

<p>Form 5500</p> <p>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</p> <p>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>OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">2024</p> <hr/> <p>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>WARD AND SMITH, P.A. 401(K) AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN</u></p>	<p>1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</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>WARD AND SMITH, P.A.</u></p> <p><u>1001 COLLEGE COURT</u> <u>NEW BERN, NC 28562</u></p>	<p>1c Effective date of plan <u>12/27/1972</u></p> <p>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-1034724</u></p> <p>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>252-672-5498</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.	10/14/2025	JENNIFER SUTTON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2025	MICHAEL R. EPPERSON
	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	307
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)	232
	6a(2)	248
	6b	0
	6c	84
	6d	332
	6e	3
	6f	335
	6g(1)	295
	6g(2)	303
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:
2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2T 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)	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	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> 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 WARD AND SMITH, P.A. 401(K) AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 WARD AND SMITH, P.A.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1034724	

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

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO. INC. AND AFFIL

94-1737782

(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)

SCHWAB RETIREMENT PLAN SERVICES, INC

34-1479833

(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?
15 50 64	NONE	81353	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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)

FIDUCIENT ADVISORS LLC

36-4001764

(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 50	NONE	51399	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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:	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 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.	OMB No. 1210-0110 <hr/> 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>WARD AND SMITH, P.A. 401(K) AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>WARD AND SMITH, P.A.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-1034724</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>RELIANCE TR CO SVF CIT SERIES 25053</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>RELIANCE TRUST COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>46-6625485-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>11059108</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)

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 WARD AND SMITH, P.A. 401(K) AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 WARD AND SMITH, P.A.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1034724

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
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	4273264	4683768
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)	36852	39582
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)	128860	128860
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	38251	131002
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	11828440	11059108
(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)	85901101	103464331
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	0

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	102206768	119506651
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j	31279	33627
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	31279	33627
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	102175489	119473024

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)	4683768	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	1298832	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	964256	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		6946856
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)	8539	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		8539
(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)	6870575	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		6870575
(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)		317529
(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)		5802142
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		19945641

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	2392282	
(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)		2392282
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		119714
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)	1011	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	83315	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	51784	
(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)		136110
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		2648106

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		17297535
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: **CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM, P.L.L.C.**

(2) EIN: **72-1396621**

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		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?		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.
--	---	---

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>WARD AND SMITH, P.A. 401(K) AND PROFIT SHARING PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>WARD AND SMITH, P.A.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>56-1034724</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): 82-3967259

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 09 / 21 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q704158A.



**Ward and Smith, P.A.
401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE)**

December 31, 2024 and 2023



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Note: Other schedules required by the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) have been omitted because the conditions under which they are required are not present.



CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM, P.L.L.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Profit Sharing Committee of
Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
New Bern, North Carolina

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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, 2024 and 2023, 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 audits of Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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 a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 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 financial statements referred to above, 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 financial statements referred to above 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).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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 these 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 Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards, 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 Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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 Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing 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 Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is 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 schedule, 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 generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule 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 schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is 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 schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is 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 schedule 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).

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, P.L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, P.L.L.C.

Goldsboro, North Carolina
October 13, 2025

**Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**

<i>December 31,</i>	2024	2023
Assets		
Investments		
Investments at fair value	\$ 114,652,298	\$ 97,858,401
Total investments	114,652,298	97,858,401
Receivables		
Employer contribution	4,683,768	4,273,264
Notes receivable from participants	131,002	38,251
Other receivable	39,582	36,852
Total receivables	4,854,352	4,348,367
Total assets	119,506,650	102,206,768
Liabilities		
Accrued expenses	33,627	31,279
Total liabilities	33,627	31,279
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 119,473,023	\$ 102,175,489

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**

<i>For the year ended December 31,</i>	2024
Additions	
Investment income	
Net appreciation in value of investments	\$ 6,119,671
Interest and dividends	6,870,575
<hr/>	
Total investment income	12,990,246
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	8,539
Contributions	
Employer	4,683,768
Employee	1,298,832
Rollover	964,256
<hr/>	
Total contributions	6,946,856
<hr/>	
Total additions	19,945,641
Deductions	
Benefits paid to participants	2,511,996
Administrative expenses	136,111
<hr/>	
Total deductions	2,648,107
<hr/>	
Net increase	17,297,534
Net Assets Available for Benefits	
Beginning of year	102,175,489
<hr/>	
End of year	\$ 119,473,023
<hr/>	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Refer to Plan documents for a more complete description of Plan provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all full-time employees of Ward and Smith P.A. (the “Company”, “Sponsor”, “Employer”, or “Plan Administrator”). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Department of Labor’s (DOL’s) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Profit Sharing Committee is responsible for oversight of the Plan and determines the appropriateness of the Plan’s investment offerings, monitors investment performance and reports to the Plan’s Trustees.

Some administrative functions are performed by employees of the Company. No compensation is remitted to the Company for these services.

Plan assets are held and managed by Charles Schwab Trust Bank, the trustee or custodian and the qualified institution for the Plan, which invests contributions and Plan earnings, makes investment transactions as directed by individual participants and provides certain recordkeeping services. Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc. acts as the third-party administrator for the Plan, which performs certain Plan administration and annual ERISA compliance testing.

Eligibility

Employees may become a participant of the Plan when they have reached one year of service and have completed 1,000 or more hours of service during twelve consecutive months, and are age eighteen or older. An eligible employee may enter the Plan on the first day of each month following eligibility. Effective February 1, 2024, the Plan’s eligibility criteria for elective deferrals was modified to allow employees to become a participant of the Plan when they have reached 3 months of service.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) contribution limit. Effective January 1, 2019, the Plan began allowing Roth contributions. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution Plans (i.e. rollover contributions). Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers various mutual funds and a collective trust as investment options for participants. Each year, profit sharing amounts may be contributed at the discretion of the Company’s managing partners. Participants also direct their profit sharing amounts in the various investment options offered by the Plan.

During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company approved a \$4,683,768 profit sharing contribution to the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain IRS limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant’s account is credited with the participant’s contributions and an allocation of the Company’s profit sharing contribution and Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant’s vested account.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and the Company's contributions plus actual earnings thereon.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may only borrow from the 401(k) elective deferrals portion of their fund accounts, a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their 401(k) elective deferrals account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's 401(k) elective deferrals account only. The loans bear interest at a rate commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined by the Plan Administrator at the time the loan is made. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Benefit Payments

On termination of service, a participant will receive the balance of their account in a lump sum as soon as administratively feasible if the balance is \$7,000 or less. On termination of service, including death, participants with account balances more than \$7,000, may elect to receive, with his or her spouse's consent if required, an amount equal to the value of his or her account in either a lump sum payment or in substantially equal installments over a specified period of time.

Hardship Withdrawals

As permitted by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and in accordance with the plan agreement, a participant may request a financial hardship withdrawal if they experience severe financial hardship. The financial hardship withdrawal may not exceed the amount of the financial hardship or the value of the vested portion of the participant's balance, whichever is less.

Note 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) provides authoritative guidance regarding U.S. GAAP through the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) and related Accounting Standards Updates (ASUs).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of U.S. GAAP financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments generally are reported at fair value, but may also be reported at contract value or net asset value (NAV). Fair value 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 4 for discussion of fair value measurements and NAV. The Plan's Profit Sharing Committee determines

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition (Continued)

the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors, custodians, and trustee.

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 any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred.

Payment of Benefits

Distributions to participants are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment expenses are included in net appreciation/depreciation of fair value of investments.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that these changes could materially affect amounts reported in the Plan's financial statements.

Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, October 13, 2025. See Note 9 for relevant disclosures. No subsequent events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.

Note 3: INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY QUALIFIED INSTITUTION

The Plan Administrator has elected the method of compliance, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. The following financial information included in the Plan's financial statements was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Charles Schwab Trust Bank, the qualified institution:

- a) Total investments, at fair value, included in the statements of net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2024 and 2023, excluding investments in real estate.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3: INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY QUALIFIED INSTITUTION (Continued)

- b) Notes receivable from participants, included in the statements of net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2024 and 2023.
- c) Investment income and interest income from notes receivable information included in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, excluding appreciation in the value of investments in real estate, if any.
- d) All amounts included in Note 4, *Fair Value Measurements*, excluding investments in real estate.
- e) All information included in the supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024, excluding investments in real estate.

Note 4: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. There are three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair values:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs, other than quoted prices, that are:
 - observable; or
 - can be corroborated by observable market data.

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 maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

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

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. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Common collective trusts ("CCTs"): The Plan's CCTs are valued based on NAV per share or unit as a practical expedient as reported by the fund manager, multiplied by the number of shares or units held as of the measurement date. Accordingly, these NAV based investments have been excluded from the fair value hierarchy.

Real Estate: Valued at fair value based on appraised value of the property.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4: 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 Administrator believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine fair value of certain financial instruments could result in different fair value measurements at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

Description	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3	Total
December 31, 2024				
Mutual funds	\$ 103,464,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103,464,330
Real estate	-	-	128,860	128,860
	\$ 103,464,330	\$ -	\$ 128,860	\$ 103,593,190
Common collective trusts ^(A)				11,059,108
Total investments at fair value				\$ 114,652,298

Description	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3	Total
December 31, 2023				
Mutual funds	\$ 85,901,101	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,901,101
Real estate	-	-	128,860	128,860
	85,901,101	-	128,860	86,029,961
Common collective trusts ^(A)				11,828,440
Total investments at fair value				\$ 97,858,401

(A) Investments that are measured at fair value using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in the table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

**Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
Notes to Financial Statements**

Note 4: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Quantitative Information about Significant Unobservable Inputs Used in Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

The following table represents the Plan's level 3 financial instruments, the valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of those financial instruments as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and the significant unobservable inputs and the ranges of values for those inputs.

Instrument	Fair Value 12/31/2024	Fair Value 12/31/2023	Principal Valuation Technique	Significant Unobservable Inputs	Range of Significant Input Values	Weighted Average
Real estate	\$128,860	\$128,860	Appraisal	Sales price	Not available	N/A

In estimating fair value of the investments in Level 3, the Profit Sharing Committee may use third-party pricing sources or appraisers. In substantiating the reasonableness of the pricing data provided by third parties, the Profit Sharing Committee evaluates a variety of factors including review of methods and assumptions used by external sources, recently executed transactions, existing contracts, economic conditions, industry and market developments, and overall credit ratings.

Fair Value of Investments that Calculate Net Asset Value

The following table summarizes information related to the CCTs measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The CCTs are maintained by investment companies and hold investments in accordance with a stated set of fund objectives.

Year-End	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
December 31, 2024	\$ 11,059,108	N/A	Daily	30 days
December 31, 2023	\$ 11,828,440	N/A	Daily	30 days

Note 5: NONPARTICIPANT-DIRECTED INVESTMENTS

Information about the net assets and the significant components of the changes in net assets relating to nonparticipant-directed investments is as follows:

<i>December 31,</i>	2024	2023
Net Assets		
Real estate, non-income producing	\$ 128,860	\$ 128,860

<i>For the year ended December 31,</i>	2024
Changes in Net Assets	
Net appreciation (depreciation)	\$ -

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6: TAX STATUS

The Plan utilizes the Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc. Non-Standardized Pre-Approved Profit Sharing / Money Purchase / CODA Plan. The IRS has determined and informed Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc. by a letter dated September 21, 2020, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, the Plan administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

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 if the plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 7: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc. is the Plan's TPA and Charles Schwab Trust Bank is the Plan's trustee and provides these services through a services agreement and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Schwab charges an asset-based fee. Such fee is for recordkeeping and trust services. The amount of the fee is based on the Plan's overall balance on the last day of the quarter and is deducted on a pro-rata basis from participants with account balances on both the last day of the quarter and the day the fee is assessed. In the event that compensation in the form of fund remuneration is paid or credited directly to Schwab Retirement Plan Services, Inc. or Charles Schwab Trust Bank, as a result of the investment of the Plan's assets, Schwab will reduce such compensation by the amount of such fund remuneration. Schwab will calculate and remit to the Trust any such compensation (reduction in compensation) on a quarterly basis as of the last day of such quarter. The Plan Sponsor also directs Schwab to allocate such reduction in compensation amounts to participants' accounts in accordance with the amended services agreement. Expenses paid to Schwab were \$83,315, net of reduced compensation of \$155,786 for the year ended December 31, 2024. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, other receivables have been recorded in the amounts of \$39,582 and \$36,852, respectively, for amounts due to the Plan from Schwab for reduction in compensation. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, accrued expenses have been recorded in the amounts of \$33,627 and \$31,279, respectively, for administrative fees due to Schwab.

Note 8: PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan Notes to Financial Statements

Note 9: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management of the Plan evaluated all events or transactions that occurred after December 31, 2024 through October 13, 2025, the date the Plan's financial statements were available to be issued. Subsequent to year end, the Profit Sharing Committee has approved the following changes to the Plan:

Effective January 1, 2025, as part of the SECURE 2.0 Act, catch-up contribution limits will be increased for individuals ages 60 to 63. Individuals who qualify can contribute an additional 50% of the regular catch-up contribution limit.

Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
EIN# 56-1034724 Plan# 001
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment	(d) Cost**	(e) Current Value
	Reliance Metlife- Series 25053 65	Common Collective Trust Fund	**	\$ 11,059,108
	American Funds Target 2010 R6	Mutual Fund	**	1,863
	American Funds Target 2015 R6	Mutual Fund	**	16,302
	American Funds Target 2020 R6	Mutual Fund	**	17,957
	American Funds Target 2025 R6	Mutual Fund	**	1,224,093
	American Funds Target 2030 R6	Mutual Fund	**	167,249
	American Funds Target 2035 R6	Mutual Fund	**	1,100,565
	American Funds Target 2040 R6	Mutual Fund	**	723,399
	American Funds Target 2045 R6	Mutual Fund	**	253,753
	American Funds Target 2050 R6	Mutual Fund	**	250,111
	American Funds Target 2055 R6	Mutual Fund	**	89,043
	American Funds Target 2060 R6	Mutual Fund	**	171,604
	American Funds Target 2065 R6	Mutual Fund	**	17,981
	Baird Mid Cap Trust I	Mutual Fund	**	3,580,287
	Conestoga Small Cap Institutional	Mutual Fund	**	3,989,336
	Macquarie Small Cap Value Instl	Mutual Fund	**	3,042,684
	American Funds American	Mutual Fund	**	8,505,160
	American Funds Europacific	Mutual Fund	**	6,765,012
	Fidelity 500 Index	Mutual Fund	**	16,529,358
	Fidelity Extended Market Index	Mutual Fund	**	3,621,426
	JHancock Disciplined Val MCP I	Mutual Fund	**	4,068,089
	Loomis Sayles Global Bond Fund Cl I	Mutual Fund	**	1,533,144
	NYLI Winslow Large Cap Growth	Mutual Fund	**	21,679,895
	TCW MetWest Total Return Bond I	Mutual Fund	**	47
	MFS Value R4	Mutual Fund	**	10,952,356
	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index	Mutual Fund	**	3,943,270
	Vanguard Total Int'l Stock Index Fund Adm	Mutual Fund	**	4,925,176
	Dodge & Cox Income X	Mutual Fund	**	6,295,168
	Real Estate - Land	Real Estate	\$ 140,000	128,860
	Total investments			114,652,296
*	Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% - 9.50%		131,002
	Total			\$ 114,783,298

Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

NAME OF PLAN SPONSOR:	Ward and Smith, P.A.
NAME OF PLAN:	Ward and Smith, P.A. 401(k) and Profit Sharing Plan
EIN:	56-1034724
PLAN NUMBER:	001

	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	PARTICIPANT LOANS	Loans (4.25% - 9.50%)		131,002
	RELIANCE SVF - METGAC25053 65	Common Collective Trust Fund		11,059,108
	AMERICAN BALANCED FUND R6	Registered Investment Company		8,505,160
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2010 R6	Registered Investment Company		1,863
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2015 R6	Registered Investment Company		16,302
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2020 R6	Registered Investment Company		17,957
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2025 R6	Registered Investment Company		1,224,093
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2030 R6	Registered Investment Company		167,249
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2035 R6	Registered Investment Company		1,100,565
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2040 R6	Registered Investment Company		723,399
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2045 R6	Registered Investment Company		253,753
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2050 R6	Registered Investment Company		250,111
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2055 R6	Registered Investment Company		89,043
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2060 R6	Registered Investment Company		171,604
	AMERICAN FUNDS TRGTDT 2065 R6	Registered Investment Company		17,981
	BAIRD MID CAP FUND INST	Registered Investment Company		3,580,287
	CONESTOGA SMCAP INSTITUTIONAL	Registered Investment Company		3,989,336
	DELAWARE SMALL CAP VALUE I	Registered Investment Company		3,042,684
	DODGE & COX INCOME X	Registered Investment Company		6,295,169
	EUROPACIFIC GROWTH R6	Registered Investment Company		6,765,012
	FIDELITY 500 INDEX	Registered Investment Company		16,529,359
	FIDELITY EXTENDED MARKET INDEX	Registered Investment Company		3,621,426
	JHANCOCK DISCIPLINED VAL MCP I	Registered Investment Company		4,068,089
	LOOMIS SAYLES GLOBAL BOND CL I	Registered Investment Company		1,533,144
	MAINSTAY WINSLOW LGCAP GRTH I	Registered Investment Company		21,679,896
	METROPOLITAN WEST TTL RTN BD I	Registered Investment Company		47
	MFS VALUE R4	Registered Investment Company		10,952,356
	VANGUARD TOT INTL STK IDX ADM	Registered Investment Company		4,925,176
	VANGUARD TTL BOND MKT IDX ADM	Registered Investment Company		3,943,270
	OUTSIDE ASSET - Other	Other Assets		126,830

* Party-in-interest