

FORM ADV PART 2B BROCHURE SUPPLEMENT

Joseph Anthony Spokas

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The home office of Forum Financial Management, LP is located at 1900 South Highland Avenue, Suite 100, Lombard, IL 60148. Telephone: (630) 873-8520. Website: www.forumfinancial.com.

This brochure supplement provides information about Joseph Anthony Spokas that supplements the Forum Financial Management, LP ("Forum") Form ADV Part 2A Brochure ("firm brochure"). You should have received a copy of that firm brochure. Please contact us at (630) 873-8520 if you did not receive Forum's firm brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this brochure supplement.

Additional information about Joseph Anthony Spokas is available on the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>.

Item 2 – Educational Background and Business Experience

Full Legal Name: Joseph Anthony Spokas **Born:** 1954

Education Background:

• Benedictine University: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Accounting and Business - 1977

Business Experience:

- Forum Financial Management, LP: Investment Adviser Representative 7/2002 to Present
- Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, Inc.: Registered Representative 2/2011 to Present
- Pinnacle Wealth Management: Associate 9/2011 to Present
- Spokas & Associates CPA: Managing Member 10/2011 to Present

Designations and Certifications:

Mr. Spokas has earned the following designation(s) and/or certification(s) and is in good standing with the granting authority:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA), 1978
- CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®), 1995
- Personal Financial Specialist (PFS[™]), 1997

Please refer to Part 2B Appendix 1 for definitions of the above designation(s) and/or certifications(s).

Item 3 – Disciplinary Information

Mr. Spokas has no reportable disciplinary history.

Item 4 – Other Business Activities

Mr. Spokas is a Registered Representative with Purshe Kaplan Sterling Investments, Inc. (PKSI). In this capacity, Mr. Spokas may recommend securities and/or insurance products offered by PKSI as part of clients' investment portfolios. If clients purchase these products through Mr. Spokas, he may receive the customary commissions in his separate capacity with PKSI. Additionally, Mr. Spokas may also receive 12b-1 fees from mutual funds that pay such fees. The receipt of additional compensation may give Mr. Spokas an incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received.

Mr. Spokas is also Managing Member of and Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with Spokas & Associates CPA and separately licensed as an independent insurance agent. Clients of Mr. Spokas may also be clients of Forum Financial Management, LP. The fees earned by Mr. Spokas in his outside business activities are separate and apart from the fees clients pay Forum for advisory services. Mr. Spokas' outside business activities present a conflict of interest because he may have an incentive to recommend accounting and/ or insurance services for the purpose of generating fees.

Mr. Spokas spends approximately 50% of his professional time as a Registered Representative, CPA, and insurance agent.

Please refer to "Item 10 Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations" of Forum's firm brochure for complete disclosure of the above referenced investment-related activities.

Item 5 – Additional Compensation

Refer to the Other Business Activities section above for disclosures on Mr. Spokas's receipt of additional compensation as a result of his other business activities.

Also, please refer to "Item 5 Fees and Compensation" and "Item 14 Client Referrals and Other Compensation" of Forum's firm brochure for additional disclosures on this topic.

Item 6 – Supervision

As a registered investment adviser, Forum administers and enforces a regulatory compliance program, reasonably designed to detect and prevent violations of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and other applicable state and federal securities laws.

Forum's compliance program is overseen by Forum's Chief Compliance Officer, Allison Tronnes, who delegates advisor supervision responsibilities among various advisor support personnel and teams.

Forum has a dedicated Advisor Support team, and within that team is the primary point of contact for advisor supervision. Should a client or prospective client have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of the following:

Nikki Hopson Advisor Development and Supervision (630) 376-4367 nhopson@forumfinancial.com Allison Tronnes Chief Compliance Officer (630) 873-8512 atronnes@forumfinancial.com

Item 7 – Part 2B Appendix 1

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER[™] (CFP®)

The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) is a professional certification awarded by the 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 this certification. It is recognized for its rigorous education and training requirements, high standard of professional education, stringent code of conduct and standards of practice, and ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients.

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

 Education – The two-part education requirement includes both completing college- or university-level coursework on financial planning through a CFP Board Registered Program and holding a bachelor's degree or higher (in any discipline) from an accredited university. The coursework includes topics on professional conduct and regulation, general principles of financial planning, risk management and income planning, estate planning, psychology of financial planning, and financial plan development.

- *Examination* Candidates for the CFP® certification must pass the CFP® exam, which tests the individual's ability to apply financial planning knowledge to real-life situations and ensures that the candidate is highly qualified to develop a holistic plan for clients' finances. The exam is a 170-question, multiple-choice test that consists of two 3-hour sessions over one day. The exam includes stand-alone and scenario-based questions, as well as questions associated with case studies.
- *Experience* The experience requirement prepares candidates for the CFP® certification to provide personal financial planning to the public without supervision. Individuals may fulfill the experience requirement either before or after taking the exam. Candidates must complete either 6,000 hours of professional experience related to the financial planning process or 4,000 hours of apprenticeship experience that meets additional requirements.
- *Ethics* The ethics requirement indicates that candidates for the CFP® certification have agreed to adhere to high ethical and professional standards for the practice of financial planning and to act as a fiduciary when providing financial advice to their clients.

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

- *Continuing Education* Individuals must complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including a two-hour, CFP Board-approved ethics course.
- *Ethics* Individuals must complete a Renewal Application annually, which includes an agreement to be bound by the CFP Board's "Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct." These require that the CFP® professional provide financial planning services as a fiduciary and in the best interest of their clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to the CFP Board's disciplinary process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of the CFP® certification. For more information, refer to the CFP Board's website at: <u>https://www.cfp.net/</u>.

Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a professional designation for licensed accounting professionals. CPAs are licensed and regulated by their state Boards of Accountancy. While state laws and regulations vary, the education, experience, and testing requirements for licensure as a CPA generally include: a bachelor's degree in business administration, finance, or accounting, in addition to having completed 150 hours of education; a minimum of two years of public accounting experience; and successful passage of the Uniform CPA Examination® ("CPA Exam"). The CPA Exam comprises four sections: auditing and attestation, business environment and concepts, financial accounting and reporting, and regulation.

In order to maintain a CPA designation, states generally require completion of continuing professional education (hourly requirements vary by state). Additionally, all American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) members must adhere to a rigorous Code of Professional Conduct, which requires that they act with integrity, objectivity, due care, competence, fully disclose any conflicts of interest (and obtain client consent if a conflict exists), maintain client confidentiality, disclose to the client any commission or referral fees, and serve the public interest when providing financial services. The vast majority of state boards of accountancy have adopted the AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct within their state accountancy laws or have created their own. For more information, refer to the AICPA website at: https://www.aicpa.org/home.

Personal Financial Specialist (PFS[™])

The Personal Financial Specialist (PFS[™]) is a professional certification for Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) awarded by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The PFS[™] certification allows CPAs to expand their expertise and offerings to include financial planning and wealth management.

The requirements for the Personal Financial Specialist (PFS[™]) credential are established by the Personal Financial Planning (PFP) Division staff at the AICPA, the National Accreditation Commission, and the PFS Credential Committee. The four major requirements are:

- Hold a valid CPA license and be a regular member of the AICPA.
- For the Standard and Certificate pathways, earn a minimum of 75 hours of PFP continuing professional development within the five years preceding your PFS[™] application.
- For the Experienced pathway, earn a minimum of 105 hours of PFP continuing professional development within the seven years preceding the PFS application.
- For the Standard and Certificate pathways, within the five years preceding the PFS[™] application, complete two years of full-time business or teaching experience (or 3,000 hours equivalent) in personal financial planning or, for candidates in academia, a qualified credential holder should be a full-time professor and have taught at least four accredited college courses with 50% of their material included in the PFS Body of Knowledge.
- For the Experienced pathway, within the seven years preceding the PFS[™] application, complete five years of full-time business experience (or 7,500 hours equivalent) in personal financial planning.
- Pass the PFS[™] Exam.

A PFS[™] professional is required to adhere to AICPA's Code of Professional Conduct and must complete 120 hours (or its equivalent) of continuing professional education every three years. For more information, refer to the AICPA website at: <u>https://us.aicpa.org/membership/join/pfs-eligibility-requirements</u>.