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2025 Estate and Trust Tax Engagement Letter

We are pleased to provide you with the professional services described below. This letter confirms our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the services we will provide. The engagement between you and our firm will be governed by the terms of this Agreement.

Engagement Objective and Scope

Our engagement is limited to performing the following services:

- a) Prepare the federal form 1041 U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts with supporting schedules.
- b) Prepare any state income tax returns requested.

The objective of our services is to assist you with the calculation of your tax due and provide you with forms and schedules we believe are suitable for you to file with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") and applicable state and local tax authorities and sufficient to comply with your tax filing obligations. You have the final responsibility for the filing and content of your tax return(s). We will not assist you with any tax return other than those identified above, without your written request, and our written agreement to do so.

Our engagement does not include any procedures designed to detect errors, fraud, theft, or other wrongdoing. Therefore, our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose such matters. If we identify or suspect that an instance of noncompliance with laws and regulations has occurred or is likely to occur, we will discuss the matter with the appropriate level of management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance. In addition, we are not responsible for identifying or communicating deficiencies in your internal controls, unless otherwise specified in the scope of this Agreement. You are responsible for developing and implementing internal controls applicable to your operations.

Requests for additional services may necessitate that we amend the Agreement or issue a separate written agreement to reflect the obligations of all parties. In the absence of any other written communications from us documenting additional services, our services will be limited to and governed by the terms of this Agreement.

CPA Firm Responsibilities

It is our duty to prepare your returns based on the same standard of care that a reasonable tax return preparer would exercise in this type of engagement. Unless otherwise noted, the applicable standard of care for a "reasonable tax return preparer" shall be based upon the following pronouncements:

- the Statements on Standards for Tax Services (“SSTS”) issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“AICPA”);
- U.S. Treasury Department Circular 230 (“Circular 230”); and
- the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, and any applicable state/local corollaries (collectively, “the Code”).

As tax return preparers, these pronouncements restrict our ability to sign a tax return when the tax positions you report do not comply with tax law. We will be unable to sign your return and may terminate this Agreement if you:

- request that we report a tax position on your return which we feel is contrary to published guidance, frivolous, or a willful attempt to evade tax;
- request that we include a deduction, credit or refund on your return that we believe you do not qualify for; or
- decline to disclose a position where in our professional judgment tax law requires disclosure.

Once our services have concluded, we shall have no obligation to notify you of future tax law developments affecting your return(s) except as may be required by Circular 230 or the SSTS related to errors we identify. We will not update your return after the conclusion of the engagement for any reason unless further engaged.

We will not make any management decisions or perform management functions on your behalf.

Arguable positions

If there are conflicting interpretations of tax law, or if tax law is unclear, we will explain the possible positions that may be taken in order for us to sign your return. We will follow the position you request, provided it is consistent with our understanding of tax reference materials and our professional standards. Tax reference materials include, but are not limited to, the Code, Revenue Rulings, Revenue Procedures, court cases, and similar state and local guidance. If the IRS, state or local tax authorities later contest the position you select, additional tax, penalties, and interest may be assessed.

We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur to respond to the tax authority.

Bookkeeping assistance

We may deem it necessary to provide you with limited accounting and bookkeeping assistance solely for the purpose of helping you organize your information. This assistance is intended to be nominal and is not a separate accounting or bookkeeping service. In the event we conclude that bookkeeping or accounting assistance is necessary to prepare your tax returns, we will advise you in writing before proceeding. Any assistance will be billed at our standard hourly rates and will be subject to the terms of this Agreement.

Tax planning services

Our engagement does not include tax advice which affects the calculation of tax due or the filing of tax forms and schedules for previous or future tax years. However, we may communicate potential tax strategies to you, and you may ask high-level questions of us. It is your responsibility to communicate to us, in writing, any interest in pursuing a tax strategy identified, or if you require more than a cursory response to your question. If you do not request our assistance in writing, we will infer that you do not wish to pursue any suggestion made to you. If you do request our assistance and we agree, we will confirm our understanding with you in a separate written agreement prior to proceeding.

We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur if you fail to advise us of your desire to investigate or pursue any tax strategy communicated to or by us. Any tax advice described in this paragraph and provided to you shall be governed by this Agreement and billed at our standard hourly rates.

Government inquiries

This engagement does not include responding to inquiries by any governmental agency or tax authority. If you are contacted by a tax authority, either for an examination or other inquiry, you may request our assistance in responding.

Reliance on others

If you wish to take a tax position based upon the advice of another advisor, before we are able to sign your tax return, we must comply with the applicable provisions of the Code and the SSTS.

We will review the other advisor's work and may require a written statement from the advisor describing the statutory basis for the position and the suggested disclosure needed to appropriately report the position. If we believe additional research is required, we will discuss the matter with you and obtain your written consent to perform such research. You agree to pay for the additional charges necessary to complete the disclosure or research as this is not included in the scope of our service.

Moreover, you understand that the IRS, state or local tax authority may disagree with the position taken on the return. If this occurs, we shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur.

If, after review of the work prepared by your other advisor, we determine that we are unable to sign the tax return, we will be unable to proceed.

Abusive tax strategies

Certain tax positions or strategies, while not currently identified as "abusive" by the IRS, may ultimately be determined to be so in the future. Consequently, you agree to advise us of any transaction you have entered into that entitles you to disproportionate tax benefits (deductions, credits, or refunds), that generates significant income deferral or non-recognition, or that generates significant tax losses without corresponding cash impacts ("abusive tax strategy"). If you fail to timely notify us, in writing, of any abusive tax strategy you have entered into, we shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur if the anticipated benefits of the strategy are not realized.

Client Responsibilities

If you fail to comply with the responsibilities as described in this Agreement, your actions or your inactions may result in economic or other loss to you, such as disallowance of tax deductions or credits claimed, additional tax, penalties or interest assessed against you, loss of administrative rights, or criminal punishment. You will be responsible for any loss suffered by you, including any professional fees required to defend or correct changes made to your tax returns or prepare previously unfiled or amend previously filed tax returns.

The Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account Executive Order, signed on March 25, 2025, mandated that all payments from the U.S. government after September 30, 2025, must be made electronically. All payments to the U.S. government, including quarterly estimated tax payments, should be made electronically as soon as practicable. Assisting you with electronic payments is not part of the scope of our services. You are responsible for transmitting all payments electronically.

The responsibilities detailed in this section are not exhaustive, and our services to you may require additional responsibilities not listed.

Tax information

You agree to provide us with a copy of the most recent trust documents, a trial balance and other supporting data, including any required trust accounting, we may request to prepare your tax returns. You are responsible for providing us with accurate and complete information.

We will rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information and representations you provide to us. We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit to us, although we may ask you to clarify certain information.

Schedule K-1 distribution

You are responsible for distributing a copy of the Schedule K-1s, including any attachments, to each beneficiary.

Administrative Adjustments and Compliance with BBA

If you are or were a partner at any time in a partnership and receive(d) Schedule K-1 (1065), you may receive a Form 9886, *Partner's Share of Adjustments to Partnership-Related Items*. Form 9886 is used by partnerships to correct errors on previously filed partnership returns and to provide the IRS and partners with each partner's share of those tax corrections. The information on Form 9886 is also reported to the IRS by the partnership. Trust recipients of Form 9886 may either: (1) report this information and any additional tax due to the IRS on Form 9978, *Partner's Additional Year Reporting Tax*, within the specified timeframe, or (2) if the trust provides a Schedule K-1 (1041) to beneficiaries decide whether to: a) report to the IRS and pass the allocable share through to affected K-1 recipients on the required forms, or b) compute and pay any tax due at the trust level.

Our services do not include assisting you with anything pertaining to Form 9886 and/or Form 9978 unless specifically identified in the *Engagement Objective and Scope* section. If you receive a Form 9886 prior to the filing of your tax return, you are responsible for alerting us and requesting assistance. Additionally, the impact an adjustment from Form 9886 may have on any state return you have previously filed is unclear and may only be determined with additional research. If you do not alert us or request our assistance, we will infer that you have not received Form 9886 absent other information you provide to us.

Crummey notices

A Crummey trust is created for the purpose of "skipping" one level of beneficiaries to make a gift to the next generation without tax implications (i.e., grandparents "skipping" making a gift to their children and, instead, gifting directly to the grandchildren). The beneficiary recipient must be notified of the temporary right to withdraw from the trust all or a portion of the gift (a Crummey notice) at the time the gift is made. The notification letter is sent by the trustee to the beneficiary of the trust. You acknowledge that it is your responsibility, as trustee, to send and retain such notices in the event of a future examination.

Documentation

You are responsible for maintaining adequate documentation to substantiate the accuracy and completeness of your tax returns. Our workpapers do not satisfy your documentation responsibility. You should retain all documents that provide evidence and support for reported income, credits, deductions, and other information on your returns, as required under applicable tax laws and regulations. The IRS recommends that you maintain this documentation for as long as it may be relevant to your taxes.

You represent that you have such documentation and can produce it, if necessary, to respond to any examination or inquiry by tax authorities.

We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur as a result of the disallowance of tax deductions due to inadequate documentation.

Gifts received from foreign persons

The preparation of IRS Form 3520 or Form 3520-A is not within the scope of this engagement. If you transferred property to or received property from a foreign person or trust, or are a U.S. person who "owns" assets in a foreign trust, you may be required to file a separate IRS Form 3520, *Annual Return To Report Transactions With Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts* or Form 3520-A, *Annual Information Return of Foreign Trust with a U.S. Owner*. You are responsible for providing us with details of any cash, property, or value exchanged with foreign persons or trusts, or of ownership of foreign assets, including access to foreign bank or investment accounts.

Personal expenses

In general, personal expenses are not deductible for income tax purposes. You are responsible for ensuring that personal expenses, if any, are separated from business expenses and that expenses such as meals, travel,

vehicle use, gifts, and related expenses are supported by documentation and records required by the IRS and other tax authorities.

State and local filing obligations

The preparation of any state or local tax return not listed in *Engagement Objective and Scope* above is not within the scope of our engagement. You are responsible for fulfilling your filing obligations with any state or local tax authorities, including but not limited to, income, franchise, sales, use, and property taxes or abandoned and unclaimed property. However, if upon review of the information you have provided to us, including information that comes to our attention, we believe that you may have additional filing obligations, we will notify you.

If you are unsure if you have any other filing obligation with other state or local tax authorities, you are responsible for alerting us and requesting assistance. If you do not alert us or request assistance, we will infer that you do not have other state or local filing obligations. We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur as a result of your failure to file or untimely filing of any form for which we were not engaged to prepare.

U.S. filing obligations related to foreign investments and activities

U.S. persons generally must report income and activities related to both domestic and foreign assets (worldwide income). You are responsible for fulfilling your filing obligations related to foreign activity where required. U.S. reporting requirements related to foreign activity are very complex. **Contact us immediately** if you have:

- Ownership of, investment in, or officer responsibilities for a corporation, partnership, or other business entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Fiduciary, grantor, or beneficiary relationships in connection with an entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Ownership of, signature authority over, or control over any financial account held in a financial institution located in another country;
- Citizenship or government-approved employment/visa status with a country other than the U.S. (including anyone in your immediate household, or your parents who live outside the U.S.);
- Transferred property, including cash, offshore either directly or through the purchase of or investment in an entity formed under the laws of another country;
- Received or have legally-recognizable rights to receive property, including cash, from a trust, business, or investment formed under the laws of another country or individual residing in another country;
- Conducted business with any entity or person physically located in another country, regardless of whether such business is for-profit, not for-profit, or informal/irregular;
- Received property, including cash, or income from a source outside of the U.S. which is not reported on a brokerage statement (such as a 1099-B or similar report); or
- Any other activity or economic arrangement which takes place outside of the U.S.

Failure to timely file the required forms may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties. You agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any foreign activity in which you have a direct or indirect interest, or over which you have signature authority, during the above referenced tax year.

If you are unsure if you have any other filing obligation related to foreign activity, you are responsible for alerting us and requesting assistance. If you do not alert us or request assistance, we will infer that you do not have foreign activity absent information you provide to us. We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur as a result of the failure to file or untimely filing of any form for which we were not engaged to prepare.

Foreign filing obligations

You are responsible for complying with the tax filing requirements of any non-U.S. country. You acknowledge and agree that we have no responsibility to raise these issues with you and that any foreign filing obligation is not within the scope of this engagement.

Digital assets

There are specific tax implications of investing in digital assets (e.g., virtual currencies, non-fungible tokens, virtual real estate and similar assets). The IRS considers these to be property for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As such, any transactions in, or transactions that use, digital assets are subject to the same general tax principles that apply to other property transactions.

If you transacted in digital assets during the tax year, you may have tax consequences and/or additional reporting obligations associated with such transactions. Depending on the nature or volume of those transactions, a change to the scope of our services may be required. You are responsible for providing us with complete and accurate information, including basis, regarding any transactions in, or transactions that have used, digital assets during the applicable tax year.

Ultimate responsibility

You are ultimately responsible for complying with any substantive or procedural tax law which applies to you, and for ensuring your tax returns and any required tax payments are timely received by the appropriate tax authority. Notwithstanding any term of this Agreement, this responsibility cannot be delegated to us.

Our assistance related to your tax return is based upon tax reference materials, facts, assumptions, and representations that are subject to change. To the extent we provide written advice concerning federal tax matters, we will follow the applicable guidance contained in our professional standards.

You have final responsibility for the accuracy of your tax returns. We will provide you with a copy of your draft tax returns and accompanying schedules and statements for review. You agree to review and examine them carefully for accuracy and completeness. Tax authorities impose various penalties and interest charges for non-compliance with tax laws and regulations, including failure to file or late filing of returns, and underpayment of taxes.

You have final responsibility for the payment of your taxes in whatever amount ultimately determined. You may be required or choose to have funds automatically withdrawn from a designated account and transmitted when your tax return is electronically filed. We will not transmit partial payments. Likewise, you may be required or choose to have any overpayment electronically deposited into a designated account. It is your responsibility to provide us with correct account and routing numbers, to review this information for accuracy prior to submission of your return, and, as applicable, to ensure that sufficient funds are available at the time of payment. We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur as a result of your failure to provide an accurate routing or account number or to ensure sufficient funds are available at the time of payment.

Timing of the Engagement

Our services under this Agreement will conclude:

- on the later of:
 - the latest date of electronic acceptance of your 2025 tax returns by the relevant tax authority;
 - the date we deliver the paper copy of your returns to you; or
- upon written notification by either party that the Agreement is terminated; or
- one (1) year from the execution date of this Agreement, whichever comes first.

Filing Your Tax Returns

The obligation to file a tax return and/or extension is solely that of the taxpayer. Although we will make every reasonably prudent effort to assist you with this obligation, this Agreement is not intended to and does not create an agent/principal relationship. By signing this Agreement, you understand that actual and timely receipt of your filings by the appropriate tax authority is the duty and responsibility of the taxpayer and the taxpayer alone.

Tax Return Extensions

In certain circumstances, you or we may determine that additional time is required to file your returns, necessitating the filing of an extension. Such circumstances can include returns involving complexities that require further analysis or clarification; delays related to the final release or electronic filing approval of federal or state tax forms; outstanding or missing forms or other required information; identification of additional information needed to complete the return; or a request for additional time to respond to questions, review the returns, or return executed e-file authorizations. Applying for an extension of time to file may limit your ability to make certain elections, extend the time available for a government agency to undertake an examination of your return and/or extend the statute of limitations to file a legal action. Although we may assist you in the preparation of an extension to file your return(s), you have sole responsibility for the filing of any extension, and you agree to hold our firm harmless from any consequences, including waived elections, where the extension is not timely filed. All taxes owed are due by the original filing due date. Additionally, extensions may affect your liability for penalties and interest or compliance with governmental or other deadlines.

E-filing

In addition to being a return preparer, we are an Electronic Return Originator (ERO) and will prepare your return(s) and/or extension(s) in a format that permits us to electronically transmit ("e-file") those forms to the appropriate tax authority on your behalf. The e-filing of any form is a separate service from the preparation of that form.

If the return(s) is/(are) e-filed, including requests for extensions of time to file, the IRS and states require you to sign and return to us the appropriate governmental form(s) before your returns can be filed electronically. **If you fail to timely sign and return e-file authorization, we cannot and will not e-file any form on your behalf.** In those situations, we shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur.

If the return(s) or extension(s) is/(are) not required to be e-filed and you elect not to do so, or cannot be e-filed, we will deliver to you a paper copy suitable for mailing to the taxing authorities. Once delivered to you, you bear full responsibility for reviewing the paper returns for accuracy, and either signing and timely filing them, along with any payments due, or notifying us of any issue which may need to be addressed prior to filing.

Third-Party Service Providers or Subcontractors

We may use a third-party service providers, subcontractors, or software tools to assist us where necessary to help provide professional services to you or support the needs of our firm. You consent to our use of external parties. Our firm remains responsible for exercising reasonable care in providing our services, and our services and work product will be subjected to our firm's customary quality control procedures.

We may provide your confidential information to external parties in support of our services. You consent to the disclosure of your confidential information to those external parties. We take reasonably prudent business care consistent with our professional standards to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information.

In certain circumstances, we may require a separate, written consent from you before your information is transmitted to an external party or parties.

Professional Fee

Our professional fees for these services will be based upon the amount of time required at standard billing rates plus out-of-pocket expenses. All invoices are due and payable upon receipt. You agree that you will deliver all records requested and respond to all inquiries made by our staff to complete this engagement on a timely basis. You agree to pay all fees and expenses incurred whether or not we prepare the tax returns.

Agreement

If the above fairly sets forth your understanding, please sign, date, and return to us the Acceptance section below. Please note you are affirming to us your understanding of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions of this engagement letter by any one of the following actions: returning this signed form; sending your income tax information to us for use in the preparation of your returns; the submission of tax returns we have prepared for you to the taxing authorities; or the payment of our tax preparation fees.

We want to express our appreciation for this opportunity to work with you.

Very truly yours,



Mullen, Sondberg, Wimbish & Stone, PA

www.mswspa.com

NOTE: The original federal filing due date for your tax return is April 15, 2026. Due to the high volume of tax returns prepared by our firm and ever increasing tax complexities, you must provide the information needed to prepare the tax returns no later than **March 18, 2026**. Failure to do so may result in the inability to complete your returns by the original filing due dates and result in an extension being filed on your behalf. Please see above section titled ***Tax Return Extensions*** for additional information.

Acceptance:

Name of Estate or Trust: _____

Name of Executor or Trustee: _____

Signature of Executor or Trustee: _____

Date: _____

MSWS PRIVACY POLICY

CPAs, like all providers of personal financial services, are now required by law to inform their clients of their policies regarding privacy of client information. CPAs have been and continue to be bound by professional standards of confidentiality that are even more stringent than those required by law. Therefore, we have always protected your right to privacy.

TYPES OF NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We collect nonpublic personal information about you that is either provided to us by you or obtained by us with your authorization.

PARTIES TO WHOM WE DISCLOSE INFORMATION

For current and former clients, we do not disclose any nonpublic personal information obtained in the course of our practice except as required or permitted by law. Permitted disclosures include, for instance, providing information to our employees and, in limited situations, to unrelated third parties who need to know that information to assist us in providing services to you. In all such situations, we stress the confidential nature of information being shared.

PROTECTING THE CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY OF CURRENT AND FORMER CLIENTS' INFORMATION

We retain records relating to professional services that we provide so that we are better able to assist you with your professional needs and, in some cases, to comply with professional guidelines. In order to guard your nonpublic personal information, we maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with our professional standards.

Please call if you have any questions, because your privacy, our professional ethics, and the ability to provide you with quality financial services are very important to us.