# FORM ADV PART 2A DISCLOSURE BROCHURE

## **Onus Observer LLC**

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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Onus Observer LLC. Being registered as a registered investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 415-949-9934. 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.

Additional information about Onus Observer LLC (CRD #312663) is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>

JANUARY 26, 2021

## **Item 2: Material Changes**

## Annual Update

The Material Changes section of this brochure will be updated annually or when material changes occur since the previous release of the Firm Brochure.

## **Material Changes since the Last Update**

Initial Filing.

### **Full Brochure Available**

This Firm Brochure being delivered is the complete brochure for the Firm.

## **Item 3: Table of Contents**

## Form ADV - Part 2A - Firm Brochure

<b>Item</b>	1:	Cover	<b>Page</b>
-------------	----	-------	-------------

Item 2: Material Changes	ii
Annual Update	ii
Material Changes since the Last Update	ii
Full Brochure Available	
Item 3: Table of Contents	iii
Item 4: Advisory Business	1
Firm Description	1
Types of Advisory Services	
Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions	2
Wrap Fee Programs	2
Client Assets under Management	2
Item 5: Fees and Compensation	2
Method of Compensation and Fee Schedule	2
Client Payment of Fees	3
Additional Client Fees Charged	3
Prepayment of Client Fees	3
External Compensation for the Sale of Securities to Clients	3
Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management	3
Sharing of Capital Gains	3
Item 7: Types of Clients	3
Description	3
Account Minimums	4
Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss	4
Methods of Analysis	4
Investment Strategy	4
Security Specific Material Risks	
Item 9: Disciplinary Information	7
Criminal or Civil Actions	7
Administrative Enforcement Proceedings	7

Self- Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings	7
tem 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations	7
Broker-Dealer or Representative Registration	7
Futures or Commodity Registration	7
Material Relationships Maintained by this Advisory Business and Conflicts of Interest	7
Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisors and Conflicts of Interest	7
tem 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Perso	
Code of Ethics Description	
Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflict of Interest	
Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Inter-	
Client Securities Recommendations or Trades and Concurrent Advisory Firm Securities Transactions and Conflicts of Interest	8
tem 12: Brokerage Practices	9
Factors Used to Select Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions	
Aggregating Securities Transactions for Client Accounts	
tem 13: Review of Accounts	11
Schedule for Periodic Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans and Advisory Persons	
Involved	
Review of Client Accounts on Non-Periodic Basis	
Content of Client Provided Reports and Frequency	
tem 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation	11
Economic Benefits Provided to the Advisory Firm from External Sources and Conflicts of Interest	11
Advisory Firm Payments for Client Referrals	
tem 15: Custody	
Account Statements	
tem 16: Investment Discretion	13
Discretionary Authority for Trading	
tem 17: Voting Client Securities	
Proxy Votes	
tem 18: Financial Information	
Balance Sheet	14

to Clients	14
Bankruptcy Petitions during the Past Ten Years	14
Item 19: Requirements for State Registered Advisors	14
Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons	14
Outside Business Activities	14
Performance Based Fee Description	14
Disclosure of Material Facts Related to Arbitration or Disciplinary Actions Involving Management Persons	14
Material Relationship Maintained by this Advisory Business or Management persons with Issuers of Securities	15
Material Conflicts of Interest Assurance	15
Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)	17
Principal Executive Officer – Zahid A. Jafry	17
Item 2 - Educational Background and Business Experience	17
Item 3 - Disciplinary Information	17
Item 4 - Other Business Activities	18
Item 5 - Additional Compensation	18
Item 6 - Supervision	18
Item 7 - Requirements for State-Registered Advisors	18

### **Item 4: Advisory Business**

### **Firm Description**

Onus Observer LLC ("Onus") was founded in 2021. Zahid Jafry is 100% owner. Under CCR Section 260.238(k), Onus, its representatives or any of its employees will disclose to Clients all material conflicts of interest.

#### **Types of Advisory Services**

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Onus offers discretionary asset management services to advisory Clients. Onus will offer Clients ongoing asset management services through determining individual investment goals, time horizons, objectives, and risk tolerance. Investment strategies, investment selection, asset allocation, portfolio monitoring and the overall investment program will be based on the above factors. The Client will authorize Onus discretionary authority to execute selected investment program transactions as stated within the Investment Advisory Agreement.

#### FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING

Financial planning services include a comprehensive evaluation of an investor's current and future financial state will be provided by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values and withdrawal plans. Onus will use current net worth, tax liabilities, asset allocation, and future retirement and estate plans in developing financial plans. Under CCR Section 260.235.2, it requires that the conflict of interest, which exists between the interests of the investment advisor and the interests of the client when offering financial planning services, be disclosed.

Typical topics reviewed in a financial plan may include but are not limited to:

- **Financial goals**: Based on an individual's or a family's clearly defined financial goals, including funding a college education for the children, buying a larger home, starting a business, retiring on time or leaving a legacy. Financial goals should be quantified and set to milestones for tracking.
- **Personal net worth statement**: A snapshot of assets and liabilities serves as a benchmark for measuring progress towards financial goals.
- **Cash flow analysis**: An income and spending plan determines how much can be set aside for debt repayment, savings and investing each month.
- **Retirement strategy**: A strategy for achieving retirement independent of other financial priorities. Including a strategy for accumulating the required retirement capital and its planned lifetime distribution.
- **Comprehensive risk management plan**: Identify all risk exposures and provide the necessary coverage to protect the family and its assets against financial loss. The risk management plan includes a full review of life and disability insurance, personal liability coverage, property and casualty coverage, and catastrophic coverage.
- Long-term investment plan: Include a customized asset allocation strategy based on specific investment objectives and a risk profile. This investment plan sets

- guidelines for selecting, buying and selling investments and establishing benchmarks for performance review.
- **Tax reduction strategy**: Identify ways to minimize taxes on personal income to the extent permissible by the tax code. The strategy should include identification of tax-favored investment vehicles that can reduce taxation of investment income.
- **Estate preservation**: Help update accounts, review beneficiaries for retirement accounts and life insurance, provide a second look at your current estate planning documents, and prompt you to update your plan when the legal environment changes or you have major life events such as a marriage, death, or births.

If a conflict of interest exists between the interests of Onus and the interests of the Client, the Client is under no obligation to act upon Onus's recommendation. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the Client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through Onus. Financial plans will be completed and delivered inside of thirty (30) days contingent upon timely delivery of all required documentation.

#### **Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

The goals and objectives for each Client are documented in our Client files. Investment strategies are created that reflect the stated goals and objectives. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities. Agreements may not be assigned without written Client consent.

#### **Wrap Fee Programs**

Onus does not sponsor any wrap fee programs.

#### **Client Assets under Management**

As this is the initial filing of this brochure, Onus has no Client assets under management.

#### **Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

#### **Method of Compensation and Fee Schedule**

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Onus offers discretionary direct asset management services to advisory Clients for an annual fee of up to 0.90% of managed assets. The annual fee is negotiable. Pursuant to CCR Section 260.238(j), lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. Total fees to Client will never exceed the safe harbor threshold of 3% of assets under management per year.

Fees are billed quarterly in arrears based on the amount of assets managed as of the close of business on the last business day of the previous quarter. Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. Clients may terminate their account within five (5) business days of signing the Investment Advisory Agreement with no obligation and without penalty. After the initial five (5) business days, the agreement may be terminated by Onus with thirty (30) days written notice to Client and by the Client at any time with written notice to Onus. For accounts opened or closed mid-billing period, fees will be prorated based on the days services are provided during the given period. All unpaid earned fees will be due to Onus. Client shall be given thirty (30) days prior written

notice of any increase in fees. Any increase in fees will be acknowledged in writing by both parties before any increase in said fees occurs.

#### FINANCIAL PLANNING AND CONSULTING

Onus charges an hourly fee of \$250 per hour for financial planning. Prior to the planning process the Client will be provided an estimated plan fee. Fees for financial plans are due upon delivery of the completed plan. Services are completed and delivered inside of thirty (30) days contingent upon timely delivery of all required documentation. Client may cancel within five (5) business days of signing Agreement with no obligation and without penalty. If the Client cancels after five (5) business days, any unpaid earned fees will be due to Onus based on the hours of work expended by Onus. Onus reserves the right to waive the fee should the Client implement the plan through Onus.

#### **Client Payment of Fees**

Fees for asset management services are deducted from a designated Client account to facilitate billing. The Client must consent in advance to direct debiting of their investment account.

Fees for financial plans will be billed to the Client and paid directly to Onus.

#### **Additional Client Fees Charged**

Custodians may charge brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs on the purchases or sales of mutual funds, equities, bonds, options and exchange-traded funds. Mutual funds, money market funds and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in the fund's prospectus. Onus does not receive any compensation from these fees. All of these fees are in addition to the management fee you pay to Onus. For more details on the brokerage practices, see Item 12 of this brochure.

#### **Prepayment of Client Fees**

Onus does not require any prepayment of fees.

#### **External Compensation for the Sale of Securities to Clients**

Onus does not receive any external compensation for the sale of securities to Clients, nor do any of the investment advisor representatives of Onus.

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

#### **Sharing of Capital Gains**

Fees are <u>not</u> based on a share of the capital gains or capital appreciation of managed securities.

Onus does not use a performance-based fee structure because of the conflict of interest. Performance based compensation may create an incentive for Onus to recommend an investment that may carry a higher degree of risk to the Client.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients**

#### **Description**

Onus generally provides investment advice to individuals, high net worth individuals, trusts, or estates. Client relationships vary in scope and length of service.

#### **Account Minimums**

Onus does not require a minimum to open an account.

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

#### **Methods of Analysis**

Security analysis methods may include fundamental analysis and cyclical analysis. Investing in securities involves risk of loss that Clients should be prepared to bear. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Fundamental analysis concentrates on factors that determine a company's value and expected future earnings. This strategy would normally encourage equity purchases in stocks that are undervalued or priced below their perceived value. The risk assumed is that the market will fail to reach expectations of perceived value.

Cyclical analysis assumes that the markets react in cyclical patterns which, once identified, can be leveraged to provide performance. The risks with this strategy are twofold: 1) the markets do not always repeat cyclical patterns; and 2) if too many investors begin to implement this strategy, then it changes the very cycles these investors are trying to exploit.

In developing a financial plan for a Client, Onus's analysis may include cash flow analysis, investment planning, risk management, tax planning and estate planning. Based on the information gathered, a detailed strategy is tailored to the Client's specific situation.

The main sources of information include financial newspapers and magazines, annual reports, prospectuses, and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Investment Strategy**

The investment strategy for a specific Client is based upon the objectives stated by the Client during consultations. The Client may change these objectives at any time by providing written notice to Onus. Each Client executes a Client profile form or similar form that documents their objectives and their desired investment strategy.

Other strategies may include long-term purchases, short-term purchases and option writing (including covered options, uncovered options or spreading strategies).

#### **Security Specific Material Risks**

All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the investor. Our investment approach constantly keeps the risk of loss in mind. Investors face the following investment risks and should discuss these risks with Onus:

 Market Risk: The prices of securities in which clients invest may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world, including those directly involving the companies whose securities are owned by a fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. Investors should have a long-term perspective and be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in market value.

- *Interest-rate Risk*: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.
- *Inflation Risk*: When any type of inflation is present, a dollar today will buy more than a dollar next year, because purchasing power is eroding at the rate of inflation.
- *Currency Risk*: Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.
- *Reinvestment Risk*: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e. interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.
- Liquidity Risk: Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many traders are interested in a standardized product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.
- Management Risk: The advisor's investment approach may fail to produce the intended results. If the advisor's assumptions regarding the performance of a specific asset class or fund are not realized in the expected time frame, the overall performance of the client's portfolio may suffer.
- Equity Risk: Equity securities tend to be more volatile than other investment choices. The value of an individual mutual fund or ETF can be more volatile than the market as a whole. This volatility affects the value of the client's overall portfolio. Small- and midcap companies are subject to additional risks. Smaller companies may experience greater volatility, higher failure rates, more limited markets, product lines, financial resources, and less management experience than larger companies. Smaller companies may also have a lower trading volume, which may disproportionately affect their market price, tending to make them fall more in response to selling pressure than is the case with larger companies.
- Fixed Income Risk: The issuer of a fixed income security may not be able to make interest and principal payments when due. Generally, the lower the credit rating of a security, the greater the risk that the issuer will default on its obligation. If a rating agency gives a debt security a lower rating, the value of the debt security will decline because investors will demand a higher rate of return. As nominal interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities held by a fund is likely to decrease. A nominal interest rate is the sum of a real interest rate and an expected inflation rate.
- Investment Companies Risk: When a client invests in open end mutual funds or ETFs, the client indirectly bears their proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the client will incur higher expenses, 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). 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 or (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. Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which client invests.

- Derivatives Risk: Funds in a client's portfolio may use derivative instruments. The value of these derivative instruments derives from the value of an underlying asset, currency or index. Investments by a fund in such underlying funds may involve the risk that the value of the underlying fund's derivatives may rise or fall more rapidly than other investments, and the risk that an underlying fund may lose more than the amount that it invested in the derivative instrument in the first place. Derivative instruments also involve the risk that other parties to the derivative contract may fail to meet their obligations, which could cause losses.
- Foreign Securities Risk: Funds in which clients invest may invest in foreign securities. Foreign securities are subject to additional risks not typically associated with investments in domestic securities. These risks may include, among others, currency risk, country risks (political, diplomatic, regional conflicts, terrorism, war, social and economic instability, currency devaluations and policies that have the effect of limiting or restricting foreign investment or the movement of assets), different trading practices, less government supervision, less publicly available information, limited trading markets and greater volatility. To the extent that underlying funds invest in issuers located in emerging markets, the risk may be heightened by political changes, changes in taxation, or currency controls that could adversely affect the values of these investments. Emerging markets have been more volatile than the markets of developed countries with more mature economies.
- Private Equity Risk: Because offerings are exempt from registration requirements, no
  regulator has reviewed the offerings to make sure the risks associated with the
  investment and all material facts about the entity raising money are adequately
  disclosed. Securities offered through private placements are generally illiquid, meaning
  there are limited opportunities to resell the security. Risk of the underlying investment
  may be significantly higher than publicly traded investments.
- Long-term purchases: Long-term investments are those vehicles purchased with the intension of being held for more than one year. Typically the expectation of the investment is to increase in value so that it can eventually be sold for a profit. In addition, there may be an expectation for the investment to provide income. One of the biggest risks associated with long-term investments is volatility, the fluctuations in the financial markets that can cause investments to lose value.
- Short-term purchases: Short-term investments are typically held for one year or less. Generally there is not a high expectation for a return or an increase in value. Typically, short-term investments are purchased for the relatively greater degree of principal protection they are designed to provide. Short-term investment vehicles may be subject to purchasing power risk the risk that your investment's return will not keep up with inflation.

• *Options Trading*: The risks involved with trading options are that they are very time sensitive investments. An options contract is generally a few months but can be up to two years. The buyer of an option could lose his or her entire investment even with a correct prediction about the direction and magnitude of a particular price change if the price change does not occur in the relevant time period (i.e., before the option expires). Additionally, options are less tangible than some other investments. An option is a "book-entry" only investment without a paper certificate of ownership.

### **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

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

#### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

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

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

Onus 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 Onus or the integrity of its management.

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

#### **Broker-Dealer or Representative Registration**

Onus is not registered as a broker-dealer and no affiliated representatives of Onus are registered representatives of a broker-dealer.

#### **Futures or Commodity Registration**

Neither Onus nor its affiliated representatives are registered or have an application pending to register as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or a commodity trading advisor.

Material Relationships Maintained by this Advisory Business and Conflicts of Interest Onus does not have any material relationships or other business activities.

**Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisors and Conflicts of Interest**Onus does not select or recommend other investment advisors.

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

#### **Code of Ethics Description**

The affiliated persons (affiliated persons include employees and/or independent contractors) of Onus have committed to a Code of Ethics ("Code"). The purpose of our Code is to set forth standards of conduct expected of Onus affiliated persons and addresses conflicts that may arise. The Code defines acceptable behavior for affiliated persons of Onus. The Code reflects Onus and its supervised persons' responsibility to act in the best interest of their Client.

One area which the Code addresses is when affiliated persons buy or sell securities for their personal accounts and how to mitigate any conflict of interest with our Clients. We do not allow any affiliated persons to use non-public material information for their personal profit or to use internal research for their personal benefit in conflict with the benefit to our Clients.

Onus's policy prohibits any person from acting upon or otherwise misusing non-public or inside information. No advisory representative or other affiliated person, officer or director of Onus may recommend any transaction in a security or its derivative to advisory Clients or engage in personal securities transactions for a security or its derivatives if the advisory representative possesses material, non-public information regarding the security.

Onus's Code is based on the guiding principle that the interests of the Client are our top priority. Onus's officers, directors, advisors, and other affiliated persons have a fiduciary duty to our Clients and must diligently perform that duty to maintain the complete trust and confidence of our Clients. When a conflict arises, it is our obligation to put the Client's interests over the interests of either affiliated persons or the company.

The Code applies to "access" persons. "Access" persons are affiliated persons who have access to non-public information regarding any Clients' purchase or sale of securities, or non-public information regarding the portfolio holdings of any reportable fund, who are involved in making securities recommendations to Clients, or who have access to such recommendations that are non-public.

Onus will provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

## Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflict of Interest

Onus and its affiliated persons do not recommend to Clients securities in which we have a material financial interest.

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

Onus and its affiliated persons may buy or sell securities that are also held by Clients. In order to mitigate conflicts of interest such as trading ahead of Client transactions, affiliated persons are required to disclose all reportable securities transactions as well as provide Onus with copies of their brokerage statements.

The Chief Compliance Officer of Onus is Zahid Jafry. He reviews all trades of the affiliated persons each quarter. The personal trading reviews ensure that the personal trading of affiliated persons does not affect the markets and that Clients of the firm receive preferential treatment over associated persons' transactions.

## Client Securities Recommendations or Trades and Concurrent Advisory Firm Securities Transactions and Conflicts of Interest

Onus does not maintain a firm proprietary trading account and does not have a material financial interest in any securities being recommended and therefore no conflicts of interest exist. However, affiliated persons may buy or sell securities at the same time they buy or sell securities for Clients. In order to mitigate conflicts of interest such as front

running, affiliated persons are required to disclose all reportable securities transactions as well as provide Onus with copies of their brokerage statements.

The Chief Compliance Officer of Onus is Zahid Jafry. He reviews all trades of the affiliated persons each quarter. The personal trading reviews ensure that the personal trading of affiliated persons does not affect the markets and that Clients of the firm receive preferential treatment over associated persons' transactions.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

#### **Factors Used to Select Broker-Dealers for Client Transactions**

Onus requires that Clients establish brokerage accounts with the Schwab Advisor Services division of Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.¹ ("Schwab"), a FINRA² registered broker-dealer and SIPC³ member, to maintain custody of Clients' assets and to effect trades for their accounts. Onus is independently owned and operated and not affiliated with Schwab. Onus has evaluated Schwab and believes that it will provide our Clients with a blend of execution services, commission costs and professionalism that will assist our firm in meeting our fiduciary obligations to Clients.

Schwab provides Onus with access to its institutional trading and custody services, which are typically not available to Schwab retail investors. These services are not contingent upon our firm committing to Schwab any specific amount of business (assets in custody or trading commissions). Schwab's brokerage services include the execution of securities transactions, custody, research, and access to mutual funds and other investments that are otherwise generally available only to institutional investors or would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment.

For our Client accounts maintained in its custody, Schwab generally does not charge separately for custody services but is compensated by account holders through commissions and other transaction-related or asset-based fees for securities trades that are executed through Schwab or that settle into Schwab accounts.

Charles Schwab & Co. also makes available to Onus other products and services that benefit Onus but may not directly benefit our Clients' accounts. Many of these products and services may be used to service all or some substantial number of our Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab.

Schwab's products and services that assist Onus in managing and administering our Clients' accounts include software and other technology that:

- provide access to Client account data (such as trade confirmations and account statements);
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple Client accounts;
- provide research, pricing and other market data;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For information regarding Schwab, please refer to their website: https://www.schwab.com/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> FINRA is the largest independent regulator for all securities firms doing business in the United States. For more information, please refer to FINRA's website: <a href="http://www.finra.org/">http://www.finra.org/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For information regarding SIPC, please refer to their website: <a href="http://www.sipc.org/">http://www.sipc.org/</a>.

- facilitate payment of our fees from Clients' accounts; and
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping and Client reporting.

Charles Schwab & Co. also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services may include:

- compliance, legal and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

Schwab may make available, arrange and/or pay third-party vendors for the types of services rendered to Onus. Charles Schwab & Co. may discount or waive fees it would otherwise charge for some of these services or pay all or a part of the fees of a third-party providing these services to our firm. Charles Schwab & Co. may also provide other benefits such as educational events or occasional business entertainment of our personnel. In evaluating whether to recommend or require that Clients custody their assets at Schwab, we may take into account the availability of some of the foregoing products and services and other arrangements as part of the total mix of factors we consider and not solely on the nature, cost or quality of custody and brokerage services provided by Schwab, which may create a potential conflict of interest.

- Directed Brokerage
   Onus does not allow directed brokerage accounts.
- Brokerage for Client Referrals
  Onus does not receive client referrals from any custodian in exchange for using that broker-dealer.

#### • Best Execution

Investment advisors who manage or supervise Client portfolios have a fiduciary obligation of best execution. The determination of what may constitute best execution and price in the execution of a securities transaction by a broker involves a number of considerations and is subjective. Factors affecting brokerage selection include the overall direct net economic result to the portfolios, the efficiency with which the transaction is effected, the ability to affect the transaction where a large block is involved, the operational facilities of the broker-dealer, the value of an ongoing relationship with such broker and the financial strength and stability of the broker. Onus does not receive any portion of the trading fees.

#### • Soft Dollar Arrangements

The Securities and Exchange Commission defines soft dollar practices as arrangement under which products or services other than execution services are obtained by Onus from or through a broker-dealer in exchange for directing Client transactions to the broker-dealer. As permitted by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Onus receives economic benefits as a result of commissions generated from securities transactions by the broker-dealer from the accounts of Onus. These benefits include both proprietary research from the broker and other research written by third parties.

A conflict of interest exists when Onus receives soft dollars. This conflict is mitigated by the fact that Onus has a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest of its Clients and the services received are beneficial to all Clients.

Onus utilizes the services of custodial broker dealers. Economic benefits are received by Onus which would not be received if Onus did not give investment advice to Clients. These benefits include: A dedicated trading desk, a dedicated service group and an account services manager dedicated to Onus's accounts, ability to conduct "block" Client trades, electronic download of trades, balances and positions, duplicate and batched Client statements, and the ability to have advisory fees directly deducted from Client accounts.

#### **Aggregating Securities Transactions for Client Accounts**

Onus manages each account separately, and therefore, does not aggregate purchases and sales and other transactions. If orders are not aggregated, some clients purchasing securities around the same time may receive a less favorable price than other clients which may cost clients more money.

#### **Item 13: Review of Accounts**

## Schedule for Periodic Review of Client Accounts or Financial Plans and Advisory Persons Involved

Account reviews are performed quarterly by the Chief Compliance Officer of Onus, Zahid Jafry. Account reviews are performed more frequently when market conditions dictate. Reviews of Client accounts include, but are not limited to, a review of Client documented risk tolerance, adherence to account objectives, investment time horizon, and suitability criteria, reviewing target allocations of each asset class to identify if there is an opportunity for rebalancing, and reviewing accounts for tax loss harvesting opportunities.

Financial plans generated are updated as requested by the Client and pursuant to a new or amended agreement.

#### **Review of Client Accounts on Non-Periodic Basis**

Other conditions that may trigger a review of Clients' accounts are changes in the tax laws, new investment information, and changes in a Client's own situation.

#### **Content of Client Provided Reports and Frequency**

Clients receive written account statements no less than quarterly for managed accounts. Account statements are issued by Onus's custodian. Client receives confirmations of each transaction in account from Custodian and an additional statement during any month in which a transaction occurs.

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

## **Economic Benefits Provided to the Advisory Firm from External Sources and Conflicts of Interest**

As disclosed under Item 12 above, Onus receives an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to Onus and other independent investment advisors that have their Clients maintain accounts at Schwab.

These products and services, how they benefit Onus, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices). The availability to Onus of Schwab's products and services is not based on Onus giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our Clients.

#### **Products & Services Available to Us from Schwab**

Schwab Advisor Services (formerly called Schwab Institutional) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like ours. They provide us and our clients with access to its institutional brokerage – 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 and at no charge.

#### **Services that Benefit Client**

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 clients or their account(s).

#### Services that May Not Directly Benefit Clients

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit the client or their account(s). 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 some 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:

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

Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- educational conferences and events
- technology, compliance, legal, and business consulting;
- publications and conferences on practice management and business succession; and
- access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants and insurance providers.

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees.

#### **Advisory Firm Payments for Client Referrals**

Onus does not compensate for Client referrals.

#### **Item 15: Custody**

#### **Account Statements**

All assets are held at qualified custodians, which means the custodians provide account statements directly to Clients at their address of record at least quarterly. Clients are urged to compare the account statements received directly from their custodians to any documentation or reports prepared by Onus.

Onus is deemed to have limited custody solely because advisory fees are directly deducted from Client's accounts by the custodian on behalf of Onus. Pursuant to CCR Section 260.237(b)(3)

- A. The investment adviser has custody of the funds and securities solely as a consequence of its authority to make withdrawals from client accounts to pay its advisory fee.
- B. The investment adviser has written authorization from the client to deduct advisory fees from the account held with the qualified custodian.
- C. Each time a fee is directly deducted from a Client account, the investment adviser concurrently:
  - i. Sends the qualified custodian an invoice or statement of the amount of the fee to be deducted from the client's account; and
  - ii. Sends the client an invoice or statement itemizing the fee. Itemization includes the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of the assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee.
- D. The investment adviser notifies the Commissioner in writing that the investment adviser intends to use the safeguards provided above. Such notification is required to be given on Form ADV.

#### **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

### **Discretionary Authority for Trading**

Onus requires discretionary authority to manage securities accounts on behalf of Clients. Onus has the authority to determine, without obtaining specific Client consent, the securities to be bought or sold, and the amount of the securities to be bought or sold.

Onus allows Clients to place certain restrictions, as outlined in the Client's Investment Policy Statement or similar document. These restrictions must be provided to Onus in writing.

The Client approves the custodian to be used and the commission rates paid to the custodian. Onus does not receive any portion of the transaction fees or commissions paid by the Client to the custodian.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

### **Proxy Votes**

Onus does not vote proxies on securities. Clients are expected to vote their own proxies. The Client will receive their proxies directly from the custodian of their account or from a transfer agent.

When assistance on voting proxies is requested, Onus will provide recommendations to the Client. If a conflict of interest exists, it will be disclosed to the Client. If the Client requires assistance or has questions, they can reach out to the investment advisor representatives of the firm at the contact information on the cover page of this document.

#### **Item 18: Financial Information**

#### **Balance Sheet**

A balance sheet is not required to be provided to Clients because Onus does not serve as a custodian for Client funds or securities and Onus does not require prepayment of fees of more than \$500 per Client and six months or more in advance.

## Financial Conditions Reasonably Likely to Impair Advisory Firm's Ability to Meet Commitments to Clients

Onus has no condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to our Clients.

#### **Bankruptcy Petitions during the Past Ten Years**

Onus has not had any bankruptcy petitions in the last ten years.

## **Item 19: Requirements for State Registered Advisors**

#### **Principal Executive Officers and Management Persons**

The education and business background for all management and supervised persons can be found in the Part 2B of this Brochure.

#### **Outside Business Activities**

The outside business activities for all management and supervised persons can be found in the Part 2B of this Brochure.

#### **Performance Based Fee Description**

Neither Onus nor its management receive performance based fees. Please see Item 6 of the ADV 2A for more information.

## Disclosure of Material Facts Related to Arbitration or Disciplinary Actions Involving Management Persons

Neither Onus nor its management have been involved in any of the following:

1. An award or otherwise been found liable in an arbitration claim alleging damages in excess of \$2,500, involving any of the following:

- 1. An investment or an investment-related business or activity;
- 2. Fraud, false statement(s) or omissions;
- 3. Theft, embezzlement or other wrongful taking of property;
- 4. Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion;
- 5. Dishonest, unfair or unethical practices.
- 2. An award or otherwise been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding involving any of the following:
  - 1. An investment or an investment-related business or activity;
  - 2. Fraud, false statement(s) or omissions;
  - 3. Theft, embezzlement or other wrongful taking of property;
  - 4. Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion;
  - 5. Dishonest, unfair or unethical practices.

## Material Relationship Maintained by this Advisory Business or Management persons with Issuers of Securities

There are no material relationships with issuers of securities to disclose.

#### **Material Conflicts of Interest Assurance**

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

Item 1 Cover Page

## SUPERVISED PERSON BROCHURE

FORM ADV PART 2B

Zahid A. Jafry

## **Onus Observer LLC**

Office Address:

920 Harrison Street, Apt. 5 San Francisco, CA 94107

Tel: 415-949-9934

zahid.jafry@gmail.com

www.onusobserver.com

This brochure supplement provides information about Zahid Jafry and supplements the Onus Observer LLC brochure. You should have received a copy of that brochure. Please contact Zahid Jafry if you did not receive the brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Zahid Jafry (CRD #6883557) is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>.

**JANUARY 26, 2021** 

## **Brochure Supplement (Part 2B of Form ADV)**

## **Supervised Person Brochure**

## Principal Executive Officer - Zahid A. Jafry

• Year of birth: 1982

#### Item 2 - Educational Background and Business Experience

#### **Educational Background:**

- Wilfrid Laurier University; BA General Arts; 06/2013
- University of Toronto; MBA Investment Banking; 06/2016

#### **Business Experience:**

- Onus Observer LLC; Managing Member/Chief Compliance Officer/Investment Advisor Representative; 01/20121 Present
- Rootlogix LLC; Director; 07/2019 01/2021
- Zerodown; Director of Capital Markets; 02/2019 05/2019
- Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated; Registered Representative/ Investment Advisor Representative; 01/2018 – 02/2019
- EvaBot; Business Development; 08/2017 11/2017
- Stilt; Business Development; 04/2017 08/2017
- Unemployed; 06/2016 03/2017
- University of Toronto; Full-Time Student; 09/2014 06/2016

#### **Item 3 - Disciplinary Information**

- A. Mr. Jafry has never been involved in a criminal or civil action in a domestic, foreign or military court of competent jurisdiction for which he:
  - 1. Was convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contender ("no contest") to (a) any felony; (b) misdemeanor that involved investments or an investment-related business, fraud, false statement or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, counterfeiting, or extortion; or (c) a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses;
  - 2. Is the named subject of a pending criminal proceeding that involves an investment-related business, fraud, false statements or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, or a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses;
  - 3. Was found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation; or
  - 4. Was the subject of any order, judgement or decree permanently or temporarily enjoining, or otherwise limiting, him from engaging in any investment related activity, or from violating any investment-related statute, rule, or order.
- B. Mr. Jafry never had an administrative proceeding before the SEC, any other federal regulatory agency, any state regulatory agency, or any foreign financial regulatory authority in which he:
  - 1. Was found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or the subject of an order by the agency or authority;

- 2. Was found to have been involved in a violation of an investment-related statute or regulation or was the subject of an order by the agency or authority (a)denying, suspending or revoking the authorization of the supervised person to act in an investment-related business; (b) barring or suspending his association with an investment-related business; (c) otherwise significantly limiting his investment-related activities; or (d) imposing a civil money penalty of more than \$2,500 on him.
- C. Mr. Jafry has never been the subject of a self-regulatory organization (SRO) proceeding in which he:
  - 1. Was found to have caused an investment-related business to lose its authorization to do business; or
  - 2. Was found to have been involved in a violation of the SRO's rules and was: (a) barred or suspended from membership or from association with other members, or was expelled from membership; (b) otherwise significantly limited from investment-related activities; or (c) fined more than \$2,500.
- D. Mr. Jafry has not been involved in any other hearing or formal adjudication in which a professional attainment, designation, or license of the supervised person was revoked or suspended because of a violation of rules relating to professional conduct.

#### Item 4 - Other Business Activities

Mr. Jafry has no other business activities.

#### **Item 5 - Additional Compensation**

Mr. Jafry does not receive any performance-based fees. He does not receive any additional compensation for performing advisory services other than what is disclosed in Item 5 of Part 2A.

#### **Item 6 - Supervision**

Zahid Jafry is the Chief Compliance Officer of Onus. He is solely responsible for all supervision and formulation and monitoring of investment advice offered to Clients. He will adhere to the policies and procedures as described in the firm's Compliance Manual. He can be reached at <a href="mailto:rainly.com">rainly.com</a> or 415-949-9934.

#### Item 7 - Requirements for State-Registered Advisors

- A. Mr. Jafry has not been involved in any of the following:
  - 1. An award or otherwise been found liable in an arbitration claim alleging damages in excess of \$2,500 involving any of the following:
    - a) An investment or an investment-related business or activity;
    - b) Fraud, false statement(s) or omissions;
    - c) Theft, embezzlement or other wrongful taking of property;
    - d) Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion;
    - e) Dishonest, unfair or unethical practices.
  - 2. An award or otherwise been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding involving any of the following:
    - a) An investment or an investment-related business or activity;

- b) Fraud, false statement(s) or omissions;
- c) Theft, embezzlement or other wrongful taking of property;d) Bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion;
- e) Dishonest, unfair or unethical practices.
- B. Mr. Jafry has never been the subject of a bankruptcy petition.