What is claimed is:

1. An embolic protection device comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end along a longitudinal axis of the catheter, wherein the lumen is configured to house a guidewire, and a distal portion of the catheter that assumes a generally arcuate shape being at least a semi-circle when the guidewire is at least partially longitudinally retracted;

a self-expanding embolic filter that is disposed around the catheter, proximal to the distal portion, wherein the embolic filter comprises a frame, wherein

the frame defines an opening of the embolic filter**,** and

the frame includes

a fixed portion coupled to the catheter, proximal to the distal portion, wherein the fixed portion does not move in a longitudinal direction, and

a moveable portion continuous with the fixed portion of the frame;

a deployment mechanism that is disposed around at least a portion of the catheter, wherein the deployment mechanism is longitudinally movable with respect to the catheter, the deployment mechanism is configured to contain the embolic filter in a collapsed configuration, and the embolic filter is configured to self-expand upon longitudinal retraction of the deployment mechanism;

a wire coupled to the movable portion of the frame , wherein the wire is longitudinally movable with respect to the catheter and urges the movable portion of the frame;

when the wire is longitudinally advanced, in a distal direction, to a first position, the wire is configured to urge the movable portion of the frame in a longitudinal direction and bend the frame longitudinally towards the distal end of the catheter and laterally outward from the catheter, such that the opening of the embolic filter generally faces the distal end of the catheter and expands to a first diameter; and

when the wire is longitudinally advanced, in a distal direction, to a second position distally farther than the first position, the wire is configured to urge the movable portion of the frame and extend the frame radially outward from the catheter, such that the opening of the embolic filter expands to a second diameter larger than the first diameter.

2. The embolic protection device of claim 1, wherein the wire, when longitudinally advanced to the first position, is configured to bend the frame so that the opening of the embolic filter defined by the frame is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

3. The embolic protection device of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the wire, when longitudinally retracted to a proximal position, is configured to position the frame so that the opening of the embolic filter defined by the frame is substantially parallel or angled less than 45 degrees with respect to the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

4. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the frame includes two sides; and

each side of the frame extending generally in a first lateral direction away from the catheter and then looping back on an opposite side around the catheter, and extending generally in the opposite lateral direction before converging and meeting to form the opening of the embolic filter having a substantially elliptical, ovular or circular shape.

5. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-4, further comprising an outer catheter disposed around at least a portion of the catheter and coaxial with the lumen of the catheter, wherein the outer catheter is longitudinally slidable over the catheter; and

wherein the wire is coupled to a distal portion of the outer catheter such that the wire is moved by the outer catheter sliding over the catheter.

6. The embolic protection device of claim 5, further comprising an inner catheter disposed between the outer catheter and the catheter, wherein the inner catheter is longitudinally slidable over the catheter**;**

a top guide attached at one end to a distal portion of the inner catheter so that the top guide is moved by the inner catheter sliding over the catheter, wherein the top guide slidably receives the movable portion of the frame causing the top guide to flex outwardly away from the catheter; and

a bottom guide attached at one end to the catheter, wherein the bottom guide and the top guide are arranged on opposite sides of the catheter, and wherein the bottom guide receives the fixed portion of the frame causing the bottom guide to flex outwardly away from the catheter.

7. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-6, wherein embolic protection device has a handle, wherein the handle comprises a mechanism configured to advance or retract the wire.

8. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising:

a handle coupled to the proximal end of the catheter;

a top pull coupled to a proximal portion of the outer catheter and is longitudinally movable within the handle;

a bottom pull coupled to a proximal portion of the inner catheter and is longitudinally movable within the handle, wherein the bottom pull is in temporary engagement with the top pull;

when the top pull and the bottom pull are engaged, the top pull and the bottom pull are moved in unison by movement of a slider, which, in turn, urges the guide together with

the movable portion of the frame in the longitudinal direction and expands the opening of the embolic filter to the first diameter; and

when the top pull and the bottom pull are disengaged, the top pull is moved without the bottom pull by movement of the slider, which, in turn, urges the movable portion of the frame in the radial direction and expands the opening of the embolic filter to the second diameter.

9. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the catheter extends through the opening of the embolic filter.

10. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the distal portion of the catheter comprises a radiopaque marker.

11. The embolic protection device of claim 10, wherein the radiopaque marker comprises one or more circumferential bands.

12. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the frame comprises a shape memory material.

13. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-12, wherein the embolic filter comprises a filter medium, which comprises a semi-permeable polyurethane material having a pore size of from 100 microns to 150 microns.

14. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-13, wherein the embolic protection device comprises a longitudinal groove along an outer surface of the catheter, the groove configured to guide a second catheter device inserted alongside the embolic protection device.

15. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the deployment mechanism comprises a sheath that is circumferentially disposed around at least a portion of the catheter, wherein the sheath deploys the self-expanding embolic filter when the sheath is at least partially longitudinally retracted.

16. The embolic protection device of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the distal portion of the catheter comprises one or more apertures that communicates with the lumen of the catheter.