# **CODE OF ETHICS**

# **Background**

Investment advisers are fiduciaries that owe their undivided loyalty to their clients. Investment advisers are trusted to represent clients' interests in many matters, and advisers must hold themselves to the highest standard of fairness in all such matters.

Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act requires each registered investment adviser to establish, maintain and enforce a written code of ethics that contains, at a minimum, provisions regarding:

- 1. A standard of business conduct required of supervised persons that reflects fiduciary obligations of the adviser and supervised persons;
- 2. Compliance with all applicable Federal Securities Laws;
- 3. Reporting and review of personal Securities transactions and holdings;
- 4. Reporting of violations of the code; and
- 5. Distribution of the code and any amendments to each supervised person and a written acknowledgment of their receipt.

#### Risks

In developing these policies and procedures, Maven considered the material risks associated with administering the *Code of Ethics*. This analysis includes risks such as:

- Employees do not understand the fiduciary duty that they, and Maven, owe to Clients;
- Employees and/or Maven fail to identify and comply with all applicable Federal Securities Laws;
- Employees do not report personal Securities transactions;
- Employees trade personal accounts ahead of Client accounts;
- Employees allocate profitable trades to personal accounts or unprofitable trades to Client accounts;
- Violations of the Federal Securities Laws, the *Code of Ethics*, or the policies and procedures set forth in this Manual, are not reported to the CCO and/or appropriate supervisory personnel;
- Maven does not provide its *Code of Ethics* and any amendments to all Employees; and
- Maven does not retain Employees' written acknowledgements that they received the *Code of Ethics* and any amendments.

Maven has established the following guidelines to mitigate these risks.

### Policies and Procedures

# Code of Conduct, Fiduciary Standards, and Compliance with the Federal Securities Laws

At all times, Maven and its Employees must comply with the spirit and the letter of the Federal Securities Laws and the rules governing the capital markets. The CCO administers the *Code of Ethics* (or the "*Code*"). All questions regarding the *Code* should be directed to the CCO. Employees must cooperate to the fullest extent reasonably requested by the CCO to enable (i) Maven to comply with all applicable Federal Securities Laws and (ii) the CCO to discharge his duties under the Manual.

All Employees will act with competence, dignity, integrity, and in an ethical manner, when dealing with Clients, the public, prospects, third-party service providers and fellow Employees. Employees must use reasonable care and exercise independent professional judgment when conducting investment analysis, making investment recommendations, trading, promoting Maven's services, and engaging in other professional activities.

Maven expects all Employees to adhere to the highest standards with respect to any potential conflicts of interest with Clients. As a fiduciary, Maven must act in its Clients' best interests. Notify the CCO promptly about any practice that creates, or gives the appearance of, a material conflict of interest.

Employees are generally expected to discuss any perceived risks, or concerns about Maven's business practices, with their direct supervisor. However, if an Employee is uncomfortable discussing an issue with their supervisor, or if they believe that an issue has not been appropriately addressed, they should bring the matter to the CCO's attention.

### **Reporting Violations**

Improper actions by Maven or its Employees could have severe negative consequences for Maven, its Clients and Investors, and its Employees. Impropriety, or even the appearance of impropriety, could negatively impact all Employees, including people who had no involvement in the problematic activities.

Employees must promptly report any improper or suspicious activities, including any suspected violations of the *Code of Ethics* or the Federal Securities Laws to the CCO. Issues can be reported to the CCO in person, or by telephone, email, or written letter. Reports of potential issues may be made anonymously. Any reports of potential problems will be thoroughly investigated by the CCO, who will report directly to the Managing Partners on the matter. Any problems identified during the review will be addressed in ways that reflect Maven's fiduciary duty to its Clients.

An Employee's identification of a material compliance issue will be viewed favorably by the Company's senior executives. Retaliation against any Employee who reports a violation of the *Code of Ethics* in good faith is strictly prohibited and will be cause for corrective action, up to and including dismissal. If an Employee believes that he or she has been retaliated against, he or she should notify the Managing Partners directly.

Violations of this *Code of Ethics*, or the other policies and procedures set forth in the Manual, may warrant sanctions including, without limitation, requiring that personal trades be reversed, requiring the disgorgement of profits or gifts, issuing a letter of caution or warning, reporting to the Employee's supervisor, suspending personal trading rights, imposing a fine, suspending employment (with or without compensation), making a civil referral to the SEC, making a criminal referral, terminating employment for cause, and/or a combination of the foregoing. Violations may also subject an Employee to civil, regulatory or criminal sanctions. No Employee will determine whether he or she committed a violation of the *Code of* 

*Ethics*, or impose any sanction against himself or herself. All sanctions and other actions taken will be in accordance with applicable employment laws and regulations.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Manual prohibits Employees from reporting potential violations of federal law or regulation to any governmental agency or entity, including but not limited to the Department of Justice, the SEC, or any agency's inspector general, or from making other disclosures that are protected under the whistleblower provisions of federal law or regulation. Employees do not need prior authorization from their supervisor, the Managing Partners, the CCO, or any other person or entity affiliated with Maven to make any such reports or disclosures and do not need to notify Maven that they have made such reports or disclosures. Additionally, nothing in this Manual prohibits Employees from recovering an award pursuant to a whistleblower program of a government agency or entity.

# **Distribution of the Code and Acknowledgement of Receipt**

Maven will distribute this Manual, which contains the Company's *Code of Ethics*, to each Employee upon the commencement of employment, annually, and upon any change to the *Code of Ethics* or any material change to another portion of the Manual.

All Employees must use the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha to acknowledge that they have received, read, understood, and agree to comply with the Company's policies and procedures described in this Manual, including this *Code of Ethics*.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Conflicts of interest may exist between various individuals and entities, including Maven, Employees, and current or prospective Clients and Investors. Any failure to identify or properly address a conflict can have severe negative repercussions for Maven, its Employees, and/or Clients and Investors. In some cases the improper handling of a conflict could result in litigation and/or disciplinary action.

Maven's policies and procedures have been designed to identify and properly disclose, mitigate, and/or eliminate applicable conflicts of interest. However, written policies and procedures cannot address every potential conflict, so Employees must use good judgment in identifying and responding appropriately to actual or apparent conflicts. Conflicts of interest that involve Maven and/or its Employees on one hand, and Clients and/or Investors on the other hand, will generally be fully disclosed and/or resolved in a way that favors the interests of Clients and/or Investors over the interests of Maven and its Employees. If an Employee believes that a conflict of interest has not been identified or appropriately addressed, that Employee should promptly bring the issue to the CCO's attention.

In some instances conflicts of interest may arise between Clients and/or Investors. Responding appropriately to these types of conflicts can be challenging, and may require robust disclosures if there is any appearance that one or more Clients or Investors have been unfairly disadvantaged. Employees should notify the CCO promptly if it appears that any actual or apparent conflict of interest between Clients and/or Investors has not been appropriately addressed.

It may sometimes be beneficial for Maven to be able to retroactively demonstrate that it carefully considered particular conflicts of interest.

### **Personal Securities Transactions**

Employee trades should be executed in a manner consistent with our fiduciary obligations to our Clients: trades should avoid actual improprieties, as well as the appearance of impropriety. Employee trades must

not be timed to precede orders placed for any Client, nor should trading activity be so excessive as to conflict with the Employee's ability to fulfill daily job responsibilities.

# **Accounts Covered by the Policies and Procedures**

Maven's *Personal Securities Transactions* policies and procedures apply to all accounts holding any Securities over which Employees have any beneficial ownership interest, which typically includes accounts held by immediate family members sharing the same household, or non-Clients over which Employees exercise investment discretion. Immediate family members include children, step-children, grandchildren, parents, step-parents, grandparents, spouses, domestic partners, siblings, parents-in-law, and children-in-law, as well as adoptive relationships that meet the above criteria. For purposes of this *Personal Securities Transactions* section, the term "Employee" includes: (1) any employee who has access to nonpublic information regarding any Client's trading or any Reportable Fund's holdings, who is involved in making securities recommendations to Clients, or who has access to nonpublic securities recommendations; (2) all of Maven's directors, officers, and partners; (3) any other person so designated by the CCO by notice to such person; and (4) any consultant, intern, or independent contractor hired or engaged by Maven that has access to Maven's nonpublic securities recommendations.

It may be possible for Employees to exclude accounts held personally or by immediate family members sharing the same household if the Employee does not have any direct or indirect influence or control over the accounts, or if the Employee can rebut the presumption of beneficial ownership over family members' accounts. Employees should consult with the CCO before excluding any accounts held by immediate family members sharing the same household.

### **Reportable Securities**

Maven requires Employees to provide periodic reports regarding transactions and holdings in all "Reportable Securities," which include any Security, **except**:

- Direct obligations of the Government of the United States;
- Bankers' acceptances, bank certificates of deposit, commercial paper and high-quality short-term debt instruments, including repurchase agreements;
- Shares issued by money market funds;
- Shares issued by open-end investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, other than investment companies advised or underwritten by Maven or an affiliate;
- Interests in 529 college savings plans; and
- Shares issued by unit investment trusts that are invested exclusively in one or more open-end investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, none of which are advised or underwritten by Maven or an affiliate.

Exchange-traded funds, or ETFs and exchange traded notes, or ETNs, are somewhat similar to open-end registered investment companies. However, ETFs and ETNs are Reportable Securities and are subject to the reporting requirements contained in Maven's *Personal Securities Transactions* policy.

Any Employee who wishes to purchase, acquire or sell any asset that is issued and transferred using distributed ledger or blockchain technology, including, but not limited to, virtual currencies,

cryptocurrencies, digital "coins" or "tokens" ("Digital Assets"), should consult with the CCO as to whether such Digital Asset would be considered a Security, and specifically a "Digital Security", for purposes of this policy. A Digital Asset is likely to be considered a Digital Security if it is offered and sold as an investment contract. On April 3, 2019, the SEC published a framework for investment contract analysis of Digital Assets. The CCO may use this framework, among other relevant SEC guidance, to determine whether a Digital Asset would be considered a Digital Security for the purposes of this policy. If the CCO determines that such Digital Asset should be considered a Digital Security, the Digital Asset will be considered a Reportable Security for purposes of this policy.

#### **Pre-clearance Procedures**

Employees must have written clearance for all transactions involving IPOs, Private Placements, or securities on the Restricted List (discussed below) before completing the transactions. Maven may disapprove any proposed transaction, particularly if the transaction appears to pose a conflict of interest or otherwise appears improper. If clearance is granted for a specified period of time, the Employee receiving the approval is responsible for ensuring that his or her trading is completed before the clearance's expiration. Employees should be cautious when submitting good-until-cancelled orders to avoid inadvertent violations of Maven's pre-clearance procedures.

Employees must use the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha to seek pre-clearance.

Maven's investment management personnel will maintain a Restricted List of Securities that Maven is actively evaluating for purchase or sale in Client accounts, or about which Maven might have received Material Nonpublic Information. The CCO will not pre-clear any personal transactions in Securities that are associated with any issuers on the Restricted List.

#### Reporting

Maven must collect information regarding the personal trading activities and holdings of all Employees. Employees must submit quarterly reports regarding Securities transactions and newly opened accounts, as well as annual reports regarding holdings and existing accounts.

#### Quarterly Transaction Reports

Each quarter, Employees must report all Reportable Securities transactions in accounts in which they have a Beneficial Interest. Employees must also report any accounts opened during the quarter that hold any Securities (including Securities excluded from the definition of a Reportable Security). Reports regarding Securities transactions and newly opened accounts must be submitted to the CCO using the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha, within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter.

If an Employee did not have any transactions or account openings to report, this should be indicated through the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter.

#### *Initial and Annual Holdings Reports*

Employees must periodically report the existence of any account that holds any Securities (including Securities excluded from the definition of a Reportable Security), as well as all Reportable Securities holdings. Reports regarding accounts and holdings must be submitted to the Employee Compliance solution

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.sec.gov/files/dlt-framework.pdf

within ComplianceAlpha on or before February 14<sup>th</sup> of each year, and within 10 days of an individual first becoming an Employee. Annual reports must be current as of December 31<sup>st</sup>; initial reports must be current as of a date no more than 45 days prior to the date that the person became an Employee. Initial and annual holdings reports should through the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha.

Initial and annual reports must disclose the existence of all accounts that hold any Securities, even if none of those Securities fall within the definition of a "Reportable Security."

If an Employee does not have any holdings and/or accounts to report, this should be indicated using the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha within 10 days of becoming an Employee and by February 14<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Exceptions from Reporting Requirements

There are limited exceptions from certain reporting requirements. Specifically, an Employee is not required to submit:

- Quarterly reports for any transactions effected pursuant to an Automatic Investment Plan; or
- Any reports with respect to Securities held in accounts over which the Employee had no direct or indirect influence or control, such as an account managed by an investment adviser on a discretionary basis.

Any investment plans or accounts that may be eligible for either of these exceptions should be brought to the attention of the CCO who will, on a case-by-case basis, determine whether the plan or account qualifies for an exception. In making this determination, the CCO may ask for supporting documentation, such as a copy of the Automatic Investment Plan, a copy of the discretionary account management agreement and/or a written certification from the unaffiliated investment adviser, and may provide Employees with the exact wording and a clear definition of "no direct or indirect influence or control" that the adviser consistently applies to all Employees. On a sample basis, the CCO may request reports on holdings and/or transactions made in the trust or discretionary account to identify transactions that would have been prohibited pursuant to Maven's *Code*, absent reliance on the reporting exception. Employees who claim they have no direct or indirect influence or control over an account are also required to request an exception using the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha upon commencement of their employment and on an annual basis thereafter.

Reliance on this independent or separately managed account exception is conditioned on approval of the request through the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha and other satisfactory documentary evidence (e.g., copy of advisory agreement, certification from adviser, etc.) as directed by the CCO. Employees should consult with the CCO before excluding any accounts, especially those held by immediate family members sharing the same household.

Personal Trading and Holdings Reviews

Maven's *Personal Securities Transactions* policies and procedures are designed to mitigate any potential material conflicts of interest associated with Employees' personal trading activities. Accordingly, the CCO will closely monitor Employees' investment patterns to detect the following potentially abusive behavior:

• Frequent and/or short-term trades in any Security, with particular attention paid to potential market-timing of mutual funds;

- Trading opposite of Client trades;
- Trading ahead of Clients; and
- Trading that appears to be based on Material Nonpublic Information.

The CCO will review all reports submitted pursuant to the *Personal Securities Transactions* policies and procedures for potentially abusive behavior, and will compare Employee trading with Clients' trades as necessary. Upon review of the report, the Code of Ethics module will automatically record the date and time of the review, and the CCO or a designee will record any notes and/or identify any items of interest for resolution. Any personal trading that appears abusive may result in further inquiry by the CCO and/or sanctions, up to and including dismissal.

The Managing Partners will use the Employee Compliance solution within ComplianceAlpha monitor the CCO's personal Securities transactions for compliance with the *Personal Securities Transactions* policies and procedures.

### **Disclosure of the Code of Ethics**

Maven will describe its *Code of Ethics* in Part 2 of Form ADV and, upon request, furnish Clients and Investors with a copy of the *Code of Ethics*. All Client requests for Maven's *Code of Ethics* should be directed to the CCO.