

Item 1 - Cover Page

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.  
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[www.BlankenshipFinancial.com](http://www.BlankenshipFinancial.com)

December 1, 2017

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please phone 217-488-6473 or email [Jim@BlankenshipFinancial.com](mailto:Jim@BlankenshipFinancial.com). The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an Adviser.

Additional information about Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

## Item 2 – Material Changes

December 1, 2017 – updated Item 4 with current AUM figure

December 1, 2016 – updated Item 4 with current AUM figure

December 4, 2015 – updated Item 4 with current AUM figure

November 26, 2014 – Updated Item 4 with current AUM figure

November 12, 2013 – Updated Item 4 with current AUM figure  
Updated Item 5 with current hourly rate

July 10, 2012 – Added Sterling Raskie as an Investment Adviser Representative in Part 2B.

July 1, 2012 – Updated Item 4 with Asset Under Management fee schedule  
Updated Item 5 with Asset Under Management fee schedule  
Updated Item 16 with Asset Under Management fee schedule

### General Change Information

In the past we have offered or delivered information about our qualifications and business practices to clients on at least an annual basis. Pursuant to new SEC Rules, we will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent Brochures within 120 days of the close of our business' fiscal year. We may further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

We will further provide you with a new Brochure as necessary based on changes or new information, at any time, without charge.

Currently, our Brochure may be requested by contacting James Blankenship at 217-488-6473 or [Jim@BlankenshipFinancial.com](mailto:Jim@BlankenshipFinancial.com). Our Brochure is also available on our web site [www.BlankenshipFinancial.com](http://www.BlankenshipFinancial.com), also free of charge.

Additional information about Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. is also available via the SEC's web site [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The SEC's web site also provides information about any persons affiliated with Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. who are registered, or are required to be registered, as investment adviser representatives of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.

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## **Item 4 – Advisory Business**

The Principal owner of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. (“Adviser”) is James Blankenship. The firm has been in business since January, 2003.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. provides fee-only, hourly, as-needed financial planning and investment Advisory services to individuals and families from all walks of life. These services may be general in nature or focused on particular areas of interest or need, depending upon each client's unique circumstances. The primary function of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. is providing financial planning services to individuals. Advice is rendered in the areas of cash flow and debt management, risk management, college funding, retirement planning, estate planning, tax planning, and asset allocation and investment selection. The Adviser employs fundamental, long-term financial planning and investment strategies.

### **Service Delivery Types and Methods**

#### Cash Flow and Debt Management

In provided advice regarding Cash Flow and Debt Management, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning cash flow and debt management;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to income, expenses, and debt load;
- 3) identifies problems with cash flow and debt situation and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations, which may include on-going follow up with Adviser to assure plan is being implemented and to assess results;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 2 to 4 hours are required, with additional time allotted for periodic review and assessment. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

#### Risk Management

In providing advice regarding Risk Management, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning risk management;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to risk exposures and present insurance coverage, including life, accident and health, long-term care, and property/casualty coverage;
- 3) identifies problems in terms of coverage deficiency or surplus and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations, which may include follow up with insurance professionals to assure plan is being implemented and to assess results;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan - as requested by Client, review and assessment of proposed additional coverage may be included in the engagement;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 2 to 4 hours are required. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

### College Funding

In providing advice regarding College Funding, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning college funding;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to income, assets, proposed college costs, and expected assistance (scholarships, grants, etc.);
- 3) identifies problems with college funding situation and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations;
- 5) Assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 2 to 4 hours are required. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

### Retirement Planning

In providing advice regarding Retirement Planning, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives for retirement;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to income requirements, expenses, assets, and sources of retirement income;
- 3) identifies problems with retirement cash flow situation and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 4 to 6 hours are required. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

### Estate Planning

In providing advice regarding Estate Planning, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning estate planning;
- 2) gathers and assesses data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to asset values and wishes for lifetime and final intents;
- 3) identifies methods to accomplish goals and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations, which may include recommendations to work with estate attorneys as appropriate;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan where applicable, including working with the Client's estate attorney to ensure that the estate plan matches the Client's goals and objectives;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 3 to 5 hours are required, with additional time allotted for coordinating activities with the Client's estate attorney. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

#### Tax Planning

In providing advice regarding Tax Planning, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning tax planning;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to income, taxable investments, and income tax withholding/refunds;
- 3) identifies problems with tax situation and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple plan of this nature, approximately 1 to 2 hours are required. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

#### Asset Allocation and Investment Selection

In providing advice regarding Asset Allocation and Investment Selection, Adviser performs the following activities:

- 1) discusses with the Client their current situation to determine goals and objectives concerning investment assets and the various types of accounts in use;
- 2) gathers and assesses the data regarding the Client's current situation with regard to asset allocation;
- 3) identifies problems with current asset allocation situation and formulates solutions;
- 4) prepares a financial plan in the form of specific written recommendations, which may include specific investment selection;
- 5) assists with implementation of the aforementioned plan;
- 6) follows up periodically to assess results and update the plan.

For a simple Plan of this nature, approximately 2 to 4 hours are required. There is no minimum net worth requirement for this service.

#### Asset Management

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. provides discretionary asset management for \$9.3 million of client assets as of December 2017. Discretionary asset management clients are subject to the following assets under management (AUM) annual fee schedule, billed quarterly in arrears:

- 1% for assets up to \$100,000
- 0.5% for assets from \$100,000.01 up to \$1,000,000
- 0.25% for assets above \$1,000,000

## Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

Fees for financial planning and investment Advisory services are \$180 per hour. The Adviser charges fees on an hourly, fee-only basis. No performance-related fees are charged. Hourly fees are billed in five (5) minute increments. Projects spanning more than three months will be billed quarterly. Fees are not collected for services to be provided more than 6 months in advance. Adviser does not have custody of client funds or securities. Fees for retainer and AUM arrangements are contracted annually and billed quarterly.

Adviser requires a deposit for initial engagement in the amount of the lesser of \$500 or one-half of the lower end of the estimated engagement fee range. The balance of fees due are payable immediately upon presentation of the formal plan or advice to the Client. Services to be provided and the anticipated fee range are detailed in the written Service Agreement.

Specific “package” engagements include

- 1) comprehensive financial planning, covering all areas specified in the agreement between Client and Adviser, \$1,995; and
- 2) ongoing financial and investment planning, based on Assets Under Management, per the following schedule:

- 1% for assets up to \$100,000
- 0.5% for assets from \$100,000.01 up to \$1,000,000
- 0.25% for assets above \$1,000,000

Either party may terminate an engagement upon written notice within 5 days of signing the Service Agreement, at which time no fees would be due. Should Client terminate the engagement after this date, Client is responsible and will be invoiced for any time charges incurred by Adviser in the preparation of the Plan.

Adviser reserves the right, at the Adviser’s discretion, to reduce or waive fees based upon pre-existing relationships, financial hardship, or other non-discriminatory reasons.

Fees paid to Adviser for financial planning and investment Advisory services are completely separate from the fees and expenses charged by mutual fund companies and their portfolio managers. A complete explanation of these fees and expenses are provided in each mutual fund prospectus. Clients are encouraged to read the prospectus before investing. Client may also incur transaction costs or administration fees from broker/dealers, trust companies or other service providers. Clients are encouraged to obtain a complete schedule of these fees from the service provider prior to entering any engagement. Adviser does not receive any portion of these other fees - the only compensation received by Adviser is the hourly fees paid directly by or on behalf of Client to Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd..

Adviser's project fee generally ranges from \$500 to \$2,000 depending upon the level and scope of services provided and is payable 50% in advance, not to exceed \$500 in advance payment or six months' payment. Since Adviser's project fee is hourly, any factor that increases complexity will have an impact on the time involved in any particular project, thereby increasing the cost.

The type of projects that would fit into the range from \$500 to \$2,000 are as follows:

- 1) Cash Flow and Debt Management (alone) - \$360 to \$720 - factors that may increase the cost include: income-to-debt ratio, total amount of debt, number of members of the household, level of organization of records.
- 2) Risk Management (alone) - \$360 to \$720 - factors that may increase the cost include: number of lives, vehicles, properties, incomes, etc., that are to be insured, and complexity of present insurance coverage.
- 3) College Funding (alone) - \$360 to \$720 - factors that may increase the cost include: age of child (number of years before college), quality of existing college funding plans, number of members of the household, and stage of the college selection process of the child.
- 4) Retirement Planning (alone) - \$720 to \$1,080 - factors that may increase the cost include: years before retirement, present income, desired (required) retirement income, sources of retirement income, number of retirement accounts, number of members in the household, and existence of competing priorities (against retirement savings).
- 5) Estate Planning (alone) - \$540 to \$900 - factors that may increase the cost include: number of members of the household, size of the estate, complexity of wishes/intents, existence of current documents, and time required in consultation with estate attorneys.
- 6) Tax Planning (alone) - \$180 to \$360 - factors that may increase the cost include - income, tax complexity of return (e.g. number of forms), additional sources of taxable income and self-employment.
- 7) Asset Allocation and Investment Selection (alone) - \$360 to \$720 - factors that may increase the cost include: number of existing accounts, married couple (versus single individual), tax-deferred accounts (more complex than taxable), and whether the Client desires assistance with implementation.

Combinations of any of the above activities are accumulative, with economies of scale often affecting the overall fee. For example, a fairly comprehensive plan might include #2, #4, and #7 above, with an overall fee range estimated between \$1,300 and \$1,800. A fully comprehensive plan might likely include #2 through #7 above, with a fee range estimated between \$1,900 and \$2,400.

The specific manner in which fees are charged by Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. is established in a client's written agreement with Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. will generally bill its fees on a quarterly basis. Clients may also elect to be billed directly for fees or to authorize Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. to directly debit fees from client accounts. Retainer or AUM accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded, and any earned, unpaid fees will be due and payable.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which shall be incurred by the client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, third party investment and other third parties such as fees charged by managers, 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 funds 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 Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s fees, and Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. shall not receive any portion of these other commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. considers in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for *client* transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (*e.g.*, commissions). Clients are free to choose any custodian or broker for execution of recommended actions.

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

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. does not charge any performance-based fees (fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client).

## **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. provides investment advice to individuals, small businesses and charities, some of whom may be high net worth individuals. There are no minimum account size limitations.

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

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

If Adviser is engaged to provide investment advice, Client's current financial situation, needs, goals, objectives and tolerance for risk are first evaluated. Asset allocation and investment policy decisions are then made to, in Adviser's best judgment, help Client to achieve their overall financial objectives while minimizing risk exposure. Asset allocation is a key component of investment portfolio design. Adviser believes that the appropriate allocation of assets across diverse investment categories (stock vs. bond, foreign vs. domestic, high quality vs. yield, etc.) is the primary determinant of portfolio returns and critical in the long-term success of one's financial objectives.

Adviser employs fundamental, long-term buy-and-hold philosophies and approaches in investment selection and implementation strategies. Recommendations provided are based on publicly available reports, analysis, research materials, computerized asset allocation models, and various subscription services. In limited circumstances, Adviser may also provide advice to clients with regard to specific securities.

Adviser often employs (where applicable) Exchange-Traded Funds and index mutual funds for allocation models. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and index mutual funds carry risks as outlined below:

**Summary of Principal Risks.** As with any investment, you could lose all or part of your investment in a fund, and the fund's performance could trail that of other investments. A fund may be subject to the principal risks noted below, any of which may adversely impact the fund's net asset value (NAV), trading price, yield, total return and ability to meet its investment objective.

**Asset Class Risk.** Securities in the underlying index or in a fund's portfolio may underperform in comparison to the general securities markets or other asset classes.

**Call Risk.** During periods of falling interest rates, an issuer of a callable bond may "call" or repay a security before its stated maturity, and the fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the fund's income.

**Concentration Risk.** To the extent that a fund's investments are concentrated in a particular country, market, industry or asset class, the fund may be susceptible to loss due to adverse occurrences affecting that country, market, industry or asset class.

**Credit Risk.** A fund may be subject to the risk that debt issuers and other counterparties may not honor their obligations.

**Derivatives Risk.** A fund may invest in certain types of derivatives contracts, including futures, options and swaps, which can be more sensitive to changes in interest rates or to sudden fluctuations in market prices than conventional securities, which can result in greater losses to the fund.

**Equity Securities Risk.** Equity securities are subject to changes in value and their values may be more volatile than other asset classes.

**Interest Rate Risk.** An increase in interest rates may cause the value of fixed-income securities held by a fund to decline.

**Issuer Risk.** Fund performance depends on the performance of individual securities in which the fund invests. Changes to the financial condition or credit rating of an issuer of those securities may cause the value of the securities to decline.

**Liquidity Risk.** Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell. This can reduce a fund's returns because the fund may be unable to transact at advantageous times or prices.

**Management Risk.** As a fund may not fully replicate the underlying index, it is subject to the risk that the manager of the fund's investment management strategy may not produce the intended results.

**Market Risk.** A fund could lose money over short periods due to short-term market movements and over longer periods during market downturns.

**Market Trading Risks.** A fund faces numerous market trading risks, including potential lack of an active market for fund shares, losses from trading in secondary markets, and disruption in the creation/redemption process of the fund. Any of these factors may lead to the fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to NAV.

**Mortgage-Backed Securities Risk.** A fund may invest in mortgage-backed securities, some of which may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the US government. Mortgage-backed securities are subject to prepayment risk and extension risk. Because of these risks, mortgage-backed securities react

differently to changes in interest rates than other bonds. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain mortgage-backed securities.

**Non-US Issuers Risk.** A fund may invest in bonds or stocks of non-US issuers, which carries different risks from investing in bonds or stocks issued by US issuers. These include differences in accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, the possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations, political instability, regulatory and economic differences, and potential restrictions on the flow of international capital.

**Passive Investment Risk.** An index fund is not actively managed and the fund managers do not attempt to take defensive positions in declining markets.

**Securities Lending Risk.** Securities lending involves the risk that the borrower may fail to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. The fund may lose money and there may be a delay in recovering the loaned securities. The fund could also lose money if the value of the collateral provided for loaned securities or the value of investments made with cash collateral falls. These events could also trigger adverse tax consequences for the fund.

**Tracking Error Risk.** The performance of the fund may diverge from that of its underlying index.

## **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. or the integrity of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s management.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. has no Disciplinary Information applicable to this Item.

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

James Blankenship concentrates approximately 50% of his time and effort providing financial planning and advice, which includes investment advice. James Blankenship is also a manager of Information Technology for American International Group Technology Services (AIGTS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIG, providing information technology support to the business of AIG.

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

At times employees and other related parties to Adviser may hold positions in securities that may also be recommended to Clients. However, at no time will Adviser or any related persons receive preferential treatment over Clients.

Adviser enforces the applicable rules of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, including the prohibition against insider trading. Adviser maintains the required personal securities records for all employees.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. has adopted a Code of Ethics for all supervised persons of the firm describing its high standard of business conduct, and fiduciary duty to its clients. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a prohibition of rumor mongering, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures, among other things. All supervised persons at Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually, or as amended.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. anticipates that, in appropriate circumstances, consistent with clients' investment objectives, it will cause accounts over which Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. has management authority to effect, and will recommend to investment Advisory clients or prospective clients, the purchase or sale of securities in which Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., its affiliates and/or clients, directly or indirectly, have a position of interest. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s employees and persons associated with Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. are required to follow Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s Code of Ethics. Subject to satisfying this policy and applicable laws, officers, directors and employees of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. and its affiliates may trade for their own accounts in securities which are recommended to and/or purchased for Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s clients. The Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of the employees of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of Advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts. Under the Code certain classes of securities have been designated as exempt transactions, based upon a determination that these would materially not interfere with the best interest of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s clients. In addition, the Code requires pre-clearance of many transactions, and restricts trading in close proximity to client trading activity. Nonetheless, because the Code of Ethics in some circumstances would permit employees to invest in the same securities as clients, there is a possibility that employees might benefit from market activity by a client in a security held by an employee. Employee trading is continually monitored under the Code of Ethics, and to reasonably prevent conflicts of interest between Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. and its clients.

Certain affiliated accounts may trade in the same securities with client accounts on an aggregated basis when consistent with Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s obligation of best execution. In such circumstances, the affiliated and client accounts will share commission costs equally and receive securities at a total average price. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. will retain records of the trade order (specifying each participating account) and its allocation, which will be completed prior to the

entry of the aggregated order. Completed orders will be allocated as specified in the initial trade order. Partially filled orders will be allocated on a pro rata basis. Any exceptions will be explained on the Order.

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s clients or prospective clients may request a copy of the firm's Code of Ethics by contacting James Blankenship.

It is Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s policy that the firm will not affect any principal or agency cross securities transactions for client accounts. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. will also not cross trades between client accounts. Principal transactions are generally defined as transactions where an adviser, acting as principal for its own account or the account of an affiliated broker-dealer, buys from or sells any security to any Advisory client. A principal transaction may also be deemed to have occurred if a security is crossed between an affiliated hedge fund and another client account. An agency cross transaction is defined as a transaction where a person acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which the investment adviser, or any person controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser, acts as broker for both the Advisory client and for another person on the other side of the transaction. Agency cross transactions may arise where an adviser is dually registered as a broker-dealer or has an affiliated broker-dealer.

## **Item 12 - Brokerage Practices**

Adviser may receive certain soft-dollar benefits from brokers in the form of software and research.

Soft dollar benefits are not proportionally allocated to any accounts that may generate different amounts of the soft dollar benefits.

Adviser is not affiliated with any broker/dealer firm. From time to time, Adviser may provide a list of discount brokers and mutual fund companies to Client which may provide service to Client, solely at Client's discretion. This list of discount brokers and mutual fund companies is only provided at Client's request, and any decision surrounding contact with one of the brokers or funds is left to the Client, although if requested, arrangement with a particular provider may be facilitated by Adviser. If and when such a list is provided, Adviser will include only brokers or mutual fund companies that are registered in Client's state of residence.

Adviser maintains an Adviser account with TD Ameritrade Institutional in order to facilitate implementation of allocation and/or on-going investment management activities for those Clients who choose to utilize that company as the Client's custodian. These accounts are maintained for the convenience of the Client and are utilized solely at the Client's request.

Depending upon the brokerage chosen by the Client, the Adviser's ability to assist in execution may be limited.

### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

No ongoing or automatic reviews are provided by Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. Periodic financial checkups are recommended, and it is the Client's responsibility to initiate these reviews. In some cases, regular account review is contracted, with fees based upon the anticipated number of hours required to provide review on a regular basis, such as quarterly, agreed upon in a separate AUM Agreement with the Client. This review is limited to monitoring the allocation with regard to the Client's goals and making adjustments as necessary to maintain the previously agreed-upon allocation.

Clients will receive account statements directly from the mutual fund companies and/or brokerage companies in which they hold investments. These statements are typically provided on a monthly or quarterly basis and as transactions occur. In the case of a contracted account review, a commentary on the account activity, along with general economic activity that may affect the portfolio, is provided to the client on the agreed-upon schedule (e.g., quarterly).

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

There are no compensatory arrangements for Client referrals to Adviser. There also are no compensatory arrangements for Adviser to refer Clients to any other entity.

### **Item 15 – Custody**

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

### **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. may receive discretionary authority from the client at the outset of an Advisory relationship to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold. In all cases, however, such discretion is to be exercised in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives for the particular client account.

When selecting securities and determining amounts, Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. observes the investment policies, limitations and restrictions of the clients for which it advises. For registered investment companies, Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s authority to trade securities may also be limited by certain federal securities and tax laws that require diversification of investments and favor the holding of investments once made.

Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. in writing.

In cases where an agreement is made between Adviser and Client for Adviser to provide regular investment management and review, a separate agreement is implemented, providing Adviser with Limited Trading and Indemnification Authority. This Authority allows Adviser to make trades within the Client's account in order to implement previously agreed-upon allocations on the Client's behalf. This Limited Trading and Indemnification Authority allows for the agreed-upon fees of Adviser to be deducted directly from the Client account at the discretion of the Client. Client may request that Adviser temporarily undertake this Limited Trading and Indemnification Authority in order to simply implement the agreed-upon plan.

The ongoing management engagement involves the following activities:

- 1) implementation of the initial allocation strategies;
- 2) regular oversight of the Client account for rebalancing and other situations requiring action;
- 3) regular communication with Client, using electronic mail, telephone, and face-to-face meetings, to assess current situations and conditions within the managed account(s).

In general, investment allocations in the Client account are implemented by use of low-cost investments, including index mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). A standard portfolio mix is utilized in varying allocation quantities for both the equity and fixed-income components of the portfolio. The specific allocation percentages are chosen to best match the Client's risk tolerance and return requirements, in the Adviser's best judgment.

An example of a portfolio mix is as follows:

- 12.5% Real Return bonds
- 42.5% Domestic Investment Grade bonds
- 10% Foreign Currency Bonds
- 12.5% Commodities
- 5% Domestic equities
- 10% Foreign Developed Market equities
- 7.5% Foreign Emerging Market equities

Ongoing investment management fee billed quarterly, based upon the schedule below. There is no minimum portfolio size for this service.

- 1% for assets up to \$100,000
- 0.5% for assets from \$100,000.01 up to \$1,000,000
- 0.25% for assets above \$1,000,000

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

As a matter of firm policy and practice, Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. does not have any authority to and does not vote proxies on behalf of Advisory clients. Clients retain the responsibility for receiving

and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in client portfolios. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. may provide advice to clients regarding the clients' voting of proxies.

### **Item 18 – Financial Information**

Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide certain financial information or disclosures about Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s financial condition. Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients, and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

### **Item 19 – Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

As required by the State of Illinois Department of Securities, listed below is additional information regarding Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd..

Principal:

James K Blankenship



## Item 1- Cover Page

**James Blankenship**  
**Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.**  
116 West Illinois Street, New Berlin, IL 62670  
217-488-6473

December 1, 2017

**This Brochure Supplement provides information about James Blankenship that supplements the Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact James Blankenship if you did not receive Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.**

Additional information about James Blankenship is available on the SEC's website at <https://www.sec.gov/investor/brokers.htm>.

## Item 2- Educational Background and Business Experience

Name: James Kevin Blankenship  
Year of Birth: 1963  
Education: Enrolled Agent (EA) 2008  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (CFP®) 2004  
Bachelor of Sciences, Computer Science, Eureka (IL) College 1985  
Experience: Financial Planner - 2003 to present  
Income Tax Preparer - 1988 to present  
Information Technology Manager, AIG – 1987 to present

Business Background: Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., Financial Advisor, 2003 to present  
AIG Corporation, Information Technology Manager, 1987 to present

### About the CFP® Professional Designation

The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the “CFP® marks”) are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”).

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of

conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board’s studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor’s Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board’s financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one’s ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one’s knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP Board’s Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the Standards of Professional Conduct. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board’s enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

## About the EA Professional Designation

The Enrolled Agent (EA) is a person who has earned the privilege of practicing, that is, representing taxpayers, before the Internal Revenue Service. Enrolled agents, like attorneys and certified public accountants (CPAs), are unrestricted as to which taxpayers they can represent, what types of tax matters they can handle, and which IRS offices they can practice before.

There are two tracks to becoming an enrolled agent. These tracks are described in Federal regulations contained in a pamphlet known as Treasury Department Circular 230, *Regulations Governing the Practice of Attorneys, Certified Public Accountants, Enrolled Agents, Enrolled Actuaries, and Appraisers Before the Internal Revenue Service*. The two tracks are:

- **Written examination.** You can become an enrolled agent by demonstrating special competence in tax matters by taking a written examination. This track requires that you -
  - Apply to take the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE);
  - Achieve passing scores on all parts of the SEE;
  - Apply for enrollment; and
  - Pass a background check to ensure that you have not engaged in any conduct that would justify the suspension or disbarment of an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent from practice before the IRS.
- **IRS experience.** You can become an enrolled agent by virtue of past service and technical experience with the IRS that qualifies you for enrollment. This track requires that you -
  - Possess the years of past service and technical experience specified in Circular 230;
  - Apply for enrollment; and
  - Pass a background check to ensure that you have not engaged in any conduct that would justify the suspension or disbarment of an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent from practice before the IRS.

Individuals who are enrolled must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements:

- In accordance with the Department of the Treasury Circular 230 Section 10.6, in order for an individual to maintain eligibility to practice before the Internal Revenue Service a minimum of 72 hours of continuing education credits must be completed during each enrollment cycle. Each enrollment cycle is 3 years. (**Note:** a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education credits and 2 hours of ethics or professional conduct credits must be completed during each enrollment year of an enrollment cycle.)

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

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of each supervised person providing investment advice.

There is no Disciplinary Information that is applicable to this Item.

### **Item 4- Other Business Activities**

James Blankenship is also a manager of Information Technology for American International Group Global Services (AIGGS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIG. In this capacity James assists in managing the process of providing information technology support to the business of AIG.

In addition, James is the Treasurer of the Sangamon County Fair Association and a member of the Board of Directors. In this capacity James manages the fiscal affairs of this volunteer organization.

Also, James is the Treasurer of the New Berlin Fire Protection District and a member of the Board of Trustees. James manages the fiscal affairs of this organization.

The abovementioned other business activities do not present material conflicts of interest for the financial planning and investment advice services that are provided by James as the Principal of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd..

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

Neither Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., nor any of its personnel receive or accept additional compensation or economic benefit (i.e., prizes or sales awards) for providing advisory services to its clients.

### **Item 6 – Supervision**

James Blankenship serves in multiple capacities for Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.: Managing Member, Principal, Financial Planner and Investment Adviser Representative (IAR). We recognize that the lack of segregation of duties may potentially create conflicts of interest. However, we employ policies and procedures to ensure timely and accurate recordkeeping and supervision, including outsourcing certain functions to qualified entities to assist in these efforts when necessary.

Questions about Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., its personnel, its services or this document may be posed to James Blankenship at 217-488-6473.

### **Item 7- Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

There are no known additional items for the State of Illinois as an investment Adviser.

## Item 1- Cover Page

Sterling Raskie

Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.

116 West Illinois Street, New Berlin, IL 62670

217-488-6473

December 1, 2017

**This Brochure Supplement provides information about Sterling Raskie that supplements the Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd. Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact James Blankenship if you did not receive Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd.'s Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.**

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

## Item 2- Educational Background and Business Experience

Name: Sterling Lee Raskie  
Year of Birth: 1977  
Education: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – The American College – 2017  
Master of Science Business Administration (MBA) – Benedictine University – 2013  
Master of Science in Financial Services – The American College – 2012  
Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice – UW – Eau Claire, WI – 2003  
Enrolled Agent (EA) 2013 – License 00110562  
Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU®) 2012  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (CFP®) 2011  
CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT (ChFC®) 2011  
Financial Services Specialist (FSS) 2008  
Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) 2007  
Experience: Financial Planner - 2006 to present  
Instructor – The American College – 2007 – Present  
Instructor – Dalton Education – 2012 – Present  
Personal Financial Counselor – Zeiders Enterprises – 2012 – 2016  
Adjunct Assistant Professor – Millikin University – 2014 – 2016  
Lecturer of Finance - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – 2017 – Present  
Instructor of Finance – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – 2016 – 2017  
Instructor – Benedictine University – 2013 – 2016  
Instructor – ITT Technical Institute – 2012 – 2013  
Instructor – Lincoln Land Community College – 2012 – 2013

Insurance Agent – 2003-2005

Licensing:	State of Illinois -	Life Insurance/Variable Life Property & Casualty Insurance Accident & Health Insurance
	State of Wisconsin	Life Insurance/Variable Life Accident & Health Insurance Property & Casualty Insurance

Business Background: Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., Financial Advisor, 2012 to present  
Raskie Financial – 2006-2010, Financial Advisor, 2006 to 2010  
Raskie Education – 2008 - Present  
VALIC Financial Advisors – 2010 - 2012

### **About the CFP® Professional Designation**

The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the “CFP® marks”) are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”).

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board’s studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor’s Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board’s financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one’s ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one’s knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and

- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP Board’s Standards of Professional Conduct, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the Standards of Professional Conduct. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board’s enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

### **About the ChFC® Designation:**

To receive the ChFC® designation, you must successfully complete all courses in your selected program, meet experience requirements and ethics standards, and agree to comply with The American College Code of Ethics and Procedures.

#### **Experience**

Three years of full-time business experience is required for all Huebner School designations. The three-year period must be within the five years preceding the date of the award. An undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited educational institution qualifies as one year of business experience. Part-time qualifying business experience is credited toward the three-year requirement on an hourly basis, with 2,000 hours representing the equivalent of one year full-time experience. The following activities meet the required business experience qualifications included in the ChFC® certification process.

#### **Insurance and health care**

- Field underwriting and management, including sales and service activities, supervision and management of persons involved in sales or services, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Company management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility.

#### **Financial services and employee benefits**

- Client service and related management, including direct contact with clients, supervision and management of persons involved directly in the process of providing financial services or employee benefits, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Financial institution management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility.

#### **Other**

- University or college teaching of subjects related to the Huebner School curriculum on a full-time basis at an accredited institution of higher education.

- Government regulatory service in a responsible administrative, supervisory, or operational capacity.
- Activities directly or indirectly related to the protection, accumulation, conservation, or distribution of the economic value of human life; these include the work of actuaries, attorneys, CPAs, investment advisers, real estate investment advisers, stockbrokers, trust officers, or persons in other similar occupations.

### **Code of Ethics**

To underscore the importance of ethics standards for Huebner School designations, the Board of Trustees adopted a Code of Ethics in 1984. Embodied in the Code are the Professional Pledge and eight Canons.

#### **Professional Pledge**

"In all my professional relationships, I pledge myself to the following rule of ethical conduct: I shall, in light of all conditions surrounding those I serve, which I shall make every conscientious effort to ascertain and understand, render that service which, in the same circumstances, I would apply to myself."

#### **The Canons**

- I. Conduct yourself at all times with honor and dignity.
- II. Avoid practices that would bring dishonor upon your profession or The American College.
- III. Publicize your achievements in ways that enhance the integrity of your profession.
- IV. Continue your studies throughout your working life so as to maintain a high level of professional competence.
- V. Do your utmost to attain a distinguished record of professional service.
- VI. Support the established institutions and organizations concerned with the integrity of your profession.
- VII. Participate in building your profession by encouraging and providing appropriate assistance to qualified persons pursuing professional studies.
- VIII. Comply with all laws and regulations, particularly as they relate to professional and business activities.

### **Continuing Education**

All ChFC<sup>®</sup>s who matriculated after June 30, 1989 are subject to the PACE Recertification Program. If you are a ChFC<sup>®</sup> who falls into any of the following specified categories, you are required to earn 30 hours of CE credit every two years:

- Licensed insurance agent/broker/consultant
- Licensed security representative/registered investment advisor
- Financial consultant, attorney, accountant, employee benefits specialist, and any other individual who provides insurance, employee benefits, financial planning, or estate planning advice and counsel to the public

If you have earned all 30 CE credits through The American College, you do not have to sign and file a statement of compliance. The College will record CE credits you earned at The College and notify you when you have met the requirements.

If you are a ChFC<sup>®</sup> subject to PACE but do not fall into one of the above categories, you are exempt from the CE requirements. You will be required to notify The College of your exempt status every reporting period, as long as the exemption applies.



## About the CLU® Designation:

To receive the CLU® designation, you must successfully complete all courses in your selected program, meet experience requirements and ethics standards, and agree to comply with The American College Code of Ethics and Procedures.

### Experience

Three years of full-time business experience is required for all Huebner School designations. The three-year period must be within the five years preceding the date of the award. An undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited educational institution qualifies as one year of business experience. Part-time qualifying business experience is credited toward the three-year requirement on an hourly basis, with 2,000 hours representing the equivalent of one year full-time experience. The following activities meet the required business experience qualifications included in the CLU® certification process.

#### Insurance and health care

- Field underwriting and management, including sales and service activities, supervision and management of persons involved in sales or services, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Company management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility.

#### Financial services and employee benefits

- Client service and related management, including direct contact with clients, supervision and management of persons involved directly in the process of providing financial services or employee benefits, or staff support of persons in these activities.
- Financial institution management and operations in positions involving substantial responsibility.

#### Other

- University or college teaching of subjects related to the Huebner School curriculum on a full-time basis at an accredited institution of higher education.
- Government regulatory service in a responsible administrative, supervisory, or operational capacity.
- Activities directly or indirectly related to the protection, accumulation, conservation, or distribution of the economic value of human life; these include the work of actuaries, attorneys, CPAs, investment advisers, real estate investment advisers, stockbrokers, trust officers, or persons in other similar occupations.

### Code of Ethics

To underscore the importance of ethics standards for Huebner School designations, the Board of Trustees adopted a Code of Ethics in 1984. Embodied in the Code are the Professional Pledge and eight Canons.

#### Professional Pledge

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- II. Avoid practices that would bring dishonor upon your profession or The American College.

- III. Publicize your achievements in ways that enhance the integrity of your profession.
- IV. Continue your studies throughout your working life so as to maintain a high level of professional competence.
- V. Do your utmost to attain a distinguished record of professional service.
- VI. Support the established institutions and organizations concerned with the integrity of your profession.
- VII. Participate in building your profession by encouraging and providing appropriate assistance to qualified persons pursuing professional studies.
- VIII. Comply with all laws and regulations, particularly as they relate to professional and business activities.

### **Continuing Education**

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- Financial consultant, attorney, accountant, employee benefits specialist, and any other individual who provides insurance, employee benefits, financial planning, or estate planning advice and counsel to the public

If you have earned all 30 CE credits through The American College, you do not have to sign and file a statement of compliance. The College will record CE credits you earned at The College and notify you when you have met the requirements.

If you are a CLU<sup>®</sup> subject to PACE but do not fall into one of the above categories, you are exempt from the CE requirements. You will be required to notify The College of your exempt status every reporting period, as long as the exemption applies.

### **About the EA Professional Designation**

The Enrolled Agent (EA) is a person who has earned the privilege of practicing, that is, representing taxpayers, before the Internal Revenue Service. Enrolled agents, like attorneys and certified public accountants (CPAs), are unrestricted as to which taxpayers they can represent, what types of tax matters they can handle, and which IRS offices they can practice before.

There are two tracks to becoming an enrolled agent. These tracks are described in Federal regulations contained in a pamphlet known as Treasury Department Circular 230, *Regulations Governing the Practice of Attorneys, Certified Public Accountants, Enrolled Agents, Enrolled Actuaries, and Appraisers Before the Internal Revenue Service*. The two tracks are:

- **Written examination.** You can become an enrolled agent by demonstrating special competence in tax matters by taking a written examination. This track requires that you -
  - Apply to take the Special Enrollment Examination (SEE);
  - Achieve passing scores on all parts of the SEE;

- Apply for enrollment; and
- Pass a background check to ensure that you have not engaged in any conduct that would justify the suspension or disbarment of an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent from practice before the IRS.
- **IRS experience.** You can become an enrolled agent by virtue of past service and technical experience with the IRS that qualifies you for enrollment. This track requires that you -
  - Possess the years of past service and technical experience specified in Circular 230;
  - Apply for enrollment; and
  - Pass a background check to ensure that you have not engaged in any conduct that would justify the suspension or disbarment of an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent from practice before the IRS.

Individuals who are enrolled must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements:

In accordance with the Department of the Treasury Circular 230 Section 10.6, in order for an individual to maintain eligibility to practice before the Internal Revenue Service a minimum of 72 hours of continuing education credits must be completed during each enrollment cycle. Each enrollment cycle is 3 years. (**Note:** a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education credits and 2 hours of ethics or professional conduct credits must be completed during each enrollment year of an enrollment cycle.)

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

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of each supervised person providing investment advice.

There is no Disciplinary Information that is applicable to this Item.

### **Item 4- Other Business Activities**

Sterling Raskie is also an instructor for Dalton Education and The American College. In both positions, Sterling educates other financial professionals seeking to earn industry designations such as the CFP®, ChFC®, and CLU®. Sterling is also an adjunct instructor for ITT Technical Institute and Lincoln Land Community College where he teaches problem solving, mathematics, and entry-level computer technology (MS Office).

The abovementioned other business activities do not present material conflicts of interest for the financial planning and investment advice services that are provided by Sterling as an employee of Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd..

## **Item 5- Additional Compensation**

Neither Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., nor any of its personnel receive or accept additional compensation or economic benefit (i.e., prizes or sales awards) for providing advisory services to its clients.

## **Item 6 – Supervision**

We employ policies and procedures to ensure timely and accurate recordkeeping and supervision, including outsourcing certain functions to qualified entities to assist in these efforts when necessary. Advice given to clients will be reviewed on a regular basis by James Blankenship, Principal, Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., and adjustments recommended where necessary.

Questions about Blankenship Financial Planning, Ltd., its personnel, its services or this document may be posed to James Blankenship at 217-488-6473.

## **Item 7- Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

There are no known additional items for the State of Illinois as an investment Adviser.