

## RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY JULY 1, 2022

**Seix Investment Advisors (“Seix” or “we”)** is a division of Virtus Fixed Income Advisers, LLC, which is registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment adviser, and we provide investment advisory services rather than brokerage services. It is important for you to understand the differences between brokerage and investment advisory services and fees. There are free and simple tools available to research firms and financial professionals at [Investor.gov/CRS](http://Investor.gov/CRS), which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

### **What investment services and advice can you provide me?**

Seix offers investment advisory services on fixed income assets to retail clients through separately managed accounts. We also are retained by wrap sponsors who are unaffiliated with us to manage their clients’ accounts, and the wrap program sponsor assesses suitability of their services and our advisory services to you. While we manage wrap accounts in a similar fashion to our separately managed accounts, a wrap account’s portfolio will differ as it is typically smaller, more liquid and ineligible to participate in privately offered securities or in newly issued debt offerings. Our firm offers only fee-based investment advisory services, which are limited to investment advice with respect to fixed income assets. We do not offer our proprietary products to you. Our accounts are managed on a discretionary basis which means we determine whether to buy or sell assets for your account. Your account is managed in accordance with your investment management agreement, stated guidelines and agreed to reasonable restrictions. We regularly monitor your account’s guidelines and restrictions through an automated compliance system, and separately managed accounts are reviewed at least bi-annually and subject to certain external events. This agreement remains in place until you or we terminate the relationship. For separately managed accounts, we have requirements to open and maintain an account, including minimum account sizes and investment amounts that vary by strategy, which are negotiable at our discretion. For wrap accounts, the wrap program sponsor is responsible for setting account minimums and other requirements. Additional information about our services is located in Items 4 and 7 of our [Firm Brochure](#).

#### *Questions to Ask Us:*

- *Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Why or why not?*
- *How will you choose investments to recommend to me?*
- *What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?*

### **What fees will I pay?**

**Principal Fees and Costs:** For our separately managed accounts, you will pay an on-going, mutually agreed upon asset-based fee, usually at the end of each quarter for our services (as stated in your agreement), based on the value of the cash and investments in your advisory account. The more assets there are in your account, the more you will pay us in fees, and the firm may therefore have an incentive to encourage you to increase the assets in your account. Our fees vary and are negotiable. Certain of our account strategies also have minimum fees. For wrap accounts, you will not pay fees directly to us but we receive a portion of the wrap fee from the program sponsor for our advisory services.

**Other Fees and Costs:** Our asset-based fee is separate and distinct from other fees and costs. For our separately managed accounts, you are responsible for all custodial and any securities broker-dealer execution fees and other transaction costs charged by the custodian and executing broker-dealer. Some investments, if the firm should use them in your account, such as mutual funds and exchange traded funds, charge additional product-level fees that will reduce the value of your investments over time. For wrap accounts, you can be responsible for other fees and costs such as account maintenance fees, product-level fees and other transactional fees.

**Additional Information:** You will pay fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying. Additional information about our fees is located in Item 5 of our [Firm Brochure](#).

*Question to Ask Us:*

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

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

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

Performance-based fees create conflicts of interest. Seix organizes its managers and traders based on the assets that they trade, which we believe to be in your best interest, and as a result the same team oversees allocation or new investments among accounts having different fee arrangements, including those with performance-based fees, ramping accounts and existing accounts with inflows. We could be incentivized to favor these accounts because of the potential for higher or additional fees.

Additional information about our conflicts of interest is located in Items 6, 10, 11 and 12 of our [Firm Brochure](#).

*Question to Ask Us:*

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

### **How do your financial professionals make money?**

Our financial professionals are eligible to earn a base salary, cash incentive compensation and equity stock grants from our parent company, Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. This bonus structure and amount varies by position but is generally designed to reward individuals for superior relative investment performance (measured against a peer group and/or benchmark) and the revenue the firm receives based on the growth of assets under management. The firm's revenue is derived from the advisory fees we collect from your account. Neither Seix nor any of its employees receive compensation for the sale of securities to you.

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

No, neither our firm nor our financial professionals have any legal or disciplinary history to disclose. Visit [Investor.gov/CRS](http://Investor.gov/CRS) for a free and simple search tool to research our firm and our financial professionals.

*Question to Ask Us:*

- *As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history? For what type of conduct?*

### **Additional Information**

You can find additional information about our investment advisory services, up-to-date information and request a copy of this relationship summary at 201-391-0300 or at [seixadvisors.com](http://seixadvisors.com).

*Question to Ask Us:*

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



**Seix Investment Advisors is a division of  
Virtus Fixed Income Advisors, LLC,  
an SEC Registered Investment Adviser**

**One Maynard Drive, Suite 3200  
Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656  
(201) 391-0300**

**3333 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
(404) 845-7698**

**1290 Palmetto Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
(407) 674-1255**

[www.seixadvisors.com](http://www.seixadvisors.com)

**Part 2A of Form ADV**

**May 30, 2025**

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Seix Investment Advisors (“Seix”), a division of Virtus Fixed Income Advisors, LLC (“VFIA”), an SEC registered investment adviser. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (201) 391-0300 and/or [www.seixadvisors.com](http://www.seixadvisors.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. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an adviser.

Additional information about Seix and VFIA is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## **Item 2 – Material Changes**

The SEC adopted “Amendments to Form ADV” in July 2010. This Brochure, dated May 30, 2025, was prepared according to the SEC’s requirements and rules. This Item is used to provide a summary of new or updated material information since the last update of the Seix Investment Advisors Brochure on March 26, 2025.

The Brochure provides information about Seix, and where applicable, broadly refers to policies, conflicts and other consideration that apply across VFIA and its three divisions.

We made the following material changes to this Brochure:

None.

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## Item 4 – Advisory Business

### A. General Description of Advisory Firm

Seix Investment Advisors Inc. was founded in July 1992 as a fixed income only boutique. On May 28, 2004, Seix Investment Advisors Inc. was acquired by SunTrust Banks, Inc. (“STI”) through its institutional asset management subsidiary, Trusco Capital Management (“Trusco”) and became Seix Advisors, the predecessor of Seix Investment Advisors LLC. Effective March 31, 2008, Trusco was renamed and reorganized into a money management holding company, RidgeWorth Capital Management, Inc., comprised of multiple and distinct SEC-registered investment advisory boutiques, including Seix Investment Advisors LLC. On May 30, 2014, certain employees of RidgeWorth Capital Management, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries, including Seix Investment Advisors LLC, alongside affiliated investment funds of Lightyear Capital LLC and outside investors, acquired RidgeWorth Capital Management, Inc. and its name was changed to RidgeWorth Capital Management LLC (“RidgeWorth”). As part of the acquisition, StableRiver Capital Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of RidgeWorth, was integrated into Seix Investment Advisors LLC. On June 1, 2017, RidgeWorth was acquired by Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. (“Virtus”) and changed its name to Virtus Fund Advisers, LLC (“VFA”). Seix Investment Advisors LLC was a wholly owned subsidiary of VFA until January 1, 2018 when it became a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Partners, Inc (“VPI”) as a result of an internal realignment. VPI is wholly owned by Virtus. Virtus, a publicly traded firm, is singularly committed to the long-term success of individual and institutional investors, offering asset management through its affiliated managers and select subadvisers (see [www.virtus.com](http://www.virtus.com)).

On July 1, 2022, Virtus reorganized its three fixed income subsidiaries (Newfleet Asset Management, LLC, Seix Investment Advisors LLC and Stone Harbor Investment Partners, LLC) to operate as separate divisions under a single legal entity named Virtus Fixed Income Advisers, LLC (“VFIA”). VFIA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus and is an SEC registered investment adviser.

The three divisions of VFIA maintain their distinct investment process and philosophy, portfolio management teams, investment culture and brand. They operate under the d/b/a names of:

Newfleet Asset Management (“Newfleet”)

Seix Investment Advisors (“Seix”)

Stone Harbor Investment Partners (“Stone Harbor”)

This brochure provides information about Seix. Two other brochures are available upon request which provide information about Newfleet and Stone Harbor.

### B. Description of Advisory Services

Seix provides discretionary “investment supervisory services” to high-net worth individuals and to institutional clients such as pension and profit sharing plans, insurance companies, Taft-Hartley plans, public funds, endowments and foundations, government sponsored funds, governmental entities, educational and healthcare facilities and other corporate entities; wrap-fee programs (“Wrap” or “Wrap Programs”); and the following investment supervisory services to the following types of commingled funds (collectively, “Funds”):

1. Sub-adviser to investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (“1940 Act”) (“mutual funds”);

2. Sub-adviser to a no fee completion mutual fund available only to certain Wrap account owners;
3. Collateral manager of privately placed offshore funds investing in loan and debt instruments (“CLO Funds”) and their Delaware co-issuers;
4. Sub-Investment Advisor to a Bermuda mutual fund named the Performa High Yield Fund Ltd. (“Performa”);
5. Sub-adviser to the Virtus GF Select High Yield Fund, a sub-fund of Virtus Global Funds plc, a public limited company with variable capital incorporated in Ireland and authorized by the Central Bank of Ireland as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) (“Virtus GF SHY Fund”); and
6. Sub-adviser to the Virtus Seix Senior Loan ETF and the Virtus Seix AAA Private Credit CLO ETF, each a series of Virtus ETF Trust II, and exchange-traded funds listed on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (collectively, the “ETFs”).

The above-described individuals, institutions, Wrap Programs and various Funds are collectively referred to as “Clients”.

Customized investment management services are based on Client-specific criteria such as:

1. organizational structure;
2. risk assessment;
3. liquidity and cash flow;
4. income needs;
5. other sources of funds to meet obligations;
6. general economic conditions; and
7. social and other preferences relating to the account’s investment guidelines.

Pursuant to written agreements, Seix may provide asset allocation solutions, investment consulting, investment and investment policy monitoring, and advice relating to current and future investments, along with periodic reports and in-person reviews. Clients retain discretion over all assets under consulting arrangements, and are responsible for implementing or declining to implement any consulting services or advice provided by Seix.

### **C. Availability of Customized Services for Individualized Clients**

Each Client has its own set of investment guidelines that describe what types of investments may be purchased for its account and what types of investments may not be purchased for its account. Clients may impose restrictions on types of investments, such as socially responsible restrictions. Customized investment management services are based on Client-specific criteria such as organizational structure, risk assessment, liquidity and cash flow, other sources of funds to meet obligations and general economic conditions.

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

Seix acts as manager for several Wrap Programs. The Wrap accounts are managed in a similar fashion as separately managed Client accounts with certain differences. Due to the smaller size of Wrap accounts and regulatory restrictions, they are not eligible to participate in privately offered securities (Rule 144A bonds) while most of the separately managed accounts are eligible. Further, Wrap accounts cannot participate in the vast majority of newly issued bond offerings due to the underlying wrap sponsor being in the underwriting syndicate for the newly issued bonds. The issuer weightings for Wrap accounts are different because of their smaller size and their need for liquidity. The bonds in the Wrap accounts need to be more liquid than the bonds in the separately managed accounts due to the smaller size of the bond positions that are traded and the greater frequency in which the bond positions need to be traded. Seix receives a portion of the Wrap fee for its services. Certain high yield Wrap accounts will be able to purchase the no fee completion mutual fund to obtain exposure to Rule 144A bonds.

Seix may not be provided with sufficient information by the underlying wrap sponsor to perform an assessment as to the suitability of Seix's services for the client. Seix will rely on the wrap sponsor who, within its fiduciary duty, must determine not only the suitability of Seix's services for the client, but also the suitability of the wrap program for the client.

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

Seix had total gross assets of \$12,261,282,707 of discretionary assets and no non-discretionary assets under management as of December 31, 2024. The total assets under management of VFIA inclusive of all divisions (Newfleet, Seix and Stone Harbor) was \$32,840,598,185 (discretionary) and \$166,272,915 (non-discretionary) as of December 31, 2024.

### **Item 5 – Fees and Compensation**

#### **A. Advisory Fees and Compensation**

Seix's fees are generally payable quarterly in arrears. Initial fees are calculated based upon the number of days in the quarter Seix started managing the Client's account. Subsequent quarters are billed in full unless the Client terminated the relationship prior to the end of the quarter, in which case the fee is prorated for the number of days prior to the end of the quarter.

Seix's basic fee schedules for separately managed accounts are:

##### **Investment Grade Strategies – Core**

0.20% per year on the first \$100 million;

0.15% thereafter

(minimum account size of \$25 million)



**Investment Grade Strategies – Short Duration**

0.15% per year on the first \$100 million;  
0.10% thereafter  
(minimum account size of \$25 million)

**Leveraged Finance Strategies**

0.50% per year on the first \$100 million;  
0.40% per year thereafter  
(minimum account size of \$10 million for leveraged loans and high yield bonds)

**Tax Exempt Strategies (Average Maturity 3 years or less)**

0.30% per year on the first \$10 million  
0.25% per year on the next \$40 million  
0.18% per year thereafter  
(minimum account size is \$5 million)

**Tax Exempt Strategies (Intermediate Total Return)**

0.40% per year on the first \$10 million  
0.30% per year on the next \$40 million  
0.18% per year thereafter  
(minimum account size is \$5 million)

Seix's fees are negotiable and may vary based on account type and Client services requested. Seix will consider factors such as number and frequency of reports and Client meetings, individual security investments versus common or collective funds, investment guidelines and restrictions, account size and type of Client entity.

Description of the fees earned by Seix for managing private Funds that Seix manages can be found in the offering memorandum for each of the private Funds. Fees for the mutual funds, ETFs and of UCITS for which Seix acts as sub-adviser can be found in the UCITS, ETFs and mutual fund's prospectus.

**B. Payment of Fees**

Seix generally bills Clients for fees incurred on a quarterly basis. Certain Clients calculate Seix's fees and submit the payments to Seix. A Client must request that it calculate and submit payments to Seix and Seix must agree to the arrangement. Seix does not deduct fees from Clients' assets.

**C. Additional Fees and Expenses**

Seix does not have physical custody of any Client assets. Clients are responsible for making arrangements with their custodians and for paying their custodians' fees and expenses. If a Client invests in a mutual fund subadvised by Seix, the Client will be responsible for paying the mutual fund's fees. Clients may incur brokerage and other transaction costs. Please see Item 12 for a further description of Seix's brokerage practices and arrangements.

#### **D. Prepayment of Fees**

Seix's standard policy is to be paid in arrears. On occasion, a client may pay in the middle of the quarterly billing cycle. If there is an overpayment in a quarter, it is addressed the following quarter. The fees for the Wrap Program Clients may be paid in advance, depending on the billing arrangements with the applicable Wrap Program sponsor. If a Wrap Client's account is reduced or closed for any reason during a billing period, Seix will return to the Wrap Sponsor a pro-rata portion of the fee it received with respect to the assets in such Client's account for the remaining fee period.

#### **E. Additional Compensation and Conflicts of Interest**

Fees for special investment advisory services are charged only when requested by a Client and agreed to by Seix. Special investment advisory services are available upon request and fees are negotiable. Fees for certain investment advisory services such as asset allocation solutions, investment consulting, investment and investment policy monitoring, and advice relating to current and future investments are negotiable.

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

Seix can, but is not obligated to, enter into a performance-based fee arrangement with separately managed account Clients who request, and are permitted under Section 205 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act") or Rule 205-3 thereunder, to enter into such arrangements. Seix can also receive performance based fees from the CLO Funds it manages as described in the applicable offering memorandum.

Performance-based fees create conflicts of interest. Managers that earn performance-based fees have the incentive to favor accounts with the opportunity to earn higher fees. Seix organizes its portfolio managers and traders based on the assets that they trade, which we believe to be in the Client's best interest, as a result the same team oversees allocation among accounts having different fee arrangements, including those with performance-based fees, ramping accounts and existing accounts with inflows. The team could be incentivized to favor such accounts because of the potential for higher or additional fees. CLO Funds that are ramping are not assessed management fees (including performance based fees) until the CLO Fund closes. Similarly, existing accounts with a large inflow can also be prioritized for trade allocation. This presents a conflict of interest because there is an incentive for the investment management team to favor these accounts in order to increase or accelerate fees. Seix has procedures in place to ensure that trades are allocated fairly among Clients, including monitoring of allocations by the compliance team, as discussed in Item 12. Where an investment opportunity is appropriate for multiple accounts, Seix allocates trades in accordance with the trade allocation policy, as discussed in Item 12. Seix will, in most cases, aggregate transactions on behalf of various accounts and seek to allocate aggregated transactions to all participating eligible Client accounts in a fair and equitable manner over time consistent with its trade allocation policy, fiduciary obligations and each participating Client's investment guidelines and investment management agreement. In addition, the compensation of the investment teams that manage the accounts with performance-based fees is tied to the performance of all of the accounts they manage, not just performance-based fee accounts.

More information about the trade allocation and trade aggregation policies of Seix and VFIA can be found in Item 12.

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

Seix provides investment management services to high-net worth individuals and to institutional Clients such as pension and profit sharing plans, retirement and benefit plans for unions (Taft-Hartley plans), public funds, endowments, foundations, trusts, government-sponsored entities, governmental entities, educational and healthcare facilities such as colleges and hospitals and other types of corporate Clients. Seix also acts as investment manager for Clients in wrap-fee programs. In addition, Seix provides investment management services to commingled funds, including investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) (i.e., mutual funds and ETFs), private funds exempt from registration as a mutual fund pursuant to section 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act and offshore commingled funds.

The minimum accounts size is \$25,000,000 for investment grade accounts other than tax exempt accounts. The minimum account size is \$10,000,000 for leveraged loan, and high yield bond accounts. The minimum account size is \$5,000,000 for tax exempt accounts. Seix may accept or retain Clients whose accounts are below the \$25,000,000, \$10,000,000, or \$5,000,000 minimums in its sole discretion.

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

### **A. Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies**

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that Clients should be prepared to bear.

For investors in Funds subadvised or managed by Seix, please see the applicable offering documents for specific information regarding each Fund’s investment strategies and risks.

Seix’s methods of analysis include the following:

### **Investment Grade Philosophy and Process**

Seix is an active bond manager who believes that the market offers potential opportunities for returns to investors who understand and correctly value Fixed Income securities. We focus our management efforts on the “bottom-up” principle of security selection along with “top-down” strategies for sector allocation and yield curve structure using rigorous fundamental research as well as a series of proprietary and third party tools to identify value. Our diversified portfolios of well-researched companies, value-added security structures and sector rotation seek to provide attractive spreads above the benchmark, regardless of the level or direction of interest rates, at controlled risk levels. We do not expose our Clients to the risks of market timing by maintaining duration close to that of the benchmark.

## High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans Philosophy and Process

Our investment objective is to maximize the upside which is inherent when investing in the High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans markets, but also to be focused on reducing risk by minimizing the downside.

Seix believes that consistently superior High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans performance is achieved by focusing on the healthier segment of the High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans markets. Therefore, we devote our resources to a targeted universe of High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loan assets. The anomalies that we seek to capture by pursuing this investment approach are to:

- Maximize portfolio return per unit of risk
- Minimize the potential for permanent capital loss that could occur with a default
- Provide the necessary liquidity to make active sector shifts
- Allow for the effective application of Fixed Income research techniques to the High Yield Bonds and Leveraged Loans markets

Seix integrates environmental, social and/or governance (“ESG”) factors into its overall fundamental research and decision-making processes. However, ESG factors are not determinative by themselves to an investment decision. Seix’s Leveraged Finance, Investment Grade – Corporate, Securitized and Tax-Exempt research analysts use internally developed ESG tools to review securities for ESG factors. The ESG tool is part of the investment thesis for individual issuers along with other investment risks including, but not limited to, proprietary credit ratings. In addition, data from outside sources is used as a supplement to the internal ESG scores.

### Sources of Information

Sources of information used by Seix include filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, prospectuses, meetings with management, annual reports, rating services, research materials prepared by others, inspections of corporate activities, company press releases, and financial newspapers and magazines. In addition to publicly available sources of information, Seix also uses internal research developed by its investment professionals.

### **B. Material, Significant or Unusual Risks Relating to Investment Strategies**

The material risks relating to the significant methods of analysis and investment strategies described above are set forth below:

**Credit Risk:** Debt securities are subject to the risk that an issuer will fail to make timely payments of interest or principal, or go bankrupt, or that the value of the securities will decline because of a market perception that the issuer may not make payments on time. The lower the rating of a debt security, the higher its credit risk.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Debt securities will generally lose value if interest rates increase. U.S. Government securities can exhibit price movements resulting from changes in interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally higher for investments with longer maturities or durations. Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (“TIPS”) can also exhibit price movements as a result of changing inflation expectations and seasonal inflation patterns.

**Mortgage and Asset Backed Security Risk:** Mortgage- and asset-backed securities are debt instruments that are secured by interests in pools of mortgage loans or other financial assets. The value of these securities will be influenced by the factors affecting the assets underlying such securities, swings in interest rates, changes in default rates, or deteriorating economic conditions. During periods of declining asset values, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities may face valuation difficulties, become more volatile and/or illiquid.

**Prepayment and Call Risk:** When mortgages and other obligations are prepaid and when securities are called, the Client may have to reinvest in securities with a lower yield or fail to recover additional amounts paid for securities with higher interest rates, resulting in an unexpected capital loss.

**Foreign and Companies Securities Risk:** Foreign securities and dollar denominated securities of foreign issuers involve special risks such as currency fluctuations, economic or financial instability, lack of timely or reliable financial information, unfavorable political or legal developments and delays in enforcement of rights. These risks are increased for investments in emerging markets.

**Below Investment Grade Securities Risk:** Below investment grade securities (sometimes referred to as “junk bonds”) involve greater risk of default or downgrade and are more volatile than investment grade securities. Below investment grade securities may also be less liquid than higher quality securities.

**Floating Rate Loan Risk:** The risks associated with floating rate loans are similar to the risks of below investment grade securities. The value of the collateral securing a floating rate loan can decline, be insufficient to meet the obligations of the borrower, or be difficult to liquidate. As a result, a floating rate loan may not be fully collateralized and can decline significantly in value. Floating rate loans generally are subject to contractual restrictions on resale. The liquidity of floating rate loans, including the volume and frequency of secondary market trading in such loans, varies significantly over time and among individual floating rate loans. During periods of infrequent trading, valuing a floating rate loan can be more difficult, and buying and selling a floating rate loan at an acceptable price can also be more difficult and delayed. Difficulty in selling a floating rate loan can result in a loss. In addition, floating rate loans generally are subject to extended settlement periods in excess of seven days, which may impair the Client’s ability to sell or realize the full value of its loans in the event of a need to liquidate such loans. The sale and purchase of a leveraged loan are subject to the requirements of the underlying credit agreement governing such leveraged loan. These requirements may limit the eligible pool of potential leveraged loan holders by placing conditions or restrictions on sales and purchases of leveraged loans.

Leveraged loans are not traded on an exchange and purchasers and sellers of leveraged loans rely on market makers, usually the administrative agent for a particular leveraged loan, to trade leveraged loans. These factors, in addition to overall market volatility, may negatively impact the liquidity of leveraged loans. Difficulty in selling a floating rate loan may result in a loss.

Borrowers may pay back principal before the scheduled due date when interest rates decline, which may require Seix to replace a particular leveraged loan with a lower-yielding asset. The Client may assume the credit risk of the administrative agent in addition to that of the borrower, and investments in leveraged loan assignments may involve the risks of being a lender.

**Leverage Risk:** Certain transactions and the use of derivatives such as foreign currency forward contracts, swaps and futures may create leveraging risk. Leverage may cause the Client’s account to be more volatile

than if the Client's account had not been leveraged. This is because leverage tends to exaggerate the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the Client's securities. Only certain Fund clients may incur leverage.

**Derivatives Risk:** Investments in derivatives expose a Client to additional volatility and potential loss. Losses on investments in certain types of derivatives may exceed the initial investment. Only certain Fund Clients invest in derivatives.

**Short Sales Risk:** Short sales expose a Client to substantial risks given their inherent heightened risk of loss. Short sales involve a finite opportunity for appreciation, but a theoretically unlimited risk of loss. Short positions are also subject to a "short squeeze" that could lead to accelerating losses for those that are short that particular security.

**Foreign Currency Forward Contracts Risk:** The technique of purchasing foreign currency forward contracts to obtain exposure to currencies or manage currency risk may not be effective. In addition, currency markets generally are not as regulated as securities markets. Only certain Fund Clients invest in foreign currency forward contracts.

**Swap Risk:** Certain Clients may enter into swap agreements, including credit default swaps, for purposes of attempting to gain exposure to a particular asset without actually purchasing that asset, or to hedge a position. Credit default swaps may increase or decrease the Client's exposure to credit risk and could result in losses if Seix does not correctly evaluate the creditworthiness of the entity on which the credit default swap is based. Swap agreements may also subject the Client to the risk that the counterparty to the transaction may not meet its obligations. Only certain Fund Clients invest in swaps.

**Futures Contract Risk:** Certain Clients may enter into futures contracts. The risks associated with futures include Seix's ability to manage these instruments, the potential inability to terminate or sell a position, certain market conditions causing increased volatility, the lack of a liquid secondary market for the Client's position and the risk that the counterparty to the transaction will not meet its obligations. Only certain Clients invest in futures contracts.

**Municipal Securities Risk:** Litigation, legislation or other political events, local business or economic conditions, or the bankruptcy of the issuer could have a significant effect on the issuer's ability to make payments of principal and/or interest or otherwise affect the value of such securities. The value of these securities may decline because of a market perception that the issuer may not make payments on time.

**Potential Concentration Risk:** Client portfolios may have highly concentrated positions in issuers engaged in one or a few industries. This increases the risk of loss relative to the market as a whole.

**Extraordinary Events and Market Volatility Risk:** Social, political, economic and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, other public health issues, recessions, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) will occur that have significant impacts on issuers, industries, governments and other systems, including the global financial markets. As global systems, economies and financial markets are increasingly interconnected, events that once had only local impact are now more likely to have regional or even global effects. Events that occur in one country, region or financial market will, more frequently, adversely impact issuers in other countries, regions or markets. These impacts can be exacerbated by failures of governments and societies to adequately respond to an

emerging event or threat. Issuers can suffer decreased sales, profits, and production. Clients will be negatively impacted if, as a result of these events, the value of their portfolio holdings decreases as a result of such events, if liquidity, pricing and market function is impeded or volatility increases, if the adviser is unable to invest a strategy's assets as intended, if these events adversely impact the operations and effectiveness of the adviser or key service providers or if these events disrupt systems and processes necessary or beneficial to the management of accounts.

**Increased Regulations:** Events during the past several years and adverse financial results have focused attention upon the necessity to maintain adequate risk controls and compliance procedures. These events have led to increased governmental and self-regulatory authority scrutiny of the financial industry. Various national governments have also expressed concern regarding disruptive effects of speculative trading and the need to regulate the markets in general. Any regulations that restrict the ability to employ, or broker-dealers and counterparties to extend, credit or restrict trading activities could adversely impact profit potential.

**Cybersecurity Risk:** In addition to the risks associated to the value of investments, there are various operational, systems, information security and related risks involved in investing, including but not limited to "cybersecurity" risk. A breach in cybersecurity refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause an account to lose proprietary information such as misappropriating sensitive information, access to digital systems to obtain client and financial information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity incidents affecting counterparties with which we engage in transactions, third-party service providers (e.g. a client account's custodian), governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers and other financial institutions and other parties. Seix has in place risk management systems and business continuity plans which are designed to reduce the risks associated with these attacks, although there are inherent limitations in any cybersecurity risk management system or business continuity plan, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified. Accordingly, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed especially since we do not directly control the cybersecurity systems of issuers or third-party service providers.

## **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

VFIA is required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary event that would be material to your evaluation of Seix or VFIA or the integrity of VFIA and Seix's management.

VFIA has not been involved in any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to a client's evaluation of the company or its personnel.

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

### **A. Broker-Dealer Registration Status**

VFIA is not registered as a broker-dealer and does not have any pending applications for registration.

### **B. Futures Commission Merchant, Commodity Pool Operator, or Commodity Trading Adviser Registration Status**

VFIA is registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) as commodity pool operator (“CPO”) in connection with certain of the pooled investment vehicles for which it serves as investment adviser or sub-adviser. In addition, certain VFIA employees are registered with the CFTC as associated persons and principals of the CPO. Certain of VFIA’s affiliated investment advisers listed below also are registered as commodity pool operators or commodity trading advisors in connection with their management activities.

VFIA is not registered as a futures commission merchant or commodity trading adviser. VFIA does not have any pending applications for registration as a futures commission merchant or commodity trading adviser.

### **C. Material Relationships or Arrangements with Industry Participants**

VFIA has relationships with its affiliates that you may consider material. These relationships are described below, along with an explanation of how we address what may be considered to be material conflicts of interest. Seix is a division of VFIA, which is wholly owned by VPI, whose parent company is Virtus. Certain officers and directors of Virtus serve as officers and/or directors of VFIA and Seix.

VFIA is comprised of three divisions: Seix Investment Advisors, Newfleet Asset Management and Stone Harbor Investment Partners. The three divisions of VFIA maintain their distinct investment process and philosophy, portfolio management teams, investment culture and brand, and operate under their “d/b/a” names. Certain VFIA officers and directors serve in the same or similar capacity at each of its three divisions as well as other Virtus affiliates. Certain VFIA officers, directors and employees also serve on the board of directors for various funds that are advised or sub-advised by VFIA or other Virtus affiliated investment advisers. From time to time, portfolio managers and traders employed by VFIA operate in a “dual hatted” capacity in which the individual provides investment management services to more than one investment adviser (such as to more than one division of VFIA and/or to another Virtus affiliated investment adviser). Certain compliance personnel operate in a dual hatted capacity with VFIA affiliates. Any dual-hatted individuals are subject to the policies and procedures of both investment advisers and affiliates.

In a variety of instances, Seix utilizes the personnel and/or services of one or more of VFIA’s affiliates, in the performance of Seix’s business, including, without limitation, finance, accounting, human resources, operations, talent management, compliance, legal, technology, platform channel sales and service, marketing, and wholesaling. Such utilization can take a variety of forms including dual employee or delegation arrangements, formal sub-advisory or servicing agreements, or other formal and informal arrangements among VFIA and its affiliates. In these circumstances, the registered affiliate with which the client has its investment management agreement remains responsible for the account within the framework of the Advisers Act and/or other applicable regulatory frameworks and the relevant investment management agreement and no additional fees are charged to the client for the affiliates’ services except as set forth in the investment management agreement.

Certain employees of VP Distributors, LLC (“VPD”) promote the services of Seix as well as the products managed by Seix. When Seix pays a fee to VPD for the efforts of VPD’s employees to promote Seix’s services, VPD is an affiliated third-party promoter for Seix as discussed further in Item 14, below.



Certain employees of a related person of Seix, Virtus International Management, LLP (“Virtus International”) (Registration No. 451446), also promote the services of Seix as well as the products managed by Seix. Virtus International’s representatives are permitted to introduce Seix’s investment advisory services to institutional entities and sovereign wealth funds and other foreign official institutions within the United Kingdom and in other jurisdictions globally, to the extent permitted by the laws of each applicable jurisdiction. In the Asia-Pacific region, approved persons of Virtus Global Partners PTE. LTD (“Virtus Singapore”) (UEN 201018015Z), which is authorized and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (“MAS”), are permitted to introduce the investment advisory services of Seix and certain of its affiliates to institutional entities, sovereign wealth funds, and other foreign official institutions. Certain employees of a related person of Seix, seconded to Virtus International Fund Management Limited (“VIFM”) (Ref. No. C182357), which is authorized and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland, carry out sales and marketing activity of an Irish-domiciled UCITS fund for which VFIA, of which Seix is a division, is the appointed investment manager, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

## **(1) Investment Companies**

Seix, as a division of VFIA, has contracted with VFA to sub-advise certain investment portfolios of the Virtus mutual funds which are affiliated with Seix, and are distributed by VPD. Broker-dealers play a significant role and receive 12b-1 and other internal and external fees for selling interests in the Virtus Mutual Funds. Service providers to the Virtus Mutual Funds subadvised by Seix include VPD, the Principal Underwriter and Distributor; Virtus Fund Services, LLC (“VFS”), the Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent; and Bank of New York Mellon, Custodian. VFS may engage other firms to provide administrative, fund accounting and transfer agency services to the Virtus Mutual Funds.

Seix sub-advises the ETFs which are affiliated with VFIA and distributed by VPD. Broker-dealers play a significant role and receive fees for selling the ETFs. Service providers to the ETF include VPD, the Principal Underwriter and Distributor; Virtus ETF Solutions LLC as Administrator of the Trust; and Bank of New York Mellon as Accounting Services Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent.

Seix is a sub-adviser of the City National Rochdale Fixed Income Opportunities Fund, a series of City National Rochdale Funds, which is a registered investment company. Seix is a sub-adviser of the Destinations Municipal Fixed Income Fund, a series of the Brinker Capital Destinations Trust, which is a registered investment company.

## **(2) Investment Advisers/Broker-Dealers**

VFIA has material business relationships with VFA. Seix, as a division of VFIA, has contracted with VFA to sub-advise and provide portfolio management, research and analysis, to specified Client assets of VFA, including certain Virtus Mutual Funds. Seix and VFA have entered into solicitation or referral arrangements. Certain Seix officers and employees are also officers and employees of one or more or all affiliates.

Seix is a division of VFIA, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of VPI, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus. Virtus is a publicly traded company operating a multi-manager asset management business (NYSE: VRTS). Certain officers and directors of Virtus serve as officers of Virtus’s indirect, wholly owned affiliates, including VFIA and Seix.

VFIA has a number of affiliates that are registered investment advisers, which are:

- AlphaSimplex Group, LLC;
- Ceredex Value Advisors LLC;
- Duff & Phelps Investment Management Co.;
- Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management, LLC;
- NFJ Investment Group, LLC;
- Seix CLO Management LLC;
- Silvant Capital Management LLC;
- Sustainable Growth Advisers, LP;
- Virtus Advisers, LLC
- Virtus Alternative Investment Advisers, Inc. (“VAIA”);
- Virtus Capital Advisers, LLC;
- Virtus Investment Advisers, LLC;
- Westchester Capital Management, LLC; and
- Westchester Capital Partners, LLC.

VFIA wholly owns the general partner of Seix CLO Management LP and Seix CLO Cayman LP. Seix CLO Management LP wholly owns Seix CLO Management LLC, which is a SEC registered investment adviser formed to meet the requirement of the “risk retention” rules promulgated by U.S. federal regulators under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act signed into federal law on July 21, 2010 (“Dodd-Frank Act”) and the European Union’s regulations regarding risk retention in securitized assets (“EU Risk Retention Rules”). The Dodd-Frank Act risk retention rules no longer apply to open market CLOs as of May 2018. Seix CLO Management LLC acts as collateral manager for Mountain View CLO 2016-1 Ltd. and Mountain View CLO 2017-1 Ltd. and may act as collateral manager for future CLOs. Certain VFIA officers and employees are also either directors or officers of Seix CLO Management LLC.

As noted in Item 7 and in this Item 10 above, VFIA acts as an adviser or sub-adviser to various pooled investment vehicles (not all of which may be listed), including investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, collective investment trusts, private funds and registered offshore funds such as Irish UCITS. Affiliates of VFIA serve in one or more capacities for certain of these funds as disclosed in the relevant fund offering materials.

### **(3) Private Partnerships**

Seix, as a division of VFIA, may serve as general partner, sole member of the general partner or managing member of any of the various Funds it manages. In particular, Seix serves as the Collateral Manager for CLO Funds. VFIA is the sole member of Seix CLO Management GP LLC, which is the general partner of Seix CLO Management LP and Seix CLO Cayman LP. The CLO Funds may be offered to Clients of Seix or its affiliates. VFIA is the manager of Mountain View CLO IX KE, LLC and provides certain administrative functions in its capacity as manager.

VFIA (by and through its divisions), or its affiliates, may serve as, or in a capacity substantially similar to, general partner or managing member of other private funds now or in the future.

Each private fund relies on exemptions from registration under of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and 1940 Act Section 3(c)(7) and Rule 3a-7. They may offer and sell units only to Accredited Investors as defined in the Securities Act of 1933 and Qualified Purchasers as defined in 1940 Act Section 2(a)(51) or to “knowledgeable employees” as defined in 1940 Act Rule 3c-5 (collectively, “Investors”). Each private Fund is managed only in accordance with its own characteristics and Investors may not impose restrictions on any investments or types of investments that would alter Seix’s investment strategy for the private Funds. In addition, Investors may not direct Seix to purchase or sell portfolio securities through any specific broker or dealer. Investors should consider whether a particular private Fund meets their investment objectives and risk tolerance prior to investing. Information about each private Fund can be found in its offering documents, including any confidential private placement memorandum.

#### **D. Material Conflicts of Interest Relating to Other Investment Advisers**

Seix serves as subadvisor to certain of the Virtus Mutual Funds, the ETFs and Virtus GF SHY Fund, which offer investors a selection of fixed income and equity mutual funds and other pooled investment vehicles. When appropriate, Seix may recommend investment in these affiliated mutual funds and investment vehicles. To the extent that a Client chooses to invest all or a portion of its account in an affiliated mutual fund and investment vehicles, Seix does not charge an advisory fee on assets invested in affiliated mutual funds and investment vehicles, in addition to the advisory fees embedded in the mutual funds and investment vehicles.

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

#### **A. Code of Ethics of VFIA (the firm)**

We endeavor to ensure that the investment management and overall business of the firm complies with both our firm and Virtus (parent) policies and applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws and regulations. We have adopted the Virtus Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics (the “Codes”) in accordance with Rule 204A-1 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Codes have been reasonably designed to prevent and detect possible conflicts of interest with client trades. Compliance with the Codes is a condition of employment. All of our supervised persons must acknowledge terms of the Codes, annually, or as amended. Any employee found to have engaged in improper or unlawful activity faces appropriate disciplinary action. Each employee is responsible for ensuring that they and those they manage, conduct business professionally and comply with our firm’s policies and procedures. Employees must immediately report (to their supervisor, a compliance officer or corporate legal counsel) their knowledge any wrongdoing or improper conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken against that individual. Our reporting procedures are supported by a telephone number and similar on-line reporting technology available 24-hours/day to any employee to confidentially report, or request assistance concerning possible violations of the Codes and other firm policies. This technology and reporting platform is administered by an independent, third-party.

Our officers and employees are encouraged to invest in shares of investment products that we and/or our affiliates advise. Subject to limitations described herein and set forth by our Codes, our officers and/or associated personnel may buy, hold, or sell the same investments for their own accounts as are held or to be held or sold for a client account and they may engage in the following:

- Recommend that clients buy or sell securities or investment products in which we or a related person have some financial interest; and/or
- Buy or sell securities or investment products that our firm and/or our officers and associated personnel or a related person recommends to our clients.

Our Codes are designed to prevent and detect conflicts of interest in regard to the above.

None of our officers and Access or Advisory persons may buy or sell any security or any option to buy or sell such security, such that they hold or acquire any direct or indirect beneficial ownership as a result of the transaction, if they know at the time of such transaction that such a security or option is being bought, sold, or considered for purchase or sale for a client account, unless one or more of the following conditions exist:

- They have no influence or control over the transaction from which they will acquire a beneficial interest;
- The transaction is non-volitional on their part or the client's;
- The transaction is a purchase under an automatic dividend reinvestment plan or pursuant to the exercise of rights issues, pro-rata to them and other holders of the same class of the issuer's securities; or
- They have obtained, in advance, approval from someone authorized to grant such approval when circumstances indicate no reasonable likelihood of harm to the client or violation of applicable laws and regulations.

### *Code of Conduct*

The following highlights some of the provisions of the Virtus Code of Conduct:

- Compliance with Applicable Laws, Rules and Regulations
- Insider Trading
- Conflicts of Interest
- Corporate Opportunities
- Fair Dealing
- Protection and Proper Use of Company Assets
- Confidentiality
- Recordkeeping
- Interaction with Government Officials and Lobbying
- Contract Review and Execution
- Company Disclosures and Public Communications
- Information Protection Policies
- Human Resource Policies
- Use of Social Media
- Intellectual Property
- Designation of Compliance Officers
- Seeking Guidance About Requirement of the Code
- Reporting Violations
- Waivers, Discipline and Penalties

## *Code of Ethics*

Employees are categorized as either Supervised, Access or Advisory Persons under our Code of Ethics.

All Supervised Persons are required to comply with the following:

- Instruct their brokers to directly provide our Compliance Department with duplicate copies of brokerage statements and trade confirmations or the electronic equivalent.
- Provide Initial Holdings Reports, Quarterly Transaction Reports, and Annual Certification and Holdings Reports, which our Compliance Department reviews for trading activity.
- Conduct their personal transactions consistent with the Code of Ethics and in a manner that avoids any actual or potential conflict of interest.

In addition to the above, those employees classified as Access Persons are further required to comply with the following:

- Pre-clear all non-exempt transactions with respect to which an employee is beneficial owner in order to prevent the employee from buying or selling at the same time as the firm.
- Hold all covered securities no less than 30-days.

Employees classified as Advisory Persons are further prohibited from directly or indirectly acquiring or disposing of a security on the date of, and within seven calendar days before and after the portfolio(s) associated with that person's portfolio management activities.

Any covered employee not in observance of the above may be subject to a variety of disciplinary actions.

## *Other Related Policies and Procedures*

We have adopted the Virtus Insider Trading Policy designed to mitigate the risks of our firm and its employees misusing and misappropriating any material non-public information that they may become aware of, either on behalf of our clients or for their own benefit. Personnel are not to divulge or act upon any material, non-public information, as defined under relevant securities laws and in our Insider Trading Policy. All employees, temporary employees, consultants, independent contractors and family members are considered "Insiders" under the policy. Employees who have access to earnings information, mergers & acquisitions information and other material non-public information are "Restricted Insiders" subject to trading window closures for Virtus securities. In addition, all Insiders are banned from short selling, derivatives trading or hedging of Virtus securities.

In addition to the above, our policies set limitations on and require reporting of gifts, entertainment, business meals, sponsorships, business building and charitable donations, whether given or received.

The Gifts and Entertainment Policy permits Virtus investment adviser affiliates to provide approved gifts not exceeding \$250 per person per year, so long as that gift does not involve VP Distributors' mutual fund, ETF or UCITS business. The gift limit remains \$100 per person per year for approved gifts that involve VP Distributors' registered representatives.

Our personnel may, under certain conditions, be granted permission to serve as directors, trustees, or officers of outside organizations. Prior to doing so, approval must be provided by Compliance.

A complete copy of our Code of Conduct and/or our Code of Ethics is available by sending a written request to Virtus Fixed Income Advisers, LLC Attn: Corporate Compliance, One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103 or by emailing a request to us at: [InvestmentAdviser@Virtus.com](mailto:InvestmentAdviser@Virtus.com).

## **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Seix and VFIA's affiliates may act as investment adviser to numerous Client accounts. Seix's employees and VFIA's affiliates may invest in securities they also recommend to Clients and may give advice and take action with respect to Client accounts they manage, or for their own accounts, that may differ from action taken by Seix or VFIA's affiliates on behalf of other Client accounts. As these situations may represent a potential conflict of interest, Seix and VFIA's affiliates have adopted restrictive policies and procedures wherever deemed appropriate to detect and mitigate or prevent potential conflicts of interest. Seix and its employees are not obligated to recommend, buy or sell, or to refrain from recommending, buying or selling any security that Seix, VFIA's affiliates or their respective Access Persons, as defined under the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act, may buy or sell for their own accounts or for the accounts of any other Client. Seix is not obligated to refrain from investing in securities held by Client accounts that it manages except to the extent that such investments violate the Code of Ethics adopted by Seix, and the Virtus Mutual Funds or any other regulatory or Client-imposed restrictions or guidelines. From time to time, Seix, its officers, directors and employees may have interests in securities owned by or recommended to Seix's Clients. These include interests in bonds, mutual funds, and privately offered Funds, domestic or foreign, that may invest directly or indirectly in securities of issuers which Seix may purchase for CLO Funds, Performa, the ETF and Virtus GF SHY Fund. As these situations may represent a potential conflict of interest, Seix has adopted procedures relating to personal securities transactions and insider trading that are reasonably designed to prevent perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

In addition, the existence of intercompany arrangements, business relationships and investment practices between Seix, its parent company and affiliates creates the potential for conflicts of interest. Seix has adopted restrictive policies and procedures wherever deemed appropriate to detect and mitigate or prevent potential conflicts of interest. Known conflicts and Seix's handling of such conflicts are disclosed below.

Seix portfolio management and trading personnel may at times simultaneously purchase or sell the same investments for Seix's Clients, as well as for various non-Seix Client relationships. Restrictive policies and procedures for information protection, Client account access, cross trading and trade allocations have been implemented. Information sharing restrictions and policies and procedures have been implemented to protect Client account information access.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, Seix's compliance policies and procedures, and a client's investment management agreement and investment guidelines, Seix may exercise its discretion to execute "cross trades" between different Clients subject to client consent and applicable policies and procedures. Cross trades may benefit clients on both sides of the trade by eliminating the need to pay a spread, mark-up or commission to a counterparty. However, cross trades also present a potential conflict of interest because Seix represents the interests of both the selling account and the buying account in the same transaction. As a result, the Clients for which Seix executes cross trades bear the risk that one counterparty to the cross trade may be treated more favorably than the other party, particularly in cases where one party pay Seix high management fees. In addition, there is a risk that the price of an asset

bought or sold through a cross trade may not be as favorable as it might have been had the trade been executed in the open market. To the extent that one Seix Client has purchased or sold a security and another Seix Client has conducted the opposite trade, during the normal course of business, the trade will be considered to be “in the market” if the trader has waited at least four hours to execute a trade in the opposite direction or has executed each side of the trade with a different broker. Trades executed in this manner will not be considered cross trades. Currently, the only Clients permitted to execute cross trades are the CLO Funds.

For the wrap program trading desks, the trader must wait at least two hours to execute a trade in the opposite direction or execute each side of a trade with a different broker. Should the wrap trading desks and the institutional trading desks happen to be trading the same securities in opposite directions, they will not be considered cross trades because the desks have different traders.

The Seix cross-trading policy excludes treasury and agency trades because the liquidity in these markets is such that only a few minutes is needed to ensure that the trades have been exposed to the market.

Due to the use of separate trading desks, it is possible that inadvertent cross-trades may occur between accounts managed by Seix and accounts managed by the other two divisions of VFIA, Newfleet and Stone Harbor. Potential cross-trades reports are reviewed on a regular basis by compliance personnel from Seix, Newfleet and Stone Harbor to identify any inadvertent cross-trades. The facts and circumstances regarding any inadvertent cross-trades are investigated by compliance and documented. In addition, Seix, Newfleet and Stone Harbor may compete for allocations of newly issued bonds and bank loans for their respective client accounts with similar investment guidelines or investment strategies. Seix, Newfleet and Stone Harbor will not share allocations of newly issued bonds and bank loans with each other.

Seix has a policy of not purchasing or recommending the purchase of securities issued by its parent company, Virtus. This policy also applies to the voting securities of a publicly held company if a director or senior officer of Virtus or its affiliates sits on the board. Restricted security information is available on request.

Certain “knowledgeable employees” (as such term is defined in Rule 3c-5 promulgated under the 1940 Act) of Seix have invested in Mountain View CLO 2013-1 Ltd. (“MV 2013”) as provided in MV 2013’s offering memorandum, and/or have invested indirectly in Mountain View CLO IX Ltd. (“MV IX”) through Mountain View CLO IX KE, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company created for the knowledgeable employees. Investments in MV 2013, and MV IX by Seix knowledgeable employees present inherent conflicts of interest when allocating trades or investment opportunities because MV 2013, and MV IX are managed by certain of the knowledgeable employees side by side with certain mutual funds, the ETFs, Virtus GF SHY Fund, the other CLO Funds, Performa, and certain individually managed Client accounts. Seix has procedures in place to ensure that trades are allocated fairly among Clients, including monitoring allocations. In addition, the compensation of the knowledgeable employees who manage MV 2013, and MV IX are tied to the performance of all of the Funds, and individual Client accounts that they manage.

Mutual fund transactions with affiliated broker-dealers, if any, will be executed only pursuant to procedures adopted by the respective Board of Trustees of such mutual funds under the 1940 Act Rules 17e-1 and 10f-3. Cross transactions in mutual funds are executed only in accordance with 1940 Act Rule 17a-7 procedures adopted by each mutual fund’s respective Board of Trustees. Under certain conditions,

and upon specific Client requests, purchases of a mutual fund portfolio may be executed through "in-kind" securities purchases in lieu of cash purchases. Each Client request and each portfolio holding is individually evaluated to determine the feasibility and acceptability under the policies and procedures of Seix and the relevant mutual fund.

For accounts where Seix may be delegated discretion pursuant to an agreement with Truist Bank, transactions with affiliated broker-dealers will be executed only as allowed in conformance with Section 23B of the Federal Reserve Act and other applicable laws or regulations.

To the best of its abilities, Seix reviews and monitors each individual situation to ensure that all Clients are adequately protected against conflicts of interest. With respect to voting proxies for any such companies, Seix follows the conflicts provisions described in its Proxy Voting Policy designed to eliminate or minimize any such conflict. For more information, see the Summary of Seix Investment Advisor's Proxy Voting Policy below.

Seix shall maintain records under the conditions described in Rule 31a-2 under the 1940 Act and Rule 204-2 of the Advisers Act that shall be available for examination by representatives of the SEC.

## **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

### **A. Factors Considered in Selecting or Recommending Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions**

#### **Investment or Brokerage Discretion**

Seix generally has discretionary authority to determine, without obtaining specific Client consent, the securities and the amounts thereof to be bought or sold. Seix must adhere to Client investment guidelines, even though such guidelines may adversely affect the Client's investment returns. At a Client's request, Seix may provide non-discretionary investment management services. See Item 10, above, for a discussion of limitations on Seix's authority to buy or sell securities that may involve any related persons.

#### **Selection Criteria for Brokers and Dealers**

Seix's objective in selecting brokers and dealers and in effecting portfolio transactions is to obtain the best combination of price and execution with respect to transactions in its Clients' accounts. Loans are generally purchased and sold directly between loan counterparties in dealer markets and debt securities are also generally purchased and sold in dealer markets where there are no agency commissions. Therefore, a number of other judgmental factors must be considered, along with the best price.

Seix uses Electronic Communications Networks ("ECNs"), through which multiple brokers compete for trading opportunities, for certain types of securities. This usually results in equal or more favorable overall executions for the transactions.



Seix's Brokerage Committee meets periodically, but no less than quarterly, to review and assess all current broker-dealer relationships. In selecting among broker-dealers to execute a given transaction under Seix's discretionary authority, Seix considers, among other things, the following:

1. the broker's expertise and ability to execute the transaction at the most favorable price of the security for the Client;
2. the ability of the broker to handle large blocks/thin markets and other special trading situations;
3. the price of the security for the Client;
4. the financial strength and stability of the brokerage firm;
5. the investment research services provided by the broker; and
6. the operational abilities of the broker.

Seix evaluates the performance of the brokerage firms using the criteria specified above and other input as deemed appropriate. Performance is also reviewed relative to trading volume to help determine if best execution is being obtained. Brokers that have not been approved are blocked from Seix's trade allocation system in order to prevent trading with unauthorized brokers.

## **Trade Aggregation Policy**

Where consistent with Seix's duty to seek best execution, and subject to Client specific investment guidelines, restrictions and requirements, Seix will aggregate contemporaneous transactions for multiple clients to seek more favorable execution quality or terms, including where possible, negotiating more favorable pricing. Seix will allocate an aggregated transaction among participating Client accounts according to Seix's written trade allocation policy, which is reasonably designed to treat Clients fairly and equitably over time.

Due to market conditions, aggregated orders will not always be completely filled at one price or in total. Where an order is filled at varying prices, participating accounts will receive the average price and will be treated the same with respect to transaction costs such as assignment fees for bank loans so that all accounts receive a fair price and are otherwise treated fairly and equitably over time. Where an order is not completely filled, except as otherwise set forth below, the transaction will be allocated *pro rata* to each account's initial order, subject (in each case) to rounding or other adjustments necessary to avoid odd lots or *de minimis* holding sizes that are below required minimums or which would, in Seix's view, otherwise disadvantage a Client.

Dedicated investment disciplines and portfolios may receive all or a larger percentage of a partially filled transaction if the asset is generally the primary investment type for the account to provide all accounts a fair opportunity over time to appropriately pursue their investment mandate. For example, an account that primarily invests in bank loans ("bank loan account") could receive a relatively greater allocation of a partially filled bank loan transaction than an account that primarily invests in bonds ("bond account"). Conversely, when allocating a bond trade between a bond account and a bank loan account, the bond account could receive a relatively greater allocation of a partially filled bond transaction. Seix believes that this treatment should result in each account receiving fair and equitable opportunities to best pursue its particular investment objectives over time.

In the course of determining whether a trade should be allocated *pro rata*, Seix considers the characteristics of each potentially eligible account, including the size of the accounts and whether a trade is appropriate for relatively larger or smaller accounts, in accordance with the trade allocation policy. For example, Clients with smaller accounts, limited available cash or investment guidelines or restrictions that impact the size of an investment that can be held will, in some cases, not be able to receive allocations. This could cause the performance of smaller accounts to diverge from that of a larger account invested in the same primary strategy. In addition, as discussed below, Seix's trade allocation policy includes provisions specific to the allocation of certain type of trades, which are designed to promote fair and equitable treatment of Clients over time in light of particular considerations associated with those opportunities and trades.

Aggregation of trades will not be done across the three divisions of VFIA.

### *Bank Loans*

#### *Primary Market*

Seix engages in trades to acquire bank loans in the primary (new issue) market. Seix seeks to allocate primary market purchases of bank loans among eligible clients fairly and equitably over time. Seix seeks to allocate bank loans purchased in the primary market *pro rata* in accordance with eligible Clients' account market values, subject to individual Client guidelines and restrictions (e.g., ratings or maturity limitations) and available cash. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in order to facilitate timely investment of new Client accounts and to accommodate investment of inflows for existing clients in accordance with their investment objectives, Seix can prioritize accounts that are ramping (i.e., investing a large amount of cash in a new account within certain time frames) and or have received a large cash inflow (i.e., five percent (5%) or more of account value based on current market value) in the allocation of a bank loan purchased in the primary market.

#### *Secondary Market*

Bank loans can also be purchased in the secondary market. Seix's goal is to allocate secondary-market bank loans on a *pro rata* basis among eligible clients subject to specific Client account needs based upon investment guidelines and restrictions such as ratings, maturity, allowable asset types and available cash. This can result in allocations that are not *pro rata* in some cases.

#### *Opportunistic Market Loan Trades*

Opportunistic market loan trades seek to profit from inefficiencies in the loan marketplace, through purchasing a loan position from a third party and selling that position to another third party over a short-term horizon including intra-day. Due to the risk level, short-term nature, relatively small size of such trades, potential multiple assignment fees and minimum dollar amount requirements under the applicable credit agreements, opportunistic market loan trades are appropriate only for a limited number of clients whose primary strategy is to invest in loans, where the eligible clients are periodically reevaluated based on the account type, investment guidelines and size of clients that primarily invest in bank loans. As a result, opportunistic market loan trades are not allocated *pro rata* among all Clients, instead allocations are to pre-identified eligible accounts and based on pre-defined trade thresholds by trade size. Opportunistic market loan trades are allocated among certain Client accounts considered eligible to receive such trades, including those Clients whose primary investment strategy is loans,

according to the size of the opportunistic market loan trades; in light of the characteristics of this particular trade type, Seix believes the participation of the eligible accounts is appropriate.

### *Sales*

In all accounts, an asset may be sold if necessary or appropriate to maintain conformity with the account's investment guidelines or restrictions including portfolio tests. Sales in assets will occur if the Client withdraws cash or terminates their account. For Investment Grade accounts, Seix establishes an upside spread target and downside spread threshold for each bond, where a bond is typically sold when the spread target is achieved or the downside threshold is breached. For High Yield accounts, a position will typically be sold if Seix determines that the issuer's fundamentals have changed or if the asset reached its predetermined performance target. Further, if the price of an asset falls 10% relative to its peers, Seix will perform a formal re-underwriting of the asset, which may result in the asset being sold.

### *Conflicts Associated with Allocations; Monitoring*

It is Seix's goal, to the extent practical, to allocate investment opportunities to Client accounts on a fair and equitable basis over time. Allocation decisions present inherent conflicts of interest and, due to the nature of the assets Seix manages, with respect to any one trade, certain Client accounts could appear to be disadvantaged. As discussed in Item 6 above, to the extent that any accounts have performance-based fees, such as CLO Funds, Seix is incentivized to allocate trades to these accounts and Seix has policies and procedures in place to manage such conflicts, including ongoing documentation related to and monitoring of non-*pro rata* primary bank loan and bond trades; these conflicts are also discussed in Item 6. In addition, Seix will not disproportionately allocate trades in a manner inconsistent with the manager's ability to effectively and efficiently maintain or sell the position (i.e., "odd lots" or less than standard incremental amounts). The trader will, however, ensure that all accounts are treated fairly based on all distribution criteria (i.e., no Client will disproportionately receive rounded-up allocations) and that the affiliated accounts do not otherwise benefit from the inability to adequately allocate odd lots to Clients.

Seix documents the non-*pro rata* allocation determinations made with respect to primary-market bank loans and primary-market bonds. Compliance will regularly monitor allocations of primary-market bonds and bank loans for consistency with the trade allocation policy.

### *Trade Error Policy*

Seix will reimburse Clients for any direct loss resulting from the correction of a guideline breach or trade error where such is the result of an action taken by Seix. The account will keep any gains associated with corrective action. For the most part, there is no netting of multiple transactions – i.e., gains on some trades cannot be netted with losses in order to reimburse a Client for a loss. Exceptions consist of instances such as wash sale programs, Wrap Programs and the like. The gain or loss will be determined based on net proceeds paid vs. net proceeds received. It is not Seix's policy to reimburse Clients for passive breaches of investment guidelines, which are those that occur, not because of actions taken or not taken by Seix, but rather due to changes to the issuer of a security, such as delisting from an exchange or a downgrade by a rating agency, or those due to changes in market conditions, where values of securities held by a Client increase or decrease.

## **Client-Directed Brokerage Transactions**

Seix usually has discretion to select executing broker-dealers. However, Clients occasionally restrict Seix from using a particular broker or request that Seix use a specified broker or dealer to effect transactions in an account as compensation for services provided directly or indirectly by the broker to the Client.

Specifying or restricting broker-dealers may be inconsistent with obtaining best overall execution for a Client transaction. Where a Client directs or restricts the use of a particular broker-dealer, or broker-dealers, Seix may not be in a position where it can negotiate spreads or obtain volume discounts, and therefore, best price may not be achieved, which may negatively affect that Client's account performance. In addition, Clients who direct Seix to use a particular broker-dealer or restrict Seix from using a particular broker-dealer may be prevented from participating in allocations of certain limited-availability securities and from obtaining a portion of the allocation of new offerings through any such broker-dealers who are members of the offering underwriting syndicate.

Upon written Client direction, Seix may execute trades through specified broker-dealers, but only on the Client's understanding that separating such transactions from block orders could materially and adversely affect the Client's returns. Trades from Client-directed brokerage arrangements are executed on a best efforts basis. To the extent that Seix would otherwise have included the Client's transaction in a block order, directed orders will be placed after block trades. Seix reserves the right not to use a directed broker-dealer if the Brokerage Committee deems it in the best interests of the Client. Moreover, Seix is not obligated to execute any brokerage transactions through a directed broker-dealer that is not on its authorized broker list.

Seix participates in several Wrap Programs as identified in Item 1, above. In the typical Wrap Program, the Sponsor will provide the Client trade execution, along with investment advice, accounting, investment performance measurement and administrative services, for a comprehensive fee. Notwithstanding, the fixed income Wrap Programs managed by Seix permit Seix to trade with brokers of its choice, which may be a broker affiliated with a Wrap Sponsor. However, Seix does not place trades on behalf of a Wrap Sponsor's Clients with a broker or brokers affiliated with such Wrap Sponsor. When placing trades on behalf of a Wrap Sponsor's Clients, Seix will use the broker that provides the best price and execution for such trades as long as the broker is not affiliated with the applicable Wrap Sponsor. In addition, if any Wrap Clients are subject to ERISA, trading with the Wrap Sponsor may create a potential party-in-interest transaction prohibited under ERISA. Not all Wrap Sponsors require Clients to direct brokerage.

Further, for asset-based Wrap fees which cover trades executed by a broker affiliated with the Wrap Sponsor, Wrap Clients may be charged both fees on trades executed by other non-affiliated broker-dealers, and "mark-ups" and "mark-downs" on trades executed by the broker affiliated with the Wrap Sponsor or another broker-dealer as principal, as well as odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, handling charges, exchange fees, offering concessions and related fees for purchases of unit investment trusts, mutual funds and other public offerings of securities, and other charges imposed by law with regard to transactions in Wrap Clients accounts. Since asset-based fees may be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as an investment expense rather than a transaction charge, Clients should consult with their professional tax advisors regarding the potential impact of such classification.

Pursuant to the Wrap Program agreement, the Sponsor pays Seix an investment advisory fee, which is included in the Client's comprehensive fee. The Sponsor is generally responsible for the majority of Client

communication and administrative services. Depending on the contractual relationship, Seix may or may not retain proxy-voting rights on behalf of a Wrap Program.

Seix's role in a Wrap Program is solely to provide investment management services. Trades for Wrap Clients are bunched together and sent out as an omnibus block trade to several broker-dealers in order to receive best price and execution. In order to avoid potential party-in-interest transactions for Wrap Clients who may be subject to ERISA, generally all purchases of corporate bonds for Wrap accounts are done in the morning, while Wrap accounts' sales of corporate bonds are done in the afternoon, or, if possible, done on different days.

### **"Soft Dollar" or Research/Execution Policy**

Brokerage activity is not used to pay for the costs of any third party services received including, but not limited to, investment strategies, research, news, and quotation equipment. Any and all such services are paid with "hard dollars". Seix does receive unsolicited research from certain of the broker-dealers it trades with during the normal course of business.

## **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

### **A. Frequency and Nature of Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans**

#### **Account Reviews**

Accounts are assigned to either the Head of Institutional Client Service, Client Portfolio Manager, Managing Director or Senior Client Service Professional ("SCSP") based on a number of factors including location of Client, investment strategy, Client type and, special needs. The SCSP directs the relationship by organizing the resources of the client service team to ensure that all Client relationships and portfolios are properly serviced, monitored and supervised. SCSPs are well-acquainted with the Client's organization, philosophy, investment guidelines and objectives. CLO Funds are not subject to the account review process because they are monitored by a dedicated analyst on a regular basis.

Specific Client guidelines and restrictions are coded into compliance guideline systems upon account opening and reviewed as part of Seix's biennial account review process (the "Review"). The Review consists of a detailed review of each Client by members of Client Service and Compliance to confirm that Seix has complete and current records and documentation for the Client's account, including investment guidelines, investment policy statement (if applicable), investment restrictions, authorized signers' list, etc. Accounts are reviewed continuously with the aid of the automated guideline compliance system by the SCSPs or a client service team member at Seix to ensure that account guidelines and objectives are being followed with regard to asset allocation, individual securities owned and other Client-specific factors. In addition, external events may trigger an account review or action by the SCSP. These include, but are not limited to:

1. a change in the fundamentals or performance expectations of a security held in an account;

2. a change in investment strategy;
3. a change in the Client's risk tolerance, income and cash needs, tax status, or any other change in the Client's profile;
4. additions to or withdrawals from an account;
5. a meeting with a Client where its needs are reviewed and/or changed; and
6. a material market or economic change.

## **Account Reports**

Seix's policy is to provide quarterly reports to separately managed account Clients. Seix's typical quarterly report includes a discussion of a topic that is pertinent to the management of the Client's portfolio and performance commentary. In addition, there is a quarterly report booklet that includes portfolio sector allocations, portfolio characteristics, a portfolio valuation and performance for the account, both for cumulative and calendar periods. Special reports are prepared when requested. Further, Seix will accommodate specific daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly reporting requirements requested by Clients. Investors in the CLO Funds, Performa, and the issuers of same will receive such reports as are provided for in the respective offering memoranda/documents.

Seix may, to the best of its ability, assist Clients with corporate action filings involving class action lawsuits. Assistance is limited to mailing Clients any documentation for class action suits involving assets currently or formerly managed by Seix. Seix will forward to the Client any material received, but will not complete or file class action claims or other related class action documentation on behalf of the Client. Seix will not prepare or file proofs of claim or ballots in a bankruptcy proceeding on behalf of its Clients except in limited circumstances.

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

### **A. Economic Benefits for Providing Services to Clients**

Not applicable

### **B. Compensation to Non-Supervised Persons for Client Referrals**

Seix may on occasion enter into solicitation agreements with individuals, financial intermediaries or others who may or may not be affiliated with Seix. All solicitation agreements will comply with Rule 206(4)-3 under the Advisers Act and any other law as applicable. These solicitation arrangements, where applicable, require an affiliated solicitor to disclose such affiliation, and would require a third party solicitor to provide each prospective Client with a copy of Seix's Form ADV Part 2 and to disclose to the prospective Client the nature of the arrangement between the solicitor and Seix. Payment to the solicitor by Seix will not increase the general fees paid by the prospective Client.

While Seix currently does not compensate any unaffiliated third parties for client referrals, Seix may have relationship with certain consulting firms and other intermediaries. For example, Seix may, from time to time, purchase products or services, such as investment management performance data, from consulting firms. Seix may, from time to time, pay a fee for inclusion of information about the firm in databases maintained by certain unaffiliated third party data providers that in turn make such information available

to their investment consultant clients. The payments and benefits described in this paragraph could give the firms receiving them and their personnel an incentive to favor Seix's investment advisory services over those of firms that do not provide the same payments and benefits.

As discussed in Item 10, above, Seix has third-party promoter arrangements with VP Distributors, LLC ("VPD"), Virtus International Management, LLP ("Virtus International"), and Virtus Global Partners PTE. LTD ("Virtus Singapore"), each of which is an affiliate of Seix, whereby Seix compensates those entities for referrals in certain circumstances. The compensation paid by Seix to VPD, Virtus International and Virtus Singapore for these referral arrangements generally is structured as being all or a portion of any variable compensation paid by the affiliate to its employee(s) relating to assets under management by Seix that were referred by such employee(s), and in some cases the compensation also includes a percentage of the affiliate's costs with respect to employment of the individual(s).

With respect to the investment management of an Irish-domiciled UCITS fund, Seix, a division of VFIA, or any of its affiliates providing investment management to such UCITS fund, at its discretion and only where permitted by applicable law, can rebate, or cause to rebate, part or all of the investment management fees charged to any UCITS fund shareholder or use part of such investment management fees to remunerate certain financial intermediaries of such UCITS funds for services provided to UCITS fund shareholders.

Seix or an affiliate may from time to time pay event attendance or participation fees, underwrite charitable or industry events or provide gifts of value to, or at the request of, an organization or individual that offers or includes products or services of Seix or an affiliate in a particular program or refers or has referred a Client to Seix. All such activities will be done in compliance with applicable law and Seix's Gifts and Entertainment policy. In addition, certain third party institutions provide financial support on a voluntary basis for educational meetings. The amount of any such support may be substantial and may vary among payors.

In addition, Seix or any of its affiliates may enter into arrangements with, and/or make payments from their own assets to, certain intermediaries to enable access to Virtus Funds on platforms made available by such intermediaries or to assist such intermediaries to upgrade existing technology systems or implement new technology systems or programs in order to improve the methods through which the intermediary provides services to Seix and its affiliates and/or their clients. Such arrangements or payments may establish contractual obligations on the part of such intermediary to provide Seix's or an affiliate's fund clients with certain exclusive or preferred access to the use of the subject technology or programs or preferable placement on platforms operated by such intermediary. The services, arrangements and payments described in this paragraph present conflicts of interest because they provide incentives for intermediaries, customers or clients of intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers to recommend, or otherwise make available, Seix's or its affiliates' strategies or Virtus Funds to their clients in order to receive or continue to benefit from these arrangements from Seix or its affiliates. The provision of these services, arrangements and payments described above by Seix or its affiliates is only to the extent permitted by applicable law and guidance and is not dependent on the amount of Virtus Funds or strategies sold or recommended by such intermediaries, customers or clients of intermediaries, or such customers' or clients' service providers.

## **Item 15 – Custody**

VFIA does not have physical custody of either Client funds or securities. Clients receive account statements directly from their broker-dealers or custodians. Clients should carefully review the account statements from their broker-dealers or custodians. Clients should compare the account reports they receive from their adviser with the account statements from their broker-dealers or custodians.

Though VFIA does not provide custodial services to Clients, under the SEC’s Custody Rule, VFIA is deemed to have custody in some situations due to the fact that VFIA can in those situations inform the custodian to remit investment advisory fees directly to VFIA.

VFIA, through its Newfleet division, serves in the capacity of general partner or manager to one or more private funds that are not registered under the Investment Company Act (the “private fund”). The private fund(s) has retained an unaffiliated custodian to be responsible for the custody and safekeeping of the private fund assets. Although VFIA will not have physical custody of such private fund’s assets, the Advisers Act defines custody broadly, and VFIA believes that, like any other private fund manager, VFIA is deemed to have custody of the private fund’s assets by reason of serving in the capacity of general partner or manager. In accordance with applicable custody requirements under the Advisers Act, an accountant registered with and subject to inspection by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) will conduct an annual audit of the private fund and investors in the private fund will receive audited financial statements annually.

## **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

Seix accepts discretionary authority from the Client at the outset of an advisory relationship to manage assets in the Client’s account. In all cases, however, such discretion is exercised observing investment limitations and restrictions that are outlined in each Client’s investment advisory agreement or investment policy guidelines. A Client can place reasonable restrictions on Seix’s investment discretion. The most common restrictions are social restrictions or those that prohibit us from buying specific companies. Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to Seix in writing. Such restrictions may impact performance.

For registered investment companies, Seix’s authority to trade securities may also be limited by certain federal securities and tax laws.

See Item 4 for additional information about discretionary and non-discretionary services.

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

Seix will accept proxy voting responsibility at the request of a Client. Once Seix accepts proxy voting responsibility, generally a Client will be allowed to request to vote its proxies on a particular solicitation and Seix will (if operationally possible) attempt to comply with the request. Where Seix is responsible to vote proxies for a Client, VFIA has a Proxy Committee (“Proxy Committee”) and is responsible for establishing policies and procedures designed to enable Seix to ethically and effectively discharge its fiduciary obligation to vote all applicable proxies on behalf of all discretionary Client accounts and funds. Annually (or more often as needed), the Proxy Committee will review, reaffirm and/or amend guidelines, strategies and proxy policies for all domestic and international Client accounts, Funds and product lines.



Seix's policy is to vote all shares per the VFIA Proxy Policy unless the Client chooses a custom policy. In the case that a ballot item is not covered under the policy or is coded as case-by-case in VFIA's policy, a research analyst or portfolio manager will review the available information and along with his/her knowledge of the company, will make a vote recommendation to the Proxy Committee. The Proxy Committee members consider the information and recommendation and vote on that ballot item. As reflected in the VFIA Proxy Policy, the Proxy Committee will affirmatively vote proxies for proposals that it interprets are deemed to be in the best economic interest of its Clients as shareholders and beneficiaries to those actions.

Due to its diversified Client base, numerous product lines and affiliations, the Proxy Committee may determine a potential conflict exists in connection with a proxy vote based on the SEC guidelines. In such instances, the Proxy Committee will review the potential conflict to determine if it is material.

Examples of material conflicts of interest which may arise could include those where the shares to be voted involve:

1. An issuer having substantial and numerous banking, investment, or other financial relationships with Seix, Newfleet or Stone Harbor; and
2. A senior officer of Seix, Newfleet or Stone Harbor serving on the board of a publicly held company.

Although VFIA utilizes a pre-determined proxy voting policy, occasions may arise in which a conflict of interest could be deemed to be material. In this case, the Proxy Committee will determine the most fair and reasonable procedure to be followed in order to properly address all conflict concerns. The Proxy Committee may retain an independent fiduciary to vote the securities.

Although VFIA does its best to alleviate or diffuse known conflicts, there is no guarantee that all situations have been or will be mitigated through Proxy Policy incorporation.

VFIA utilizes the services of Institutional Shareholder Services, as its agent to provide certain administrative, clerical functional recordkeeping and support services related to VFIA's proxy voting processes/procedures, which include, but are not limited to:

1. The collection and coordination of proxy material from each custodian for each Seix Client's account(s);
2. The facilitation of the mechanical act of proxy voting, reconciliation, and disclosure for each Seix Client's accounts(s), in accordance with VFIA's Proxy Policies and the Proxy Committee's direction; and
3. Required recordkeeping and voting record retention of all Seix proxy voting on behalf of Seix Clients.

To obtain a copy of the complete proxy voting policies and procedures, or information about how Seix voted your proxies, please contact: Compliance Officer & Paralegal at Seix Investment Advisors, One Maynard Drive, Suite 3200, Park Ridge, NJ 07656; or via telephone at (201) 391-0300 for further information, questions and/or concerns regarding VFIA's Proxy Policy; or to receive a complete copy of the Policy.

**Virtus Mutual Funds shareholders:**

Although another investment advisor may sub-advise some or all of these funds, all proxy votes are conducted by the Funds' Adviser, VFA. Information regarding how the Funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 will be available free of charge by calling, toll-free, 888-784-3863, or on the SEC's Web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**Litigation, Class Actions and Bankruptcies**

Unless specifically agreed otherwise, Seix will not take action or render advice involving legal action on behalf of a client with respect to securities or other investments held in the client's account or issuers thereof, which become the subject of legal notices or proceedings such as class action lawsuits. However, Seix may prepare and submit ballots accepting or rejecting plans of reorganization of issuers held in a client's account.

**Item 18 – Financial Information**

VFIA has no financial commitment or condition that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.



**Seix Investment Advisors is a division of  
Virtus Fixed Income Advisors, LLC,  
an SEC Registered Investment Adviser**

**One Maynard Drive, Suite 3200  
Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656  
(201) 391-0300**

**3333 Piedmont Road NE, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
(404) 845-7698**

**1290 Palmetto Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
(407) 674-1255**

**[www.seixadvisors.com](http://www.seixadvisors.com)**

**ADV Part 2B Brochure Supplement  
Leveraged Finance Management  
May 30, 2025**

This Brochure Supplement provides information on George Goudelias, Michael Kirkpatrick, James FitzPatrick, Michael Sebesta, Robert Spada, Kimberly Maichle, Michelle Gallo, Rebecca Ehrhart, and Julie Vinar that supplements the Seix Investment Advisors' ADV Part 2A Brochure. You should have received a copy of the 2A Brochure. Please contact Deirdre Dillon, Chief Compliance Officer, at 201-802-2305 if you did not receive a 2A Brochure or if you have any questions regarding the contents of this Brochure Supplement. The information in this Brochure Supplement has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority. Seix is a division of Virtus Fixed Income Advisors, LLC ("VFIA"), a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an Adviser.

Additional information about Seix and VFIA is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## Brochure Supplement (Form ADV Part 2B)

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### ***George Goudelias, Chief Investment Officer – Leveraged Finance***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 2001, George was a Senior High Yield Research Analyst at J.P. Morgan Securities.

**Educational Background:** George received a B.S. degree in Finance and Accounting and an M.B.A. degree in Finance from New York University. He was born in 1965.

**Disciplinary Information:** Mr. Goudelias has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Mr. Goudelias is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Mr. Goudelias receives no other additional compensation.

**Supervision:** George Goudelias is supervised by George Aylward, Chief Executive Officer of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. Mr. Aylward reviews George's work through remote interactions. Mr. Aylward can be reached at 860-263-4705 or [george.aylward@virtus.com](mailto:george.aylward@virtus.com).

### ***Michael Kirkpatrick, Senior Portfolio Manager***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 2002, Mike was a Senior Analyst with Oppenheimer Funds, Inc.

**Educational Background:** Mike received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware, School of Engineering and an M.B.A. degree from Rutgers University. He was born in 1968.

**Disciplinary Information:** Mr. Kirkpatrick has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Mr. Kirkpatrick is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Mr. Kirkpatrick receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Mike Kirkpatrick is supervised by George Goudelias, Chief Investment Officer -- Leveraged Finance. Mr. Goudelias reviews Mike's work through office and remote interactions. Mr. Goudelias can be reached at 201-802-2310 or [ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com](mailto:ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com).

***James FitzPatrick, CFA\*, Portfolio Manager, Head of Leveraged Finance Trading***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 1997, James was with Prudential Securities where he handled Corporate, Government and Mortgage trades as well as portfolio administration.

**Educational Background:** James received a B.A. degree in Marketing from the University of Delaware. He was born in 1974.

**Disciplinary Information:** Mr. FitzPatrick has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Mr. FitzPatrick is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Mr. FitzPatrick receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** James FitzPatrick is supervised by George Goudelias, Chief Investment Officer -- Leveraged Finance. Mr. Goudelias reviews James' work through office interactions as well as remote interactions. Mr. Goudelias can be reached at 201-802-2310 or [ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com](mailto:ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com).

***Michael Sebesta, CFA\*, Head of Institutional Client Service***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 2013, Mike was the Managing Director in charge of Client Service and Fixed Income Operations for StableRiver Capital Management LLC.

**Educational Background:** Mike earned a B.A. degree in Economics from Wake Forest University. He was born in 1963.

**Disciplinary Information:** Mr. Sebesta has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Mr. Sebesta is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Mr. Sebesta receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Mike Sebesta is supervised by David Katz, Senior Managing Director of VP Distributors LLC. Mr. Katz reviews Mike's work through remote interactions. Mr. Katz can be reached at 860-263-4812 or [david.katz@virtus.com](mailto:david.katz@virtus.com)

***Robert Spada, Client Portfolio Manager***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 2022, Bob worked for Virtus Investment Partners for 10 years in sales/distribution. In the years prior to Virtus, he was employed for twelve years at Bear Stearns as Vice President, Fixed Income Trading. Prior to Bear Stearns he worked for two years as Vice President at Rauscher Pierce Refsnes, Fixed Income Trading and four years at Shearson Lehman Bros in Fixed Income Trading.

**Educational Background:** Bob received a BA from Drew University. He was born in 1961.

**Disciplinary Information:** Mr. Spada has no disciplinary information to report.

**Other Business:** Mr. Spada is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Mr. Spada receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Bob Spada is supervised by George Goudelias, Chief Investment Officer -- Leveraged Finance. Mr. Goudelias reviews Bob's work through office interactions as well as remote interactions. Mr. Goudelias can be reached at 201-802-2310 or [ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com](mailto:ggoudelias@seixadvisors.com).

***Kimberly Maichle, CFA\*, Managing Director***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix in 2014, Kim was a Director, Client Portfolio Manager at StableRiver Capital Management and its predecessor since 2000.

**Educational Background:** Kim received a BBA with a concentration in Finance from Emory University and an M.S. in Finance from Georgia State University. She was born in 1964.

**Disciplinary Information:** Ms. Maichle has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business:** Ms. Maichle is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Ms. Maichle receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Kim Maichle is supervised by Michael Sebesta, Head of Institutional Client Service. Mr. Sebesta reviews Kim's work through office and remote interactions. Mr. Sebesta can be reached at 404-845-7664 or [msebesta@seixadvisors.com](mailto:msebesta@seixadvisors.com).

### ***Michelle Gallo, Senior Client Service Professional***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors LLC in 1999, Michelle was a Vice President at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Inc.

**Educational Background:** Michelle received a B.S. degree in Finance from the University of Rhode Island. She was born in 1968.

**Disciplinary Information:** Ms. Gallo has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Ms. Gallo is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Ms. Gallo receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Michelle Gallo is supervised by Michael Sebesta, Head of Institutional Client Service. Mr. Sebesta reviews Michelle's work through remote interactions. Mr. Sebesta can be reached at 404-845-7664 or [msebesta@seixadvisors.com](mailto:msebesta@seixadvisors.com).

### ***Rebecca G. Ehrhart, Senior Client Service Professional***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors LLC in 2005, Rebecca was a Director of Fixed Income Operations at Prudential Insurance Co.

**Educational Background:** Rebecca received a B.A. degree in Political Science and Spanish from Gettysburg College. She was born in 1973.

**Disciplinary Information:** Ms. Ehrhart has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Ms. Ehrhart is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Ms. Ehrhart receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Rebecca Ehrhart is supervised by Michael Sebesta, Head of Institutional Client Service. Mr. Sebesta reviews Rebecca's work through remote interactions. Mr. Sebesta can be reached at 404-845-7664 or [msebesta@seixadvisors.com](mailto:msebesta@seixadvisors.com).

***Julie Vinar, Senior Client Service Professional***

**Experience:** Before joining Seix Investment Advisors in 2004, Julie was a Fixed Income Portfolio Associate at Trusco Capital Management.

**Educational Background:** Julie earned a B.B.A. degree in Finance from The University of Georgia. She was born in 1975.

**Disciplinary Information:** Ms. Vinar has no disciplinary information to disclose.

**Other Business Activities:** Ms. Vinar is not engaged in any other business activities.

**Additional Compensation:** Ms. Vinar receives no additional compensation.

**Supervision:** Julie Vinar is supervised by Michael Sebesta, Head of Institutional Client Service. Mr. Sebesta reviews Julie's work through office and remote interactions. Mr. Sebesta can be reached at 404-845-7664 or [msebesta@seixadvisors.com](mailto:msebesta@seixadvisors.com).

\* CFA denotes that the employee is a Chartered Financial Analyst. To earn the CFA charter candidates must have at least 48 months of qualified investment work experience; become a regular member of the CFA Institute (the global association of professionals that administers the CFA charter); pass the CFA Program Level I, Level II and Level III exams; and pledge to adhere to the CFA Institute's Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct on an annual basis.



## FACTS

### WHAT DOES SEIX INVESTMENT ADVISORS DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

#### Why?

Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.

#### What?

The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:

- Social Security number and investment experience
- Account balances and assets
- Risk tolerance and transaction history

#### How?

All financial companies need to share customer's personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customer's personal information; the reasons Seix Investment Advisors, a division of Virtus Fixed Income Advisers, LLC ("Seix") chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.

Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Seix share?	Can you limit this sharing?
<b>For our everyday business purposes—</b> such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For our marketing purposes—</b> to offer our products and services to you	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For joint marketing with other financial companies</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We do not share</b>
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your transactions and experiences	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your creditworthiness	<b>No</b>	<b>We do not share</b>
<b>For our affiliates to market to you</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We do not share</b>
<b>For nonaffiliates to market to you</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We do not share</b>

#### Questions?

Call 1-800-243-4361, email [seixcompliance@seixadvisors.com](mailto:seixcompliance@seixadvisors.com) or go to [www.seixadvisors.com](http://www.seixadvisors.com)

## Who we are

Who is providing this notice?

Seix Investment Advisors, a division of Virtus Fixed Income Advisers, LLC (“Seix”)

## What we do

How does Seix protect my personal information?

To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured files and buildings.

How does Seix collect my personal information?

We collect your personal information, for example, when you

- Open an account or give us your contact information
- Seek advice about your investments
- Enter into an investment advisory contract
- Tell us about your investment or retirement portfolio

Why can’t I limit all sharing?

Federal law gives you the right to limit only

- Sharing for affiliates’ everyday business purposes—information about your creditworthiness
- Affiliates from using your information to market to you
- Sharing for nonaffiliates to market to you

State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing.

## Definitions

**Affiliates**

Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.

- Our affiliates include companies such as: AlphaSimplex Group, LLC; Ceredex Value Advisors LLC; Duff & Phelps Investment Management Co.; Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management, LLC; NFJ Investment Group LLC; Seix CLO Management LLC; Silvant Capital Management LLC; Sustainable Growth Advisers LP; Westchester Capital Management, LLC; Westchester Capital Partners, LLC; Virtus Alternative Investment Advisers, LLC; Virtus Capital Advisers, LLC; Virtus Investment Advisers, LLC; Virtus Advisers, LLC; Virtus Fund Services, LLC; Virtus ETF Solutions, LLC; Virtus Shared Services, LLC; VP Distributors, LLC; Virtus International Fund Management Limited; Virtus Global Partners PTE, LTD.; Virtus International Services Limited; and Virtus International Management, LLP.

**Nonaffiliates**

Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.

- Seix does not share with non-affiliates so they can market to you.

**Joint marketing**

A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.

- Seix does not jointly market.

### For California Residents Only

In addition to our Privacy Policy, the below notice is provided solely to certain **California residents** who are clients of Seix. To the extent that the California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA"), as amended by CPRA applies, you have the right to know what personal information we intend to collect or have collected about you and why. For clients of Seix, this information is provided in our **Privacy Notice**, above.

The CCPA also provides you the right to request access to specific pieces of information we have collected from you. You have the right to request correction of inaccurate information that we maintain about you. You also can request that we delete personal information about you. You can contact us at 1-800-243-4361, email [seixcompliance@seixadvisors.com](mailto:seixcompliance@seixadvisors.com) or go to [www.seixadvisors.com](http://www.seixadvisors.com) if you wish to make any of these requests. It is important to note, however, that the CCPA does not apply to all businesses, nor does it apply to personal information maintained by financial services firms that is covered under certain exemptions described in the CCPA, and as such, the CCPA will typically not apply to Seix's customers.

If we do not delete certain items of personal information because we have a legal right or obligation to retain that information, we will notify you of that. Further, if we do not delete certain items of personal information because we have a legal right or obligation to retain that data, we will delete that information at such later time that we no longer have a legal right or obligation to retain that information upon such a request.

At this time we do not sell personal data or share personal data for purposes of cross-context advertising. We are not required under CCPA to provide information to you about our collection of your personal information or our sale or disclosure of personal information about you more than twice within a 12-month period. Additionally, we are permitted to refuse to honor unfounded or excessive repetitive requests to us or charge a reasonable administrative fee for honoring those requests, and in either case, will notify you of any such decision. We will not discriminate against you for making a rights requests under California law. You have the right to appeal any decision regarding your rights and can do that by contacting us as described above.