

<p style="text-align: center;">Form 5500</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</p> <p style="font-size: small;">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).</p> <p>▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">2024</p> <hr/> <p style="font-weight: bold;">This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information
 For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

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) _____

B This return/report is: 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

<p>1a Name of plan <u>SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u></p>	<p>1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>108</u></p>
<p>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) <u>ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP</u></p> <p><u>599 LEXINGTON AVENUE</u> <u>NEW YORK, NY 10022-6069</u></p>	<p>1c Effective date of plan <u>10/01/1987</u></p> <p>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>13-5514352</u></p> <p>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>212-848-4000</u></p> <p>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>541110</u></p>

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.	10/10/2025	RON FRANK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/10/2025	WILLIAM J.F. ROLL, III
	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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	367
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)	144
	6a(2)	121
	6b	32
	6c	187
	6d	340
	6e	2
	6f	342
	6g(1)	367
6g(2)	342	
6h	2	
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 3B

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)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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 0
- (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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 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 C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	108
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-5514352	

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

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(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)

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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
(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.	
(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.	
(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: CROWE LLP	b EIN: 35-0921680
c Position: AUDITOR	
d Address: 485 LEXINGTON AVE. FLOOR 11 NEW YORK, NY 10017-2619	e Telephone: 212-572-5500

Explanation: IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMBINATION OF SHEARMAN AND STERLING LLP AND ALLEN & OVERY LLP THE PLAN AUDITOR HAS CHANGED FROM CROWE LLP TO EISNERAMPER LLP BEGINNING WITH THE 1/1/2024 PLAN YEAR.

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 D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan 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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>108</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>13-5514352</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>MT FOR VARIOUS EE BENEFITS OF S&S</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>13-5514352-112</u>	d Entity code <u>M</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>300702388</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 108
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 13-5514352

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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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.

		(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)	8038000	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(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)		
(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)	300641164	300702388
(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)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(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	308679164	300702388
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h	153653	0
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	153653	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	308525511	300702388

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)		
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		0
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)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(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)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(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)		31605950
(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)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		31605950

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	39429073	
(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)		39429073
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)		
(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)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		39429073

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		-7823123
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: EISNERAMPER LLP

(2) EIN: 87-1363769

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.)		X	
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.)		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.)		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.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		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?		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?		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.)		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.)		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?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		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.			

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) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>108</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ALLEN OVERY SHEARMAN STERLING US LLP</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>13-5514352</u>	

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): 51-0099493

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

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: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP
PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator, Participants and Beneficiaries
of the Shearman & Sterling LLP Partners Defined Contribution Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of Shearman & Sterling LLP Partners Defined Contribution 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 statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the 2024 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 audit 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 a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and for the year then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note C to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements section:

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying 2024 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 2024 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).



"EisnerAmper" is the brand name under which EisnerAmper LLP and Eisner Advisory Group LLC provide professional services. EisnerAmper LLP and Eisner Advisory Group LLC are independently owned firms that practice in an alternative practice structure in accordance with the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and applicable law, regulations and professional standards. EisnerAmper LLP is a licensed CPA firm that provides attest services, and Eisner Advisory Group LLC and its subsidiary entities provide tax and business consulting services. Eisner Advisory Group LLC and its subsidiary entities are not licensed CPA firms.

Basis for Opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAS”). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 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 audit. 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 on the 2024 financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2024 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 that 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.

Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2024 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit of the 2024 Financial Statements 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 auditors’ 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 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 audit 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 2024 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 2024 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.

Auditors' Report on the 2023 Financial Statements

Predecessor auditors performed an audit of the 2023 financial statements of the Plan. 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, the prior year audit did not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan that were certified by a qualified institution. Their report dated October 9, 2024 indicated that (a) the amounts and disclosures in the 2023 financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and (b) the information in the 2023 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).

EisnerAmper LLP

EISNERAMPER LLP
Iselin, New Jersey
October 9, 2025



SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value:		
Plan interest in Master Trust for Various Employee Benefits of Shearman & Sterling LLP	\$ 300,702,388	\$ 300,487,511
Receivables:		
Contributions from Shearman & Sterling LLP	-	8,038,000
Total assets	300,702,388	308,525,511
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 300,702,388	\$ 308,525,511

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

**Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year ended December 31, 2024**

Additions:

Investment income:

Plan interest in Master Trust for Various
Employee Benefits of Shearman & Sterling LLP

\$ 31,605,950

Total additions

31,605,950

Deductions:

Benefits paid to participants

39,429,073

Total deductions

39,429,073

Net decrease

(7,823,123)

Net assets available for benefits - beginning of year

308,525,511

Net assets available for benefits - end of year

\$ 300,702,388

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE A - DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Shearman & Sterling LLP (the "Firm") Partners Defined Contribution Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

[1] General:

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering eligible partners of the Firm, as defined in the Plan document. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The Plan is administered by the Firm's Pension & Benefits Committee (the "Committee"), including not less than three partners of the Firm. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan assets are held and administered under the Master Trust for Various Employee Benefits of Shearman & Sterling LLP (the "Master Trust") with Principal Bank.

In December 2023, in connection with the termination and subsequent liquidation of the U.S. Pension Plan for Partners and Employees of Shearman & Sterling LLP (the "Pension Plan"), the Pension Plan transferred a total of \$257,513 of surplus Pension Plan assets to the Plan, respectively. These assets were used to offset 2022 and 2023 plan year employer contributions within this qualified replacement plan during 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Shearman & Sterling LLP merged with Allen & Overy LLP on May 1, 2024, and the merged Firm's name officially became Allen Overy Shearman Sterling US LLP on May 1, 2024.

[2] Contributions:

Effective January 1, 2024, the Plan was amended to discontinue all contributions into the Plan.

Prior to January 1, 2024, contributions were made to the Plan by the Firm, in its discretion, from its net income in amounts determined by the Firm, to the trustee on or before the due date for the filing of the Firm's federal income tax return.

All contributions were limited to the maximum amount deductible for federal income tax purposes and were further limited by Sections 401(a)(4) and 415 of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"). All contributions were allocated to the participants' individual accounts in accordance with the Plan document. Voluntary contributions were not permitted to the Plan.

[3] Participant accounts:

Participant accounts are stated in terms of credited units. The fair value of a unit is determined by dividing the fair market value of the Plan's assets by the number of outstanding units, and the fair value of a participant account is determined by multiplying the fair value of a unit by the number of units allocated to the participant's account.

[4] Vesting:

Participants are 100% vested in contributions plus actual earnings thereon as of the earlier of (i) completion of three years of service for participants who had service after September 30, 2007, or five years of service for all other participants, (ii) the attainment of age 62, (iii) the date on which the participant becomes disabled, or (iv) the participant's date of death while an active participant.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE A - DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (CONTINUED)

[5] Payment of benefits:

For vested participants terminating before January 1, 2016, benefits are available upon reaching age 55 and completion of ten years of vesting service or upon attaining age 65. For vested participants terminating after December 31, 2015, benefits are available upon termination from the Firm. Prior to January 1, 2021, distributions were required to begin by April 1 following the calendar year containing the later of age 70½ or termination of service. Effective January 1, 2020, for individuals attaining age 70½ after 2019, minimum distributions are required by April 1 of the year following the year in which an individual attains age 72. Beginning January 1, 2023, participants may defer payment until April 1 of the year following the year in which they reach age 73. Effective April 30, 2024, participants who have not incurred a severance of service but have attained age 59½ may elect an in-service distribution of their vested account balance at any time.

Prior to January 1, 2017, distributions were made in the form of a qualified joint and survivor annuity or single life annuity equal to the value of the participant's account, unless the participant elected an alternate form of distribution. Effective January 1, 2017, distributions are made in the form of a lump sum, unless the participant elects to receive installments or another uniform annual amount. Single and joint life annuities are no longer available under the Plan.

[6] Forfeitures:

Forfeitures arise upon termination of a participant's association with the Firm for any reason other than those qualifying an individual for a distribution or upon death of a participant under certain conditions prior to retirement as specified in the Plan. Forfeitures may be used to reduce Firm contributions and to pay reasonable administrative expenses of the Plan. There were no new forfeitures during the year ended December 31, 2024. The Forfeiture account balance was \$104,362 and \$1,177,276 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Firm used \$1,106,064 of the balance in the Forfeiture Account to reduce the 2023 Firm contributions that were paid into the Plan during 2024.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

[1] Basis of accounting:

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual method of accounting.

[2] Subsequent events:

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 9, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

[3] Use of estimates:

The preparation of 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 the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and when applicable, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

[4] Investment valuation and income recognition:

The fair value of the Plan's interest in the Master Trust reflects the Plan's interest in the fair value of the underlying investments of the Master Trust. See Note D.

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 includes the Master Trust's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year, and investment expenses such as trustee and investment management fees.

[5] Payment of benefits:

Benefits are recorded when paid.

[6] Plan expenses:

The Plan provides that reasonable expenses of administering the Plan be paid from Plan assets unless paid by the Firm. Expenses that are paid directly by the Firm are excluded from the Plan's financial statements.

[7] Reclassification:

Certain amounts in the 2023 financial statements and disclosures have been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the 2024 financial statements.

NOTE C - INVESTMENT CERTIFICATION

The Plan administrator has elected the method of 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, Principal Bank, the trustee of the Plan has certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments and related investment activity in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024.

NOTE D - INTEREST IN MASTER TRUST

The Plan's investments are held in the Master Trust which was established for the investment of assets of the Plan, the Shearman & Sterling LLP Cash Balance Pension Plan, and the U.S. Pension Plan for Partners and Employees of Shearman & Sterling LLP. The U.S. Pension Plan for Partners and Employees of Shearman & Sterling LLP was terminated on December 31, 2021 and liquidated during 2023. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Plan and the Shearman & Sterling LLP Cash Balance Pension Plan have investments held in the Master Trust. These participating plans' interest in the Master Trust includes both undivided interests in pooled investments and divided interest in specific investments held solely for each individual plan. Investment income of the Master Trust is allocated to the individual plans based on average monthly balances invested by each plan.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE D - INTEREST IN MASTER TRUST (CONTINUED)

Net assets of the Master Trust at December 31, 2024 are summarized as follows:

	2024			
	Master Trust Balances	Plan's Interest in Master Trust Balances	Interest Type	Plan's % Interest (if Undivided)
Interest-bearing accounts	\$ 4,561,874	\$ 2,778,037	Divided	N/A
Interest-bearing accounts	5,290,734	4,281,818	Undivided	80.9%
Interest-bearing accounts	1,812,576	1,747,158	Undivided	96.4%
Mutual funds	180,511,723	146,089,078	Undivided	80.9%
Common stock	88,905,615	71,951,777	Undivided	80.9%
Corporate bonds and notes	23,053,722	18,657,497	Undivided	80.9%
State and municipal securities	21,116,646	17,089,812	Undivided	80.9%
Hedge funds	39,076,058	37,665,759	Undivided	96.4%
Exchange traded funds - bond funds	5,319,535	-	Divided	N/A
Settled cash	(32,339)	939	Divided	N/A
	369,616,144	300,261,875		
Plus:				
Accrued interest and dividends	813,157	658,791		
Less:				
Accrued expenses	267,856	218,278		
Total	\$ 370,161,445	\$ 300,702,388		

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE D - INTEREST IN MASTER TRUST (CONTINUED)

Net assets of the Master Trust at December 31, 2023 are summarized as follows:

	2023			
	Master Trust Balances	Plan's Interest in Master Trust Balances	Interest Type	Plan's % Interest (if Undivided)
Interest-bearing accounts	\$ 6,294,301	\$ 1,926,434	Divided	N/A
Interest-bearing accounts	4,442,517	3,636,329	Undivided	81.9%
Interest-bearing accounts	1,552,818	1,506,948	Undivided	97.0%
Mutual funds	168,549,520	137,962,680	Undivided	81.9%
Common stock	91,733,325	75,086,392	Undivided	81.9%
Corporate bonds and notes	26,320,907	21,544,427	Undivided	81.9%
State and municipal securities	22,542,785	18,451,925	Undivided	81.9%
Hedge funds	42,320,871	41,070,725	Undivided	97.0%
Settled cash	(1,425,805)	(1,426,012)	Divided	N/A
	362,331,239	299,759,848		
Plus:				
Accrued interest and dividends	1,075,623	881,316		
Minus:				
Accrued expenses	188,236	153,653		
	\$ 363,218,626	\$ 300,487,511		

The table below sets forth investment income of the Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2024:

Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 30,492,421
Interest and dividend income	8,772,016
Investment expenses	(1,093,445)
	\$ 38,170,992

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE E - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Financial Accounting Standards Board's ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. The framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements), and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Inputs to the valuation methodology include: (1) quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; (2) quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; (3) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; or (4) inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investment assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Interest-bearing accounts - Valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Mutual funds - Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common stocks - Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Corporate bonds and notes and State and municipal securities - Valued using pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities. This includes basing value on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. When quoted prices are not available for identical or similar bonds, the bond is valued under a discounted cash flow approach that maximizes observable inputs, such as current yields of similar instruments, but includes adjustments for certain risks that may not be observable, such as credit and liquidity risks or a broker quote, if available. Security structure (if any), loan age and quality, weighted average coupon and other qualitative factors that can influence the price are considered in determining fair value.

Exchange Traded Funds ("ETFs") - Valued at the daily closing price. ETFs are investment companies whose shares are traded intraday on stock exchanges at market-determined prices, which may be greater or less than NAV. ETFs are registered with the SEC, and generally, are structured as open-ended investment companies (open-ended funds) or unit investment trusts.

Hedge funds - Valued at net asset value, as a practical expedient, based on the fair value of the underlying investments of the funds. The NAV is not a publicly quoted price in an active market. The hedge funds are comprised primarily of limited partnerships.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE E - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the assets at fair value of the Master Trust as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	Investment Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Type of Security:				
Interest-bearing accounts	\$ 11,665,184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,665,184
Mutual funds	180,511,723	-	-	180,511,723
Common stock	88,905,615	-	-	88,905,615
Corporate bonds and notes		23,053,722	-	23,053,722
State and municipal securities		21,116,646	-	21,116,646
Exchange traded funds - bond funds	5,319,535			5,319,535
Settled cash	(32,339)	-	-	(32,339)
Total investments in the fair value hierarchy	<u>286,369,718</u>	<u>44,170,368</u>	-	<u>330,540,086</u>
Hedge funds investments measured at net asset value (A)				<u>39,076,058</u>
Total investment assets at fair value	<u>\$ 286,402,057</u>	<u>\$ 44,170,368</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 369,616,144</u>

	Investment Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Type of Security:				
Interest-bearing accounts	\$ 12,289,636	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,289,636
Common stock	91,733,325	-	-	91,733,325
Mutual funds	168,549,520	-	-	168,549,520
State and municipal securities	-	22,542,785	-	22,542,785
Corporate bonds and notes	-	26,320,907	-	26,320,907
Settled cash	(1,425,805)	-	-	(1,425,805)
Total investments in the fair value hierarchy	<u>271,146,676</u>	<u>48,863,692</u>	-	<u>320,010,368</u>
Hedge funds investments measured at net asset value (A)				<u>42,320,871</u>
Total investment assets at fair value	<u>\$ 272,572,481</u>	<u>\$ 48,863,692</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 362,331,239</u>

(A) Certain investments that are measured at fair value using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE E - FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Changes in Fair Value Levels

The availability of observable market data is monitored to assess the appropriate classification of financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy. Changes in economic conditions or model-based valuation techniques may require the transfer of financial instruments from one fair value level to another.

NOTE F- REDEMPTION RESTRICTIONS AND UNFUNDED COMMITMENTS

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

Hedge Funds	December 31,		Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
	2024 Fair Value	2023 Fair Value		
Event/Credit (a)	\$ 22,771,020	\$ 21,269,330	monthly, quarterly, annually	60-95 days
Equity Long/Short (b)	10,645,838	11,073,436	monthly, quarterly	30-60 days
RV/Multi (c)	2,989,945	4,950,976	monthly	30-60 days
Global Macro/CTA (d)	2,653,457	2,811,331	monthly	30 days
Other	15,798	2,215,798	n/a	n/a
Grand Total	<u>\$ 39,076,058</u>	<u>\$ 42,320,871</u>		

(a) Event/Credit strategies include:

- Investing in structured credit securities along with diversification across borrower types to offer the potential for excess returns as compared to traditional corporate credit and limited correlation to broader markets;
- Investing in distressed debt with the protection of a senior debtholder to generate equity-like returns;
- Exposures to merger arbitrage, equity special situations and distressed credit investments, including use of options contracts to boost returns and protect investor capital from downward risk;
- Equities focus on mid and large-sized companies with focus on shareholder activism to drive returns, while typically focusing on 10-20 long investments as well as having smaller short positions that include sector and market hedges;
- Employing private equity-style investing in public equity markets, targeting quality companies with solid business models, significant market share, high barriers to entry, and cashflow positive business that are trading at a discount to their intrinsic value.

(b) Equity Long/Short strategies include:

- Value-oriented long/short equity approach focusing on companies trading below their intrinsic value through enterprise value analysis for long investments, and securities whose trading value is substantially greater than its intrinsic value for short investments;
- Equity management using a combination of industry and company specific matrix (competitive dynamics) with granular research.

(c) RV/Multi Strategy seeks to generate profits in a variety of volatility regimes, investing in single name equity options, index options; includes sub-strategies including commodity volatility, capital structure arbitrage, and trend following.

(d) Global Macro/CTA strategy aims to identify and capture trends across global alternative markets to drive returns via trends across fixed income, currencies, equities, credit and commodities.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE F- REDEMPTION RESTRICTIONS AND UNFUNDED COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

Certain hedge funds contain holdback provisions whereby a percentage of the amount requested to withdraw may be retained and redeemed at a later date based at the hedge fund's discretion.

The Plan and Master Trust do not have any unfunded commitments.

NOTE G - TAX STATUS

The Plan received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), dated April 25, 2014, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan has been amended since receiving the tax determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require the Plan administrator to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by a government authority. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine examinations by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no examinations for any tax periods in progress.

NOTE H - RELATED PARTY AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Parties-in-interest are defined under the Department of Labor's regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the employer, and certain others. Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Firm. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. Certain investment related expenses paid to Principal Bank, the Plan's trustee, are included in investment income presented in the accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. These transactions as well as any direct or indirect expenses paid for by the Plan, qualify as party-in-interest transactions; however, they are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules under ERISA.

NOTE I - RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan, through the investment in the Master Trust, invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. 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 the participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Volatility in the financial markets may significantly impact the subsequent valuation of the Plan's investments. Accordingly, the valuation of investments at December 31, 2024 may not necessarily be indicative of amounts that could be realized in a current market exchange.

SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP PARTNERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2024 and 2023

NOTE J - MUTUAL FUND FEES

Investments in mutual funds through the Master Trust are subject to sales charges in the form of front-end loads, back-end loads or 12b-1 fees. 12b-1 fees, which are ongoing fees allowable under Section 12b-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, are annual fees deducted to pay for marketing and distribution costs of the funds. These fees are deducted prior to the allocation of the Plan's investment earnings activity, and thus not separately identifiable as an expense.

NOTE K - PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Firm reserves the right under the Plan to amend or terminate the Plan or to discontinue its contributions to the Plan at any time subject to the provisions as set forth in ERISA and its related regulations. No such amendment shall have the effect of reinvesting in the Firm the whole or any part of the principal or income of the trust fund or of diverting any part of such principal or income for purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries.

Upon termination or partial termination of the Plan or the complete discontinuance of contributions to the Plan, all units credited to the affected participants' accounts shall become fully vested and nonforfeitable.