

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2010
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) THE CLEARING, INC. 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 625 WASHINGTON, DC 20036
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 202-558-6499
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541600

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2024	TARA CARCILLO
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 171
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 111 6a(2) 129 6b 0 6c 57 6d 186 6e 0 6f 186 6g(1) 146 6g(2) 160 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2J 2K 2F 2G 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☒ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE CLEARING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688	

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
84-0467907	68322	372947-01	28	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
21	0

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
ANDREA DYKES, THE LEADERS GROUP
26 W DRY CREEK CIRCLE
SUITE 800
LITTLETON, CO 80120

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
21	0 0		3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	33511
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶

b Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year.....	6c	
d If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity
(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ **GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**

b Balance at the end of the previous year	7b	41701
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c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	7808	
	7c(2)		
	7c(3)	480	
	7c(4)	8127	
	7c(5)	5768	

▶ **LOAN REPAYMENT(S), FORFEITURES**

(6) Total additions	7c(6)	22183
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d Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d	63884
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e Deductions: (1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year (2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(1)	7608	
	7e(2)	175	
	7e(3)	22590	
	7e(4)	0	

▶

(5) Total deductions	7e(5)	30373
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f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d)	7f	33511
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Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
 b ☐ Dental
 c ☐ Vision
 d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
 f ☐ Long-term disability
 g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
 h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
 j ☐ HMO contract
 k ☐ PPO contract
 l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid.....	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3)).....		9a(4)	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid.....	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2)).....		9b(3)	0
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies.....	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.).....		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves.....		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE CLEARING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64	RECORDKEEPER	34392	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

GLOBAL RETIREMENT PARTNERS LLC

4340 REDWOOD HIGHWAY
SUITE B60
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	9406	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

RETIREMENT BENEFIT SOLUTIONS, LLC

205 VAN BUREN STREET
SUITE 120
HERNDON, VA 20170

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	CONTRACT ADMIN	1150	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	7268	Yes ☐ No ☒

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ADVISORY GROUP, LLC

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28	INVESTMENT MGMT	7520	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

THE LEADERS GROUP INC

26 W DRY CREEK CIR #575
LITTLETON, CO 80120

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
55	BROKER/ADVISOR	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	5064	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
RETIREMENT BENEFIT SOLUTIONS LLC	13	7268
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY 8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111	TPA ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
THE LEADERS GROUP INC	55	5064
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY 8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111	OTHER COMMISSIONS	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE CLEARING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	4009	2668
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	4512	4512
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred.....	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other.....	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred.....	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	17210	36463
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts.....	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities.....	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	7208329	7912152
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	41701	33511
(15) Other.....	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	7275761	7989306
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j	2201	3432
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	2201	3432
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	7273560	7985874

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	435429	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	969762	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	82958	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1488149
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	1521	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		1521
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	245173	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		245173
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		946943
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2681786

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1917204	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		1917204
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	52268	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		52268
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1969472

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		712314
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **GRF, PC**

(2) EIN: **52-1392008**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	☒	☐	4512
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	☐	☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒	☐	1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	☐	☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	☐	☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒	☐	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	☐	☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☐	☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	☐	☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	☐	☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	☐	☐	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE CLEARING, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688	

Part I	Distributions
--------	---------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 84-0467907		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
---------	--

4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
---	--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
---------	--

10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
----------------	---

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):	
a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%	
b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.	
a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:	
☐ Yes.	
☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. Other. Provide explanation. _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
-----------------	---------------------------------

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☒ Design-based safe harbor method	
☐ "Prior year" ADP test	
☐ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>12 / 31 / 2018</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q703912A</u> .	

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K)
PROFIT SHARING PLAN**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator
The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan
Washington, D.C.

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a State or Federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from the qualified institutions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the years then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section —

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

4550 MONTGOMERY AVENUE • SUITE 800 NORTH • BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814
(301) 951-9090 • WWW.GRFCPA.COM

MEMBER OF CPAMERICA INTERNATIONAL, AN AFFILIATE OF CROWE GLOBAL
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS' PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current Plan instrument, including all Plan amendments; administering the Plan; and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements, but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion —

- The form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Gelman Rosenberg & Freedman

October 2, 2024

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
INVESTMENTS		
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,912,152	\$ 7,208,329
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	<u>33,511</u>	<u>41,701</u>
Total investments	<u>7,945,663</u>	<u>7,250,030</u>
RECEIVABLES		
Employer contribution receivable	2,668	4,009
Employee contribution receivable	4,512	4,512
Notes receivable from participants	<u>36,463</u>	<u>17,210</u>
Total receivables	<u>43,643</u>	<u>25,731</u>
LIABILITIES		
Excess contributions payable	<u>3,432</u>	<u>2,201</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 7,985,874</u>	<u>\$ 7,273,560</u>

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ADDITIONS (REDUCTIONS)		
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 946,943	\$ (1,833,581)
Interest and dividends	<u>245,173</u>	<u>359,672</u>
Total investment income (loss)	<u>1,192,116</u>	<u>(1,473,909)</u>
Contributions:		
Employee contributions	969,762	818,009
Employer contributions	435,429	386,319
Rollover contributions	<u>82,958</u>	<u>-</u>
Total contributions	<u>1,488,149</u>	<u>1,204,328</u>
Participant loan interest	<u>1,521</u>	<u>1,509</u>
Total additions (reductions)	<u>2,681,786</u>	<u>(268,072)</u>
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid to participants or their beneficiaries	1,917,204	926,479
Administrative fees	<u>52,268</u>	<u>59,999</u>
Total deductions	<u>1,969,472</u>	<u>986,478</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits	712,314	(1,254,550)
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	<u>7,273,560</u>	<u>8,528,110</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 7,985,874</u>	<u>\$ 7,273,560</u>

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for more complete information.

General -

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of The Clearing, Inc. (the Plan Sponsor). The Plan was established on January 1, 2010 and qualifies under the Internal Revenue Code as a 401(k) Retirement Plan. The Plan was amended and restated effective January 1, 2022, and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

The Secure 2.0 Act of 2022 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. This legislation includes a vast array of provisional changes to retirement plans, becoming effective in 2023 and beyond. Plan management is evaluating the impact of the adoption and implementation of this legislation on the Plan.

Eligibility -

An employee is eligible to make elective deferrals and participate in the employer match and non-elective contributions, upon reaching age 21 and after completing one month of service with a minimum of 83.3 hours worked. Employees are enrolled on the first day of the subsequent month in which they become eligible.

Contributions -

Under the terms of the Plan, participants may make voluntary pre-tax contributions to the Plan of 100% of their annual compensation, subject to the limitations in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan also allows for Roth contributions and for catch up contributions for participants who are 50 and older, which are also subject to the limitations in the IRC.

The Plan Sponsor makes a safe harbor matching contribution equal to 100% of participant compensation up to 3% plus 50% of participant compensation between 3% and 5%. The Plan Sponsor may also make an additional matching contribution to the Plan and the Plan Sponsor may also make a non-elective discretionary contribution to the Plan. In addition to the contributions described above, the Plan Sponsor may make discretionary Qualified Non-Elective Contributions. The Plan Sponsor only made safe harbor matching contributions to the Plan during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Vesting -

Participants are fully vested in their elected contributions, rollover contributions and safe harbor matching contributions, at all times.

Vesting in the non-elective employer matching and discretionary contributions are based on years of continuous service. A participant is fully vested after 3 years of credited service as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
<1	0%
1-2	33%
2-3	66%
3+	100%

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (Continued)

Participant accounts -

Each participant's account includes (a) investment earnings and losses, (b) the employee's contributions, and (c) the employer's contributions. Participants' accounts are also charged with an allocation of administrative fees that are paid by the Plan. Allocations of investment earnings and losses and administrative fees are based on either a participant's account balance or specific participant transactions, as defined in the Plan document.

Investment elections -

Contributions to the Plan are invested according to participant instructions. The Plan Administrator has selected a list of investment options and has provided participants with information describing these investment options.

Payment of benefits -

Participants are entitled to receive a distribution of their vested account in the Plan upon termination of their employment; retirement; death or disability and termination of the Plan without the establishment of a successor Plan. A participant may elect to receive a lump sum amount equal to the value of his or her account, or a series of cash payments, in substantially equal installments. Hardship withdrawals are permitted from the Plan if certain conditions are met.

If the total vested value is below \$1,000 in a participant's account at the time of termination, then a distribution will be made to the participant regardless of whether they consent to receive it. If the total vested value is greater than \$1,000, but less than \$5,000, the participant has the option of either 1) rolling over their balance into a qualified individual retirement account, or 2) receiving a distribution. If the vested value is greater than \$5,000, the participant may remain in the Plan.

The Plan also provides for minimum required distributions per IRS regulations by April 1 of the calendar year following the later of the calendar year in which the participant reaches age 73 or the calendar year the participant retires. In addition, participants may elect in-service withdrawals of their vested account balances after reaching age 59½.

Forfeited non-vested accounts -

Forfeited balances of terminated non-vested participant accounts can be used at the discretion of the Plan Sponsor. The balance of forfeited non-vested accounts totaled \$10,083 and \$4,441 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Plan Sponsor did not use the forfeiture balance during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Notes receivable from participants -

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions. Note terms are up to five years, except for notes to fund the purchase of a principal residence, for which the note may be repaid over a reasonable period that may exceed five years. All notes receivable from participants are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Interest rates on loans to participants range from 5.75% to 9.50% and the loans mature on various dates through February 15, 2025.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (Continued)

Plan termination -

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, the participants would become 100% vested in their accounts.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting -

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in accordance with FASB ASC 962, *Plan Accounting Defined Contribution Pension Plans*.

Use of estimates -

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan Administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Valuation of investments -

Investments in registered investment companies are stated at fair value, which is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 8 for discussion on fair value measurements.

Investments in the fixed annuity contract, which is fully benefit-responsive, are stated at contract value, which is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions in accordance with the contract.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes receivable from participants -

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance, plus accrued interest. Delinquent loans are treated as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. Delinquent loans are loans for which any scheduled repayment remains unpaid at the end of the period specified in the loan documents and any loans for which there is an outstanding principal balance existing after the last scheduled repayment date.

Benefit payments -

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative fees -

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Plan Sponsor and some are paid out of the Plan, which are included in these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included as a reduction in the net appreciation (depreciation) of fair value of investments presented in the accompanying Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits. Expenses that are paid by the Plan Sponsor are excluded from these financial statements.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

3. INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan was established as a qualified plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has a volume submitter opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, in which the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) indicated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and was qualified and tax-exempt. On January 1, 2022, the Plan adopted its most recent Plan amendment. Management of the Plan, in consultation with its legal counsel, believes that the Plan continues to meet the requirements of the IRC.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

4. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONS

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the Plan's Administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform, and they did not perform, such auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by the qualified institutions.

Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America and Empower Trust Company, LLC, the insurance carrier and the custodian, issued Certification Statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The Certification Statements certified the assets presented in the Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and the investment income in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

5. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan's investments are held by Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America and Empower Trust Company, LLC, the insurance carrier and the custodian, which provide record keeping, Plan management, and day-to-day support to the Plan. Therefore, transactions with the insurance carrier and the custodian, qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

6. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan's investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rates, market and credit risks. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investment securities, such as a pandemic or international conflict. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

7. FIXED ANNUITY CONTRACT

The Fixed Annuity Contract is a general account product and it is benefit-responsive for participant-initiated transactions. The methodology for calculating the interest crediting rate is based on the earnings of the underlying assets in the entire medium long-term new portfolio compared to the minimum interest crediting rate, as stated in the contract, with consideration of prevailing market conditions. The interest crediting rate is reset quarterly. The average yield earned by the Plan for the benefit-responsive fund can be derived by averaging the quarterly gross interest rates for the fund over the year. The actual average yield earned by the Plan for the benefit-responsive fund can be derived by averaging the Plan's quarterly interest rates.

Because the fixed annuity contract is fully benefit-responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include (1) amendments to the Plan documents (including complete or partial Plan termination or merger with another Plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the Plan Sponsor or other Plan Sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan or (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from Federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA.

The Plan Administrator does not believe that any events that would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants are probable of occurring. The investment contracts do not permit the insurance carrier to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date.

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

In accordance with FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, the Plan has categorized its financial instruments, based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). If the inputs used to measure the financial instruments fall within different levels of hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement of the instrument.

Investments recorded in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits are categorized based on the inputs to valuation techniques as follows:

Level 1. These are investments where values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in an active market the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2. These are investments where values are based on quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, or model-based valuation techniques that utilize inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full-term of the investments.

Level 3. These are investments where inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (Continued)

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments.

- *Registered Investment Companies (Mutual Funds)* - Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. Mutual funds are required to publish their daily value and to transact at that price. Mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.
- *Fixed Annuity Contract (Fully Benefit-Responsive)* - The Empower fixed annuity contract option is valued at contract value, which is the relevant measurement attribute for a fully benefit-responsive investment contract because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The contract value of the fully benefit-responsive investment option represents contributions plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. In determining the reasonableness of the methodology, a number of factors are considered, such as economic conditions, industry and market developments and overall credit ratings.

The Plan's investments that were measured at contract value have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. However, the contract value amounts presented in the tables below are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The table below summarizes, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments as of December 31, 2023:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Investments Measured at Contract Value	Total
Asset Class:					
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,912,152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,912,152
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	-	-	-	33,511	33,511
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 7,912,152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,511	\$ 7,945,663

The table below summarizes, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments as of December 31, 2022:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Investments Measured at Contract Value	Total
Asset Class:					
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,208,329	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,208,329
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	-	-	-	41,701	41,701
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 7,208,329	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,701	\$ 7,250,030

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Plan has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through October 2, 2024, the date the financial statements were issued.

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan The Clearing 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2010
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) The Clearing, Inc. 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 625 Washington DC 20036
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 202-558-6499
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541600

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	DocuSigned by: Tara M. Carcillo	10/15/2024	Tara Carcillo
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

Form 5500 (2023)

Page **2**

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 171
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)..... g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)..... h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1) 111 6a(2) 129 6b 0 6c 57 6d 186 6e 0 6f 186 6g(1) 146 6g(2) 160 6h 0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2J 2K 2F 2G 3D	

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)	
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (4) ☐ DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____ (5) ☐ MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☒ A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>1</u> (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☐ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III

Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation		Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500. ► Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).		OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection	
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023					
A Name of plan The Clearing 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan			B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►		001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 The Clearing, Inc.			D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688		
Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.					
1 Coverage Information:					
(a) Name of insurance carrier Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America					
(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
84-0467907	68322	372947-01	28	01/01/2023	12/31/2023
2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.					
(a) Total amount of commissions paid			(b) Total amount of fees paid		
21			0		
3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).					
(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid					
Andrea Dykes, The Leaders Group 26 W Dry Creek Circle Suite 800 Littleton CO 80120					
(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid			(e) Organization code	
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose			
21	0	0		3	
(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid					
(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid			(e) Organization code	
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose			

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end..... **4** 33,511**5** Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end..... **5** 0**6** Contracts With Allocated Funds:**a** State the basis of premium rates ▶**b** Premiums paid to carrier **6b****c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year **6c****d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount..... **6d**
Specify nature of costs ▶**e** Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶**f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐**7** Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)**a** Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee
(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ group annuity contract**b** Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 41,701**c** Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year **7c(1)** 7,808(2) Dividends and credits..... **7c(2)**(3) Interest credited during the year..... **7c(3)** 480(4) Transferred from separate account..... **7c(4)** 8,127(5) Other (specify below) **7c(5)** 5,768

▶ Loan Repayment(s), Forfeitures

(6) Total additions..... **7c(6)** 22,183**d** Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 63,884**e** Deductions:(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year **7e(1)** 7,608(2) Administration charge made by carrier..... **7e(2)** 175(3) Transferred to separate account..... **7e(3)** 22,590(4) Other (specify below) **7e(4)** 0(5) Total deductions..... **7e(5)** 30,373**f** Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**) **7f** 33,511

Part III

Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8

Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

a

☐

Health (other than dental or vision)

b

☐

Dental

c

☐

Vision

d

☐

Life insurance

e

☐

Temporary disability (accident and sickness)

f

☐

Long-term disability

g

☐

Supplemental unemployment

h

☐

Prescription drug

i

☐

Stop loss (large deductible)

j

☐

HMO contract

k

☐

PPO contract

l

☐

Indemnity contract

m

☐

Other (specify) ▶

9

Experience-rated contracts:

a

Premiums: (1) Amount received

9a(1)

(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid

9a(2)

(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve

9a(3)

(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))

9a(4)

0

b

Benefit charges (1) Claims paid

9b(1)

(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves

9b(2)

(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))

9b(3)

0

(4) Claims charged

9b(4)

c

Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --

(A) Commissions

9c(1)(A)

(B) Administrative service or other fees

9c(1)(B)

(C) Other specific acquisition costs

9c(1)(C)

(D) Other expenses

9c(1)(D)

(E) Taxes

9c(1)(E)

(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies

9c(1)(F)

(G) Other retention charges

9c(1)(G)

(H) Total retention

9c(1)(H)

0

(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)

9c(2)

d

Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement

9d(1)

(2) Claim reserves

9d(2)

(3) Other reserves

9d(3)

e

Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)

9e

10

Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a

Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier

10a

b

If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount

10b

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV

Provision of Information

11

Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A?

☐ Yes

☒ No

12

If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan The Clearing 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 The Clearing, Inc.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

Empower Annuity Insurance Company
8515 East Orchard Road

Greenwood Village CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64	Recordkeeper	34,392	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

Global Retirement Partners LLC
4340 Redwood Highway
Suite B60
San Rafael CA 94903

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	Investment Advisor	9,406	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

Retirement Benefit Solutions, LLC
205 Van Buren Street
Suite 120
Herndon VA 20170

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	Contract Admin	1,150	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	7,268	Yes ☐ No ☒

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

Empower Advisory Group, LLC
8515 East Orchard Road

Greenwood VillageCO80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28						
	Investment Mgmt	7,520	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

The Leaders Group Inc
26 W Dry Creek Cir #575

LittletonCO80120

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
55						
	Broker/Advisor	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☒	5,064	Yes ☐ No ☒

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I

Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
Retirement Benefit Solutions LLC	13	7,268
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
Empower Annuity Insurance Company 8515 East Orchard Road Greenwood VillageCO 80111	TPA Allowance Payment	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
The Leaders Group Inc	55	5,064
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
Empower Annuity Insurance Company 8515 East Orchard Road Greenwood VillageCO 80111	Other Commissions	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information		
4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.		
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III	Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions) (complete as many entries as needed)	
a	Name:	b EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	b EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	b EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	b EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a	Name:	b EIN:
c	Position:	
d	Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan The Clearing 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 The Clearing, Inc.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions.....	1b(1)	4,009	2,668
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	4,512	4,512
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit).....	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common.....	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants).....	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans.....	1c(8)	17,210	36,463
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts.....	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	1c(13)	7,208,329	7,912,152
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	41,701	33,511
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	7,275,761	7,989,306

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j	2,201	3,432
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	2,201	3,432

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	7,273,560	7,985,874
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	435,429	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	969,762	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	82,958	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1,488,149
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	1,521	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		1,521
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	245,173	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		245,173
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		946,943
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2,681,786

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1,917,204	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		1,917,204
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	52,268	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		52,268
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1,969,472

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		712,314
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name:GRF, PC

(2) EIN: 52-1392008

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)

	Yes	No	Amount
4a	X		4,512

b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)

4b		X	
-----------	--	---	--

c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)

4c		X	
-----------	--	---	--

d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)

4d		X	
-----------	--	---	--

e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?

4e	X		1,000,000
-----------	---	--	-----------

f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?

4f		X	
-----------	--	---	--

g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?

4g		X	
-----------	--	---	--

h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?

4h		X	
-----------	--	---	--

i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)

4i	X		
-----------	---	--	--

j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)

4j		X	
-----------	--	---	--

k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?

4k		X	
-----------	--	---	--

l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?

4l		X	
-----------	--	---	--

m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)

4m		X	
-----------	--	---	--

n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.

4n			
-----------	--	--	--

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan The Clearing 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan		B Three-digit plan number (PN) 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 The Clearing, Inc.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-1287688
Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....		1 0
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 84-0467907		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....		3
Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)	
4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____		
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.		
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived).....		6a
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year.....		6b
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....		6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A		
Part III	Amendments	
9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... ☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No		
Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?..... ☐ Yes ☐ No		
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.		
Schedule R (Form 5500) 2023 v. 230728		

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month Day Year

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents)

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)

14c

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year

15b

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation.....

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☒ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 12/31/2018 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703912a.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K)
PROFIT SHARING PLAN**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator
The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan
Washington, D.C.

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) [ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a State or Federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from the qualified institutions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for the years then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section —

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

4550 MONTGOMERY AVENUE • SUITE 800 NORTH • BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814
(301) 951-9090 • WWW.GRFCPA.COM

MEMBER OF CPAMERICA INTERNATIONAL, AN AFFILIATE OF CROWE GLOBAL
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS' PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current Plan instrument, including all Plan amendments; administering the Plan; and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements, but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion —

- The form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Gelman Rosenberg & Friedman

October 2, 2024

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
INVESTMENTS		
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,912,152	\$ 7,208,329
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	<u>33,511</u>	<u>41,701</u>
Total investments	<u>7,945,663</u>	<u>7,250,030</u>
RECEIVABLES		
Employer contribution receivable	2,668	4,009
Employee contribution receivable	4,512	4,512
Notes receivable from participants	<u>36,463</u>	<u>17,210</u>
Total receivables	<u>43,643</u>	<u>25,731</u>
LIABILITIES		
Excess contributions payable	<u>3,432</u>	<u>2,201</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 7,985,874</u>	<u>\$ 7,273,560</u>

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ADDITIONS (REDUCTIONS)		
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 946,943	\$ (1,833,581)
Interest and dividends	<u>245,173</u>	<u>359,672</u>
Total investment income (loss)	<u>1,192,116</u>	<u>(1,473,909)</u>
Contributions:		
Employee contributions	969,762	818,009
Employer contributions	435,429	386,319
Rollover contributions	<u>82,958</u>	<u>-</u>
Total contributions	<u>1,488,149</u>	<u>1,204,328</u>
Participant loan interest	<u>1,521</u>	<u>1,509</u>
Total additions (reductions)	<u>2,681,786</u>	<u>(268,072)</u>
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid to participants or their beneficiaries	1,917,204	926,479
Administrative fees	<u>52,268</u>	<u>59,999</u>
Total deductions	<u>1,969,472</u>	<u>986,478</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits	712,314	(1,254,550)
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year	<u>7,273,560</u>	<u>8,528,110</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 7,985,874</u>	<u>\$ 7,273,560</u>

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of The Clearing, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for more complete information.

General -

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of The Clearing, Inc. (the Plan Sponsor). The Plan was established on January 1, 2010 and qualifies under the Internal Revenue Code as a 401(k) Retirement Plan. The Plan was amended and restated effective January 1, 2022, and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

The Secure 2.0 Act of 2022 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. This legislation includes a vast array of provisional changes to retirement plans, becoming effective in 2023 and beyond. Plan management is evaluating the impact of the adoption and implementation of this legislation on the Plan.

Eligibility -

An employee is eligible to make elective deferrals and participate in the employer match and non-elective contributions, upon reaching age 21 and after completing one month of service with a minimum of 83.3 hours worked. Employees are enrolled on the first day of the subsequent month in which they become eligible.

Contributions -

Under the terms of the Plan, participants may make voluntary pre-tax contributions to the Plan of 100% of their annual compensation, subject to the limitations in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan also allows for Roth contributions and for catch up contributions for participants who are 50 and older, which are also subject to the limitations in the IRC.

The Plan Sponsor makes a safe harbor matching contribution equal to 100% of participant compensation up to 3% plus 50% of participant compensation between 3% and 5%. The Plan Sponsor may also make an additional matching contribution to the Plan and the Plan Sponsor may also make a non-elective discretionary contribution to the Plan. In addition to the contributions described above, the Plan Sponsor may make discretionary Qualified Non-Elective Contributions. The Plan Sponsor only made safe harbor matching contributions to the Plan during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Vesting -

Participants are fully vested in their elected contributions, rollover contributions and safe harbor matching contributions, at all times.

Vesting in the non-elective employer matching and discretionary contributions are based on years of continuous service. A participant is fully vested after 3 years of credited service as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vested Percentage</u>
<1	0%
1-2	33%
2-3	66%
3+	100%

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (Continued)

Participant accounts -

Each participant's account includes (a) investment earnings and losses, (b) the employee's contributions, and (c) the employer's contributions. Participants' accounts are also charged with an allocation of administrative fees that are paid by the Plan. Allocations of investment earnings and losses and administrative fees are based on either a participant's account balance or specific participant transactions, as defined in the Plan document.

Investment elections -

Contributions to the Plan are invested according to participant instructions. The Plan Administrator has selected a list of investment options and has provided participants with information describing these investment options.

Payment of benefits -

Participants are entitled to receive a distribution of their vested account in the Plan upon termination of their employment; retirement; death or disability and termination of the Plan without the establishment of a successor Plan. A participant may elect to receive a lump sum amount equal to the value of his or her account, or a series of cash payments, in substantially equal installments. Hardship withdrawals are permitted from the Plan if certain conditions are met.

If the total vested value is below \$1,000 in a participant's account at the time of termination, then a distribution will be made to the participant regardless of whether they consent to receive it. If the total vested value is greater than \$1,000, but less than \$5,000, the participant has the option of either 1) rolling over their balance into a qualified individual retirement account, or 2) receiving a distribution. If the vested value is greater than \$5,000, the participant may remain in the Plan.

The Plan also provides for minimum required distributions per IRS regulations by April 1 of the calendar year following the later of the calendar year in which the participant reaches age 73 or the calendar year the participant retires. In addition, participants may elect in-service withdrawals of their vested account balances after reaching age 59½.

Forfeited non-vested accounts -

Forfeited balances of terminated non-vested participant accounts can be used at the discretion of the Plan Sponsor. The balance of forfeited non-vested accounts totaled \$10,083 and \$4,441 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Plan Sponsor did not use the forfeiture balance during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Notes receivable from participants -

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions. Note terms are up to five years, except for notes to fund the purchase of a principal residence, for which the note may be repaid over a reasonable period that may exceed five years. All notes receivable from participants are secured by the balance in the participant's account. Interest rates on loans to participants range from 5.75% to 9.50% and the loans mature on various dates through February 15, 2025.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (Continued)

Plan termination -

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, the participants would become 100% vested in their accounts.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting -

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in accordance with FASB ASC 962, *Plan Accounting Defined Contribution Pension Plans*.

Use of estimates -

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Plan Administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Valuation of investments -

Investments in registered investment companies are stated at fair value, which is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 8 for discussion on fair value measurements.

Investments in the fixed annuity contract, which is fully benefit-responsive, are stated at contract value, which is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions in accordance with the contract.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes receivable from participants -

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance, plus accrued interest. Delinquent loans are treated as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document. Delinquent loans are loans for which any scheduled repayment remains unpaid at the end of the period specified in the loan documents and any loans for which there is an outstanding principal balance existing after the last scheduled repayment date.

Benefit payments -

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative fees -

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Plan Sponsor and some are paid out of the Plan, which are included in these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included as a reduction in the net appreciation (depreciation) of fair value of investments presented in the accompanying Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits. Expenses that are paid by the Plan Sponsor are excluded from these financial statements.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

3. INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan was established as a qualified plan under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has a volume submitter opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, in which the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) indicated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and was qualified and tax-exempt. On January 1, 2022, the Plan adopted its most recent Plan amendment. Management of the Plan, in consultation with its legal counsel, believes that the Plan continues to meet the requirements of the IRC.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

4. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONS

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the Plan's Administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform, and they did not perform, such auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by the qualified institutions.

Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America and Empower Trust Company, LLC, the insurance carrier and the custodian, issued Certification Statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. The Certification Statements certified the assets presented in the Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and the investment income in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

5. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

The Plan's investments are held by Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America and Empower Trust Company, LLC, the insurance carrier and the custodian, which provide record keeping, Plan management, and day-to-day support to the Plan. Therefore, transactions with the insurance carrier and the custodian, qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

6. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan's investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rates, market and credit risks. Market risks include global events which could impact the value of investment securities, such as a pandemic or international conflict. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

7. FIXED ANNUITY CONTRACT

The Fixed Annuity Contract is a general account product and it is benefit-responsive for participant-initiated transactions. The methodology for calculating the interest crediting rate is based on the earnings of the underlying assets in the entire medium long-term new portfolio compared to the minimum interest crediting rate, as stated in the contract, with consideration of prevailing market conditions. The interest crediting rate is reset quarterly. The average yield earned by the Plan for the benefit-responsive fund can be derived by averaging the quarterly gross interest rates for the fund over the year. The actual average yield earned by the Plan for the benefit-responsive fund can be derived by averaging the Plan's quarterly interest rates.

Because the fixed annuity contract is fully benefit-responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. Certain events limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include (1) amendments to the Plan documents (including complete or partial Plan termination or merger with another Plan), (2) changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions, (3) bankruptcy of the Plan Sponsor or other Plan Sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan or (4) the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from Federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA.

The Plan Administrator does not believe that any events that would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants are probable of occurring. The investment contracts do not permit the insurance carrier to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date.

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

In accordance with FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, the Plan has categorized its financial instruments, based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). If the inputs used to measure the financial instruments fall within different levels of hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement of the instrument.

Investments recorded in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits are categorized based on the inputs to valuation techniques as follows:

Level 1. These are investments where values are based on unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets in an active market the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2. These are investments where values are based on quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, or model-based valuation techniques that utilize inputs that are observable either directly or indirectly for substantially the full-term of the investments.

Level 3. These are investments where inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (Continued)

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments.

- *Registered Investment Companies (Mutual Funds)* - Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the SEC. Mutual funds are required to publish their daily value and to transact at that price. Mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.
- *Fixed Annuity Contract (Fully Benefit-Responsive)* - The Empower fixed annuity contract option is valued at contract value, which is the relevant measurement attribute for a fully benefit-responsive investment contract because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The contract value of the fully benefit-responsive investment option represents contributions plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. In determining the reasonableness of the methodology, a number of factors are considered, such as economic conditions, industry and market developments and overall credit ratings.

The Plan's investments that were measured at contract value have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. However, the contract value amounts presented in the tables below are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The table below summarizes, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments as of December 31, 2023:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Investments Measured at Contract Value	Total
Asset Class:					
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,912,152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,912,152
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	-	-	-	33,511	33,511
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 7,912,152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,511	\$ 7,945,663

The table below summarizes, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments as of December 31, 2022:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Investments Measured at Contract Value	Total
Asset Class:					
Registered investment companies, at fair value	\$ 7,208,329	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,208,329
Fixed annuity contract, at contract value	-	-	-	41,701	41,701
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 7,208,329	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,701	\$ 7,250,030

THE CLEARING, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these financial statements, the Plan has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through October 2, 2024, the date the financial statements were issued.

THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4I, SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

EIN: 26-1287688

Plan Number: 001

(a) Party-in-Interest	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
<u>Fixed Annuity Contract:</u>				
*	Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America	Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund	N/A	\$ 33,511
<u>Registered Investment Companies:</u>				
	Fidelity Investments	FIDELITY 500 INDEX	N/A	1,356,759
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2045 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	1,315,009
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2055 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	655,040
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2035 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	633,658
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2025 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	529,497
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS NEW PERSPECTIVE R6	N/A	438,843
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS AMERICAN BALANCED R6	N/A	432,535
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2050 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	216,868
*	Empower Trust Company, LLC	EMPOWER T. ROWE PRICE MID CAP GR INST	N/A	213,193
	ClearBridge	CLEARBRIDGE SMALL CAP GROWTH IS	N/A	205,368
	Franklin	FRANKLIN SMALL CAP VALUE R6	N/A	190,684
	JP Morgan	JPMORGAN EQUITY INCOME R6	N/A	179,064
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2040 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	173,477
	MFS	MFS GROWTH R6	N/A	150,802
*	Empower Trust Company, LLC	EMPOWER INTERNATIONAL VALUE INSTL	N/A	144,238
	Fidelity Investments	FIDELITY ADVISOR INTERNATIONAL GROWTH Z	N/A	130,305
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2060 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	124,992
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS BOND FUND OF AMER R6	N/A	96,618
	American Funds	AMERICAN CENTURY MID CAP VALUE R6	N/A	94,201
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2015 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	93,638
	Blackrock	BLACKROCK STRATEGIC GLOBAL BOND K	N/A	93,470
	Blackrock	BLACKROCK HIGH YIELD BOND PORTFOLIO K	N/A	93,247
	TIAA and CREF	REAL ESTATE SECURITIES INSTITUTIONAL	N/A	89,025
	Amana Mutual Funds	AMANA DEVELOPING WORLD INVESTOR	N/A	85,454
	AllSpring	ALLSPRING CORE PLUS BOND R6	N/A	73,415
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2030 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	56,432
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS INFLATION LINKED BD R6	N/A	46,320
<u>Notes Receivable from Participants:</u>				
		Loans with interest rates ranging from 5.75% to 9.50%, with various maturities through February 15, 2025		
	Participants		-0-	36,463
			\$	7,982,126

* Denotes a party-in-interest.

N/A - Cost information not required for participant directed investments.

THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4A, SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

EIN: 26-1287688
Plan Number: 001

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to the Plan	Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are Included	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside the VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in the VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Delinquent 2019 to 2022 Employee Deferrals, Corrected in 2024		\$ -	\$ 4,512	\$ -	\$ 4,512

THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4I, SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

EIN: 26-1287688

Plan Number: 001

(a) Party-in-Interest	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
<u>Fixed Annuity Contract:</u>				
*	Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America	Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund	N/A	\$ 33,511
<u>Registered Investment Companies:</u>				
	Fidelity Investments	FIDELITY 500 INDEX	N/A	1,356,759
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2045 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	1,315,009
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2055 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	655,040
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2035 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	633,658
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2025 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	529,497
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS NEW PERSPECTIVE R6	N/A	438,843
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS AMERICAN BALANCED R6	N/A	432,535
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2050 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	216,868
*	Empower Trust Company, LLC	EMPOWER T. ROWE PRICE MID CAP GR INST	N/A	213,193
	ClearBridge	CLEARBRIDGE SMALL CAP GROWTH IS	N/A	205,368
	Franklin	FRANKLIN SMALL CAP VALUE R6	N/A	190,684
	JP Morgan	JPMORGAN EQUITY INCOME R6	N/A	179,064
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2040 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	173,477
	MFS	MFS GROWTH R6	N/A	150,802
*	Empower Trust Company, LLC	EMPOWER INTERNATIONAL VALUE INSTL	N/A	144,238
	Fidelity Investments	FIDELITY ADVISOR INTERNATIONAL GROWTH Z	N/A	130,305
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2060 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	124,992
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS BOND FUND OF AMER R6	N/A	96,618
	American Funds	AMERICAN CENTURY MID CAP VALUE R6	N/A	94,201
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2015 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	93,638
	Blackrock	BLACKROCK STRATEGIC GLOBAL BOND K	N/A	93,470
	Blackrock	BLACKROCK HIGH YIELD BOND PORTFOLIO K	N/A	93,247
	TIAA and CREF	REAL ESTATE SECURITIES INSTITUTIONAL	N/A	89,025
	Amana Mutual Funds	AMANA DEVELOPING WORLD INVESTOR	N/A	85,454
	AllSpring	ALLSPRING CORE PLUS BOND R6	N/A	73,415
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS 2030 TRGT DATE RETIRE R6	N/A	56,432
	American Funds	AMERICAN FUNDS INFLATION LINKED BD R6	N/A	46,320
<u>Notes Receivable from Participants:</u>				
		Loans with interest rates ranging from 5.75% to 9.50%, with various maturities through February 15, 2025		
	Participants		-0-	36,463
			\$	7,982,126

* Denotes a party-in-interest.

N/A - Cost information not required for participant directed investments.

SCHEDULE 2

THE CLEARING 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

**SCHEDULE H, LINE 4A, SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

EIN: 26-1287688
Plan Number: 001

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to the Plan	Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are Included	Contributions Not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside the VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in the VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
Delinquent 2019 to 2022 Employee Deferrals, Corrected in 2024		\$ -	\$ 4,512	\$ -	\$ 4,512