



January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Clients of Cedar Brook,

Yet another scandal has enveloped the investment world, with the highly publicized scheme perpetrated by Bernie Madoff. This is just the latest black mark contributing to the track record of impropriety on Wall Street. Because this is the world we live in; we feel it is timely to reiterate the many protective measures that we take at Cedar Brook Financial Partners to ensure that your assets are safe. First, our firm did not have a single penny – directly or otherwise – invested with Madoff or his affiliates. This includes our entire hedge fund platform, managed futures portfolios, etc. More importantly, there are SYSTEMATIC checks and balances in place at Cedar Brook to protect client assets from fraud. Here is a summary of those safeguards:

- Money Management, Custodial Services, and Advisory Services are each **distinct** and **independent**. In other words, your various money managers, National Financial Services (our major custodian), and Cedar Brook are separate entities. We have separate balance sheets, separate audits, and separate management teams.
- You will never write a check payable to Cedar Brook Financial Partners or payable to any individual advisor at Cedar Brook. All monies received are made payable to institutional custodians and we have no direct access to those funds.
- Cedar Brook itself is **independent**. We are not tied to the weakened balance sheet of any investment bank, insurance company, or other financial institution. We are not managed from afar and our oversight is direct and on-site. We do not have other lines of business besides our core services; thus we are never tempted or forced to borrow from one business to fund the failures of another – a scenario that plagues the big firms today – and a slippery slope in our opinion.

**Azim Nakhooda | Chief Investment Officer | Cedar Brook Financial Partners, LLC**  
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Securities offered through Securities America, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC.  
Azim Nakhooda, Registered Representative and Investment Advisor.  
Advisory services offered through Securities America Advisors, Inc., an SEC Registered Investment Advisor.  
Cedar Brook Financial Partners, LLC and Securities America are unaffiliated.



## Systematic protections, cont.

- The advisors at Cedar Brook have affiliated with a registered Broker/Dealer – Securities America, Inc. – which requires us to adhere to a robust compliance program. This includes mandatory anti-money laundering and surveillance programs and annual certification programs. Additionally, the Broker / Dealer acts in an oversight capacity to provide third party review of products, client statements, and asset movement.
- Cedar Brook employs a full-time, in-house Chief Compliance Officer. This executive and Securities America personnel record and monitor each trade and private placement purchase made by any of our advisors. Transactions are cross-checked for suitability, client signature accuracy, source of funds, etc.
- Cedar Brook incoming mail is first received and opened by the Compliance team. This allows them to log all incoming checks and ensure they are deposited in the corresponding client account within 1 business day.
- All Cedar Brook e-mails are monitored by the Compliance team, using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party software, to ensure accuracy of communication by our advisors. *Many of the recent scandals were based simply on false communications by advisors to clients.*
- Client statements & tax reporting are generated by an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party in all cases. Cedar Brook never generates our own statements, detailing the market values of positions. **Every dollar under advisement by the personnel at Cedar Brook is reported to the client by an independent, audited, 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity.**
- Client assets are never commingled into a “pooled” account. While your ultimate dollars may be managed collectively or in a partnership by the investment managers, our custodians maintain separately titled accounts and balances at all times.
- Cedar Brook provides direct online access to brokerage accounts. These are accessed through an independent website – MyStreetscape.com – and clients have the ability to customize their log-in information privately.

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On a more general level – Cedar Brook leads with our integrity and reputation. Our principals and partners are Clevelanders – with material ties to the community, going back generations in many cases. We have invested heavily in research and we utilize multiple levels of due diligence in selecting our asset management partners. Finally, we eat our own cooking – Cedar Brook advisors and the firm itself have material dollars in the very same investment vehicles that we recommend. Thus, our families’ finances and interests are aligned very closely with those of our clients.

We understand that these are difficult times. Cedar Brook sincerely thanks you for the confidence and trust that you have placed in us, and we hope the substantial risk controls we have in place give you some peace of mind regarding your money.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Azim Nakhoda, written in a cursive style.

Azim Nakhoda  
Chief Investment Officer/Principal

A blue ink signature of Jeremy Newton, written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Newton  
Chief Compliance Officer

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