## 3(16) and the Fiduciary Plan Administrator: The Next Number to Decode

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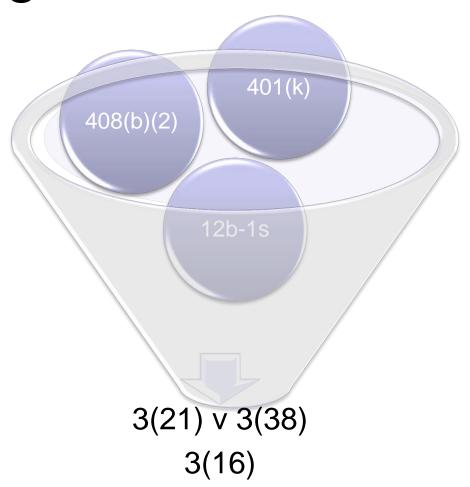
#### Objectives

- Understanding the sources of ERISA speak
- Differences between fiduciary v ministerial services
- Knowing when to allocate responsibility
- Learning how to price

#### **ERISA Intersects Distinct Bodies of Law**



# Demystifying a Language of Numbers



### 3(16) Plan Administrator

- Designated by plan document
- If not, the Employer (plan sponsor)

### **ERISA Plan Fiduciary**

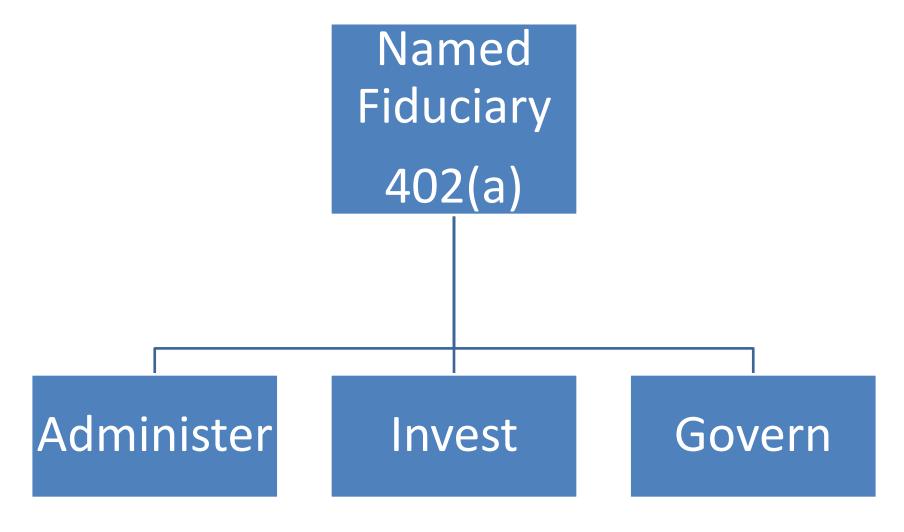
3(21)

Discretionary authority in administration of plan

Investment advice for a fee

Discretion authority over plan assets

#### Plan Management



#### Plan Administration Functions



## Ministerial v Fiduciary?

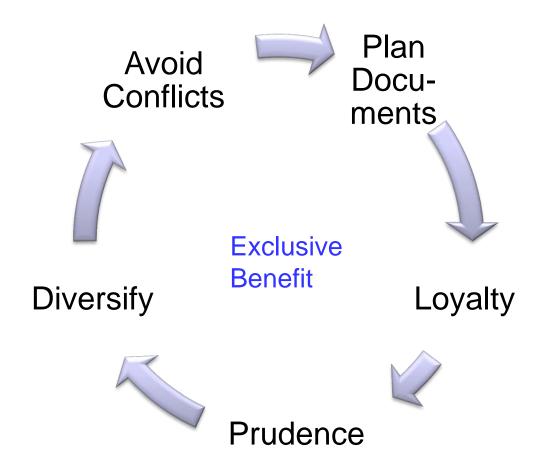
#### **Follows Rules**

- Calculate benefits
- Prepare reports
- Process claims
- Inform participants
- Maintain records
- Recommend (other than investment advice)
- Collect contributions
- Process loans

## Makes Discretionary Decisions

- Determine plan design
- Sign and file 5500s
- Determine and approve census, eligibility, QDROs, loan policy and loans, claims
- Adopt IPS
- Approve disclosures
- Hire other service providers

## Fiduciary Responsibilities



#### What happens if I breach fiduciary duties?



- Personally liable for losses and lost opportunity costs.
- Required to pay attorney fees.
- Subject to Department of Labor civil fines or excise taxes.
- Liable for breaches of other fiduciaries.

#### **How to Shift Fiduciary Authority**

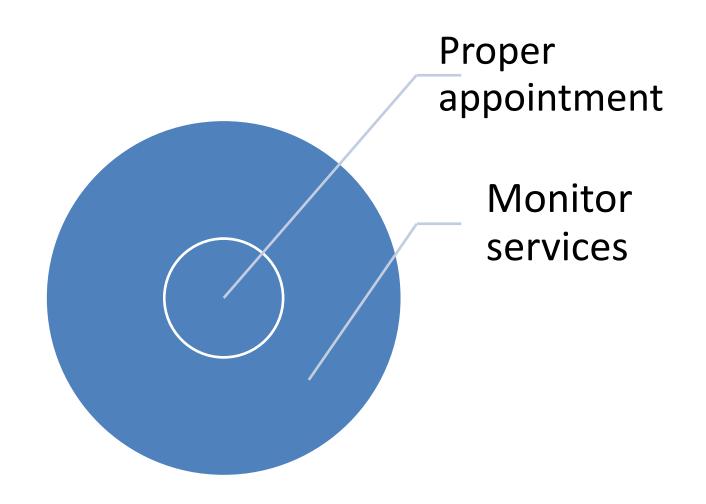
## Designate

- Per plan documents OR
- Follow procedure in plan to designate another
- Have fiduciary duty only for what specified

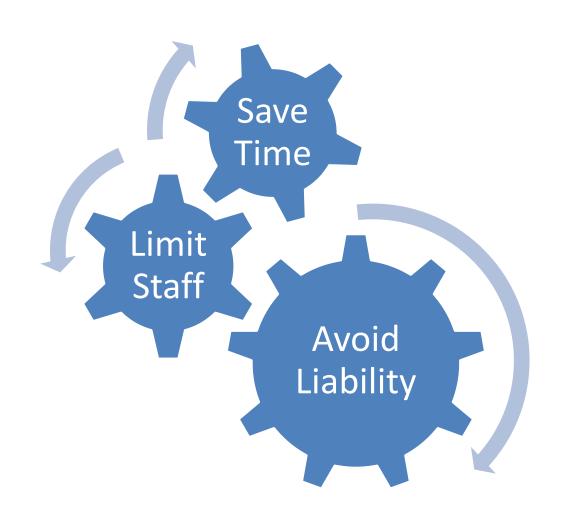
#### Allocate

- Among named fiduciaries themselves, *IF* follow plan procedure
- Carved out each named fiduciary directly liable
- If no plan procedure, remain liable

# What Fiduciary Duty Cannot Be Delegated?



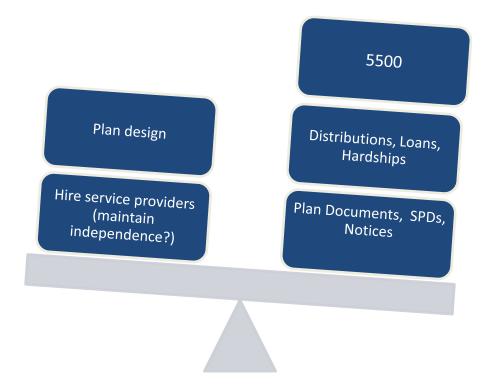
#### What Do Plan Sponsors Want?



## Deciding What Duties to Assume--Can the risk be controlled/mitigated?

Do Not Have Necessary Information, Expertise and Resources

Have Necessary Information, Expertise and Resources



#### **Contracts**

- Menu based, check-thebox format
- Bundled packages
- State what you don't do
- Sponsor represents that authorized to appoint
- Plain English



#### **Conflicted Advice?**

	1	2	3
3(16) Fiduciary Administrator	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
Registered Rep	$\sqrt{}$		
3(21) Advisor		$\sqrt{}$	
3(38) Investment Manager			$\sqrt{}$

A fiduciary may not use the authority, control, or responsibility which makes him/her a fiduciary to cause a plan to pay an additional fee to him/herself to provide a service. Nor use that authority to cause a plan to enter into a transaction in which he/she has an interest which may affect the exercise of best judgment as a fiduciary or receive additional consideration from a third party.

#### **Pricing Services**

#### Ala Carte

- Difficult to monitor
- Nickel and diming?

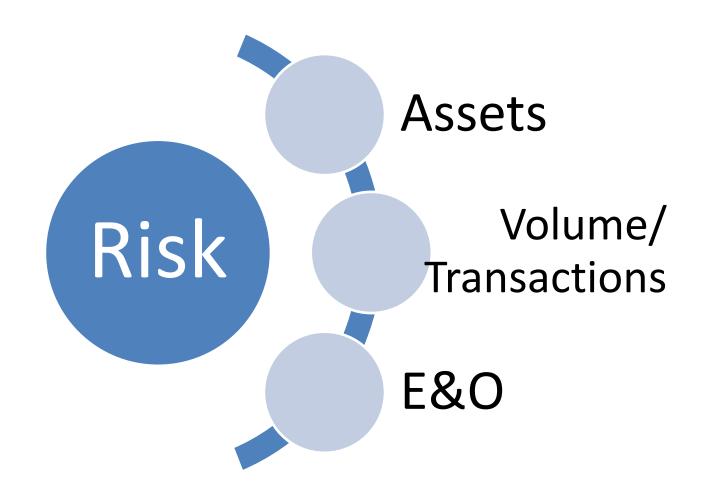
#### **Fee Based**

- Grows with assets
- Measuring increased work with increased assets?

#### Bundled

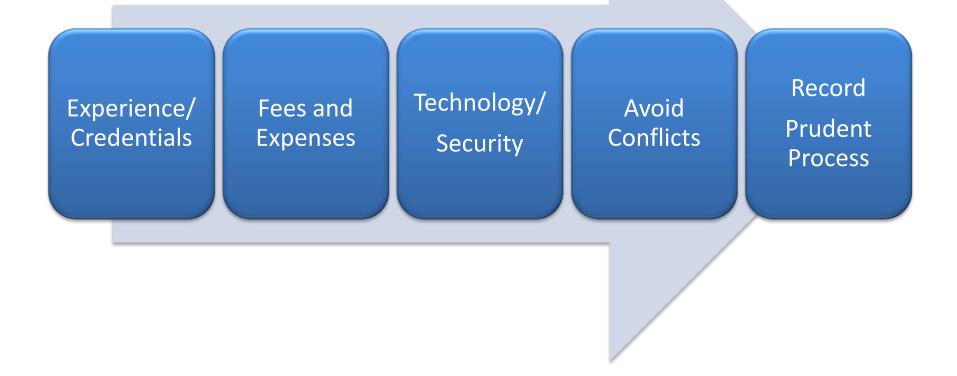
- Flat fee
- Base fee plus per transaction
- Base fee or basis points plus flat fee per decision

### **Pricing Services**



#### **Due Diligence**

#### help prospects select you





**ERISA Bond if "handling" funds** 

10 percent

#### Are you covered?

 Most E&O policies require special endorsement for fiduciary activity



#### **Beware of Newest Shiny Object**

- Revenue opportunity versus Real financial liability
- Do your homework
- Not for everyone
- Knowledge, Systems,
   Procedures
- Process, Process,Process



# THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?