

# Workplace Savings / Account Registration

280 S. Mangum Street | 550 Diamond View II | Durham, NC 27701 Phone: (800) 247-6717 | Fax: (919) 489-8939

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# Investment Advisory Agreement / Workplace Savings

280 S. Mangum Street | 550 Diamond View II | Durham, NC 27701 Phone: (800) 247-6717 | Fax: (919) 489-8939

This Agreement describes the relationship between VERITY ASSET MANAGEMENT (herinafter "Firm") and	
(herinafter "Client") entered into on	, 20

## ADVISORY SERVICE

Where proper authorizations have been provided by the Client and any applicable third parties, the Firm will manage the Client's securities portfolios on a discretionary basis and have limited power of attorney to execute transactions on behalf of the Client without obtaining specific Client consent prior to every transaction. This limited power of attorney will only apply to investment allocations within the authorized account(s) and among the investment options permitted by the applicable plan sponsor(s) in order to implement the model strategy employed in managing the Client's account(s). Investments are based on (among other factors) the Client's investment objectives, financial status, tax status, and risk tolerance that have been communicated to the Firm by the Client in writing. Termination of any applicable third party authorizations with the custodian can adversely impact the Firm's ability to monitor the account and/or execute transactions in the account, and therefore could suspend the provision of the services outlined in these agreements.

Procedural safeguards exist to monitor excessive trading policies when present at the custodian level. Please be advised that personal trading initiated by the Client may conflict with these monitoring procedures and could have unintended consequences in the account. The Firm is not responsible for any trading restrictions or other actions that a custodian may take as a result of trading activity initiated by the Client.

In providing the services hereunder, the Firm is acting as a fiduciary under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and to the extent applicable, a fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

## 2. INVESTMENT ADVISORY FEES

Verity will collect fees for this service in accordance with the annualized Investment Advisory Fee instruction provided on the Account Registration form included within the terms of this Agreement. Fees are paid quarterly in arrears based on the account's average daily balance over the prior quarter. Fees will be deducted directly from the specified account(s) under management where proper authorizations exist, or billed directly if such deductions are not administratively feasible. Fees are payable on the first day of the calendar quarter. In addition to an investment advisory fee, accounts may incur additional charges imposed by the selected custodian. The Firm does not share in any amounts paid to the selected custodian, unless contracted directly with the plan sponsor under separate agreement for the provision of additional services. In such cases, the custodian may collect and remit fees to the Firm as specified in any such written agreement.

## 3. AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CONTROVERSIES

It is agreed that any controversy between the Firm and the Client arising out of Firm business or this Agreement shall be submitted to arbitration conducted under the provisions of the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association. Arbitration must be commenced by service upon the other party of a written demand for arbitration or a written notice of intention to arbitrate, therein electing the arbitration tribunal. In the event the Client does not make such election within five (5) days of such demand or notice, then the Client authorizes the Firm to do so on the Client's behalf. Judgment upon any award rendered by the arbitrators shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. The laws of the State of North Carolina shall govern this Agreement in all respects, including but not limited to the construction and enforcement thereof. All disputes, actions or controversies arising out of or related to this Agreement or any relationship created hereby between the parties shall be settled by binding arbitration in Durham, North Carolina. This clause does not constitute a waiver of any right, including the right to choose the forum, whether arbitration or adjudication, in which to seek resolution of disputes.

## 4. VALUATION

For purposes of this agreement, the value of securities contained in the Client's account(s) shall be deemed to be the closing bid prices as furnished by the applicable custodian.

#### LIABILITY

The Client agrees that the Firm shall not be liable for anything done or omitted by it under this Agreement, or for anything done or omitted by any custodian, bank, or brokerage firm, so long as the Firm shall have acted in good faith, and negligence, willful or reckless misconduct or violation of applicable law is not involved. The federal and state securities laws impose liabilities under certain circumstances on persons who act in good faith, and therefore nothing in this agreement will waive or limit any rights that a Client may have under federal and state securities law or under ERISA. The Client also acknowledges that the Firm is able to make investment allocations only among the available options and is not responsible for any losses that may arise that are caused by the choice(s) made by the applicable plan sponsor(s).

6. PROXIES It is the policy of the Firm not to vote proxies on behalf of Clients.

## 7. TERMINATION

The term of this Agreement shall extend from the date of acceptance by the Firm and continues until terminated by either party on thirty (30) days written notice. Client will have a period of five (5) business days from the date of signing the investment advisory agreement to unconditionally rescind the agreement and receive a full waiver of all fees. Upon termination, fees will be prorated to the date of termination and any unearned portion of the fee will be refunded to the Client.

If this Agreement is terminated prior to the end of the quarter, fees will be prorated for services performed and the Firm reserves the right to invoice the Client directly for any fees due, regardless of the fee collection method specified in this Agreement. If the Client is an individual person, this Agreement shall terminate upon receipt by the Firm of written notice of the death or mental disability of the Client. Termination of this Agreement shall not, in any case, affect or preclude the consummation of any prior transaction.

## 8. FORM ADV PART 2 & PRIVACY POLICY

The Form ADV contains important disclosures about the advisory process, the Adviser's fees, and the background and experience of advisory associates. Additional information about the Adviser is publicly available and may be viewed at <a href="http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/">http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/</a>. Clients are encouraged to review this information. By signing this Agreement, the Client agrees to its provisions and acknowledges receipt of the Adviser's:

- (1) Form ADV Part 2, to include the Schedule F: (Provided separately).
- (2) Privacy Policy: (Provided separately)
- (3) Business Continuity Notice:

The Firm maintains a plan designed to assure continuation of business in the event of disruptions of varying severity. Client account records are maintained by the issuers (such as the respective mutual fund companies, annuity companies, etc.), and/or custodians. Thus, account records and customer funds should be accessible in the normal manner from those sources. All internal electronic records, including financial records, are backed-up in a secure manner off-site.

Should any disruption occur, whether it is confined to our home office or is citywide or regional in scope, the Firm will use every reasonable effort to resume operations within twenty-four hours. Inbound phone lines will be forwarded to alternate numbers, and e-mail correspondence will be monitored from an alternate location. (You may contact us at compliance@verityinvest.com.) Updated status and contact information will be posted on our web site at www.verityinvest.com. Updates to this summary will be posted on our web site and are available by mail upon request.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither party shall be held responsible for the delay or failure to perform services or obligations under this Agreement when such delay or failure is due to fire, flood, epidemic, strikes, acts of God or any public enemy, unusually severe weather, failure or malfunction of any electronic, electric or mechanical equipment, legislative or regulatory acts of any public authority, delays or defaults caused by any public carriers, or other circumstances which cannot reasonably be forecast or provided against.

## (4) Notice of Identity Verification:

In order to combat the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. To comply with these regulations, we may ask to see a driver's license or other identifying documents at the time you open an account, or may use other non-documentary means of verifying your identity.

#### 9. GENERAL PROVISIONS

If any one or more of the provisions of this Agreement (other than the provisions of Section 3 and 5) shall, for any reason, be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement and this Agreement shall be enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had not been contained herein.

This Agreement may be modified by a written agreement signed by the parties. The Agreement may also be modified, including without limitation the services to be provided by the Firm or the fees charged by the Firm, in the manner set forth herein and consistent with the procedure described in Department of Labor Advisory Opinion 97-16A.

The Firm may propose to increase or otherwise change the fees charged, to change the services provided or otherwise modify this Agreement by giving Client reasonable advance notice of the proposed change. The notice shall be given in the manner described in this Agreement. The notice will (1) explain the proposed modification of the fees, services or other provisions; (2) fully disclose any resulting changes in the fees to be charged as a result of any proposed change in the services or other changes to this Agreement; (3) identify the effective date of the change; (4) explain Client's right to reject the change or terminate this Agreement; and (5) state that pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, if Client fails to object to the proposed change(s) before the date on which the change(s) become effective, Client will be deemed to have consented to the proposed change(s).

If Client objects to any change to this Agreement proposed by the Firm, the Firm shall not be authorized to make the proposed change. In that event Client shall have an additional 60 days from the proposed effective date (or such additional time beyond 60 days as may be agreed by the Firm) to locate a service provider in place and instead of the Firm. If at the end of such additional 60 day period (or such additional time period as agreed by the Firm) the parties have not reached Agreement on the proposed changes, this Agreement shall automatically terminate.

#### CLIENT COMMUNICATION

The parties acknowledge that the services and information related to the Client may be provided through electronic means. Client represents that any electronic mail address ("E-Mail Address") provided by Client to the Firm in writing is a valid E-Mail Address and that Client consents to having communication between Client and the Firm sent to that E-Mail Address ("Advisor Communications"), except to the extent otherwise required by law. Client represents to the Firm that his/her E-Mail Address allows him/her to read and print Advisor Communications. Client agrees that such electronic delivery shall be deemed by the Firm as effective delivery to Client whether or not Client accesses or reviews the Advisor Communications. To receive electronic delivery of Advisor Communications, Client represents to the Firm that it has a computer with Internet access and an E-Mail Address. Client also represents to the Firm that he/she can download and save or download and print Advisor Communications so as to retain the Advisor Communication for his/her records. Client may withdraw or revoke this consent to receiving Advisor Communications electronically at any time by notifying the Firm. However, by doing so, Client understands that it may affect its ability to use the Firm's services.

#### 11. ASSIGNMENT

This agreement may not be amended, transferred, or assigned by either party without the prior written consent of the other party.

# **Investment Policy Statement**

With due consideration for my (our) personal financial circumstances, risk tolerance, time horizon, and account objective, as specified on the Investment Advisory Agreement / New Account Application provided in conjunction with this agreement, the Investment Policy for this account will be based upon the parameters of the Model Portfolio(s) that we have selected, along with any other Investment selections or restrictions, as recorded on the New Account Application document or subsequent change order.

Complete descriptions of Model Portfolios, investment strategy, allocation parameters, and monitoring of accounts is available on Verity Form ADV Part 2A, particularly Items 4, 8, and 13, all of which is hereby included by reference in this statement of Investment Policy.

In signing below, I (we) acknowledge and accept this Investment Policy as consistent with our objectives.

Owner/Participant Signature	Date		
Print Name		Accepted By:	
		Verity Asset Management Principal Signature	
		Principal's Name (Print)	