trading risks include liquidity, economic stability and inflation.

Margin transactions use leverage that is borrowed from a brokerage firm as collateral.

Options writing involve a contract to purchase a security at a given price, not necessarily at market value, depending on the market.

Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

B. Material Risks Involved

Methods of Analysis

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

Cyclical analysis assumes that the markets react in cyclical patterns which, once identified, can be leveraged to provide performance. The risks with this strategy are two-fold: 1) the markets do not always repeat cyclical patterns and 2) if too many investors begin to implement this strategy, it changes the very cycles they are trying to take advantage of.

Investment Strategies

Long term trading is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Frequent trading, when done, can affect investment performance, particularly through increased brokerage and other transaction costs and taxes.

Short term trading, margin transactions, and options writing generally hold greater risk and clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any of those strategies. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

C. Risks of Specific Securities Utilized

WMSG generally seeks investment strategies that do not involve significant or unusual risk beyond that of the general domestic and/or international equity markets. However, it will utilize margin transactions, and options writing. Short sales, margin transactions, and options writing generally hold greater risk of capital loss and clients should be aware that there is a material risk of loss using any of those strategies.

Mutual Funds: Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss. Mutual funds are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. You can lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. They can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature (mentioned above).

Equity investment generally refers to buying shares of stocks by an individual or firms in return for receiving a future payment of dividends and capital gains if the value of the stock increases. There is an innate risk involved when purchasing a stock that it may decrease in value and the investment may incur a loss.

Treasury Inflation Protected/Inflation Linked Bonds: The Risk of default on these bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal.

Fixed Income is an investment that guarantees fixed periodic payments in the future that may involve economic risks such as inflationary risk, interest rate risk, default risk, repayment of principal risk, etc.

Debt securities carry risks such as the possibility of default on the principal, fluctuation in interest rates, and counterparties being unable to meet obligations.

Stocks & Exchange Traded Funds (ETF): Investing in stocks & ETF's carries the risk of capital loss (sometimes up to a 100% loss in the case of a stock holding bankruptcy). Investments in these securities are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency.

Real Estate funds face several kinds of risk that are inherent in this sector of the market. Liquidity risk, market risk and interest rate risk are just some of the factors that can influence the gain or loss that is passed on to the investor. Liquidity and market risk tend to have a greater effect on funds that are more growth-oriented, as the sale of appreciated properties depends upon market demand. Conversely, interest rate risk impacts the amount of dividend income that is paid by income-oriented funds.

Hedge Funds are not suitable for all investors and involve a high degree of risk due to several factors that may contribute to above average gains or significant losses. Such factors include leveraging or other speculative investment practices, commodity trading,

complex tax structures, a lack of transparency in the underlying investments, and generally the absence of a secondary market.

REITs have specific risks including valuation due to cash flows, dividends paid in stock rather than cash, and the payment of debt resulting in dilution of shares.

Private placements carry a substantial risk as they are largely unregulated offerings not subject to securities laws.

Precious Metal ETFs (Gold, Silver, Palladium Bullion backed "electronic shares" not physical metal): Investing in precious metal ETFs carries the risk of capital loss.

Long term trading is designed to capture market rates of both return and risk. Due to its nature, the long-term investment strategy can expose clients to various other types of risk that will typically surface at various intervals during the time the client owns the investments. These risks include but are not limited to inflation (purchasing power) risk, interest rate risk, economic risk, market risk, and political/regulatory risk.

Short term trading risks include liquidity, economic stability and inflation.

Margin transactions use leverage that is borrowed from a brokerage firm as collateral. **Options writing** involve a contract to purchase a security at a given price, not necessarily at market value, depending on the market.

Structured products, while appropriate for some clients, may cause loss of principal. Some structured products are designed to be held for long periods of time and selling them before maturity, because of a very limited trading market, may cause the client to suffer significant losses. Structured products may be sold through banks and other financial institutions that are covered by FDIC insurance, however that does not mean that all Structured products are covered by the FDIC.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Investing in securities involves a risk of loss that you, as a client, should be prepared to bear.

Item 9: Disciplinary Information

A. Criminal or Civil Actions

There are no criminal or civil actions to report.

B. Administrative Proceedings

There are no administrative proceedings to report.

C. Self-regulatory Organization (SRO) Proceedings

There are no self-regulatory organization proceedings to report.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

A. Registration as a Broker/Dealer or Broker/Dealer Representative

Neither WMSG nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become a broker/dealer or as representatives of a broker/dealer.

B. Registration as a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor

Neither WMSG nor its representatives are registered as or have pending applications to become a Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or a Commodity Trading Advisor.

C. Registration Relationships Material to this Advisory Business and Possible Conflicts of Interests

William M. Stewart and Andrew Michael Stewart are a licensed insurance agent. From time to time, he will offer clients advice or products from those activities. Clients should be aware that these services pay a commission and involve a conflict of interest, as commissionable products conflict with the fiduciary duties of a registered investment adviser. WMSG always acts in the best interest of the client; including the sale of commissionable products to advisory clients. Clients are in no way required to implement the plan through any representative of WMSG in their capacity as a licensed insurance agent.

D. Selection of Other Advisers or Managers and How This Adviser is Compensated for Those Selections

WMSG does not utilize nor select third-party investment advisers.

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

A. Code of Ethics

We have a written Code of Ethics that covers the following areas: Prohibited Purchases and Sales, Insider Trading, Personal Securities Transactions, Exempted Transactions, Prohibited Activities, Conflicts of Interest, Gifts and Entertainment, Confidentiality, Service on a Board of Directors, Compliance Procedures, Compliance with Laws and Regulations, Procedures and Reporting, Certification of Compliance, Reporting Violations, Compliance Officer Duties, Training and Education, Recordkeeping, Annual Review, and Sanctions. Our Code of Ethics is available free upon request to any client or prospective client.

B. Recommendations Involving Material Financial Interests

WMSG does not recommend that clients buy or sell any security in which a related person to WMSG or WMSG has a material financial interest.

C. Investing Personal Money in the Same Securities as Clients

From time to time, representatives of WMSG may buy or sell securities for themselves that they also recommend to clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of WMSG to buy or sell the same securities before or after recommending the same securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. WMSG will always document any transactions that could be construed as conflicts of interest and will always transact client business before their own when similar securities are being bought or sold.

D. Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Clients' Securities

From time to time, representatives of WMSG may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of WMSG to buy or sell securities before or after recommending securities to clients resulting in representatives profiting off the recommendations they provide to clients. Such transactions may create a conflict of interest. WMSG will always transact client's transactions before its own when similar securities are being bought or sold.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

A. Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker/Dealers

Custodians/broker-dealers will be recommended based on WMSG's duty to seek "best execution," which is the obligation to seek to execute securities transactions for a client on terms that are the most favorable to the client under the circumstances. The client will not necessarily pay the lowest commission or commission equivalent, and AAA may also consider the market expertise and research access provided by the payment of commissions, including but not limited to access to written research, oral communication with analysts, admittance to research conferences and other resources provided by the brokers to aid in the research efforts of WMSG. WMSG will never charge a premium or commission on transactions, beyond the actual cost imposed by the brokerdealer/custodian. WMSG recommends TD Ameritrade Institutional, a Division of TD Ameritrade, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.

1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

WMSG receives research, products, or other services from its broker/dealer or another third-party in connection with client securities transactions ("soft dollar benefits"). There is no minimum client number or dollar number that WMSG must meet in order to receive free research from the custodian or broker/dealer. There is no incentive for WMSG to direct clients to this particular broker-dealer over other broker-dealers who offer the same services. However, because this firm does not have to produce or pay for services or products it has an incentive to choose a custodian that provides those services based on its interests rather than the clients' interests. The first consideration when recommending broker/dealers to clients is best execution. WMSG always acts in the best interest of the client.

2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

WMSG receives 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

WMSG will not allow clients to direct WMSG to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. Clients must use WMSG recommended custodian (broker-dealer).

B. Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

WMSG maintains the ability to block trade purchases across accounts. Block trading may benefit a large group of clients by providing WMSG the ability to purchase larger blocks resulting in smaller transaction costs to the client. Declining to block trade can cause more expensive trades for clients.

Item 13: Reviews of Accounts

A. Frequency and Nature of Periodic Reviews and Who Makes Those Reviews

Client accounts are reviewed at least annually only by William M. Stewart, Managing Member. William M. Stewart is the chief advisor and is instructed to review clients' accounts with regards to their investment policies and risk tolerance levels. All accounts at WMSG are assigned to this reviewer.

All financial planning accounts are reviewed upon financial plan creation and plan delivery by William M. Stewart, Managing Member. There is only one level of review and that is the total review conducted to create the financial plan.

B. Factors That Will Trigger a Non-Periodic Review of Client Accounts

Reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events, or by changes in client's financial situations (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move, or inheritance).

C. Content and Frequency of Regular Reports Provided to Clients

Each client will receive at least monthly from the custodian, a written report that details the client's account including assets held and asset value which will come from the custodian.

Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

A. Economic Benefits Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Clients (Includes Sales Awards or Other Prizes)

WSMG does not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly from any third party for advice rendered to WSMG clients.

B. Compensation to Non – Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals

WMSG does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for client referrals.

Item 15: Custody

WMSG, with client written authority, has limited custody of client's assets through direct fee deduction of WMSG's Fees only. If the client chooses to be billed directly by TD Ameritrade Institutional, a Division of TD Ameritrade, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, WMSG would have constructive custody over that account and must have written authorization from the client to do so. Clients will receive all required account statements and billing invoices that are required in each jurisdiction, and they should carefully review those statements for accuracy.

Custody is disclosed in Form ADV because WMSG has authority to transfer money from client account(s), which constitutes a standing letter of authorization (SLOA). Accordingly, WMSG will follow the safeguards specified by the SEC rather than undergo an annual audit.

Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those client accounts where WMSG provides ongoing supervision, the client has given WMSG written discretionary authority over the client's accounts with respect to securities to be bought or sold and the amount of securities to be bought or sold. Details of this relationship are fully disclosed to the client before any advisory relationship has commenced. The client provides WMSG discretionary authority via a limited power of attorney in the Investment Advisory Contract and in the contract between the client and the custodian.

Item 17: Voting Client Securities (Proxy Voting)

WMSG will not ask for, nor accept voting authority for client securities. Clients will receive proxies directly from the issuer of the security or the custodian. Clients should direct all proxy questions to the issuer of the security.

Item 18: Financial Information

A. Balance Sheet

WMSG does not require nor solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance and therefore does not need to include a balance sheet with this brochure.

B. Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Ability to Meet Contractual Commitments to Clients

Neither WMSG nor its management have any financial conditions that are likely to reasonably impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients.

C. Bankruptcy Petitions in Previous Ten Years

WMSG has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition in the last ten years.

Item 19: Requirements For State Registered Advisers

A. Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons; Their Formal Education and Business Background

WMSG currently has only one management person/executive officer; William M. Stewart. William M. Stewart's education and business background can be found on the Supplemental ADV Part 2B form.

B. Other Businesses in Which This Advisory Firm or its Personnel are Engaged and Time Spent on Those (If Any)

Other business activities for each relevant individual can be found on the individual's Form ADV Part 2B brochure supplement.

C. How Performance Based Fees are Calculated and Degree of Risk to Clients

WMSG does not accept performance-based fees or other fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client.

D. Material Disciplinary Disclosures for Management Persons of this Firm

No management person at WMSG or WMSG has been involved in an arbitration claim or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding that is material to the client's evaluation of the firm or its management.

E. Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities (If Any)

Neither WMSG, nor its management persons, has any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.