



SOCIETY OF  
ACTUARIES®

2019 **ANNUAL  
MEETING**  
& EXHIBIT

October 27-30  
Toronto, Canada

## Session 175: An Intro to Structured Indexed Annuity

[SOA Antitrust Compliance Guidelines](#)

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# Intro to Structured Annuities

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October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019



# SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

## Antitrust Compliance Guidelines

Active participation in the Society of Actuaries is an important aspect of membership. While the positive contributions of professional societies and associations are well-recognized and encouraged, association activities are vulnerable to close antitrust scrutiny. By their very nature, associations bring together industry competitors and other market participants.

The United States antitrust laws aim to protect consumers by preserving the free economy and prohibiting anti-competitive business practices; they promote competition. There are both state and federal antitrust laws, although state antitrust laws closely follow federal law. The Sherman Act, is the primary U.S. antitrust law pertaining to association activities. The Sherman Act prohibits every contract, combination or conspiracy that places an unreasonable restraint on trade. There are, however, some activities that are illegal under all circumstances, such as price fixing, market allocation and collusive bidding.

There is no safe harbor under the antitrust law for professional association activities. Therefore, association meeting participants should refrain from discussing any activity that could potentially be construed as having an anti-competitive effect. Discussions relating to product or service pricing, market allocations, membership restrictions, product standardization or other conditions on trade could arguably be perceived as a restraint on trade and may expose the SOA and its members to antitrust enforcement procedures.

While participating in all SOA in person meetings, webinars, teleconferences or side discussions, you should avoid discussing competitively sensitive information with competitors and follow these guidelines:

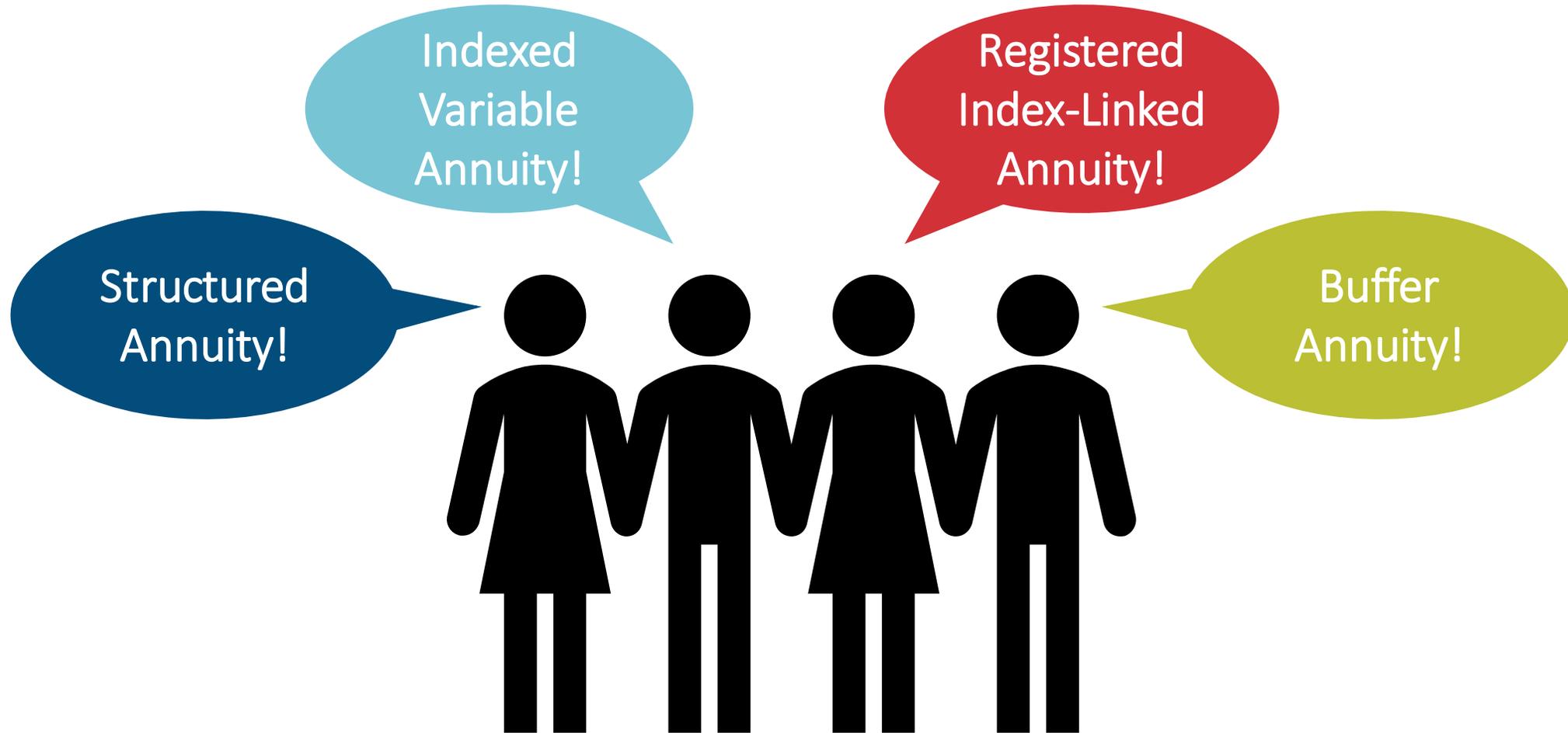
- **Do not** discuss prices for services or products or anything else that might affect prices
- **Do not** discuss what you or other entities plan to do in a particular geographic or product markets or with particular customers.
- **Do not** speak on behalf of the SOA or any of its committees unless specifically authorized to do so.
- **Do** leave a meeting where any anticompetitive pricing or market allocation discussion occurs.
- **Do** alert SOA staff and/or legal counsel to any concerning discussions
- **Do** consult with legal counsel before raising any matter or making a statement that may involve competitively sensitive information.

Adherence to these guidelines involves not only avoidance of antitrust violations, but avoidance of behavior which might be so construed. These guidelines only provide an overview of prohibited activities. SOA legal counsel reviews meeting agenda and materials as deemed appropriate and any discussion that departs from the formal agenda should be scrutinized carefully. Antitrust compliance is everyone's responsibility; however, please seek legal counsel if you have any questions or concerns.

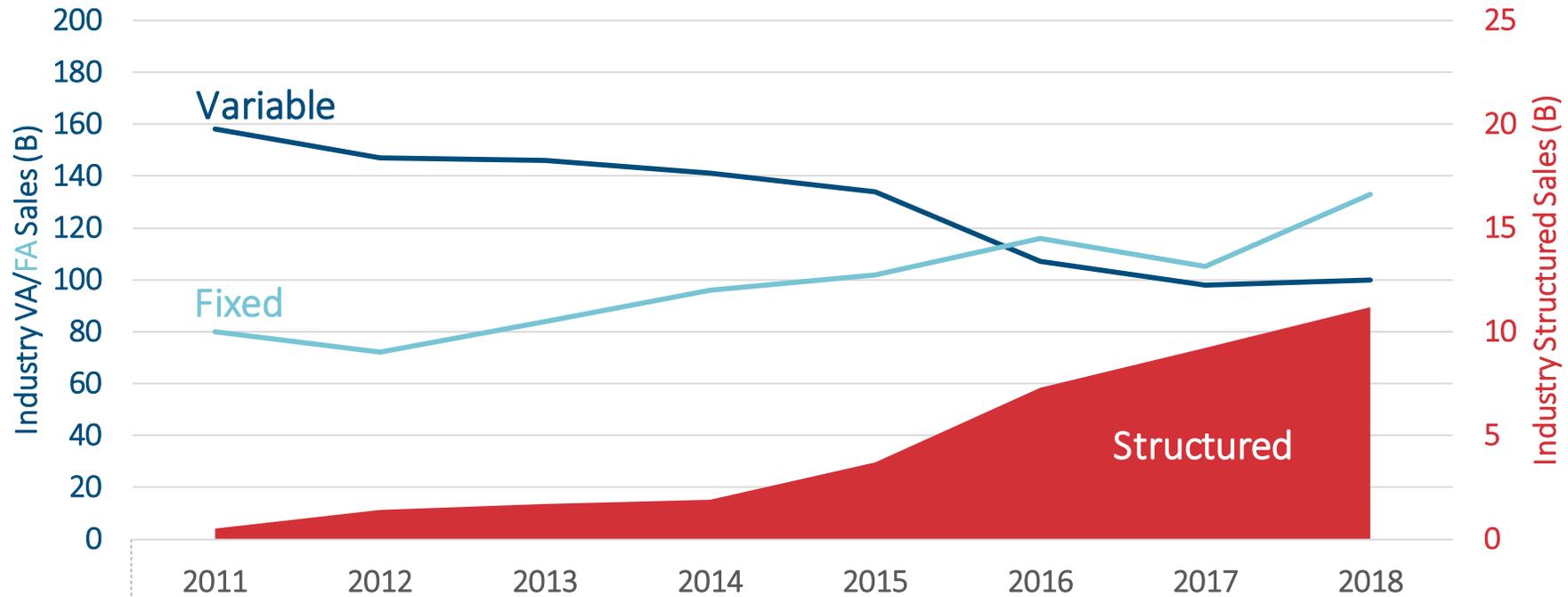
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# What is it called again?



# Structured annuity market is booming



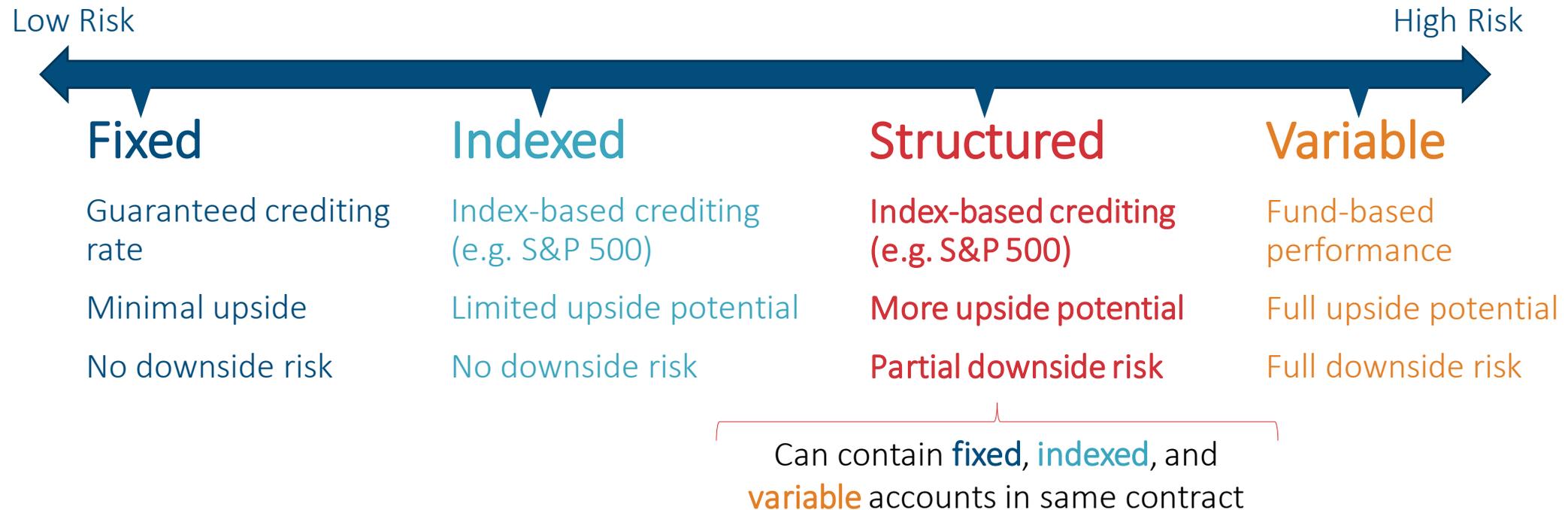
## 2019 Entrants



Source: LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute, US Individual Annuities: 2018 Year in Review

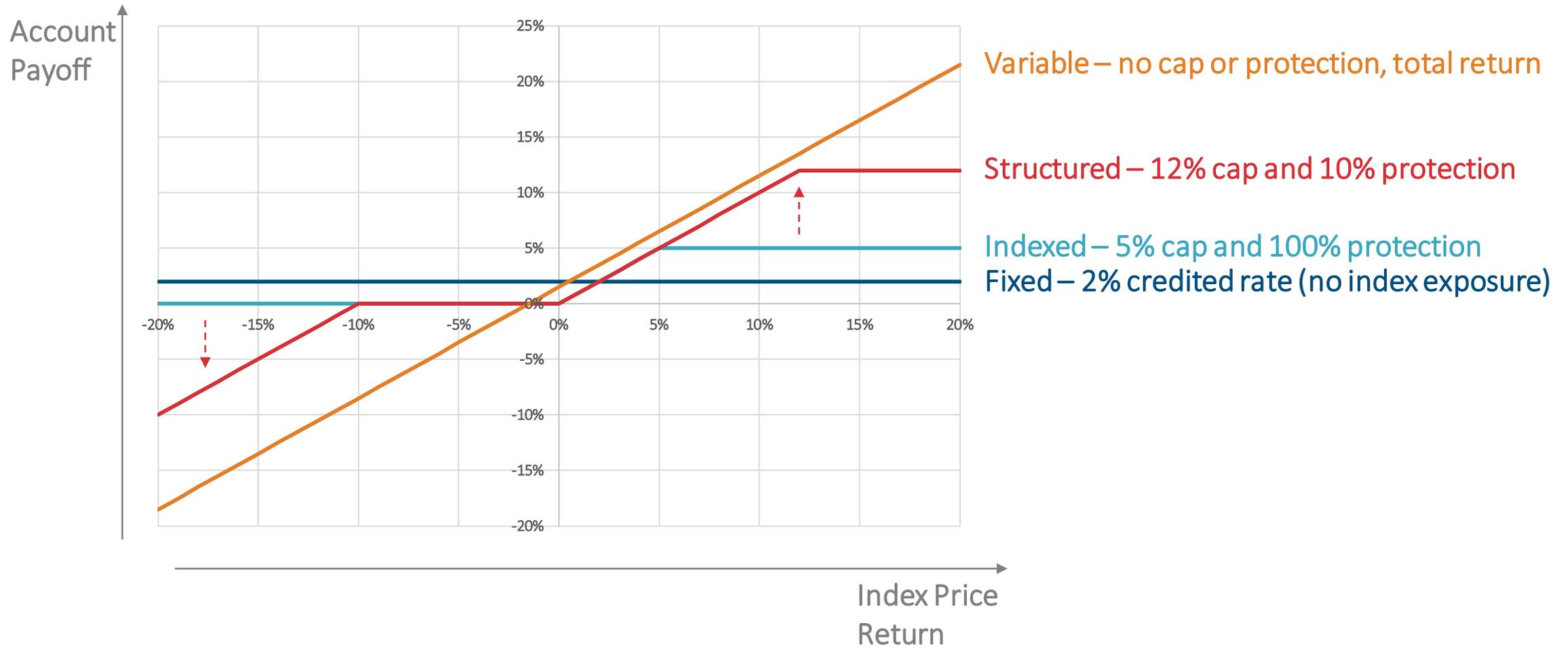
# Fills a gap in existing annuity offerings

## Annuity Product Risk Spectrum



**Consumer value prop:** stronger accumulation potential while providing solid downside protection

# Fills a gap in existing annuity offerings



Caps and credited rates shown here are illustrative

# Account characteristics are highly customizable

## Term Length

- 1-year periods
- CDSC period (5-7 years)
- Moderate terms (2-3 years)

## Index

- Mainstream equity indexes
- Proprietary indexes
- Alternative indexes

## Protection

- Buffer (often 10 to 30%)
- Floor (often 0 to 10%)

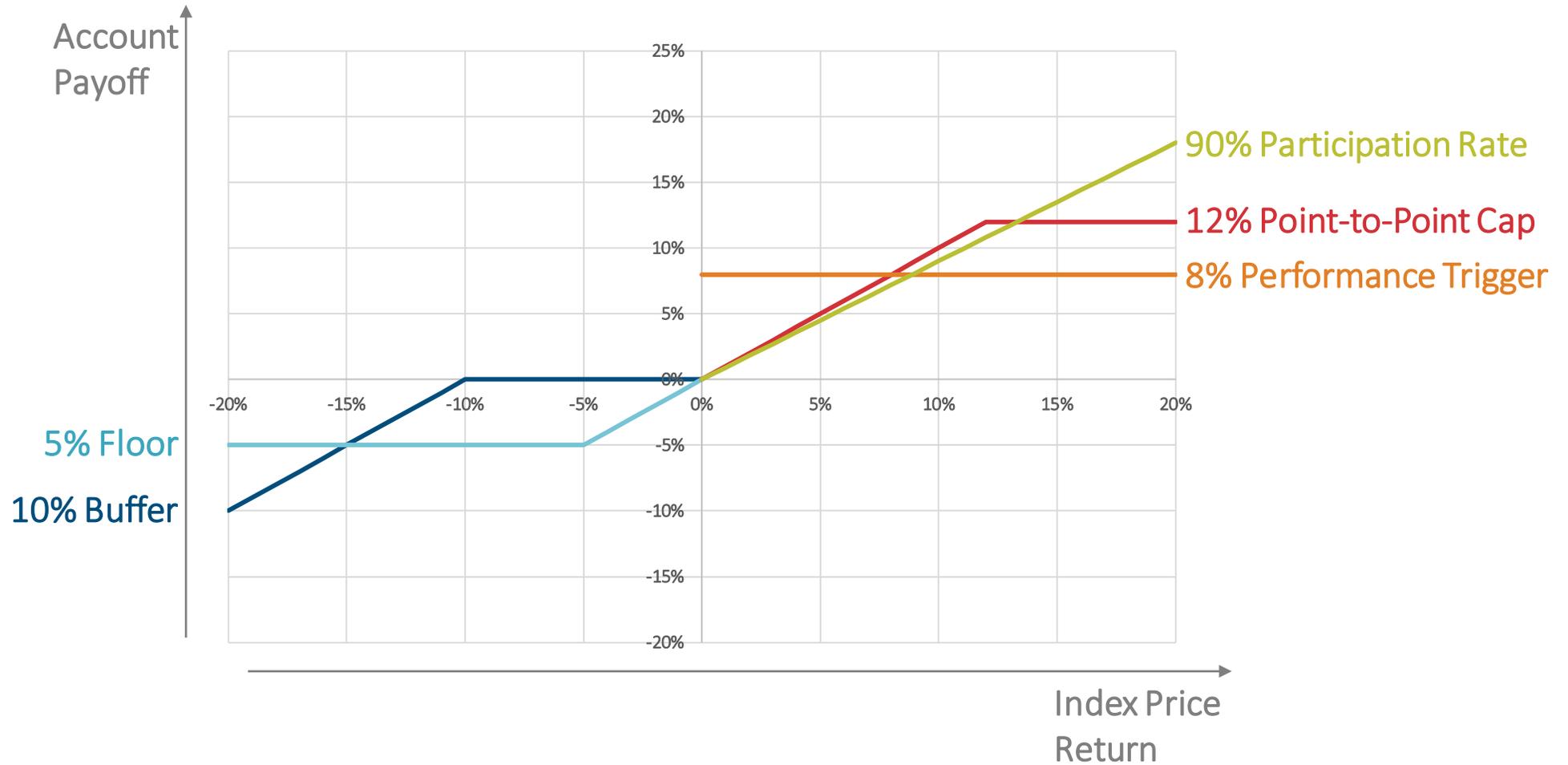
## Crediting

- Point-to-point
- Performance trigger (binary)
- Participation rate
- Multi-year locks

## Other Features

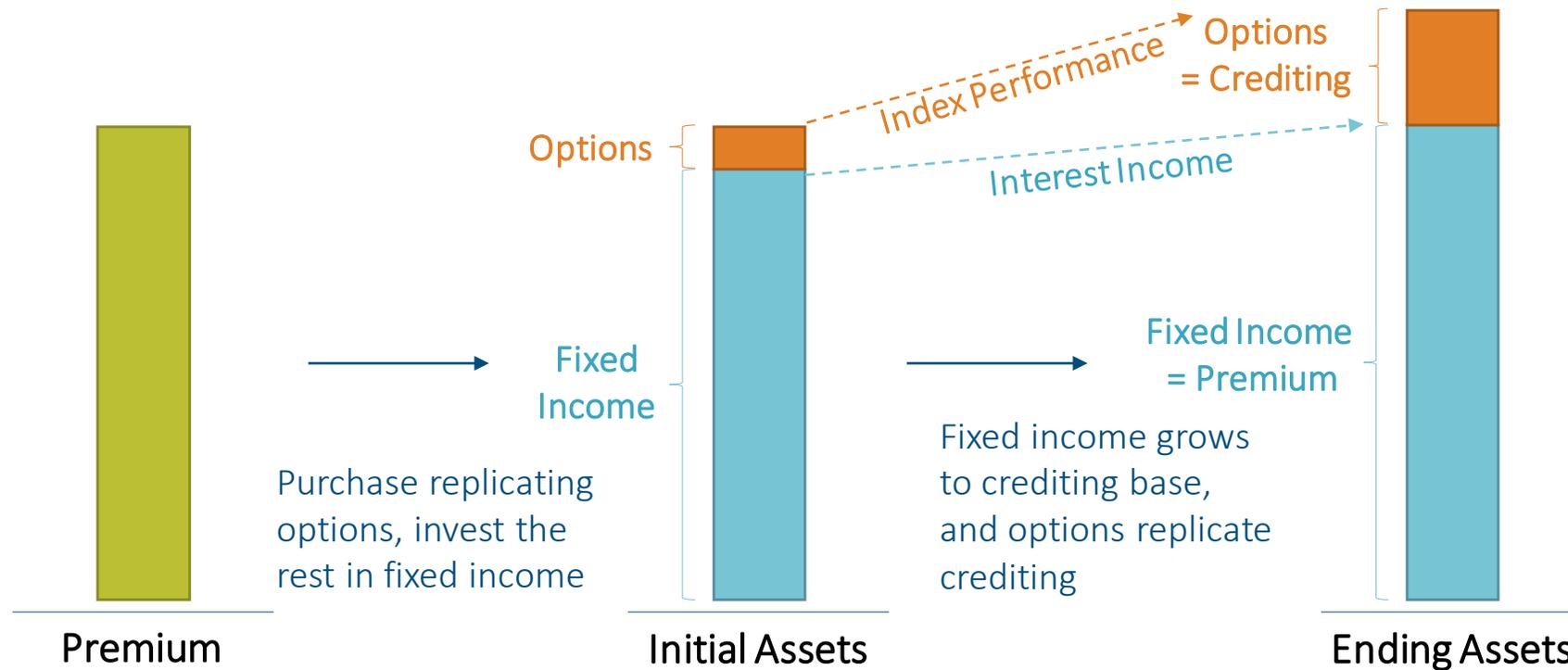
- ROP Death Benefit
- Fee vs. no-fee
- Variable or fixed account access
- Lock-in features

# Account characteristics are highly customizable



Caps and credited rates shown here are illustrative

# Basic economics similar to index annuities



## Major differences:

- Option portfolio more complex
- Downside performance risk increases asset liquidity risk

## Alternate asset frameworks:

- Hedge the payoff dynamically rather than statically
- Leave account performance un-replicated, as a hedge to VA business

# AV during index term should reflect performance

Index annuity approach is inappropriate for structured annuities

Typical index annuity account values feature interest rate-based adjustment and **ignore index performance**  
Insurer would be exposed to **significant policyholder behavior risk in down markets** ←

Structured annuity account values capture index performance, but no industry standard

Index-Based Approach: uses index performance subject to adjustment for cap/buffer, often pro-rated by time elapsed

Option-Based Approach: uses change in market value of replicating option portfolio from account start date

Bond + Option Approach: adds in interest rate sensitivity to the crediting base (similar to indexed annuity MVA)

Account value calculation methodology is a key product design consideration

Is it confusing for advisors or policyholders?

How well does it align with supporting assets?

Is it fair? Can it be arbitrated?

Is it flexible for all protection/crediting types?

Not  
exhaustive!

# Structured annuities are considered securities



## Implications\*:

- **Filing:** filed as a **variable** annuity with the SEC
- **Distribution:** agent must be licensed to sell securities, similar to **variable** annuities
- **Stat Reserving/Surplus:** some VM-21 (**variable**), some AG33/35 (**indexed**)
- **GAAP Reserving:** FAS 133/ASC 815, similar to **indexed** annuities (for indexed accounts)
- **Reporting:** insurer discretion on combining with other products

*\*These are the presenter's understanding of typical approaches taking to managing structured annuities and are not true in all cases*

# Recap

Structured annuities have seen tremendous growth prompting more insurers enter the market

Strong value proposition of high performance potential while partially protecting from downside risk

Wide array of account types and term lengths with more innovation on the way

Account values during the term capture index performance, unlike typical FIAs

Structured annuities are considered securities and are often treated like VAs

Thank You

