APEX CLEARING CORPORATION
FORM CRS – CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY
February 1, 2024

This important information about Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex") is provided to comply with federal securities laws. It does not create or modify any agreement, relationship, or obligation between you and Apex. Please consult your account agreement for the terms and conditions that govern your relationship with Apex.

Apex is a broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). Apex provides custody of assets and brokerage accounts to investors via investors introducing broker or investment advisor. Apex does not provide any advisory services or investment advice. Brokerage and investment advisory services differ, and it is important for you to understand the differences.

The SEC has created free tools that enable you to research firms and financial professionals through Investor.gov/CRS. This website provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

This document gives you a summary of the types of services Apex provides and discusses the fees associated with those services. Apex typically acts only as a clearing firm for its clients, servicing the accounts that are introduced to Apex by an introducing broker or investment advisor. Apex never acts as an investment advisor, nor does it provide you with investment advice. Discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services are provided through investment advisers. If you have an introducing broker or investment advisor, please ask them for additional information.

Occasionally, Apex may act as a full-service introducing broker offering you additional services to assist in executing your investment strategy and accessing your account. In such situations, Apex may charge a transaction-based fee, generally referred to as a commission, when you buy or sell or a security. With a brokerage account, unless otherwise agreed in writing, you are solely responsible for deciding how you want to invest, monitoring your account, and placing trades.

Relationships and Services. *What investment services and advice can you provide me?*

- Apex offers brokerage services and custody of assets to investors. Apex does not offer investment advice or monitor the frequency or details of your transactions and investments on your behalf.
- If you open an account, Apex may receive fees from you and/or your introducing broker-dealer.
- If you have an investment advisor, they may make recommendations and transact in your account per the terms of your agreement with your investment advisor.
- Apex will deliver account statements to you each month or quarter in paper or electronically depending on your account activity and communication preferences.

Fees and Costs. Fees and costs affect the value of your account over time. Please ask your financial professional to give you personalized information on the fees and costs that you will pay.

- The fee you pay is determined by your introducing broker-dealer or investment advisor. In the event Apex is your direct broker-dealer and you do not have an investment advisor; Apex will provide you with a list of the fees it will charge your account.
- Some investments (such as mutual funds) impose additional fees that may reduce the value of your investment over time.
- Apex may charge you or your introducing firm additional fees, such as account maintenance fees and account inactivity fees.
- 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.

Information Regarding Typical Advisory Accounts. If you open an advisory account (also known as a discretionary account as defined below) with an investment adviser that maintains trading or monetary discretion over your account, you may pay an ongoing asset-based fee that is based on the value of the cash and investments in your advisory account (an assets under management or "AUM" fee). Features of a typical advisory account include:

- Advisers provide advice, transact in your account, and may rebalance your account, on a regular basis. They design a strategy to achieve your investment goals and are responsible for monitoring your account.
- You can choose an account that allows the adviser to buy and sell investments in your account without asking you in advance (a "discretionary account") or the adviser may give you advice and you decide what investments to buy and sell (a "non-discretionary account").
- Advisers are held to a fiduciary standard that covers the entire investment advisory relationship. For example, advisers are required to monitor your portfolio, investment strategy and investments on an ongoing basis.
- If you were to pay an asset-based fee in an advisory account, you would pay the fee periodically even if you do not buy or sell. You may also choose to work with an investment adviser who provides investment advice for an hourly fee or provides a financial plan for a one-time fee.
- For an adviser that charges an asset-based fee, the more assets you have in an advisory account, often including cash, the more you will pay the adviser. So, the adviser may have an incentive to increase the assets in your account in order to increase its fees.

Conflicts of Interest. Apex, your broker-dealer, and your investment advisor may benefit from certain activities.

- Apex can buy investments from you, and sell investments to you, from our own accounts (called "acting as principal").
- Apex **does not** provide recommendations. The way Apex and, if applicable, your introducing broker-dealer or investment advisor make money can create some conflicts with your interests.
- You should understand and agree to ask Apex, your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor about potential conflicts because it can affect the services we and they provide you

Additional Information. Apex encourages you to seek additional information regarding all financial advisors.

- For additional information about Apex's services please visit: Investor.gov, FINRA's BrokerCheck (BrokerCheck.Finra.org), Apex's website (apexfintechsolutions.com), and your account agreement.
- To report a problem to the SEC, visit Investor.gov or call the SEC's toll-free investor assistance line at (800) 732-0330.

Key Questions to Ask. Ask the financial professionals at Apex, your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor these key questions about our investment services and accounts.

Given my financial situation, should I choose a brokerage account? Why or why not?

Brokerage accounts offer much greater flexibility. You may deposit as much or as little money as you want in a brokerage account, and you can invest in any of the assets or securities offered by your broker-dealer. The financial professionals at Apex, your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor can go over your options, and help you decide the best type of account or services for your financial situation.

What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education, and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?

Not everybody in the financial advisory space has the same knowledge, background, or skills. Financial advisors are regulated according to the type of service they provide, whether that means investment information or financial planning. Strict rules have been put in place to limit who can give financial advice in a professional capacity to protect the public from falling victim to unethical or uninformed financial guidance. When choosing a person to advise you financially, it is important to know your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor's qualifications prior to utilizing their services

How much would I pay per year for a typical brokerage account? What would make those fees more or less? What services will I receive for those fees? What additional costs should I expect in connection with my account?

You can open a brokerage account at a wide range of firms, from full-service brokers with a complete menu of financial services, to automated robo-advisors and online brokers. Fees and requirements vary. There may be a minimum balance required to open an account, some firms may charge management fees and there may be trading commissions to buy or sell certain assets. Be sure you understand the different services and options offered by your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor and the fees and costs associated with those services.

How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them? What are the most common conflicts of interest in your brokerage accounts?

Conflicts of interest can arise from a variety of sources and can call into question the action or decision-making ability of a financial professional to remain unbiased. FINRA and the SEC have implemented several rules and regulations to address conflicts of interest by identifying what constitutes a conflict, and the requirement of financial professionals and any firm that offers financial services to disclose business relationships and activities that could prove influential. Be sure to discuss the most common conflicts of interest with the financial professionals at Apex, your introducing broker-dealer, and/or investment advisor and how they address these items with their clients.

Tell me how you and your firm make money in connection with my account. Do you or your firm receive any payments from anyone besides me in connection with my investments?

Your broker-dealer and/or investment advisor will establish the commissions and fees associated with the services they provide. It is your responsibility to ask for and accept any fees associated with the financial services you are provided. Apex The Firm reserves the right to charge interest: (1) on payments to you before the settlement date on securities sold; (2) on payments to you for securities sold where good delivery of securities has not been made; and (3) when payment has not been received from you on or before the settlement date of securities purchased.

The Firm also may charge an annual maintenance fee and other fees as agreed upon with your broker-dealer or as independently established by the Firm.

Do you or your firm have a disciplinary history? For what type of conduct?

Yes, Apex does have past legal and disciplinary events. Details regarding these events can be found at BrokerCheck.FINRA.com or Investor.gov. These free resources allow you to search individuals or investment firms and will provide information regarding employment history, professional qualification, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions civil judgments, and arbitration awards. FINRA recommends that you learn as much information about investment professionals and firms prior to working with them.

Who is the primary contact person for my account? What can you tell me about his or her legal obligations to me? If I have concerns about how this person is treating me, who can I talk to?

Upon account opening, you will be provided information regarding how and who to contact regarding your account. Apex is required to act in your best interest and place your interest above our own. You should understand that conflicts of interest may arise, and you are encouraged to ask about these conflicts and how they may affect the services that we provide to you. If you have concerns regarding the information provided to you or how you are being treated, you can escalate your concerns through the supervisors and managers of your contact person as needed. Additional information regarding complaints can be found at FINRA.org