

# Item 1: Cover Page

Synerge Advisory LLC

dba Synergos Advisory

Westlake Tower  
1601 5th Ave., 11th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure**

1-877-752-6609

Dated January 14, 2020

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Synerge Advisory LLC, “SA”. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at 1-877-752-6609. 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.

Synerge Advisory LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Washington. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about SA is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov), which can be found using the firm's identification number, 304021.

## Item 2: Material Changes

The last annual update of this brochure was filed on August 20, 2019. The following changes have been made to this version of the Disclosure Brochure:

- Item 1: The Advisor has updated their address.
- Item 4: The Advisor has added ongoing financial planning services.
- Item 5: The Advisor has added fees and compensation for ongoing financial planning services.
- Item 4: The Advisor has added an optional tax prep service
- Item 5: The Advisor has added fees and compensation for the optional tax prep service

### Future Changes

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

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure online at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov> by searching for our firm name or by our CRD number 304021.

You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time, by contacting us at 1-877-752-6609.

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

## **Description of Advisory Firm**

Synerge Advisory LLC was formed in March 2019 and became registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Washington in July 2019. David Uhlmann is the principal owner of SA. Because SA is a new entity, it currently reports no discretionary or non-discretionary Assets Under Management. Assets Under Management were calculated as of April 2019.

## **Types of Advisory Services**

### **Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)**

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

### **Investment Advisory Services**

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a Client regarding the investment of Client funds based on the individual needs of the Client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a Client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a Client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We may also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

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

### **Financial Planning (Project Based & Hourly)**

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

Financial planning is a comprehensive evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be

considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

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

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

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

- **Insurance:** Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- **Investment Analysis:** This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- **Retirement Planning:** Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

- **Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").
- **Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

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

## **Ongoing Financial Planning**

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

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

## **Tax Preparation Services**

**XY Tax Solutions (“XYTS”) for tax preparation services:** We provide tax preparation services for our clients to assist with the filing of federal and state tax returns for individuals and businesses. We may ask for an explanation or clarification of some items, but we will not audit or otherwise verify client data. The client is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of information used to prepare the returns. Our responsibility is to prepare the returns in accordance with applicable tax laws. We will utilize the services of a third party accounting, bookkeeping, and tax preparation firm to facilitate the preparation and filing of your tax return and we will work with you and the third party in order to gather the necessary information as part of this service. We may observe opportunities for tax savings that require planning or changes in the way the client handles some transactions. While an engagement for tax return preparation does not include significant tax planning services, we will share any ideas we have with you and discuss terms for any additional work that may be required to implement those ideas.

## **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Our firm provides employee benefit plan services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education.

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

## Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions

We offer the same suite of services to all of our Clients. However, specific Client financial plans and their implementation are dependent upon the Client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each Client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and is used to construct a Client specific plan to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets. In all instances, the Adviser will send the client a written invoice, including the fee, the formula used to calculate the fee, the fee calculation itself, the time period covered by the fee, and, if applicable, the amount of assets under management on which the fee was based, and the name of the custodian.

## Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

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

## Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)

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

Account Value	SA's Advisory Fee	Outside Manager's Fee	Total Annual Advisory Fee
\$1 - \$500,000	0.75%	0.20%	0.95%
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	0.50%	0.20%	0.70%
\$1,000,001 and Above	0.25%	0.20%	0.45%

The annual fees are negotiable, are pro-rated and paid in arrears on a monthly basis. The advisory fee is a blended fee calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart applying the fee to the value of the previous month, resulting in a combined weighted fee. For example, an account valued at \$2,000,000 would pay an effective fee of 0.4375% with the annual fee of \$8,750.00. The monthly fee is determined by the following calculation:  $((\$500,000 \times 0.75\%) + (\$500,000 \times 0.50\%) + (\$1,000,000 \times 0.25\%)) \div 12 = \$729.17$ .

When an Outside Manager is used, the Outside Manager will debit the Client's account for both the Outside Manager's fee, and SA's advisory fee, and will remit SA's fee to SA. ***Please note, the above fee schedule does include the Outside Manager's fee.*** No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the Client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.



Advisory fees are directly debited from Client accounts, or the Client may choose to pay by check. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar month will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the account.

### **Investment Management Services (SA Manages)**

The standard management fee is based on the market value of the account and is calculated as follows:

<b>Account Value</b>	<b>Annual Advisory Fee</b>
<b>\$1 - \$250,000</b>	1.35%
<b>\$250,001 - \$500,000</b>	1.15%
<b>\$500,001 - \$1,000,000</b>	0.95%
<b>\$1,000,001 - \$4,000,000</b>	0.75%
<b>\$4,000,001 and Above</b>	Negotiable

The annual fees are negotiable and are pro-rated and paid in arrears on a monthly basis.

The annual fees are negotiable, are pro-rated and paid in arrears on a monthly basis. The advisory fee is a blended fee calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart and applying the fee to the value of the previous month, resulting in a combined weighted fee. For example, an account valued at \$2,000,000 would pay an effective fee of 0.925% with the annual fee of \$18,500. The monthly fee is determined by the following calculation:  $((\$250,000 \times 1.35\%) + (\$250,000 \times 1.15\%) + (\$500,000 \times 0.95\%) + (\$1,000,000 \times 0.75\%)) \div 12 = \$1,541.67$ . No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the Client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Advisory fees are directly debited from Client accounts, or the Client may choose to pay by check. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the account.

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

Project Based Financial Planning will generally be offered on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee can range between \$500 and \$3,000 and is based on projected time to be spent on the project (at an hourly rate of \$250). The fee is negotiable. If a fixed fee program is chosen, half of the fee is due at the beginning of the process and the remainder is due at completion of work, however, SA will not bill an amount above \$500.00 more than 6 months in advance. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. In the event of early termination any prepaid but unearned fees will be refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged. Please note: fees may be higher than industry standard and that similar services may be available through another adviser at a lower fee.

## **Financial Planning Hourly Fee**

Financial Planning fee is an hourly rate of \$250 per hour. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases and is due at the completion of the engagement. SA will provide an estimate of the total number of hours needed to complete the engagement at the execution of the financial planning contract. At that time, half of the fee is due at the beginning of the process and the remainder is due at completion of work, however, SA will not bill an amount above \$500.00 more than 6 months in advance. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. In the event of early termination by the client, any fees for the hours worked will be due. Please note: fees may be higher than industry standard and that similar services may be available through another adviser at a lower fee.

## **Ongoing Financial Planning**

Ongoing Financial Planning consists of an ongoing fee that is paid monthly, in arrears, at the rate of \$150-\$250 per month. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. This service may be terminated with 30 days' notice. Upon termination of any agreement, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the Client.

The upfront portion of the Comprehensive Financial Planning fee is for Client onboarding, data gathering, and setting the basis for the financial plan. This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid, and will be completed within the first 30 days of the date the fee is paid. Therefore, the upfront portion of the fee will not be paid more than 6 months in advance.

## **Tax Preparation Services**

Fees for tax preparation services are charged based on the complexity of the client's tax situation. SA will assess a flat fee for this service, ranging between \$325-\$900, with additional hourly fees that may apply at a rate of \$250 per hour, should the client need additional service. Clients will sign a tax preparation agreement prior to the initiation of the engagement. The initial flat fee will be due at the commencement of the engagement, with an addendum to be signed and executed by the client prior to the assessment of additional hourly fees. Before hourly fees are incurred, SA will provide an estimate of the total number of hours needed to complete the engagement to be signed via contract addendum. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check.

## **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Fees for this service are negotiable, and SA will be compensated for Employee Benefit Plan services according to the value of plan assets not to exceed 1.00% of total plan assets. This does not include fees to other parties, such as RecordKeepers, Custodians, or Third-Party-Administrators. Fees for this service are either paid directly by the plan sponsor or deducted directly from the plan assets by the Custodian on a quarterly basis, and SA's fee is remitted to SA.

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

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such

charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

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

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

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

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

## Item 7: Types of Clients

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

We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

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

Our primary methods of investment analysis are Fundamental Analysis and Passive Investment Management.

### **Fundamental analysis**

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

### **Passive Investment Management**

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are comprised of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are typically index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds.

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

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark.

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

## **Material Risks Involved**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Risks Associated with Securities**

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

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

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

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

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

### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

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

### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

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

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

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

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

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

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

David Uhlmann is licensed to sell life and health insurance but does not engage in product sales with our clients for which additional compensation is received.

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

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

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

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

### **Code of Ethics Description**

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

- Integrity - Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity - Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence - Associated persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness - Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality - Associated persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism - Associated persons' conduct in all matter shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence - Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

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

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

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

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

Our firm and its “related persons” may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to clients for their accounts. In an effort to mitigate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates’ transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation. The trading activities of the firm and its affiliates will not be permitted to front run or disadvantage clients trading abilities.

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

From time to time, our firm or its “related persons” may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. This will usually occur when utilizing block trading a security or securities across client accounts and our firm or “related person” is included in the block trade. See below in Item 12 under “Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts” for details on our block trading practices

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

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

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

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

We currently receive soft dollar benefits by nature of our relationship with MTG, LLC dba Betterment Securities (“Betterment Securities”).

#### **2. Brokerage for Client Referrals**

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

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

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

## **The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Betterment)**

SA does not maintain custody of your assets that we manage, although we may be deemed to have custody of your assets if you give us the authority to withdraw advisory fees from your account (see Item 15—Custody, below). Your assets must be maintained in an account at a "qualified custodian," generally a broker-dealer or bank. We may recommend that our Clients use MTG, LLC dba Betterment Securities ("Betterment Securities"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated and are not affiliated with Betterment Securities. Betterment Securities will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we and/or you instruct them to. While we may recommend that you use Betterment Securities as custodian/broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Betterment Securities by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for you, although we may assist you in doing so. If you do not wish to place your assets with Betterment Securities, then we cannot manage your account on Betterment For Advisors (defined below).

## **Your Brokerage and Custody Costs**

For our Clients' accounts that Betterment Securities maintains, Betterment Securities generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated as part of the Betterment For Advisors (defined below) platform fee, which is a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account in lieu of commissions. We have determined that having Betterment Securities execute trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see "Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers").

## **Services Available to Us via Betterment For Advisors**

Betterment Securities serves as broker-dealer to Betterment For Advisors, an investment and advice platform serving independent investment advisory firms like us ("Betterment For Advisors"). Betterment For Advisors also makes available various support services which may not be available to Betterment's retail customers. Some of those services help us manage or administer our Clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Betterment For Advisors' support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Betterment For Advisors' support services:

1. **SERVICES THAT BENEFIT YOU.** Betterment For Advisors includes access to a range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client assets through Betterment Securities. Betterment Securities' services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.
2. **SERVICES THAT MAY NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOU.** Betterment For Advisors also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us, but may not directly benefit



you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our Clients' accounts, such as software and technology that may:

- a. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting of our Clients' accounts.
  - b. Provide access to Client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements).
  - c. Provide pricing and other market data.
  - d. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting.
3. **SERVICES THAT GENERALLY BENEFIT ONLY US.** By using Betterment For Advisors, we will be offered other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:
- a. Educational conferences and events.
  - b. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs.
  - c. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession.

## **Our Interest in Betterment Securities' Services**

The availability of these services from Betterment For Advisors benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. In addition, we don't have to pay for Betterment Securities' services. These services may be contingent upon us committing a certain amount of business to Betterment Securities in assets in custody. We may have an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Betterment Securities, based on our interest in receiving Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Betterment Securities as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our Clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Betterment Securities' services and not Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit only us.

## **The Custodian and Brokers We Use (TD Ameritrade)**

Advisor participates in the TD Ameritrade Institutional program. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade is an independent [and unaffiliated] SEC-registered broker-dealer. TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment Advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance, and settlement of transactions. Advisor receives some benefits from TD Ameritrade through its participation in the program. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 below.)

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

Generally, we and sub advisers you may engage combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion, regarding particular

circumstances and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

Outside Managers used by SA may block Client trades at their discretion. Their specific practices are further discussed in their ADV Part 2A, Item 12.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

Client accounts with the Investment Advisory Service will be reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by David Uhlmann, Sole Member and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the Client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels. Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of Client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs.

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

SA does not provide written reports to Investment Advisory Clients.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients. Nor do we, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals.

We receive a non-economic benefit from Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors whose Clients maintain their accounts at Betterment Securities. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12—Brokerage Practices). The availability to us of Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our Clients.

As disclosed under Item 12, above, Advisor participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and Advisor may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between Advisor's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its Clients, although Advisor receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving Advisor participants; access to block trading (which provides

the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to Advisor by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by Advisor's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit Advisor but may not benefit its Client accounts. These products or services may assist Advisor in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help Advisor manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by Advisor or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the number of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to Clients, Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

## Item 15: Custody

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

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

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

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

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

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

Advisor will have the discretion to facilitate the selection of, and changes to, the Betterment For Advisors portfolio allocation. Betterment For Advisors provides software tools for advisors to facilitate the purchase and sale of securities in the Client's accounts, including the amounts of securities to be bought and sold to align with the Client's goals and risk tolerance, through a series of 101 incremental model portfolio allocations ranging from 0% to 100% in equities.

We also offer our Investment Advisory Services on a non-discretionary basis. On non-discretionary accounts, the Adviser will contact the client (via phone, virtual meeting, or in-person meeting) to obtain authorization for a recommended trade. If the Adviser receives an inbound call from a client requesting a trade in a non-discretionary account, the Adviser will confirm the identity of the caller by confirming the client's DOB and SSN.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

SA does not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

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

## Item 18: Financial Information

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

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

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

## **David Uhlmann**

Born: 1967

### **Educational Background**

- 1996 – Masters Finance, Golden Gate University
- 1989 – Bachelors Economics and International Relations, UC Davis

### **Business Experience**

- 03/2019 – Present, Synerge Advisory LLC, Sole Member and CCO
- 04/2011 - 03/2019, Ameriprise Financial Services, Financial Adviser
- 01/2007 - 04/2011, Edward Jones, Financial Adviser

### **Other Business Activities**

No other business activities.

### **Performance-Based Fees**

SA is not compensated by performance-based fees.

### **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

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

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

Synerge Advisory LLC, nor David Uhlmann, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

### **Additional Compensation**

David Uhlmann does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through SA.

### **Supervision**

David Uhlmann, as Sole Member and Chief Compliance Officer of SA, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

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

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

# Synerge Advisory LLC

Westlake Tower  
1601 5th Ave., 11th Floor  
Seattle, WA 98101  
1-877-752-6609

Dated December 2019

## Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

*For*

**David Uhlmann 5251090**

**Sole Member, and Chief Compliance Officer**

This brochure supplement provides information about David Uhlmann that supplements the Synerge Advisory LLC (“SA”) brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact David Uhlmann if the SA brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about David Uhlmann is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) which can be found using the identification number 5251090.

## Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

### **David Uhlmann**

Born: 1967

#### **Educational Background**

- 1996 – Masters Finance, Golden Gate University
- 1989 – Bachelors Economics and International Relations, UC Davis

#### **Business Experience**

- 03/2019 – Present, Synerge Advisory LLC, Sole Member and CCO
- 04/2011 - 03/2019, Ameriprise Financial Services, Financial Adviser
- 01/2007 - 04/2011, Edward Jones, Financial Adviser

## Item 3: Disciplinary Information

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

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

David Uhlmann is not involved in other business activities.

## Item 5: Additional Compensation

David Uhlmann does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through SA.

## Item 6: Supervision

David Uhlmann, as Sole Member and Chief Compliance Officer of SA, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.



## Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

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