# **ker**Group

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Managing Director

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Managing Director

**Jeff Oakes** 

Managing Director

Kathryn A. Phillips, CFO & COO

Managing Director

Phil Stenseth, CFA

Managing Director

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## The Baker Group

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www.GoBaker.com Member: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and Securities Investor Protection Corporation

## Statement of **Financial Condition**

**December 31. 2024** (audited)

## **Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**

**December 31, 2024** 

## Note 1: Nature of Operations and Significant Accounting Policies Nature of Operations

The Baker Group LP (the Partnership) is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Act) as a general securities broker and dealer.

The Partnership provides broker-dealer services for its clients, which consist predominately of community financial institutions located in approximately 45 states and the District of Columbia. The Partnership engages in consulting and investment advisory functions, in addition to its broker-dealer operations.

The Partnership consists of a general partner, James Baker Group, Inc. (JBG) and Class A and Class B limited partners. The Class A limited partner, which holds a voting interest in the Partnership, is comprised solely of The Baker Group Software Solutions, Inc. (BGSSI). The Class B limited partners have nonvoting interests and the interests are issued in four series: the Class B Series I interests; the Class B Series II interests; the Class B Series III interests; and the Class B Series IV interests. The Class B Series I partners may be comprised of state banking associations and the Class B Series II and III partners are individuals, some of whom also own JBG and BGSSI. Class B Series II, Class B Series III, and Class B Series IV limited partners may withdraw capital upon written notice after the capital has been held for one year. Capital contributions by partners are made on a discretionary basis. Any dilution as a result of these discretionary contributions may be avoided at the option of the diluted partner(s) through additional contributions. Class B Series II, Class B Series III, and Class B Series IV limited partnership shares are subject to mandatory redemption by the Partnership within 30 and 10 days written notice, respectively, after one year of the contribution date. At December 31, 2024, \$6,563,000 and \$2,580,000 were available to Class B Series II and Class B Series III limited partners, respectively, for mandatory redemption.

Net income of the Partnership is allocated as follows:

- Class A limited partner interest receives the sum of an amount equal to the federal long-term rate, as defined, multiplied by its weighted-average balance of its capital contribution account.
- Class B Series I interests receive an amount equal to the federal short-term rate, multiplied by the applicable weighted-average balance outstanding during the period and an amount equal to a percentage of the business derived by the Partnership from members of each respective state banking association, as defined.
- Class B Series II interests receive a rate, as determined by the general partner, which was 8.0% for the year ended December 31, 2024 multiplied by the average daily capital balance during the calendar quarter of the fiscal year.
- Class B Series III interests receive an amount at the discretion of the general partner.
- Class B Series IV interests receive a rate, as determined by the general partner, which was 8.0% for the year ended December 31, 2024, multiplied by the average daily capital balance during the calendar quarter of the fiscal year.
- · Thereafter, to the general partner.

The accompanying financial statements do not contain a statement of changes in liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors as required by Rule 17a-5 of the Act, as no such liabilities existed at December 31, 2024, or during the year then ended.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and related notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant change relate to fair value of securities owned.

#### Cash Equivalents

The Partnership considers all liquid marketable securities with an original maturity of less than three months to be cash equivalents. At December 31, 2024, the Partnership's cash in bank accounts exceeded federally insured limits by approximately \$1,813,300.

#### Securities Transactions and Referral Fees

Securities transactions are recorded on the trade date, as if they had settled. Securities owned are valued at fair value in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, with the resulting difference between cost and fair value included in income for the period. The valuation of securities often requires judgments and estimates. The valuation is as of a specific date and such values may change significantly due to changes in interest rates, the credit quality of the issuer of the security or other market factors. Occasionally, the Partnership may sell securities it has not yet purchased (that is, sold short) the Partnership is then obligated to purchase that security at a future date at the then current market price. Securities sold short are recorded on trade date.

Accounts receivable and payable for securities transactions that have not reached their contractual settlement date are recorded net on the accompanying statement of financial condition.

Referral fees are related to loan trading transactions. Transaction revenue is recorded on trade date and is the difference between the acquisition cost and the fair value. Referral fee reflects gains and losses both realized and unrealized gains.

### **Public Finance and Underwriting**

Public finance revenues include gains, losses and fees net of syndicate expenses, arising from securities offerings in which the Partnership acts as an underwriter or an agent. Revenue related to these transactions is recognized on trade date (the date at which the customer purchases the securities from the firm) as this is the date which the firm deemed the performance obligation (initial sale of the bonds, marketing of the issuance, other services related to sale and issuance of the bonds which generally form a single performance obligation) is met. Any costs associated with the underwriting are recognized as non-interest expense and expensed when incurred

## **Commissions, and Placement Agent Services**

Commissions and related clearing expenses are recorded on a trade-date basis as securities transactions occur. The Partnership believes that the performance obligation is satisfied on the trade date because that is when the underlying financial instrument or purchaser is identified, the pricing is agreed upon and the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to/from the customer.

Placement agent service receivables are earned in accordance with contract terms. The Partnership believes that the performance obligation is satisfied on the trade date because that is when the underlying financial instrument or purchaser is identified, the pricing is agreed upon and the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to/from the customer. Any costs associated are recognized when incurred.

### **Investment Advisory Fees**

The Partnership provides investment advisory services. The Partnership believes the performance obligation for providing advisory services is satisfied over time because the customer is receiving and consuming the benefits as they are provided by the Partnership. Fee arrangements are based on a percentage applied to the customers' assets under management. Fees are received quarterly and are recognized as revenue at that time as they relate specifically to the services provided in that period, which are distinct from the services provided in other periods.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation of furniture and equipment is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which range from three to five years.

#### **Income Taxes**

The Partnership is not directly subject to income taxes under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable state laws. Therefore, taxable income or loss is reported to the individual partners for inclusion in their respective tax returns and no provision for federal and state income taxes has been included in the accompanying financial statements. The Partnership is no longer subject to federal or state income tax examinations by taxing authorities before 2021.

#### Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through March 3, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were issued.

## Note 2: Cash Securities Segregated Under Federal and Other Regulations

The Partnership is subject to Rule 15c3-3of the SEC which represents segregation of funds in a special reserve account for the exclusive benefit of customers. Cash of \$450,000 and qualified securities with a fair value of approximately \$568,000 as of December 31, 2024, are segregated in a special reserve bank account for the benefit of customers, pursuant to Rule 15c3-3 under the Act.

## Note 3: Receivables from Customers

Receivables from customers consisted of approximately \$747,000 of securities trades that were unsettled at December 31, 2024. Securities owned by customers are held as collateral for receivables. Such collateral is not reflected in the accompanying financial statement.

## Note 4: Receivables from Broker Dealers

Receivables from broker dealers consisted of approximately \$484,000 of net securities trades that were unsettled at December 31, 2024.

## Note 5: Related-Party Transactions

The Partnership pays all expenses directly related to broker-dealer activities. The general partner pays all other expenses on behalf of the Partnership under an expense sharing agreement; including, but not limited to, compensation and benefits of certain employees, rent and certain general and administrative expenses. These expenses are allocated to the Partnership, based on the percentage directly related to the operation of the broker-dealer, and the general partner was reimbursed for these costs; therefore, these costs are included in the Partnership's financial statements. Expense allocation through the expense sharing

agreement was approximately \$6,366,000 for 2024, the related expenses have been recorded in corresponding classifications in the statement of income. The expense sharing agreement also calls for a management fee to be paid to the general partner in the amount of 10% of the expenses allocated, this amount was approximately \$636,000 for 2024 these amounts are included in the related line item in the statement of income. The amount due to the general partner related to these costs at December 31, 2024, was approximately \$725,000 and was included in the accrued liabilities in the statement of financial condition.

## Note 6: Profit-Sharing Plan

The Partnership has a 401(k) profit-sharing plan covering substantially all employees. The Partnership's contributions to the plan are determined annually at the discretion of the Board of Directors. For the year ended December 31, 2024, management has accrued contributions to the plan of approximately \$1,151,000 which is included in accrued liabilities in the Statement of Financial Condition.

## Note 7: Net Capital Requirements

The Partnership is subject to the Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1) under the Act, which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital. Rule 15c3-1 also limits the amount of capital withdrawals that can be made within any 30-day period without notification and/or approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Partnership has elected to use the alternative method permitted by Rule ISc3-1, which requires the Partnership to maintain minimum net capital, as defined, equal to the greater of \$250,000 or 2% of aggregate debit balances arising from customer transactions, as defined. There were \$741,036 in aggregate debit balances at December 31, 2024. At December 31, 2024, the Partnership had net capital of \$26,826,156 which was \$26,576,156 in excess of its required net capital as of December 31, 2024.

The Partnership had no customers' fully paid or excess margin securities at December 31, 2024, which were not in the Partnership's possession or control as specified under Rule 15c3-3 of the Act.

## Note 8: Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets

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. Fair value measurements must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. There is a hierarchy of three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

- **Level 1** Level 1 securities include inputs based on quoted prices in active markets for identical securities, which provides the most reliable fair value measurement. This category generally includes U.S. Treasury securities.
- Level 2 Securities include inputs other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the measurement date. These observable inputs include quoted prices for similar securities, and bond pricing models based on interest rates, credit risk, and remaining maturity for similar securities. This category generally includes municipal bonds, government agency mortgage-backed bonds, and other U.S. government obligations.
- Level 3 Securities do not have observable pricing for all significant inputs as of the measurement date. These securities are valued based on management's best estimate of fair value, which may include significant judgment or estimation. Factors that may be considered in the valuation estimate include the cost, terms and liquidity of the security, the financial condition and operating results of the issuer, market prices of similar securities, pricing models based on estimated cash flows and yields, and other factors generally applicable to the valuation of securities. This category generally includes sanitation improvement district obligations.

#### **Recurring Measurements**

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets recognized in the accompanying statement of financial condition measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at December 31, 2024:

			Fair Value Measurements Using						
	F	air Value	in Mar Ide A	ed Prices Active kets for entical ssets evel 1)		Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Un	significant observable Inputs (Level 3)	
Assets									
Securities segregated under federal and other regulations Mortgage-backed securities—government- sponsored enterprises	\$	567,721	\$	_	\$	567,721	\$	_	
Securities owned Mortgage-backed securities—government- sponsored enterprises	\$	10,775,619	\$	_	\$	10,775,619	\$	_	
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	\$	6,047,368		_	\$	4,307,849		1,739,519	
Total securities owned	\$	16,822,987	\$	-	\$	15,083,468	\$	1,739,519	

## Securities Owned and Securities Segregated Under Federal and Other Regulations

If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics or discounted cash flows. Level 2 securities include mortgage-backed securities – government-sponsored enterprises and obligations of states and political subdivisions. The inputs for determining fair value on Level 2 investments are quoted prices for similar assets.

The following table summarized the valuation techniques and significant unobservable inputs used for the Partnerships investments categorized as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy as of December 31 2024.

Name	Fair Value	Valuation TechniqueInputs	Unobservable Values	Range of Input
Obligations of state and	\$1,739,519	Discounted cash flow approach	Repayment terms	1-5years
political subdivisions			Discount rates	7.00%

For all financial instruments not previously described, their carrying amount is a reasonable estimate of fair value due to their liquid and short-term nature.

## Note 9: Significant Estimates, Commitments and Credit Risk Lending Commitments

The Partnership has an open line of credit with the Clearing Bank, which is used to finance the clearance of securities and securities purchased for the Partnership's account. Borrowings under the line of credit are collateralized by securities, which are pledged to secure the line of credit. Cash advances made by the Clearing Bank in excess of cash balances maintained by the Partnership at the Clearing Bank are payable on demand and bear interest at a rate determined by the Clearing Bank. At December 31, 2024, ther ate is 5.75%. As of December 31, 2024, there were no advances outstanding.

### Credit Risk

The Partnership is subject to market and credit risk in connection with securities transactions. The Partnership is, therefore, exposed to risk of loss on these transactions in the event of the customers' or brokers' inability to meet the terms of their contracts, in which case the Partnership may have to purchase or sell securities at prevailing market prices which may not be sufficient to liquidate the contractual obligation. The Partnership controls this risk by monitoring the market value of securities pledged on a daily basis and by requiring adjustments of collateral levels in the event of excess market exposure. In addition, the Partnership establishes credit limits for such activities and monitors compliance on a daily basis.

## **Regulatory Examinations**

The Partnership is subject to regulatory examinations by the Financial Industry Regulation Authority (FINRA) and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC). These examinations include evaluating the financial and operational practices applicable to broker-dealers and compliance to those practices as they relate to rules and regulations governing broker-dealers. As a result of these examinations, fines and penalties may be assessed for noncompliance whether voluntary or nonvoluntary.

### Litigation

From time to time, the Partnership is involved in routine litigation that arises in the ordinary course of business. There are no pending significant legal proceedings to which the Partnership is a party for which management believes the ultimate outcome would have a material adverse effect on the Partnership's financial position.

A copy of the December 31, 2024 annual financial statements filed pursuant to Rule 17a-5 of the Securities and Exchange Commission is available for examination at the principal office of the Partnership and at the Fort Worth, Texas, regional office of the Commission.

The FINRA Regulation, Inc., Public Disclosure Program Hotline Number is 800.289.9999.

The FINRA Regulation Web Site Address is www.finra.org. An investor brochure that includes information describing the FINRA Regulation Public Disclosure Program may be obtained from the FINRA.

Information about SIPC including the SIPC brochure may be obtained by calling 202.371.8300 or via www.sipc.org.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION, DECEMBER 31, 2024

#### **ASSETS**

Cash in banks\$	11,683,300
Cash segregated under federal and other regulations	450,000
Securities segregated under federal and other regulations	567,721
Receivables from customers	747,279
Receivables from brokers and dealers	483,592
Securities owned, at fair value	16,822,987
Furniture and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation of \$119,542	7,471
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies	1,462,059
Receivables for placement agency services	253,508
Receivables from related parties	55,232
Other assets	517,990
Total Assets \$	33,051,139
Total Assets \$	33,051,139
Total Assets \$  LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL	33,051,139
	843,211
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL	843,211
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL Distributions payable to partners	843,211
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL  Distributions payable to partners.  Accrued liabilities	843,211 3,593,266
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL  Distributions payable to partners.  Accrued liabilities  Total Liabilities	843,211 3,593,266 4,436,477
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL  Distributions payable to partners.  Accrued liabilities  Total Liabilities  Partners' Capital	843,211 3,593,266 4,436,477 14,039,025
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL  Distributions payable to partners.  Accrued liabilities  Total Liabilities  Partners' Capital  General Partner  Limited Partners	843,211 3,593,266 4,436,477 14,039,025

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Directors and Partners The Baker Group LP Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

#### **Opinion on the Financial Statement**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial condition of The Baker Group LP (Partnership) as of December 31, 2024, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the financial statement). In our opinion, the financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Partnership as of December 31, 2024 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

### **Basis for Opinion**

This financial statement is the responsibility of the Partnership's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Partnership's financial statement based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Partnership in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We have served as the Partnership's auditor since 2004.