# Item 1: Cover Page



# Earndex, LLC

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# Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

Dated 07 March 2022

www.earndex.com

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Earndex, LLC, "Earndex". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (917) 408-3399. 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.

Earndex is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about Earndex is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the firm's identification number 300023.

# Item 2: Material Changes

Since the last annual filing of this brochure filed on 16 February 2021, the following material changes have been made to this version of the Disclosure Brochure:

- Item 1: Cover Page
  - Updated office address
- Item 12: Brokerage Practices
  - Updated Custodians and Brokers we use to include Schwab Advisor Services<sup>TM</sup>

From time to time, we may amend this Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations, and routine annual updates as required by securities regulators. Either this complete 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 Earndex, LLC.

In the future, any material changes during the year made will be reported here.

# Item 3: Table of Contents

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

# **Description of Advisory Firm**

Earndex, LLC ("Earndex") is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Earndex is a limited liability company ("LLC") formed in the State of New York and has been in business as a registered investment advisor since February 2019. David Tomback is the principal owner of Earndex.

Earndex provides comprehensive financial planning advice to individuals, families, and businesses. Earndex serves as a fiduciary to our clients, as defined under applicable laws and regulations. As a fiduciary, Earndex upholds a duty of loyalty, fairness, and good faith towards all of our clients and seeks to mitigate potential conflicts of interest. Our Code of Ethics can be found in Item 11.

Earndex currently reports \$20,765,161 in Assets Under Management, all of which are managed on a discretionary basis. Assets Under Management were calculated as of December 31, 2021.

# **Types of Advisory Services**

### **Comprehensive 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 to develop and implement their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes, and ensure the plan is up to date.

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

### **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), 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.

### **Project-Based Financial Planning**

This service involves working with a planner on a defined financial planning project on topics such as retirement planning, risk management, college savings, cash flow, debt management, work benefits, and estate and incapacity planning.

Financial planning is an 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 deliverable will address any of the following areas of concern. The client and advisor will work together to select the 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.
- **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 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.

# **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 and is used to construct a client specific plan to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

## 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 or fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we are performing. Please review the fee and compensation information below. Note that existing clients that engaged with us before the date of this Form ADV may be grandfathered into different fee schedules that were in effect previously.

### **Investment Advisory Services (Earndex Manages)**

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.75%
\$2,000,001 and Above	0.50%

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

The annual fees are negotiable and are prorated and paid in arrears on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a blended fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart resulting in a combined weighted fee. For example, an account valued at \$3,000,000 would pay an effective fee rate of 0.75% with an annual fee of \$22,500.00. The quarterly fee is determined by the following calculation:  $((\$1,000,000 \times 1.00\%) + (\$1,000,000 \times 0.75\%) + (\$1,000,000 \times 0.50\%)) \div 4 = \$5,625.00$ . 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 prorated 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 rebate will be needed upon termination of the account.

In certain circumstances, we will provide investment advisory services for a fixed fee. The fixed fee will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee, which will not exceed 3% of assets under management, can range between \$10,000.00 and \$30,000.00 per year, billed monthly, based on client complexity. The fee is negotiable. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check.

### **Project-Based Financial Planning**

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 \$100.00 and \$10,000.00 based on the complexity and the scope of engagement. 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, Earndex 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. Upon termination of any account, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the client.

### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

Comprehensive Financial Planning consists of an upfront charge of \$500.00 to \$3,000.00, depending on the complexity and needs of the client, and an ongoing fee that is paid monthly, in advance, at the rate of \$100.00 to \$1,500.00 per month, depending on the complexity and needs of the client. 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 account, 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.

### **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, 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

#### **Passive Investment Management**

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed 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. Academic research indicates most active managers underperform the market.

#### **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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted 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 client's 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**

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

### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

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

### Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings

Earndex 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 Earndex or the integrity of its management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

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

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

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

Earndex 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.

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

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each client. Our clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and

requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

# **Code of Ethics Description**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our firm and its "related persons" may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates' transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

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

From time to time, our firm or its "related persons" may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. We will not trade non-mutual fund securities 5 days prior to the same security for clients.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

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

In recommending broker-dealers, we have an obligation to seek the "best execution" of transactions in Client accounts. The determinative factor in the analysis of best execution is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of the broker-dealer's services. The factors we consider when evaluating a broker-dealer for best execution include, without limitation, the broker-dealer's:

- Execution capability;
- Commission rate;
- Financial responsibility;
- Responsiveness and customer service;
- Custodian capabilities;
- Research services/ancillary brokerage services provided; and
- Any other factors that we consider relevant.

With this in consideration, our firm recommends TD Ameritrade Institutional program and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), an independent and unaffiliated SEC registered broker-dealer firm and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC"). Although clients may request us to use a broker-dealer of their choosing, we generally recommend that clients open brokerage accounts with Schwab and/or TD. We are not affiliated with Schwab and/or TD. The Client will ultimately make the final decision of the Custodian to be used to hold the Client's investments by signing the selected broker-dealer's account opening documentation.

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

We currently receive benefits as a result of our standing on TD Ameritrade's Institutional and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc's platform.

#### 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 transactions and this may cost clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

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

Earndex 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. Earndex receives some benefits from TD Ameritrade through its participation in the program. Please see the disclosure under Item 14 below.

# The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Charles Schwab)

The custodian and brokers we use maintain custody of your assets that we manage, although we may be deemed to have limited custody of your assets due to our ability to withdraw fees from your account (see Item 15 - Custody, below).

We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. ("Schwab"), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated and are not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we instruct them to. While we recommend that you use Schwab as custodian broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Schwab 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. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account as described below (see "Your brokerage and custody costs")

**How we select brokers/custodians** We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared with other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate
- fee for custody)
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account)
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill
- payment, etc.)
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs),
- etc.)
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees,
- etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability
- Prior service to us and our clients
- Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see "Products and services available to us from Schwab")

**Your brokerage and custody costs** For our clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account. Certain trades (for example, many mutual funds and ETFs) may not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees.

**Products and services available to us from Schwab** Schwab Advisor Services<sup>™</sup> is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (trading, custody, reporting and related services), many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab's

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 Schwab's support services:

Services that benefit you Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

**Services that may not directly benefit you** Schwab 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. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- provide pricing and other market data
- facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

**Services that generally benefit only us** Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession

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

Generally, we do not combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading").

# Item 13: Review of Accounts

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

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

# 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.

As disclosed above, Earndex participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and may recommend TD Ameritrade to clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between Earndex's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its clients, although Earndex receives 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 Earndex 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 Earndex by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by Earndex's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit Earndex but may not benefit its client accounts. These products or services may assist Earndex in managing and administering client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help Earndex manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by Earndex 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, Earndex endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of benefits by Earndex or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence Earndex's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

# Item 15: Custody

Earndex does not accept custody of client funds except in the instance of withdrawing client fees.

For client accounts in which Earndex directly debits their advisory fee:

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

# Item 17: Voting Client Securities

Earndex 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 Tomback**

Born: 1977

#### **Educational Background**

- 2006 M.B.A., Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
- 1999 B.A., Economics, Tufts University

#### **Business Experience**

- 02/2019 Present, Earndex, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 08/2017 02/2019, David Tomback Financial Planning, Owner
- 04/2017 08/2017, Certified Financial Planner Certificate Program, Student
- 08/2011 03/2017, Yipit, Inc., General Manager
- 05/2009 08/2011, Neighborrow, Co-Founder
- 10/2006 05/2009, Booz & Co., Senior Associate

#### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

- CFP (Certified Financial Planner)®
- 11/2018: Series 65

### **Other Business Activities**

David Tomback is not involved with outside business activities.

#### **Performance-Based Fees**

Earndex is not compensated by performance-based fees.

#### **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at Earndex 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

Neither Earndex, nor David Tomback, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

#### **Additional Compensation**

David Tomback does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Earndex.

### Supervision

David Tomback, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of Earndex, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

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

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

# Item 1: Cover Page



# Earndex, LLC

942 Roscommon Rd Bryn Mawr, PA (917) 408-3399

# Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

Dated 07 March 2022

For

# David Tomback 7056200

Owner, and Chief Compliance Officer

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

Additional information about David Tomback is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 7056200.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

### **David Tomback**

Born: 1977

### **Educational Background**

- 2006 M.B.A., Northwestern University
- 1999 B.A., Economics, Tufts University

### **Business Experience**

- 02/2019 Present, Earndex, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 08/2017 02/2019, David Tomback Financial Planning, Owner
- 04/2017 08/2017, Certified Financial Planner Certificate Program, Student
- 08/2011 03/2017, Yipit, Inc., General Manager
- 05/2009 08/2011, Neighborrow, Co-Founder
- 10/2006 05/2009, Booz & Co., Senior Associate

### Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams

- CFP (Certified Financial Planner)®
- 11/2018: Series 65

# Item 3: Disciplinary Information

No management person at Earndex 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 Tomback is not involved with outside business activities.

# Item 5: Additional Compensation

David Tomback does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Earndex.

# Item 6: Supervision

David Tomback, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of Earndex, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

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