

FORM ADV

UNIFORM APPLICATION FOR INVESTMENT ADVISER REGISTRATION AND REPORT BY EXEMPT REPORTING ADVISER

Primary Business Name: LAYNE FINANCIAL GROUP

Other-Than-Annual Amendment - All Sections

7/21/2025 3:42:45 PM

WARNING: Complete this form truthfully. False statements or omissions may result in denial of your application, revocation of your registration, or criminal prosecution. You must file amendments. See Form ADV General Instruction 4.

Item 1 Identifying Information

Responses to this Item tell us who you are, where you are doing business, and how we can contact you. If you are filing an *umbrella registration*, the information in Item 1 should be consistent with the information in Form ADV General Instruction 5 provides information to assist you with filing an *umbrella registration*.

A. Your full legal name (if you are a sole proprietor, your last, first, and middle names):

LAYNE FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

B. (1) Name under which you primarily conduct your advisory business, if different from Item 1.A.

LAYNE FINANCIAL GROUP

List on Section 1.B. of Schedule D any additional names under which you conduct your advisory business.

(2) If you are using this Form ADV to register more than one investment adviser under an *umbrella registration*, check this box ☐

If you check this box, complete a Schedule R for each relying adviser.

C. If this filing is reporting a change in your legal name (Item 1.A.) or primary business name (Item 1.B.(1)), enter the new name and specify whether the name change is of ☐ your legal name or ☐ your primary business name:

D. (1) If you are registered with the SEC as an investment adviser, your SEC file number:

(2) If you report to the SEC as an *exempt reporting adviser*, your SEC file number:

(3) If you have one or more Central Index Key numbers assigned by the SEC ("CIK Numbers"), all of your CIK numbers:

No Information Filed

E. (1) If you have a number ("CRD Number") assigned by the FINRA's CRD system or by the IARD system, your CRD number: **336700**

If your firm does not have a CRD number, skip this Item 1.E. Do not provide the CRD number of one of your officers, employees, or affiliates.

(2) If you have additional CRD Numbers, your additional CRD numbers:

No Information Filed

F. Principal Office and Place of Business

(1) Address (do not use a P.O. Box):

Number and Street 1:

4 NANCY LANE

City:

BARBOURSVILLE

State:

West Virginia

Number and Street 2:

Country:

United States

ZIP+4/Postal Code:

25504-1164

If this address is a private residence, check this box: ☐

List on Section 1.F. of Schedule D any office, other than your principal office and place of business, at which you conduct investment advisory business. If you are applying for registration in one or more state securities authorities, you must list all of your offices in the state or states to which you are applying for registration or with whom you are registered. If you are registered only with the SEC, or if you are reporting to the SEC as an exempt reporting adviser, list the largest twenty-five offices in terms of number of employees as of the end of your most recently completed fiscal year.

(2) Days of week that you normally conduct business at your principal office and place of business:

☒ Monday - Friday ☐ Other:

Normal business hours at this location:

8AM - 4PM

(3) Telephone number at this location:

304-202-3309

(4) Facsimile number at this location, if any:

(5) What is the total number of offices, other than your principal office and place of business, at which you conduct investment advisory business as of the end of your most recently completed fiscal year?

0

G. Mailing address, if different from your principal office and place of business address:

Number and Street 1:

PO BOX 238

City:

BARBOURSVILLE

State:

West Virginia

Number and Street 2:

Country:

United States

ZIP+4/Postal Code:

25504

If this address is a private residence, check this box: ☐

H. If you are a sole proprietor, state your full residence address, if different from your *principal office and place of business* address in Item 1.F.:

Number and Street 1:		Number and Street 2:	
City:	State:	Country:	ZIP+4/Postal Code:

I. Do you have one or more websites or accounts on publicly available social media platforms (including, but not limited to, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn)?

If "yes," list all firm website addresses and the address for each of the firm's accounts on publicly available social media platforms on Section 1.I. of Schedule D. If a website access other information you have published on the web, you may list the portal without listing addresses for all of the other information. You may need to list more than one addresses of websites or accounts on publicly available social media platforms where you do not control the content. Do not provide the individual electronic mail (e-mail) address of employee accounts on publicly available social media platforms.

J. Chief Compliance Officer

(1) Provide the name and contact information of your Chief Compliance Officer. If you are an *exempt reporting adviser*, you must provide the contact information for your Chief Compliance Officer. If not, you must complete Item 1.K. below.

Name:	Other titles, if any:		
ETHAN MICHAEL LAYNE	MANAGER		
Telephone number:	Facsimile number, if any:		
3049721015			
Number and Street 1:	Number and Street 2:		
1705 WOODWARD TERRACE			
City:	State:	Country:	ZIP+4/Postal Code:
HUNTINGTON	West Virginia	United States	25705-3939

Electronic mail (e-mail) address, if Chief Compliance Officer has one:
ETHAN.LAYNE@LAYNEFINANCIALGROUP.COM

(2) If your Chief Compliance Officer is compensated or employed by any *person* other than you, a *related person* or an investment company registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, providing chief compliance officer services to you, provide the *person's* name and IRS Employer Identification Number (if any):

Name:
IRS Employer Identification Number:

K. Additional Regulatory Contact Person: If a person other than the Chief Compliance Officer is authorized to receive information and respond to questions about this Form ADV, provide the following information:

Name:	Titles:		
Telephone number:	Facsimile number, if any:		
Number and Street 1:	Number and Street 2:		
City:	State:	Country:	ZIP+4/Postal Code:

Electronic mail (e-mail) address, if contact person has one:

L. Do you maintain some or all of the books and records you are required to keep under Section 204 of the Advisers Act, or similar state law, somewhere other than your *principal office and place of business*?

If "yes," complete Section 1.L. of Schedule D.

M. Are you registered with a *foreign financial regulatory authority*?

Answer "no" if you are not registered with a foreign financial regulatory authority, even if you have an affiliate that is registered with a foreign financial regulatory authority. If "yes," complete Section 1.M. of Schedule D.

N. Are you a public reporting company under Sections 12 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934?

O. Did you have \$1 billion or more in assets on the last day of your most recent fiscal year?

If yes, what is the approximate amount of your assets:

- ☐ \$1 billion to less than \$10 billion
☐ \$10 billion to less than \$50 billion
☐ \$50 billion or more

For purposes of Item 1.O. only, "assets" refers to your total assets, rather than the assets you manage on behalf of clients. Determine your total assets using the total assets on the last day of your most recent fiscal year end.

P. Provide your *Legal Entity Identifier* if you have one:

A legal entity identifier is a unique number that companies use to identify each other in the financial marketplace. You may not have a legal entity identifier.

SECTION 1.B. Other Business Names

No Information Filed

SECTION 1.F. Other Offices

No Information Filed

SECTION 1.I. Website Addresses

List your website addresses, including addresses for accounts on publicly available social media platforms where you control the content (including, but not limited to, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.). If you have multiple websites or accounts on a publicly available social media platform, complete a separate Schedule D Section 1.I. for each website or account on a publicly available social media platform.

Address of Website/Account on Publicly Available Social Media Platform: <https://www.laynetaxsolutions.com>

Address of Website/Account on Publicly Available Social Media Platform: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheFinanceFellows>

Address of Website/Account on Publicly Available Social Media Platform: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ethan-layne-ea-06932b193?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via

Address of Website/Account on Publicly Available Social Media Platform: <https://www.laynefinancialgroup.com>

SECTION 1.L. Location of Books and Records

No Information Filed

SECTION 1.M. Registration with Foreign Financial Regulatory Authorities

No Information Filed

Item 3 Form of Organization

If you are filing an *umbrella registration*, the information in Item 3 should be provided for the *filing adviser* only.

A. How are you organized?

- ☐ Corporation
- ☐ Sole Proprietorship
- ☐ Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
- ☐ Partnership
- ☒ Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- ☐ Limited Partnership (LP)
- ☐ Other (specify):

If you are changing your response to this Item, see Part 1A Instruction 4.

B. In what month does your fiscal year end each year?

DECEMBER

C. Under the laws of what state or country are you organized?

State Country
West Virginia United States

If you are a partnership, provide the name of the state or country under whose laws your partnership was formed. If you are a sole proprietor, provide the name of the state or country under whose laws you are organized.

If you are changing your response to this Item, see Part 1A Instruction 4.

Item 4 Successions

A. Are you, at the time of this filing, succeeding to the business of a registered investment adviser, including, for example, a change of your structure or legal status (e.g., form of incorporation)?

If "yes", complete Item 4.B. and Section 4 of Schedule D.

B. Date of Succession: (MM/DD/YYYY)

If you have already reported this succession on a previous Form ADV filing, do not report the succession again. Instead, check "No." See Part 1A Instruction 4.

SECTION 4 Successions

No Information Filed

Item 5 Information About Your Advisory Business - Employees, Clients, and Compensation

Responses to this Item help us understand your business, assist us in preparing for on-site examinations, and provide us with data we use when making regulatory policy. Part 1A : guidance to newly formed advisers for completing this Item 5.

Employees

If you are organized as a sole proprietorship, include yourself as an employee in your responses to Item 5.A. and Items 5.B.(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). If an employee performs more than one function, report that employee in each of your responses to Items 5.B.(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5).

- A. Approximately how many employees do you have? Include full- and part-time employees but do not include any clerical workers.
1
- B. (1) Approximately how many of the employees reported in 5.A. perform investment advisory functions (including research)?
1
(2) Approximately how many of the employees reported in 5.A. are registered representatives of a broker-dealer?
0
(3) Approximately how many of the employees reported in 5.A. are registered with one or more state securities authorities as investment adviser representatives?
1
(4) Approximately how many of the employees reported in 5.A. are registered with one or more state securities authorities as investment adviser representatives for an investment advisory business?
0
(5) Approximately how many of the employees reported in 5.A. are licensed agents of an insurance company or agency?
0
(6) Approximately how many firms or other persons solicit advisory clients on your behalf?
2

In your response to Item 5.B.(6), do not count any of your employees and count a firm only once – do not count each of the firm's employees that solicit on your behalf.

Clients

In your responses to Items 5.C. and 5.D. do not include as "clients" the investors in a private fund you advise, unless you have a separate advisory relationship with those investors.

- C. (1) To approximately how many clients for whom you do not have regulatory assets under management did you provide investment advisory services during your most recent reporting period?
1
(2) Approximately what percentage of your clients are non-United States persons?
0%
- D. For purposes of this Item 5.D., the category "individuals" includes trusts, estates, and 401(k) plans and IRAs of individuals and their family members, but does not include business development companies.
The category "business development companies" consists of companies that have made an election pursuant to section 54 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Unless you have an investment advisory contract to an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, do not answer (1)(d) or (3)(d) below.

Indicate the approximate number of your clients and amount of your total regulatory assets under management (reported in Item 5.F. below) attributable to each of the following categories of clients. If you have fewer than 5 clients in a particular category (other than (d), (e), and (f)) you may check Item 5.D.(2) rather than respond to Item 5.D.(1).

The aggregate amount of regulatory assets under management reported in Item 5.D.(3) should equal the total amount of regulatory assets under management reported in Item 5.F.

If a client fits into more than one category, select one category that most accurately represents the client to avoid double counting clients and assets. If you advise a registered investment adviser, a pooled investment vehicle, or business development company, report those assets in categories (d), (e), and (f) as applicable.

Type of Client	(1) Number of Client(s)	(2) Fewer than 5 Clients	(3) Amount of Regulatory Assets Under Management
(a) Individuals (other than high net worth individuals)	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(b) High net worth individuals	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(c) Banking or thrift institutions	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(d) Investment companies	0		
(e) Business development companies	0		
(f) Pooled investment vehicles (other than investment companies and business development companies)	0		
(g) Pension and profit sharing plans (but not the plan participants or government pension plans)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(h) Charitable organizations	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(i) State or municipal government entities (including government pension plans)	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(j) Other investment advisers	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(k) Insurance companies	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(l) Sovereign wealth funds and foreign official institutions	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(m) Corporations or other businesses not listed above	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(n) Other:	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Compensation Arrangements

E. You are compensated for your investment advisory services by (check all that apply):

- ☒ (1) A percentage of assets under your management
☒ (2) Hourly charges
☐ (3) Subscription fees (for a newsletter or periodical)
☒ (4) Fixed fees (other than subscription fees)
☐ (5) Commissions
☐ (6) *Performance-based fees*
☐ (7) Other (specify):

Item 5 Information About Your Advisory Business - Regulatory Assets Under Management

Regulatory Assets Under Management

- F. (1) Do you provide continuous and regular supervisory or management services to securities portfolios?
(2) If yes, what is the amount of your regulatory assets under management and total number of accounts?

	U.S. Dollar Amount	Total Number of Accounts
Discretionary:	(a) \$ 25,000	(d) 1
Non-Discretionary:	(b) \$ 0	(e) 0
Total:	(c) \$ 25,000	(f) 1

Part 1A Instruction 5.b. explains how to calculate your regulatory assets under management. You must follow these instructions carefully when completing this Item.

- (3) What is the approximate amount of your total regulatory assets under management (reported in Item 5.F.(2)(c) above) attributable to *clients* who are non-United States persons?
\$ 0

Item 5 Information About Your Advisory Business - Advisory Activities

Advisory Activities

G. What type(s) of advisory services do you provide? Check all that apply.

- ☒ (1) Financial planning services
☒ (2) Portfolio management for individuals and/or small businesses
☐ (3) Portfolio management for investment companies (as well as "business development companies" that have made an election pursuant to section 54 of the Investment Company Act of 1940)
☐ (4) Portfolio management for pooled investment vehicles (other than investment companies)
☒ (5) Portfolio management for businesses (other than small businesses) or institutional *clients* (other than registered investment companies and other pooled investment vehicles)
☒ (6) Pension consulting services
☐ (7) Selection of other advisers (including *private fund* managers)
☒ (8) Publication of periodicals or newsletters
☐ (9) Security ratings or pricing services
☐ (10) Market timing services
☒ (11) Educational seminars/workshops
☐ (12) Other(specify):

Do not check Item 5.G.(3) unless you provide advisory services pursuant to an investment advisory contract to an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a subadviser. If you check Item 5.G.(3), report the 811 or 814 number of the investment company or investment companies to which you provide advice in Section 5.G.(3) of Schedule D.

H. If you provide financial planning services, to how many *clients* did you provide these services during your last fiscal year?

- ☐ 0
☒ 1 - 10
☐ 11 - 25
☐ 26 - 50
☐ 51 - 100
☐ 101 - 250
☐ 251 - 500
☐ More than 500

If more than 500, how many?
(round to the nearest 500)

In your responses to this Item 5.H., do not include as "clients" the investors in a private fund you advise, unless you have a separate advisory relationship with those investors.

- I. (1) Do you participate in a *wrap fee program*?
(2) If you participate in a *wrap fee program*, what is the amount of your regulatory assets under management attributable to acting as:
(a) *sponsor* to a *wrap fee program*?
\$
(b) portfolio manager for a *wrap fee program*?
\$
(c) *sponsor* to and portfolio manager for the same *wrap fee program*?
\$

If you report an amount in Item 5.I.(2)(c), do not report that amount in Item 5.I.(2)(a) or Item 5.I.(2)(b).

If you are a portfolio manager for a wrap fee program, list the names of the programs, their sponsors and related information in Section 5.I.(2) of Schedule D.

If your involvement in a wrap fee program is limited to recommending wrap fee programs to your clients, or you advise a mutual fund that is offered through a wrap fee program, any amounts in response to Item 5.I.(2).

- J. (1) In response to Item 4.B. of Part 2A of Form ADV, do you indicate that you provide investment advice only with respect to limited types of investments?
- (2) Do you report *client* assets in Item 4.E. of Part 2A that are computed using a different method than the method used to compute your regulatory assets under management?

K. Separately Managed Account *Clients*

- (1) Do you have regulatory assets under management attributable to *clients* other than those listed in Item 5.D.(3)(d)-(f) (separately managed account *clients*)?

If yes, complete Section 5.K.(1) of Schedule D.

- (2) Do you engage in borrowing transactions on behalf of any of the separately managed account *clients* that you advise?

If yes, complete Section 5.K.(2) of Schedule D.

- (3) Do you engage in derivative transactions on behalf of any of the separately managed account *clients* that you advise?

If yes, complete Section 5.K.(2) of Schedule D.

- (4) After subtracting the amounts in Item 5.D.(3)(d)-(f) above from your total regulatory assets under management, does any custodian hold ten percent or more of this remaining assets under management?

If yes, complete Section 5.K.(3) of Schedule D for each custodian.

L. Marketing Activities

- (1) Do any of your *advertisements* include:

(a) Performance results?

(b) A reference to specific investment advice provided by you (as that phrase is used in rule 206(4)-1(a)(5))?

(c) *Testimonials* (other than those that satisfy rule 206(4)-1(b)(4)(ii))?

(d) *Endorsements* (other than those that satisfy rule 206(4)-1(b)(4)(ii))?

(e) *Third-party ratings*?

- (2) If you answer "yes" to L(1)(c), (d), or (e) above, do you pay or otherwise provide cash or non-cash compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with the use of *third-party ratings*?

- (3) Do any of your *advertisements* include *hypothetical performance* ?

- (4) Do any of your *advertisements* include *predecessor performance* ?

SECTION 5.G.(3) Advisers to Registered Investment Companies and Business Development Companies

No Information Filed

SECTION 5.I.(2) Wrap Fee Programs

No Information Filed

SECTION 5.K.(1) Separately Managed Accounts

After subtracting the amounts reported in Item 5.D.(3)(d)-(f) from your total regulatory assets under management, indicate the approximate percentage of this remaining amount for each category of assets. If the remaining amount is at least \$10 billion in regulatory assets under management, complete Question (a). If the remaining amount is less than \$10 billion in regulatory assets under management, complete Question (b).

Any regulatory assets under management reported in Item 5.D.(3)(d), (e), and (f) should not be reported below.

If you are a subadviser to a separately managed account, you should only provide information with respect to the portion of the account that you subadvise.

End of year refers to the date used to calculate your regulatory assets under management for purposes of your *annual updating amendment*. Mid-year is the date six months before the end of year should add up to 100% and numbers should be rounded to the nearest percent.

Investments in derivatives, registered investment companies, business development companies, and pooled investment vehicles should be reported in those categories. Do not report

or underlying portfolio assets. Cash equivalents include bank deposits, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and similar bank instruments.

Some assets could be classified into more than one category or require discretion about which category applies. You may use your own internal methodologies and the conventions how to categorize assets, so long as the methodologies or conventions are consistently applied and consistent with information you report internally and to current and prospective count assets, and your responses must be consistent with any instructions or other guidance relating to this Section.

(a)

Asset Type
(i) Exchange-Traded Equity Securities
(ii) Non Exchange-Traded Equity Securities
(iii) U.S. Government/Agency Bonds
(iv) U.S. State and Local Bonds
(v) <i>Sovereign Bonds</i>
(vi) Investment Grade Corporate Bonds
(vii) Non-Investment Grade Corporate Bonds
(viii) Derivatives
(ix) Securities Issued by Registered Investment Companies or Business Development Companies
(x) Securities Issued by Pooled Investment Vehicles (other than Registered Investment Companies or Business Development Companies)
(xi) Cash and Cash Equivalents
(xii) Other

Generally describe any assets included in "Other"

(b)

Asset Type
(i) Exchange-Traded Equity Securities
(ii) Non Exchange-Traded Equity Securities
(iii) U.S. Government/Agency Bonds
(iv) U.S. State and Local Bonds
(v) <i>Sovereign Bonds</i>
(vi) Investment Grade Corporate Bonds
(vii) Non-Investment Grade Corporate Bonds
(viii) Derivatives
(ix) Securities Issued by Registered Investment Companies or Business Development Companies
(x) Securities Issued by Pooled Investment Vehicles (other than Registered Investment Companies or Business Development Companies)
(xi) Cash and Cash Equivalents
(xii) Other

Generally describe any assets included in "Other"

SECTION 5.K.(2) Separately Managed Accounts - Use of *Borrowings* and Derivatives

☒ No information is required to be reported in this Section 5.K.(2) per the instructions of this Section 5.K.(2)

If your regulatory assets under management attributable to separately managed accounts are at least \$10 billion, you should complete Question (a). If your regulatory assets under managed accounts are at least \$500 million but less than \$10 billion, you should complete Question (b).

(a) In the table below, provide the following information regarding the separately managed accounts you advise. If you are a subadviser to a separately managed account, you should report with respect to the portion of the account that you subadvise. End of year refers to the date used to calculate your regulatory assets under management for purposes of your annual report date six months before the end of year date.

In column 1, indicate the regulatory assets under management attributable to separately managed accounts associated with each level of gross notional exposure. For purpose of gross notional exposure of an account is the percentage obtained by dividing (i) the sum of (a) the dollar amount of any *borrowings* and (b) the *gross notional value* of all derivatives, by (ii) the regulatory assets under management of the account.

In column 2, provide the dollar amount of *borrowings* for the accounts included in column 1.

In column 3, provide aggregate *gross notional value* of derivatives divided by the aggregate regulatory assets under management of the accounts included in column 1 with respect to the accounts specified in 3(a) through (f).

You may, but are not required to, complete the table with respect to any separately managed account with regulatory assets under management of less than \$10,000,000.

Any regulatory assets under management reported in Item 5.D.(3)(d), (e), and (f) should not be reported below.

(i) Mid-Year

Gross Notional Exposure	(1) Regulatory Assets Under Management	(2) Borrowings	(3) Derivative Exposures
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			(a) Interest Rate Derivative	(b) Foreign Exchange Derivative	(c) Credit Derivative	(d) Equity Derivative
Less than 10%	\$	\$	%	%	%	%
10-149%	\$	\$	%	%	%	%
150% or more	\$	\$	%	%	%	%

Optional: Use the space below to provide a narrative description of the strategies and/or manner in which *borrowings* and derivatives are used in the management of the separately managed accounts.

(ii) End of Year

Gross Notional Exposure	(1) Regulatory Assets Under Management	(2) Borrowings	(3) Derivative Exposures			
			(a) Interest Rate Derivative	(b) Foreign Exchange Derivative	(c) Credit Derivative	(d) Equity Derivative
Less than 10%	\$	\$	%	%	%	%
10-149%	\$	\$	%	%	%	%
150% or more	\$	\$	%	%	%	%

Optional: Use the space below to provide a narrative description of the strategies and/or manner in which *borrowings* and derivatives are used in the management of the separately managed accounts.

(b) In the table below, provide the following information regarding the separately managed accounts you advise as of the date used to calculate your regulatory assets under management. If you are a subadvisor to a separately managed account, you should only provide information with respect to the portion of the account that you subadvise.

In column 1, indicate the regulatory assets under management attributable to separately managed accounts associated with each level of gross notional exposure. For purposes of this table, the gross notional value of an account is the percentage obtained by dividing (i) the sum of (a) the dollar amount of any *borrowings* and (b) the *gross notional value* of all derivatives, by (ii) the gross notional value of all assets under management of the account.

In column 2, provide the dollar amount of *borrowings* for the accounts included in column 1.

You may, but are not required to, complete the table with respect to any separately managed accounts with regulatory assets under management of less than \$10,000,000.

Any regulatory assets under management reported in Item 5.D.(3)(d), (e), and (f) should not be reported below.

Gross Notional Exposure	(1) Regulatory Assets Under Management	
Less than 10%	\$	
10-149%	\$	
150% or more	\$	

Optional: Use the space below to provide a narrative description of the strategies and/or manner in which *borrowings* and derivatives are used in the management of the separately managed accounts.

SECTION 5.K.(3) Custodians for Separately Managed Accounts

No Information Filed

Item 6 Other Business Activities

In this Item, we request information about your firm's other business activities.

A. You are actively engaged in business as a (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) broker-dealer (registered or unregistered)
- ☐ (2) registered representative of a broker-dealer
- ☐ (3) commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor (whether registered or exempt from registration)
- ☐ (4) futures commission merchant
- ☐ (5) real estate broker, dealer, or agent
- ☐ (6) insurance broker or agent
- ☐ (7) bank (including a separately identifiable department or division of a bank)
- ☐ (8) trust company
- ☐ (9) registered municipal advisor
- ☐ (10) registered security-based swap dealer
- ☐ (11) major security-based swap participant
- ☐ (12) accountant or accounting firm
- ☐ (13) lawyer or law firm
- ☐ (14) other financial product salesperson (specify):

If you engage in other business using a name that is different from the names reported in Items 1.A. or 1.B.(1), complete Section 6.A. of Schedule D.

B. (1) Are you actively engaged in any other business not listed in Item 6.A. (other than giving investment advice)?

(2) If yes, is this other business your primary business?

If "yes," describe this other business on Section 6.B.(2) of Schedule D, and if you engage in this business under a different name, provide that name.

(3) Do you sell products or provide services other than investment advice to your advisory *clients*?

If "yes," describe this other business on Section 6.B.(3) of Schedule D, and if you engage in this business under a different name, provide that name.

SECTION 6.A. Names of Your Other Businesses

No Information Filed

SECTION 6.B.(2) Description of Primary Business

Describe your primary business (not your investment advisory business):

If you engage in that business under a different name, provide that name:

SECTION 6.B.(3) Description of Other Products and Services

Describe other products or services you sell to your *client*. You may omit products and services that you listed in Section 6.B.(2) above.

ESTATE PLANNING, INSURANCE RISK ADVISING, AND TAX PLANNING.

If you engage in that business under a different name, provide that name:

Item 7 Financial Industry Affiliations

In this Item, we request information about your financial industry affiliations and activities. This information identifies areas in which conflicts of interest may occur between you ar

- A. This part of Item 7 requires you to provide information about you and your *related persons*, including foreign affiliates. Your *related persons* are all of your *advisory affiliates* a control with you.

You have a *related person* that is a (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) broker-dealer, municipal securities dealer, or government securities broker or dealer (registered or unregistered)
- ☒ (2) other investment adviser (including financial planners)
- ☐ (3) registered municipal advisor
- ☐ (4) registered security-based swap dealer
- ☐ (5) major security-based swap participant
- ☐ (6) commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor (whether registered or exempt from registration)
- ☐ (7) futures commission merchant
- ☐ (8) banking or thrift institution
- ☐ (9) trust company
- ☒ (10) accountant or accounting firm
- ☐ (11) lawyer or law firm
- ☐ (12) insurance company or agency
- ☐ (13) pension consultant
- ☐ (14) real estate broker or dealer
- ☐ (15) sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships (or equivalent), excluding pooled investment vehicles
- ☐ (16) sponsor, general partner, managing member (or equivalent) of pooled investment vehicles

Note that Item 7.A. should not be used to disclose that some of your employees perform investment advisory functions or are registered representatives of a broker-dealer. If you perform investment advisory functions should be disclosed under Item 5.B.(1). The number of your firm's employees who are registered representatives of a broker-dealer (2).

Note that if you are filing an umbrella registration, you should not check Item 7.A.(2) with respect to your relying advisers, and you do not have to complete Section 7.A. in Schedule D for each relying adviser.

For each related person, including foreign affiliates that may not be registered or required to be registered in the United States, complete Section 7.A. of Schedule D.

You do not need to complete Section 7.A. of Schedule D for any related person if: (1) you have no business dealings with the related person in connection with advisory services; (2) you do not conduct shared operations with the related person; (3) you do not refer clients or business to the related person, and the related person does not refer prospective clients to you; (4) the related person does not share supervised persons or premises with the related person; and (5) you have no reason to believe that your relationship with the related person otherwise creates a conflict of interest.

You must complete Section 7.A. of Schedule D for each related person acting as qualified custodian in connection with advisory services you provide to your clients (other than pursuant to rule 206(4)-2(b)(1)), regardless of whether you have determined the related person to be operationally independent under rule 206(4)-2 of the Advisers Act.

SECTION 7.A. Financial Industry Affiliations

Complete a separate Schedule D Section 7.A. for each *related person* listed in Item 7.A.

1. Legal Name of *Related Person*:
MERCNOMOS, INC.

2. Primary Business Name of *Related Person*:
LAYNE TAX SOLUTIONS

3. *Related Person's* SEC File Number (if any) (e.g., 801-, 8-, 866-, 802-)
-
or
Other

4. *Related Person's*
(a) CRD Number (if any):

(b) CIK Number(s) (if any):

No Information Filed

5. *Related Person* is: (check all that apply)
- (a) ☐ broker-dealer, municipal securities dealer, or government securities broker or dealer
 - (b) ☐ other investment adviser (including financial planners)
 - (c) ☐ registered municipal advisor
 - (d) ☐ registered security-based swap dealer
 - (e) ☐ major security-based swap participant
 - (f) ☐ commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor (whether registered or exempt from registration)
 - (g) ☐ futures commission merchant
 - (h) ☐ banking or thrift institution
 - (i) ☐ trust company
 - (j) ☒ accountant or accounting firm
 - (k) ☐ lawyer or law firm
 - (l) ☐ insurance company or agency
 - (m) ☐ pension consultant
 - (n) ☐ real estate broker or dealer
 - (o) ☐ sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships (or equivalent), excluding pooled investment vehicles

(p) ☐ sponsor, general partner, managing member (or equivalent) of pooled investment vehicles

6. Do you *control* or are you *controlled* by the *related person*?

7. Are you and the *related person* under common *control*?

8. (a) Does the *related person* act as a qualified custodian for your *clients* in connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*?

(b) If you are registering or registered with the SEC and you have answered "yes," to question 8.(a) above, have you overcome the presumption that you are not operational 206(4)-2(d)(5)) from the *related person* and thus are not required to obtain a surprise examination for your *clients'* funds or securities that are maintained at the *related*

(c) If you have answered "yes" to question 8.(a) above, provide the location of the *related person's* office responsible for *custody* of your *clients'* assets:

Number and Street 1:

Number and Street 2:

City:

State:

Country:

ZIP+4/Postal Code:

If this address is a private residence, check this box: ☐

9. (a) If the *related person* is an investment adviser, is it exempt from registration?

(b) If the answer is yes, under what exemption?

10. (a) Is the *related person* registered with a *foreign financial regulatory authority* ?

(b) If the answer is yes, list the name and country, in English of each *foreign financial regulatory authority* with which the *related person* is registered.

No Information Filed

11. Do you and the *related person* share any *supervised persons*?

12. Do you and the *related person* share the same physical location?

1. Legal Name of *Related Person*:

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

2. Primary Business Name of *Related Person*:

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO., INC.

3. *Related Person's* SEC File Number (if any) (e.g., 801-, 8-, 866-, 802-)

801 - 29938

or

Other

4. *Related Person's*

(a) *CRD* Number (if any):

5393

(b) CIK Number(s) (if any):

No Information Filed

5. *Related Person* is: (check all that apply)

(a) ☐ broker-dealer, municipal securities dealer, or government securities broker or dealer

(b) ☒ other investment adviser (including financial planners)

(c) ☐ registered municipal advisor

(d) ☐ registered security-based swap dealer

(e) ☐ major security-based swap participant

(f) ☐ commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor (whether registered or exempt from registration)

(g) ☐ futures commission merchant

(h) ☐ banking or thrift institution

(i) ☐ trust company

(j) ☐ accountant or accounting firm

(k) ☐ lawyer or law firm

(l) ☐ insurance company or agency

(m) ☐ pension consultant

(n) ☐ real estate broker or dealer

(o) ☐ sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships (or equivalent), excluding pooled investment vehicles

(p) ☐ sponsor, general partner, managing member (or equivalent) of pooled investment vehicles

6. Do you *control* or are you *controlled* by the *related person*?

7. Are you and the *related person* under common *control*?

8. (a) Does the *related person* act as a qualified custodian for your *clients* in connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*?

(b) If you are registering or registered with the SEC and you have answered "yes," to question 8.(a) above, have you overcome the presumption that you are not operational 206(4)-2(d)(5)) from the *related person* and thus are not required to obtain a surprise examination for your *clients'* funds or securities that are maintained at the *related*

(c) If you have answered "yes" to question 8.(a) above, provide the location of the *related person's* office responsible for *custody* of your *clients'* assets:

Number and Street 1:

Number and Street 2:

3000 SCHWAB WAT

City:
WESTLAKE

State:
Texas

Country:
United States

ZIP+4/Postal Code:
76262

If this address is a private residence, check this box: ☐

9. (a) If the *related person* is an investment adviser, is it exempt from registration?
(b) If the answer is yes, under what exemption?
10. (a) Is the *related person* registered with a *foreign financial regulatory authority* ?
(b) If the answer is yes, list the name and country, in English of each *foreign financial regulatory authority* with which the *related person* is registered.
No Information Filed
11. Do you and the *related person* share any *supervised persons*?
12. Do you and the *related person* share the same physical location?

Item 7 Private Fund Reporting

B. Are you an adviser to any *private fund*?

If "yes," then for each private fund that you advise, you must complete a Section 7.B.(1) of Schedule D, except in certain circumstances described in the next sentence and in Item 1A. If you are registered or applying for registration with the SEC or reporting as an SEC exempt reporting adviser, and another SEC-registered adviser or SEC exempt reporting adviser, do not complete Section 7.B.(1) of Schedule D with respect to any such private fund in Section 7.B.(1) of Schedule D of its Form ADV (e.g., if you are a subadviser), do not complete Section 7.B.(1) of Schedule D with respect to it.

In either case, if you seek to preserve the anonymity of a private fund client by maintaining its identity in your books and records in numerical or alphabetical code, or similar designation, you may identify the private fund in Section 7.B.(1) or 7.B.(2) of Schedule D using the same code or designation in place of the fund's name.

SECTION 7.B.(1) Private Fund Reporting

No Information Filed

SECTION 7.B.(2) Private Fund Reporting

No Information Filed

Item 8 Participation or Interest in *Client* Transactions

In this Item, we request information about your participation and interest in your *clients'* transactions. This information identifies additional areas in which conflicts of interest may arise. Newly-formed advisers should base responses to these questions on the types of participation and interest that you expect to engage in during the next year.

Like Item 7, Item 8 requires you to provide information about you and your *related persons*, including foreign affiliates.

Proprietary Interest in *Client* Transactions

A. Do you or any *related person*:

- (1) buy securities for yourself from advisory *clients*, or sell securities you own to advisory *clients* (principal transactions)?
- (2) buy or sell for yourself securities (other than shares of mutual funds) that you also recommend to advisory *clients*?
- (3) recommend securities (or other investment products) to advisory *clients* in which you or any *related person* has some other proprietary (ownership) interest (other than that described in (1) or (2))?

Sales Interest in *Client* Transactions

B. Do you or any *related person*:

- (1) as a broker-dealer or registered representative of a broker-dealer, execute securities trades for brokerage customers in which advisory *client* securities are sold to or bought from a customer (agency cross transactions)?
- (2) recommend to advisory *clients*, or act as a purchaser representative for advisory *clients* with respect to, the purchase of securities for which you or any *related person* serve as a managing partner?
- (3) recommend purchase or sale of securities to advisory *clients* for which you or any *related person* has any other sales interest (other than the receipt of sales commission) as a representative of a broker-dealer)?

Investment or Brokerage Discretion

C. Do you or any *related person* have *discretionary authority* to determine the:

- (1) securities to be bought or sold for a *client's* account?
- (2) amount of securities to be bought or sold for a *client's* account?
- (3) broker or dealer to be used for a purchase or sale of securities for a *client's* account?
- (4) commission rates to be paid to a broker or dealer for a *client's* securities transactions?

D. If you answer "yes" to C.(3) above, are any of the brokers or dealers *related persons*?

E. Do you or any *related person* recommend brokers or dealers to *clients*?

F. If you answer "yes" to E. above, are any of the brokers or dealers *related persons*?

- G. (1) Do you or any *related person* receive research or other products or services other than execution from a broker-dealer or a third party ("soft dollar benefits") in connection with securities transactions?
- (2) If "yes" to G.(1) above, are all the "soft dollar benefits" you or any *related persons* receive eligible "research or brokerage services" under section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934?

- H. (1) Do you or any *related person*, directly or indirectly, compensate any *person* that is not an *employee* for *client* referrals?
- (2) Do you or any *related person*, directly or indirectly, provide any *employee* compensation that is specifically related to obtaining *clients* for the firm (cash or non-cash compensation in excess of the *employee's* regular salary)?

I. Do you or any *related person*, including any *employee*, directly or indirectly, receive compensation from any *person* (other than you or any *related person*) for *client* referrals? In your response to Item 8.I., do not include the regular salary you pay to an *employee*.

In responding to Items 8.H. and 8.I., consider all cash and non-cash compensation that you or a *related person* gave to (in answering Item 8.H.) or received from (in answering Item 8.I.) any *person* for *client* referrals, including any bonus that is based, at least in part, on the number or amount of *client* referrals.

Item 9 Custody

In this Item, we ask you whether you or a *related person* has *custody* of *client* (other than *clients* that are investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940).

- A. (1) Do you have *custody* of any advisory *clients*':
- (a) cash or bank accounts?
 - (b) securities?

If you are registering or registered with the SEC, answer "No" to Item 9.A.(1)(a) and (b) if you have custody solely because (i) you deduct your advisory fees directly from your clients' accounts, or (ii) you have custody solely because you are the sole owner of the client assets in connection with advisory services you provide to clients, but you have overcome the presumption that you are not operationally independent under rule 206(4)-2(d)(5) from the related person.

- (2) If you checked "yes" to Item 9.A.(1)(a) or (b), what is the approximate amount of *client* funds and securities and total number of *clients* for which you have *custody*:
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| U.S. Dollar Amount | Total Number of <i>Clients</i> |
| (a) \$ 0 | (b) 0 |

If you are registering or registered with the SEC and you have custody solely because you deduct your advisory fees directly from your clients' accounts, do not include the assets of those clients in your response to Item 9.A.(2). If your related person has custody of client assets in connection with advisory services you provide to clients, do not include the assets of those clients in your response to 9.A.(2). Instead, include that information in your response to Item 9.B.(2).

- B. (1) In connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*, do any of your *related persons* have *custody* of any of your advisory *clients*':
- (a) cash or bank accounts?
 - (b) securities?

You are required to answer this item regardless of how you answered Item 9.A.(1)(a) or (b).

- (2) If you checked "yes" to Item 9.B.(1)(a) or (b), what is the approximate amount of *client* funds and securities and total number of *clients* for which your *related persons* have *custody*:
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| U.S. Dollar Amount | Total Number of <i>Clients</i> |
| (a) \$ 0 | (b) 0 |

- C. If you or your *related persons* have *custody* of *client* funds or securities in connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*, check all the following that apply:
- (1) A qualified custodian(s) sends account statements at least quarterly to the investors in the pooled investment vehicle(s) you manage.
 - (2) An *independent public accountant* audits annually the pooled investment vehicle(s) that you manage and the audited financial statements are distributed to the investors.
 - (3) An *independent public accountant* conducts an annual surprise examination of *client* funds and securities.
 - (4) An *independent public accountant* prepares an internal control report with respect to custodial services when you or your *related persons* are qualified custodians for *clients*.

If you checked Item 9.C.(2), C.(3) or C.(4), list in Section 9.C. of Schedule D the accountants that are engaged to perform the audit or examination or prepare an internal control report. If you do not have to list auditor information in Section 9.C. of Schedule D if you already provided this information with respect to the private funds you advise in Section 7.B.(1).

- D. Do you or your *related person(s)* act as qualified custodians for your *clients* in connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*?
- (1) you act as a qualified custodian
 - (2) your *related person(s)* act as qualified custodian(s)

If you checked "yes" to Item 9.D.(2), all related persons that act as qualified custodians (other than any mutual fund transfer agent pursuant to rule 206(4)-2(b)(1)) must be operationally independent under rule 206(4)-2 of the Advisers Act.

- E. If you are filing your *annual updating amendment* and you were subject to a surprise examination by an *independent public accountant* during your last fiscal year, provide the date the examination commenced:
- F. If you or your *related persons* have *custody* of *client* funds or securities, how many *persons*, including, but not limited to, you and your *related persons*, act as qualified custodians in connection with advisory services you provide to *clients*?

1

SECTION 9.C. Independent Public Accountant

No Information Filed

Item 10 Control Persons

In this Item, we ask you to identify every *person* that, directly or indirectly, *controls* you. If you are filing an *umbrella registration*, the information in Item 10 should be provided fo

If you are submitting an initial application or report, you must complete Schedule A and Schedule B. Schedule A asks for information about your direct owners and executive office your indirect owners. If this is an amendment and you are updating information you reported on either Schedule A or Schedule B (or both) that you filed with your initial applicatio C.

A. Does any *person* not named in Item 1.A. or Schedules A, B, or C, directly or indirectly, *control* your management or policies?

If yes, complete Section 10.A. of Schedule D.

B. If any *person* named in Schedules A, B, or C or in Section 10.A. of Schedule D is a public reporting company under Sections 12 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1933 Schedule D.

SECTION 10.A. Control Persons

You must complete a separate Schedule D Section 10.A. for each *control person* not named in Item 1.A. or Schedules A, B, or C that directly or indirectly *controls* your manageme

Individual Name (if applicable) (Last, First, Middle)

Layne, Ethan

CRD Number (if any)

7681593

Effective Date

05/06/2025

Termination Date

Business Address:

Number and Street 1

1705 WOODWARD TERRACE

City

HUNTINGTON

State

West Virginia

Number and Street 2

Country

United States

ZIP+4/Postal Code

25705-3911

If this address is a private residence, check this box:

☐

Briefly describe the nature of the *control*:

100% OWNERSHIP OF MERCNOMOS, INC. DBA LAYNE TAX SOLUTIONS

You must complete a separate Schedule D Section 10.A. for each *control person* not named in Item 1.A. or Schedules A, B, or C that directly or indirectly *controls* your manageme

Firm or Organization Name

MERCNOMOS, INC. DBA LAYNE TAX SOLUTIONS

CRD Number (if any)

Effective Date

05/06/2025

Termination Date

Business Address:

Number and Street 1

4 NANCY LANE

City

BARBOURSVILLE

State

West Virginia

Number and Street 2

Country

United States

ZIP+4/Postal Code

25504-1164

If this address is a private residence, check this box:

☐

Briefly describe the nature of the *control*:

PARENT COMPANY WITH 100% OWNERSHIP

SECTION 10.B. Control Person Public Reporting Companies

No Information Filed

Item 11 Disclosure Information

In this Item, we ask for information about your disciplinary history and the disciplinary history of all your *advisory affiliates*. We use this information to determine whether to grant or decide whether to revoke your registration or to place limitations on your activities as an investment adviser, and to identify potential problem areas to focus on during our on-site examinations. "yes" answers to more than one of the questions below. In accordance with General Instruction 5 to Form ADV, "you" and "your" include the *filing adviser* and all *relying advisers* unless otherwise specified.

Your *advisory affiliates* are: (1) all of your current *employees* (other than *employees* performing only clerical, administrative, support or similar functions); (2) all of your officers, partners, or persons performing similar functions; and (3) all *persons* directly or indirectly *controlling* you or *controlled* by you. If you are a "separately identifiable department or division" (SID) of a larger entity, determine who your *advisory affiliates* are.

If you are registered or registering with the SEC or if you are an exempt reporting adviser, you may limit your disclosure of any event listed in Item 11 to ten years following the date of the event by registering with a state, you must respond to the questions as posed; you may, therefore, limit your disclosure to ten years following the date of an event only in responding to Items 11.D.(2), 11.D.(4), and 11.H.(1)(a). For purposes of calculating this ten-year period, the date of an event is the date the final order, judgment, or decree was entered, or the date any ruling, judgment, or decrees lapsed.

You must complete the appropriate Disclosure Reporting Page ("DRP") for "yes" answers to the questions in this Item 11.

Do any of the events below involve you or any of your *supervised persons*?

For "yes" answers to the following questions, complete a Criminal Action DRP:

A. In the past ten years, have you or any *advisory affiliate*:

- (1) been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere ("no contest") in a domestic, foreign, or military court to any *felony*?
- (2) been *charged* with any *felony*?

If you are registered or registering with the SEC, or if you are reporting as an exempt reporting adviser, you may limit your response to Item 11.A.(2) to charges that are currently pending.

B. In the past ten years, have you or any *advisory affiliate*:

- (1) been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere ("no contest") in a domestic, foreign, or military court to a *misdemeanor* involving: investments or an *investment-related* activity, statements, or omissions, wrongful taking of property, bribery, perjury, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, or a conspiracy to commit any of these offenses?
- (2) been *charged* with a *misdemeanor* listed in Item 11.B.(1)?

If you are registered or registering with the SEC, or if you are reporting as an exempt reporting adviser, you may limit your response to Item 11.B.(2) to charges that are currently pending.

For "yes" answers to the following questions, complete a Regulatory Action DRP:

C. Has the SEC or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) ever:

- (1) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have made a false statement or omission?
- (2) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been *involved* in a violation of SEC or CFTC regulations or statutes?
- (3) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been a cause of an *investment-related* business having its authorization to do business denied, suspended, revoked, or restricted?
- (4) entered an *order* against you or any *advisory affiliate* in connection with *investment-related* activity?
- (5) imposed a civil money penalty on you or any *advisory affiliate*, or *ordered* you or any *advisory affiliate* to cease and desist from any activity?

D. Has any other federal regulatory agency, any state regulatory agency, or any *foreign financial regulatory authority*:

- (1) ever *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have made a false statement or omission, or been dishonest, unfair, or unethical?
- (2) ever *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been *involved* in a violation of *investment-related* regulations or statutes?
- (3) ever *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been a cause of an *investment-related* business having its authorization to do business denied, suspended, revoked, or restricted?
- (4) in the past ten years, entered an *order* against you or any *advisory affiliate* in connection with an *investment-related* activity?
- (5) ever denied, suspended, or revoked your or any *advisory affiliate's* registration or license, or otherwise prevented you or any *advisory affiliate*, by *order*, from associating with the business or restricted your or any *advisory affiliate's* activity?

E. Has any *self-regulatory organization* or commodities exchange ever:

- (1) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have made a false statement or omission?
- (2) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been *involved* in a violation of its rules (other than a violation designated as a "*minor rule violation*" under a plan approved by the SRO or exchange)?
- (3) *found* you or any *advisory affiliate* to have been the cause of an *investment-related* business having its authorization to do business denied, suspended, revoked, or restricted?
- (4) disciplined you or any *advisory affiliate* by expelling or suspending you or the *advisory affiliate* from membership, barring or suspending you or the *advisory affiliate* from trading, or otherwise restricting your or the *advisory affiliate's* activities?

F. Has an authorization to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor granted to you or any *advisory affiliate* ever been revoked or suspended?

G. Are you or any *advisory affiliate* now the subject of any regulatory *proceeding* that could result in a "yes" answer to any part of Item 11.C., 11.D., or 11.E.?

For "yes" answers to the following questions, complete a Civil Judicial Action DRP:

H. (1) Has any domestic or foreign court:

- (a) in the past ten years, *enjoined* you or any *advisory affiliate* in connection with any *investment-related* activity?
- (b) ever *found* that you or any *advisory affiliate* were *involved* in a violation of *investment-related* statutes or regulations?
- (c) ever dismissed, pursuant to a settlement agreement, an *investment-related* civil action brought against you or any *advisory affiliate* by a state or *foreign financial regulatory authority*?

(2) Are you or any *advisory affiliate* now the subject of any civil *proceeding* that could result in a "yes" answer to any part of Item 11.H.(1)?

Item 12 Small Businesses

The SEC is required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act to consider the effect of its regulations on small entities. In order to do this, we need to determine whether you meet the definition of a "small business" or "small organization" under rule 0-7.

Answer this Item 12 only if you are registered or registering with the SEC **and** you indicated in response to Item 5.F.(2)(c) that you have regulatory assets under management of \$25 million or more. Do not answer this Item 12 if you are filing for initial registration as a state adviser, amending a current state registration, or switching from SEC to state registration.

For purposes of this Item 12 only:

- Total Assets refers to the total assets of a firm, rather than the assets managed on behalf of *clients*. In determining your or another *person's* total assets, you may use the total assets reported on a consolidated balance sheet (but use total assets reported on a consolidated balance sheet with subsidiaries included, if that amount is larger).
- *Control* means the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a *person*, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise. Any right to vote 25 percent or more of the voting securities, or is entitled to 25 percent or more of the profits, of another *person* is presumed to *control* the other *person*.

A. Did you have total assets of \$5 million or more on the last day of your most recent fiscal year?

If "yes," you do not need to answer Items 12.B. and 12.C.

B. Do you:

- (1) *control* another investment adviser that had regulatory assets under management (calculated in response to Item 5.F.(2)(c) of Form ADV) of \$25 million or more on the last day of its most recent fiscal year?
- (2) *control* another *person* (other than a natural person) that had total assets of \$5 million or more on the last day of its most recent fiscal year?

C. Are you:

- (1) *controlled* by or under common *control* with another investment adviser that had regulatory assets under management (calculated in response to Item 5.F.(2)(c) of Form ADV) of \$25 million or more on the last day of its most recent fiscal year?
 - (2) *controlled* by or under common *control* with another *person* (other than a natural person) that had total assets of \$5 million or more on the last day of its most recent fiscal year?
-

Direct Owners and Executive Officers

1. Complete Schedule A only if you are submitting an initial application or report. Schedule A asks for information about your direct owners and executive officers. Use Schedule C to report indirect owners.
2. Direct Owners and Executive Officers. List below the names of:
- (a) each Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Legal Officer, Chief Compliance Officer (Chief Compliance Officer is required if you are registered as a public reporting company and cannot be more than one individual), director, and any other individuals with similar status or functions;
 - (b) if you are organized as a corporation, each shareholder that is a direct owner of 5% or more of a class of your voting securities, unless you are a public reporting company (as defined in the Exchange Act);
 - (c) if you are organized as a partnership, all general partners and those limited and special partners that have the right to receive upon dissolution, or have contributed, 5% or more of your capital;
 - (d) in the case of a trust that directly owns 5% or more of a class of your voting securities, or that has the right to receive upon dissolution, or has contributed, 5% or more of your capital; and
 - (e) if you are organized as a limited liability company ("LLC"), (i) those members that have the right to receive upon dissolution, or have contributed, 5% or more of your capital; and (ii) all elected managers.
3. Do you have any indirect owners to be reported on Schedule B? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. In the DE/FE/I column below, enter "DE" if the owner is a domestic entity, "FE" if the owner is an entity incorporated or domiciled in a foreign country, or "I" if the owner or executor is an individual.
5. Complete the Title or Status column by entering board/management titles; status as partner, trustee, sole proprietor, elected manager, shareholder, or member; and for shareholders, the number of shares owned (if more than one is issued).
6. Ownership codes are:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| NA - less than 5% | B - 10% but less than 25% | D - 50% but less than 75% |
| A - 5% but less than 10% | C - 25% but less than 50% | E - 75% or more |
7. (a) In the *Control Person* column, enter "Yes" if the *person* has *control* as defined in the Glossary of Terms to Form ADV, and enter "No" if the *person* does not have *control*. Note that directors, executive officers and all 25% owners, general partners, elected managers, and trustees are *control persons*.
- (b) In the PR column, enter "PR" if the owner is a public reporting company under Sections 12 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.
- (c) Complete each column.

FULL LEGAL NAME (Individuals: Last Name, First Name, Middle Name)	DE/FE/IT	Title or Status	Date Title or Status Acquired MM/YYYY	Ownership Code	Control Person	PR	CRD No. If None: S.S. or Employer ID No.
MERCNOMOS, INC. DBA LAYNE TAX SOLUTIONS	DE	MEMBER	05/2025	E	Y	N	99-0833620

Schedule B

Indirect Owners

1. Complete Schedule B only if you are submitting an initial application or report. Schedule B asks for information about your indirect owners; you must first complete Schedule A, direct owners. Use Schedule C to amend this information.
2. Indirect Owners. With respect to each owner listed on Schedule A (except individual owners), list below:
- (a) in the case of an owner that is a corporation, each of its shareholders that beneficially owns, has the right to vote, or has the power to sell or direct the sale of, 25% or more of the total amount of the corporation's outstanding common stock;
- For purposes of this Schedule, a *person* beneficially owns any securities: (i) owned by his/her child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, sharing the same residence; or (ii) that he/she has the right to acquire, within 60 days, through the exercise of any option or other contract, to acquire, any securities of the issuer.
- (b) in the case of an owner that is a partnership, all general partners and those limited and special partners that have the right to receive upon dissolution, or have contributed capital;
- (c) in the case of an owner that is a trust, the trust and each trustee; and
- (d) in the case of an owner that is a limited liability company ("LLC"), (i) those members that have the right to receive upon dissolution, or have contributed, 25% or more of the total amount of the company's capital; and (ii) all elected managers.
3. Continue up the chain of ownership listing all 25% owners at each level. Once a public reporting company (a company subject to Sections 12 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act) is reached, no further information need be given.
4. In the DE/FE/I column below, enter "DE" if the owner is a domestic entity, "FE" if the owner is an entity incorporated or domiciled in a foreign country, or "I" if the owner is an individual.
5. Complete the Status column by entering the owner's status as partner, trustee, elected manager, shareholder, or member; and for shareholders or members, the class of securities owned.
6. Ownership codes are: C - 25% but less than 50% E - 75% or more
D - 50% but less than 75% F - Other (general partner, trustee, or elected manager)
7. (a) In the *Control Person* column, enter "Yes" if the *person* has *control* as defined in the Glossary of Terms to Form ADV, and enter "No" if the *person* does not have *control*. No distinction should be made between direct and indirect ownership. For example, if the *person* is an executive officer and all 25% owners, general partners, elected managers, and trustees are *control persons*.
- (b) In the PR column, enter "PR" if the owner is a public reporting company under Sections 12 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.
- (c) Complete each column.

FULL LEGAL NAME (Individuals: Last Name, First Name, Middle Name)	DE/FE/I	Entity in Which Interest is Owned	Status	Date Status Acquired MM/YYYY	Ownership Code	Control Person	PR	CRD No. If Tax No. or
Layne, Ethan	I	MERCNOMOS, INC. DBA LAYNE TAX SOLUTIONS	PRESIDENT	02/2024	E	Y	N	7681593

Schedule D - Miscellaneous

You may use the space below to explain a response to an Item or to provide any other information.

Schedule R

No Information Filed

DRP Pages

CRIMINAL DISCLOSURE REPORTING PAGE (ADV)

No Information Filed

REGULATORY ACTION DISCLOSURE REPORTING PAGE (ADV)

No Information Filed

CIVIL JUDICIAL ACTION DISCLOSURE REPORTING PAGE (ADV)

No Information Filed

Arbitration DRPs

No Information Filed

Bond DRPs

No Information Filed

Judgment/Lien DRPs

No Information Filed

Part 1B Item 1 - State Registration

You must complete this Part 1B only if you are applying for registration, or are registered, as an investment adviser with any of the state securities authorities.

Complete this Item 1 if you are submitting an initial application for state registration or requesting additional state registration(s). Check the boxes next to the states to which you are already registered with at least one state and are applying for registration with an additional state or states, check the boxes next to the states in which you are applying for re to the states in which you are currently registered or where you have an application for registration pending.

Jurisdictions

<input type="checkbox"/> AL	<input type="checkbox"/> IL	<input type="checkbox"/> NE	<input type="checkbox"/> SC
<input type="checkbox"/> AK	<input type="checkbox"/> IN	<input type="checkbox"/> NV	<input type="checkbox"/> SD
<input type="checkbox"/> AZ	<input type="checkbox"/> IA	<input type="checkbox"/> NH	<input type="checkbox"/> TN
<input type="checkbox"/> AR	<input type="checkbox"/> KS	<input type="checkbox"/> NJ	<input type="checkbox"/> TX
<input type="checkbox"/> CA	<input type="checkbox"/> KY	<input type="checkbox"/> NM	<input type="checkbox"/> UT
<input type="checkbox"/> CO	<input type="checkbox"/> LA	<input type="checkbox"/> NY	<input type="checkbox"/> VT
<input type="checkbox"/> CT	<input type="checkbox"/> ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NC	<input type="checkbox"/> VI
<input type="checkbox"/> DE	<input type="checkbox"/> MD	<input type="checkbox"/> ND	<input type="checkbox"/> VA
<input type="checkbox"/> DC	<input type="checkbox"/> MA	<input type="checkbox"/> OH	<input type="checkbox"/> WA
<input type="checkbox"/> FL	<input type="checkbox"/> MI	<input type="checkbox"/> OK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WV
<input type="checkbox"/> GA	<input type="checkbox"/> MN	<input type="checkbox"/> OR	<input type="checkbox"/> WI
<input type="checkbox"/> GU	<input type="checkbox"/> MS	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> WY
<input type="checkbox"/> HI	<input type="checkbox"/> MO	<input type="checkbox"/> PR	
<input type="checkbox"/> ID	<input type="checkbox"/> MT	<input type="checkbox"/> RI	

Part 1B Item 2 - Additional Information

Complete this Item 2A. only if the person responsible for supervision and compliance does not appear in Item 1J. or 1K. of Form ADV Part 1A:

A. Person responsible for supervision and compliance:

Name:	Title:		
Telephone:	Fax:		
Number and Street 1:	Number and Street 2:		
City:	State:	Country:	ZIP+4/Postal Code:
Email address, if available:			
If this address is a private residence, check this box: <input type="checkbox"/>			

B. Bond/Capital Information, if required by your home state

(1) Name of Issuing Insurance Company:
TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

(2) Amount of Bond:
\$ 10000.00

(3) Bond Policy Number:

(4) If required by your home state, are you in compliance with your home state's minimum capital requirements?

Part 1B - Disclosure Questions

BOND DISCLOSURE

For "yes" answers to the following question, complete a Bond DRP.

- C. Has a bonding company ever denied, paid out on, or revoked a bond for you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person*?

JUDGMENT/LIEN DISCLOSURE

For "yes" answers to the following question, complete a Judgment/Lien DRP.

- D. Are there any unsatisfied judgments or liens against you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person*?

ARBITRATION DISCLOSURE

For "yes" answers to the following questions, complete an Arbitration DRP.

- E. Are you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* currently the subject of, or have you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* been the subject of, any damages in excess of \$2,500, involving any of the following:
- (1) any investment or an *investment-related* business or activity?
 - (2) fraud, false statement, or omission?
 - (3) theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property?
 - (4) bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion?
 - (5) dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices?

CIVIL JUDICIAL DISCLOSURE

For "yes" answers to the following questions, complete a Civil Judicial Action DRP.

- F. Are you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* currently subject to, or have you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* been *found* liable in, a civil or administrative *proceeding* involving any of the following:
- (1) an investment or *investment-related* business or activity?
 - (2) fraud, false statement, or omission?
 - (3) theft, embezzlement, or other wrongful taking of property?
 - (4) bribery, forgery, counterfeiting, or extortion?
 - (5) dishonest, unfair, or unethical practices?

Part 1B - Business Information

G. Other Business Activities

- (1) Are you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* actively engaged in business as a(n) (check all that apply):

- ☒ Tax Preparer
☐ Issuer of securities
☐ Sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships (or equivalent), excluding pooled investment vehicles
☐ Sponsor, general partner, managing member (or equivalent) of pooled investment vehicles
☐ Real estate adviser

- (2) If you, any *advisory affiliate*, or any *management person* are actively engaged in any business other than those listed in Item 6.A of Part 1A or Item 2.G(1) of Part 1B, disclose the amount of time spent on that business:
 LAYNE HOLDINGS, LLC ~1 HOUR PER WEEK PRINTING COMPANY THE FINANCE FELLOWS, LLC ~1 HOUR PER WEEK VIDEO ADVERTISING COMPANY THE RONALD MCDONALD HOURS PER QUARTER, FAMILY CARE FOR SICK CHILDREN STAYING IN HOSPITAL

- H. If you provide financial planning services, the investments made based on those services at the end of your last fiscal year totaled:

	Securities Investments	Non-Securities Investments
Under \$100,000	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
\$100,001 to \$500,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$1,000,001 to \$2,500,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
\$2,500,001 to \$5,000,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More than \$5,000,000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If securities investments are over \$5,000,000, how much? (round to the nearest \$1,000,000)

If non-securities investments are over \$5,000,000, how much? (round to the nearest \$1,000,000)

I. Custody

- (1) Advisory Fees

Do you withdraw advisory fees directly from your *clients'* accounts? If you answered "yes", respond to the following:

- (a) Do you send a copy of your invoice to the custodian or trustee at the same time that you send a copy to the *client*?
- (b) Does the custodian send quarterly statements to your *clients* showing all disbursements for the custodian account, including the amount of the advisory fees?
- (c) Do your *clients* provide written authorization permitting you to be paid directly for their accounts held by the custodian or trustee?

- (2) Pooled Investment Vehicles and Trusts

- (a) (i) Do you or a *related person* act as a general partner, managing member, or person serving in a similar capacity, for any pooled investment vehicle for which you are the investment vehicle, or for which you are the adviser to one or more of the investors in the pooled investment vehicle? If you answered "yes", respond to the following:

- (a) (ii) As the general partner, managing member, or person serving in a similar capacity, have you or a *related person* engaged any of the following to provide authority to make investment decisions, or to provide payment or any transfer of funds or securities from the account of the pooled investment vehicle?

Attorney

Independent certified public accountant

Other independent party

Describe the independent party:

For purposes of this Item 2I.2(a), "Independent party" means a person that: (A) is engaged by the investment adviser to act as a gatekeeper for the payment of fee from the pooled investment; (B) does not control and is not controlled by and is not under common control with the investment adviser; (C) does not have, and has no material business relationship with the investment adviser; and (D) shall not negotiate or agree to have material business relations or commonly controlled relations with the investment adviser for a period of two years after serving as the person engaged in an independent party agreement.

- (b) Do you or a *related person* act as investment adviser and a trustee for any trust, or act as a trustee for any trust in which your advisory clients are beneficiaries of the trust?

- (3) Do you require the prepayment of fees of more than \$500 per *client* and for six months or more in advance?

J. If you are organized as a sole proprietorship, please answer the following:

- (1) (a) Have you passed, on or after January 1, 2000, the Series 65 examination?

- (b) Have you passed, on or after January 1, 2000, the Series 66 examination and also passed, at any time, the Series 7 examination?

- (2) (a) Do you have any investment advisory professional designations?

If "no", you do not need to answer Item 2.J(2)(b).

- (b) I have earned and I am in good standing with the organization that issued the following credential:

- ☐ Certified Financial Planner ("CFP")
☐ Chartered Financial Analyst ("CFA")
☐ Chartered Financial Consultant ("ChFC")
☐ Chartered Investment Counselor ("CIC")
☐ Personal Financial Specialist ("PFS")
☐ None of the above

- (3) Your Social Security Number:

K. If you are organized other than as a sole proprietorship, please provide the following:

- (1) Indicate the date you obtained your legal status. Date of formation: 05/06/2025

- (2) Indicate your IRS Empl. Ident. No.: 33-4975650

Part 2

Amend, retire or file new brochures:

Brochure ID	Brochure Name	Brochure Type(s)
414977	CLIENT BROCHURE - ADV PART 2B	The document is a Brochure Supplement for persons (state-registered advisers)
414978	FORM ADV 2A BROCHURE - LAYNE FINANCIAL GROUP	Financial Planning Services, The document is for one or more supervised persons (state-registered advisers), High net worth individuals, Pension consulting, Foundations/ch

Execution Pages

DOMESTIC INVESTMENT ADVISER EXECUTION PAGE

You must complete the following Execution Page to Form ADV. This execution page must be signed and attached to your initial submission of Form ADV to the SEC and all amendments.

Appointment of Agent for Service of Process

By signing this Form ADV Execution Page, you, the undersigned adviser, irrevocably appoint the Secretary of State or other legally designated officer, of the state in which you maintain *business* and any other state in which you are submitting a *notice filing*, as your agents to receive service, and agree that such *persons* may accept service on your behalf, of any notice, subpoena, summons, *order* instituting *proceedings*, demand for arbitration, or other process or papers, and you further agree that such service may be made by registered or certified mail, in any federal or state action, administrative *proceeding* or arbitration brought against you in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, if the action, *proceeding*, or arbitration (a) arises out of any activity in connection with your investment advisory business that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and (b) is *founded*, directly or indirectly, upon the provisions of: (i) the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or any rule or regulation under any of these acts, or (ii) the laws of the state in which you maintain *business* or of any state in which you are submitting a *notice filing*.

Signature

I, the undersigned, sign this Form ADV on behalf of, and with the authority of, the investment adviser. The investment adviser and I both certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the information and statements made in this ADV, including exhibits and any other information submitted, are true and correct, and that I am signing this Form ADV Execution Page voluntarily.

I certify that the adviser's books and records will be preserved and available for inspection as required by law. Finally, I authorize any *person* having *custody* or possession of these books and records to make them available to federal and state regulatory representatives.

Signature:
ETHAN M LAYNE

Printed Name:
ETHAN M LAYNE

Adviser CRD Number:
336700

Date: MM/DD/YYYY
07/21/2025

Title:
MANAGER

NON-RESIDENT INVESTMENT ADVISER EXECUTION PAGE

You must complete the following Execution Page to Form ADV. This execution page must be signed and attached to your initial submission of Form ADV to the SEC and all amendments.

1. Appointment of Agent for Service of Process

By signing this Form ADV Execution Page, you, the undersigned adviser, irrevocably appoint each of the Secretary of the SEC, and the Secretary of State or other legally designated officer, of the state in which you maintain *business* and any other state in which you are submitting a *notice filing*, as your agents to receive service, and agree that such *persons* may accept service on your behalf, of any notice, subpoena, summons, *order* instituting *proceedings*, demand for arbitration, or other process or papers, and you further agree that such service may be made by registered or certified mail, in any federal or state action, administrative *proceeding* or arbitration brought against you in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, if the action, *proceeding* or arbitration (a) arises out of any activity in connection with your investment advisory business that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and (b) is *founded*, directly or indirectly, upon the provisions of: (i) the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or any rule or regulation under any of these acts, or (ii) the laws of any state in which you are submitting a *notice filing*.

2. Appointment and Consent: Effect on Partnerships

If you are organized as a partnership, this irrevocable power of attorney and consent to service of process will continue in effect if any partner withdraws from or is admitted to the partnership, and the admission or withdrawal does not create a new partnership. If the partnership dissolves, this irrevocable power of attorney and consent shall be in effect for any action brought against the partnership or its partners.

3. Non-Resident Investment Adviser Undertaking Regarding Books and Records

By signing this Form ADV, you also agree to provide, at your own expense, to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission at its principal office in Washington D.C., at any Regional Office, or at any one of its offices in the United States, as specified by the Commission, correct, current, and complete copies of any or all records that you are required to maintain under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. This undertaking shall be binding upon you, your heirs, successors and assigns, and any *person* subject to your written irrevocable consents or powers of attorney and *managing agents*.

Signature

I, the undersigned, sign this Form ADV on behalf of, and with the authority of, the *non-resident* investment adviser. The investment adviser and I both certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that the information and statements made in this ADV, including exhibits and any other information submitted, are true and correct, and that I am signing this Form ADV Execution Page voluntarily.

I certify that the adviser's books and records will be preserved and available for inspection as required by law. Finally, I authorize any *person* having *custody* or possession of these books and records to make them available to federal and state regulatory representatives.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Adviser CRD Number:
336700

Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Title:

STATE-REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISER EXECUTION PAGE

You must complete the following Execution Page to Form ADV. This execution page must be signed and attached to your initial application for state registration and all amendments.

1. Appointment of Agent for Service of Process

By signing this Form ADV Execution Page, you, the undersigned adviser, irrevocably appoint the legally designated officers and their successors, of the state in which you maintain *business* and any other state in which you are applying for registration or amending your registration, as your agents to receive service, and agree that such persons may accept service of subpoena, summons, *order* instituting *proceedings*, demand for arbitration, or other process or papers, and you further agree that such service may be made by registered or certified administrative *proceeding* or arbitration brought against you in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, if the action, *proceeding*, or arbitration (a) arises out of a investment advisory business that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and (b) is founded, directly or indirectly, upon the provisions of: (i) the Securities Act of 1933, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or any rule or regulation under any of these acts, or (ii) the laws of the *principal office and place of business* or of any state in which you are applying for registration or amending your registration.

2. State-Registered Investment Adviser Affidavit

If you are subject to state regulation, by signing this Form ADV, you represent that, you are in compliance with the registration requirements of the state in which you maintain your compliance with the bonding, capital, and recordkeeping requirements of that state.

Signature

I, the undersigned, sign this Form ADV on behalf of, and with the authority of, the investment adviser. The investment adviser and I both certify, under penalty of perjury under that the information and statements made in this ADV, including exhibits and any other information submitted, are true and correct, and that I am signing this Form ADV Execution

I certify that the adviser's books and records will be preserved and available for inspection as required by law. Finally, I authorize any *person* having *custody* or possession of these available to federal and state regulatory representatives.

Date: MM/DD/YYYY 07/21/2025	Printed Name: ETHAN M LAYNE
Adviser CRD Number: 336700	
Signature: ETHAN M LAYNE	Title: MANAGER