Item 1: Cover Page

Graystone Advisor, LLC

48 Port Royal Avenue Foster City, CA 94404

Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

650-600-3963

Dated May 18, 2022

https://graystoneadvisor.com/

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Graystone Advisor, LLC, "Graystone Advisor". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (650) 600-3963. 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.

Graystone Advisor, LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of California. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about Graystone Advisor is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the firm's identification number 301920.

Item 2: Material Changes

The last annual update of this Brochure was filed on March 23, 2022. There have been no material changes.

Item 3: Table of Contents

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Item 4: Advisory Business

Description of Advisory Firm

Graystone Advisor, LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of California. We were founded in March, 2019. Aaron Agte is the principal owner of Graystone Advisor. Graystone Advisor currently reports discretionary Assets Under Management of \$21,136,934. Assets Under Management were calculated as of December 31, 2021.

Types of Advisory Services

Comprehensive Financial Planning

We provide 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 is a comprehensive 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.

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly or quarterly 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, a client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefit, 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.

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
 post-secondary 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.

We will provide investment management as part of the comprehensive financial planning service and may employ the use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs) to assist with portfolio management services based on the needs of the client. We assist clients in selecting an appropriate allocation model, completing the Outside Manager's investor profile questionnaire, interacting with the Outside Manager and reviewing the Outside Manager. Our review process and analysis of outside managers is further discussed in Item 8 of this Form ADV Part 2A. Additionally, we will meet with the client on a periodic basis to discuss changes in their personal or financial situation, suitability, and any new or revised restrictions to be applied to the account. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

Our firm recommends that certain clients allocate investment assets among the various mutual fund and exchange traded fund ("ETF") asset allocation models, underlying mutual funds and ETFs, and/or independent investment manager programs offered through SEI Investments Company ("SEI"). SEI is a global asset management company and sponsor of its own proprietary mutual funds. SEI Private Trust Company ("SEI Trust"), a subsidiary of SEI, serves as custodian for each SEI account (SEI and SEI Trust collectively referred to as "SEI"). SEI provides each client with reporting services, including consolidated quarterly statements, quarterly performance reports, and year-end tax reports. SEI enables investment advisers such as our firm to offer our clients mutual fund asset allocation models, underlying individual mutual funds, ETFs, and investment management programs that are not otherwise available to the general public. As part of its overall investment management program, SEI offers quarterly rebalancing of each client's investment assets for the purpose of maintaining the assets in accordance with the client's previously designated percentage (%) asset allocations for the SEI account, if elected by the client. If a client desires automatic account rebalancing, He must first provide such authorization directly to our firm, who will then advise SEI accordingly. If the client selects a customized model rather than an SEI asset allocation model, the client's account may not be eligible for automatic rebalancing by SEI. In this case, our firm will provide recommendations for rebalancing based on the client's goals and objectives. Our firm shall not remove client accounts from SEI to another program without the client's consent. The fees charged by SEI are exclusive of, and in addition to, our firm's investment management fee. In addition to our firm's investment management fee, the client, relative to all mutual fund and ETF purchases, shall also incur charges imposed at the mutual fund level and ETF level (e.g., management fees and other fund expenses).

Our firm intends to primarily allocate investment management assets of our client accounts among various investment management programs offered through SEI Investments Company ("SEI") and various independent investment managers on a discretionary basis in accordance with the investment objectives of our client.

In order for us to manage your assets, you will be required to enter into an tri-party agreement with Graystone Advisor and an agreement with SEI. The agreements will set forth the terms and conditions of our relationship, including the amount of your investment advisory fee. You will retain all rights of ownership on your account, including the right to withdraw securities or cash. In addition, you will also have the ability to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities at the time you open an account.

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 selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

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.

Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements

We may provide seminars on an "as announced" basis for groups seeking general advice on investments and other areas of personal finance. The content of these seminars will vary depending upon the needs of the attendees. These seminars are purely educational in nature and do not involve the sale of any investment products. Information presented will not be based on any individual's person's need, nor does Graystone Advisor provide individualized investment advice to attendees during these seminars.

Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

CCR Section 260.235.2 Disclosure

For clients who receive our Financial Planning services, we must state when a conflict exists between the interests of our firm and the interests of our client. The client is under no obligation to act upon our

recommendations. If the client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through our firm.

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.

Comprehensive Financial Planning and Investment Management

Our standard annual advisory fee is based on 0.5% of the client's net worth and 1.0% of the client's annual income. The ongoing fees are negotiable and are pro-rated. The client's net worth will be calculated to include rental property equity and primary residence equity. This calculation does not use current estimated market value of properties. It is calculated as the property tax assessed value minus mortgage/liabilities. The property tax assessed value, which is a public record and appears on their property tax assessment, corresponds to the purchase price plus inflation based on California's Proposition 13. The mortgage balance will be based on the balance on the final billing statement of the calendar year. Liquid assets, including cash and investments will be included in the calculation based on the final statements of the calendar year, which will include a value as of December 31st. Stock and stock options in private companies will be included using the most recent IRS 409A valuation. The calculation of the client's net worth will exclude closely held business interests. The client's income will be calculated as salary plus bonuses. This income information will be available on their final pay stub of the calendar year. Please note, the above fee calculation does not include the Outside Manager's fee. Client's may obtain similar services from other advisers at a lower cost. Since we combine comprehensive financial planning and investment management into one holistic service, fees are not based on the percentage of assets under management. The amount of the fee attributed to the investment management portion of these services will not exceed 3% of those total assets under management.

The annual fee for the ongoing Comprehensive Financial Planning and Investment Advisory Services will be paid in advance on a monthly or quarterly basis. The minimum ongoing annual fee is \$16,000. Ongoing annual advisory fees are directly debited from client accounts, or the client may choose to pay by electronic funds transfer. For directly debited fees, the Outside Manager will debit the client's account for both the Outside Manager's fee, and Graystone Advisor's advisory fee, and will remit Graystone Advisor's fee to Graystone Advisor. Please note, the above fee calculation does not include the Outside Manager's fee.

In the event of an early termination within the first 100 days of the Comprehensive Financial Planning process, any fees charged within the first 100 days will be refunded to the client.

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 at least 90 calendar days in advance. Upon termination of the account, any unearned fee will be refunded to the client.

For example, a client with a net worth of \$2.5 million and an annual household income of \$350,000 would pay an annual fee of \$16,000 for the ongoing service that could be paid as \$4,000 per quarter. This fee is inclusive of Comprehensive Financial Planning Services and Investment Advisory Services. There is no additional fee calculated as a percentage of assets under management.

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. The annual advisory fee will be reviewed and updated every 2 years.

Educational Seminars/ Speaking engagements

Seminars are offered to organizations and the public on a variety of financial topics. Fees range from free to \$20,000 per seminar or free to \$1,000 per participant. Half of the fees are due prior to the engagement, and the other half is to be paid the day of, no later than the conclusion of the Seminar. At the discretion of Graystone Advisor, fees and expenses may be invoiced to be paid after the presentation; if so, payment is due within 30 days of the invoice. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. In the event of inclement weather or flight cancellation, the Speaker shall make all reasonable attempts to make alternative travel arrangements to arrive in time for the presentation. If travel proves impossible, or the event is otherwise canceled, the Speaker's fee is waived, but the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred. In the event that the Client decides to cancel or change the date of the event for any reason besides weather or similar unforeseen causes, the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any nonrefundable travel expenses already incurred, and will provide payment for 50% of the Speaker's fee if the cancellation occurs within 30 days of the event. In the event that the Speaker must cancel due to health or similar unforeseen circumstances, the Speaker will make all attempts to find a reasonable alternative engagement date and will absorb any incremental additional costs for obtaining alternative travel arrangements. If an alternative date cannot be obtained, the Client will not be responsible for any travel costs already incurred by the Speaker or any portion of the Speaker's fee.

Speaking Engagements

Aaron Agte is a public speaker. Generally, fees for his speaking engagements range from free to \$20,000 plus travel expenses, depending on sponsor, date, location, and program requested. For all speeches, 50% of the balance is due before the event and the remaining balance due at the conclusion of the event. Half of the fees are due prior to the engagement, and the other half is to be paid the day of, no later than the conclusion of the Seminar. At the discretion of Graystone Advisor, fees and expenses may be invoiced to be paid after the presentation; if so, payment is due within 30 days of the invoice. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. The content is based on topics that are currently relevant in the financial planning environment.

In the event of inclement weather or flight cancellation, the Speaker shall make all reasonable attempts to make alternative travel arrangements to arrive in time for the presentation. If travel proves impossible, or the event is otherwise canceled, the Speaker's fee is waived, but the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred. In the event that the Client decides to cancel or change the date of the event for any reason besides weather or similar unforeseen causes, the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred, and will provide payment for 50% of the Speaker's fee if the cancellation occurs within 30 days of the event. In the event that the Speaker must cancel due to health or similar unforeseen circumstances, the Speaker will make all attempts to find a reasonable alternative

engagement date and will absorb any incremental additional costs for obtaining alternative travel arrangements. If an alternative date cannot be obtained, the Client will not be responsible for any travel costs already incurred by the Speaker or any portion of the Speaker's fee.

Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements may be provided pro-bono at Graystone Advisor's discretion.

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 assetbased sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

CCR Section 260.238(j) Disclosure

Please note, lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

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 and high net-worth individuals, banking or thrift institutions, investment companies, business development companies, pool investment vehicles, pension and profiting sharing plans, charitable organizations, corporations or other businesses, state or municipal government entities, other investment advisers, insurance companies.

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 fundamental, technical, and cyclical analysis.

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 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.

Technical analysis involves using chart patterns, momentum, volume, and relative strength in an effort to pick sectors that may outperform market indices. However, there is no assurance of accurate forecasts or that trends will develop in the markets we follow. In the past, there have been periods without discernible trends and similar periods will presumably occur in the future. Even where major trends develop, outside factors like government intervention could potentially shorten them.

Furthermore, one limitation of technical analysis is that it requires price movement data, which can translate into price trends sufficient to dictate a market entry or exit decision. In a trendless or erratic market, a technical method may fail to identify trends requiring action. In addition, technical methods may overreact to minor price movements, establishing positions contrary to overall price trends, which may result in losses. Finally, a technical trading method may underperform other trading methods when fundamental factors dominate price moves within a given market.

Cyclical analysis is a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends based upon business cycles. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions. The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

Use of Outside Managers: We refer clients to third-party investment advisers ("outside managers"). Our analysis of outside managers involves the examination of the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of the outside managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations, and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with an outside manager who has been successful in the past is that he or she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in an outside manager's portfolio. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

Passive and Active Investment Management

We practice a combination of passive and active investment management. The strategy involves building portfolios that are comprised of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Investments that capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The investments used could be passive or active strategies.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), and relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal).

Active management 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 a designated benchmark through securities selection or tax strategies. Active management may have higher portfolio expenses and may fail to achieve their stated objective or underperform the market or designated benchmark.

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.

Limited markets: Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

Concentration Risk: Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

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.

Commercial Paper is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

Common stocks may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

Corporate Bonds are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

Bank Obligations including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

Municipal Bonds are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

Options and other derivatives carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

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) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) 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.

Investment Companies Risk. 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

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

Administrative Enforcement Proceedings

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

Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings

Graystone Advisor 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 Graystone Advisor or the integrity of its management.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

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

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

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

Graystone Advisor 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

As referenced in Item 4 of this brochure, Graystone Advisor recommends clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts. In the event that we recommend an Outside Manager, please note that we do not share in their advisory fee. Our fee is separate and in addition to their compensation (as noted in Item 5) and will be described to you prior to engagement. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any Outside Manager we recommend. Additionally, Graystone Advisor will only recommend an Outside Manager who is properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser.

Disclosure of Material Conflicts

All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238(k) are disclosed regarding Graystone Advisor, its representatives or any of its employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

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.

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 matter 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. This may provide an opportunity for representatives of Graystone Advisor 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; however, Graystone Advisor will never engage in trading that operates to the client's disadvantage if representatives of Graystone Advisor buy or sell securities at or around the same time as clients.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers

Graystone Advisor, 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 currently do not receive soft dollar benefits.

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 (SEI Private Trust Company)

SEI (NASDAQ: SEIC) is a leading global provider of asset management, investment processing, and investment operations for institutional and personal wealth management. Our products and services help corporations, financial institutions and individuals like you to create and manage wealth. Main

office and corporate headquarters are in Oaks, Pennsylvania, USA, near Philadelphia. SEI operates from offices in Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Dubai and the United Kingdom.

Your financial advisor has established a relationship with SEI Private Trust Company (SPTC), a federally chartered, limited purpose savings association that provides custodial and personal trust services. It adheres to extensive federally mandated controls, which are audited by independent and internal auditors and designed to prevent fraudulent activity.

Since SEI Private Trust Company is a trust institution – not a bank or brokerage firm – your assets are segregated from SEI's and they are custodied in your name. This means trust-company creditors have no claim to your assets. Since January 2001, high-net-worth investors have relied on SEI Private Trust Company, in cooperation with their financial advisors, for confidentiality and safekeeping of their assets as they travel to their financial destinations. And we pledge to continue to earn that trust by providing security and safety for your assets at every step along the way.

*Investments held in a trust account are not protected from loss of value or from losses resulting from the management strategy employed. There is no assurance the goals of the strategies discussed will be met. Diversification may not protect against market risk.

Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

Graystone Advisor does not purchase or sell securities on behalf of the client, and therefore will not aggregate trades. Outside Managers used by Graystone Advisor may block client trades at their discretion. Their specific practices are further discussed in their ADV Part 2A, Item 12.

Item 13: Review of Accounts

Client accounts with the Combined Financial Planning And Investment Advisory Service will be reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Aaron Agte, Owner 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.

Graystone Advisor will provide updated financial planning reports to clients on at least an annual basis. We urge clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian.

Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

Aaron Agte, owner of Graystone Advisor, LLC, is personal friends with Lucy Borden. Lucy Borden and her husband Scott Borden are also clients of Graystone Advisor, LLC. Lucy Borden is an employee of Facebook, and as an employee she receives advertisement credits as an employee benefit. Based on the

personal relationship, Lucy offers to use her Facebook advertisement credits for Graystone Advisor, LLC. There is no reduction in fee or additional service provided in exchange for these advertisement credits.

Item 15: Custody

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

For Client accounts in which Graystone Advisor directly debits their advisory fee:

- Graystone Advisor will send a copy of its invoice to the custodian at the same time that it sends the Client an invoice or statement itemizing the fee. Itemization includes the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of the assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee.
- 2) The custodian will send at least quarterly statements to the Client showing all disbursements for the account, including the amount of the advisory fee.
- 3) The Client will provide written authorization to Graystone Advisor, 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 Advisory 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.

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

Aaron Agte

Born: 1983

Educational Background

• 2005 – Bachelor of Science and Arts in Applied Mathematics and Philosophy, University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA)

Business Experience

- 03/2019 Present, Graystone Advisor, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 08/2008 03/2019, Vantage Wealth Management, LLC, Director of Financial Planning and Investments
- 02/2010 03/2019, Vantage Wealth Management, LLC (RIA), Director of Financial Planning and Investments
- 09/2014 03/2019, LPL Financial, LLC, Registered Representative
- 04/2014 03/2019, Financial Telesis Inc., Registered Representative
- 02/2010 03/2014, Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., Registered Representative
- 10/2008 02/2010, Securian Financial Services, Registered Representative
- 10/2008 02/2010, Securian Financial Services, Investment Adviser Representative
- 09/2007 08/2008, Guaranty Brokerage Services, Inc., Registered Representative
- 09/2007 08/2008, Guaranty Bank, Personal Banker
- 01/2006 09/2007, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Registered Representative
- 01/2006 09/2007, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Investment Adviser Representative

Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams

CFP (Certified Financial Planner)[®]**:** The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER[™], 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

Aaron Agte receives income from rental real estate that he owns. This activity accounts for less than 10% of his time.

Performance-Based Fees

Graystone Advisor is not compensated by performance-based fees.

Material Disciplinary Disclosures

No management person at Graystone Advisor, 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

Graystone Advisor, LLC, nor Aaron Agte, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities, in addition to what is described in Item 10.

Additional Compensation

Aaron Agte does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Graystone Advisor.

Supervision

Aaron Agte, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of Graystone Advisor, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Aaron Agte has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.

Conflicts of Interest

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 260.238 (k) any material conflicts of interest regarding the investment adviser, its representatives or any of its employees are disclosed to the client prior to entering into any Advisory or Financial Planning Agreement.

Business Continuity Plan

Graystone Advisor maintains a written Business Continuity Plan that identifies procedures related to an emergency or significant business disruptions, including the death of the investment adviser or any of its representatives.

Graystone Advisor, LLC

48 Port Royal Avenue Foster City, CA 94404 (619) 992-8483

Dated May 18, 2022

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

For

Aaron Agte [Individual CRD#5041214]

Owner and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Aaron Agte that supplements the Graystone Advisor, LLC ("Graystone Advisor") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Aaron Agte if the Graystone Advisor brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Aaron Agte is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 5041214

Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

Aaron Agte

Born: 1983

Educational Background

• 2005 – Bachelor of Science and Arts in Applied Mathematics and Philosophy, University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA)

Business Experience

- 03/2019 Present, Graystone Advisor, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 08/2008 03/2019, Vantage Wealth Management, LLC, Director of Financial Planning and Investments
- 02/2010 03/2019, Vantage Wealth Management, LLC (RIA), Director of Financial Planning and Investments
- 09/2014 03/2019, LPL Financial, LLC, Registered Representative
- 04/2014 03/2019, Financial Telesis Inc., Registered Representative
- 02/2010 03/2014, Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., Registered Representative
- 10/2008 02/2010, Securian Financial Services, Registered Representative
- 10/2008 02/2010, Securian Financial Services, Investment Adviser Representative
- 09/2007 08/2008, Guaranty Brokerage Services, Inc., Registered Representative
- 09/2007 08/2008, Guaranty Bank, Personal Banker
- 01/2006 09/2007, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Registered Representative
- 01/2006 09/2007, Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Investment Adviser Representative

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- 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;
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• 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.

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- 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 Graystone Advisor, 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

Aaron Agte receives income from rental real estate that he owns. This activity accounts for less than 10% of his time.

Item 5: Additional Compensation

Aaron Agte does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Graystone Advisor.

Item 6: Supervision

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Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

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