

**RIVER CANYON TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND**

**A SERIES OF ADVISERS INVESTMENT TRUST**

**Supplement dated June 7, 2024  
to the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information dated January 28, 2024**

The following changes are being made to the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) of the River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund (the “Fund”):

The information appearing under the heading “Fund Summary – River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund – Buying and Selling Fund Shares – To Buy or Sell Shares” on page 4 of the Prospectus is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund c/o The Northern Trust Company  
P.O. Box 4766  
Chicago, IL 60680-4766  
Telephone: 800-245-0371 (toll free) or 312-557-0164

Effective June 5, 2024, the Board of Trustees of Advisers Investment Trust (the “Trust”) elected James R. Nash as Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer of the Trust. The information with respect to the Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer in the table listing each Officer of the Trust on page 34 of the Statement of Additional Information is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office/ Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
James R. Nash Year of Birth: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer	Indefinite/ June 2024 to present	Director, ACA Group, 2022 to present; Managing Director, Forside Fund Officer Services, LLC, 2016 to 2022.	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> The mailing address of Mr. Nash is 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101.

**This Supplement and the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information should be retained for future reference.**



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**RIVER CANYON TOTAL RETURN BOND FUND**

Institutional Shares (Ticker: RCTIX)

A series of ADVISERS INVESTMENT TRUST

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**January 28, 2024**

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This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus. This SAI is intended to provide additional information regarding the activities and operations of the River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund (the "Fund"). This SAI should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated January 28, 2024. A copy of the prospectus can be obtained at no charge by writing to the transfer agent, River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund, c/o The Northern Trust Company, P.O. Box 4766, Chicago, Illinois 60680-4766, or by calling 800-245-0371 (toll free) or 312-557-0164. The Fund's prospectus ("Prospectus") is incorporated by reference into this SAI.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUND

Advisers Investment Trust (the "Trust") is a Delaware statutory trust operating under a Fifth Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Trust Agreement") dated March 9, 2023. The Trust was formerly an Ohio business trust, which commenced operations on December 20, 2011. On March 31, 2017, the Trust was converted to a Delaware statutory trust. The Trust is an open-end investment company. The Trust Agreement permits the Board of Trustees (the "Trustees" or "Board") to authorize and issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest of separate series. This Statement of Additional Information (the "SAI") relates to the River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund (the "Fund"), a series of the Trust. The investment adviser to the Fund is River Canyon Fund Management LLC ("River Canyon" or the "Adviser").

The Fund is a diversified fund.

The Fund does not issue share certificates. All shares are held in non-certificated form registered on the books of the Fund and the transfer agent for the account of the shareholder. Each share of a series represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to that series and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of income belonging to the series as are declared by the Trustees. The shares do not have cumulative voting rights or any preemptive or conversion rights, and the Trustees have the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series so long as the proportionate beneficial interest in the assets belonging to that series and the rights of the shareholders of any other series are in no way affected. In case of any liquidation of a series, the shareholders of the series being liquidated will be entitled to receive as a class a distribution out of the assets, net of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series are borne by that series. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable. No shareholder is liable to further calls or to assessment by the Trust without his or her express consent.

Any Trustee of the Trust may be removed by vote of the shareholders holding not less than two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the Trust. The Trust does not hold an annual meeting of shareholders. When matters are submitted to shareholders for a vote, each shareholder is entitled to one vote for each whole share he or she owns and fractional votes for fractional shares he or she owns. All shares of the Fund have equal voting and liquidation rights. The Trust Agreement can be amended by the Trustees, except that any amendment that adversely affects the rights of shareholders must be approved by the shareholders affected. All shares of the Fund are subject to involuntary redemption if the Trustees determine to liquidate the Fund. An involuntary redemption will create a capital gain or a capital loss, which may have tax consequences about which you should consult your tax adviser.

For information concerning the purchase and redemption of shares of the Fund, see "How to Purchase Shares" and "How to Redeem Shares" in the Prospectus. For a description of the methods used to determine the share price and value of the Fund's assets, see "Pricing Your Shares" in the Prospectus and "Determination of Share Price" in this SAI.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S INVESTMENTS

### Investment Strategies and Risks

All principal investment strategies and risks of the Fund are discussed in the Prospectus. This section contains a more detailed discussion of some of the investments the Fund may make, some of the techniques the Fund may use and the risks related to those techniques and investments. Additional non-principal strategies and risks also are discussed here.

As noted in the Prospectus, in addition to the main investment strategy and the main investment risks described in the Prospectus, the Fund may employ other investment strategies and may be subject to other risks, which are described below. The Fund may engage in the practices described below to the extent consistent with its investment objectives, strategies, policies and restrictions. However, the Fund is not required to engage in any particular transaction or purchase any particular type of securities or investment even if to do so might benefit the Fund.

The Fund is a "limited derivative user" as defined in Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act. This means the Fund's derivatives exposure will not exceed 10% of its net assets. The Fund has adopted written policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage its derivatives risk. The procedures require the Adviser to monitor the Fund's derivatives exposure and take action if the Fund's derivatives exposure exceeds 10% of net assets.

## **Asset-Backed Securities**

Asset-backed securities consist of securities secured by company receivables, home equity loans, truck and auto loans, leases, or credit card receivables. Asset-backed securities also include other securities backed by other types of receivables or other assets, including collateralized debt obligations (“CDOs”), which include collateralized bond obligations (“CBOs”), collateralized loan obligations (“CLOs”) and other similarly structured securities. Such assets are generally securitized through the use of trusts or special purpose corporations. Asset-backed securities are backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations often of a number of different parties. Certain of these securities may be or become illiquid.

Asset-backed securities are generally subject to the risks of the underlying assets. In addition, asset-backed securities, in general, are subject to certain additional risks including depreciation, damage, or loss of the collateral backing the security, failure of the collateral to generate the anticipated cash flow or in certain cases more rapid prepayment because of events affecting the collateral, such as accelerated prepayment of loans backing these securities or destruction of equipment subject to equipment trust certificates. In addition, the underlying assets (for example, the underlying credit card debt) may be refinanced or paid off prior to maturity during periods of declining interest rates. Changes in prepayment rates can result in greater price and yield volatility. If asset-backed securities are pre-paid, the Fund may have to reinvest the proceeds from the securities at a lower rate. Potential market gains on a security subject to prepayment risk may be more limited than potential market gains on a comparable security that is not subject to prepayment risk. Under certain prepayment rate scenarios, the Fund may fail to recover additional amounts paid (i.e., premiums) for securities with higher interest rates, resulting in an unexpected loss.

A CBO is a trust or other special purpose entity (“SPE”) which is typically backed by a diversified pool of fixed income securities (which may include high risk, below investment grade securities). A CLO is a trust or other SPE that is typically collateralized by a pool of loans, which may include, among others, domestic and non-U.S. senior secured loans, senior unsecured loans, and subordinate corporate loans, including loans that may be rated below investment grade or equivalent unrated loans. Although certain CDOs may receive credit enhancement in the form of a senior-subordinate structure, over-collateralization or bond insurance, such enhancement may not always be present and may fail to protect the Fund against the risk of loss on default of the collateral. Certain CDOs may use derivatives contracts to create “synthetic” exposure to assets rather than holding such assets directly, which entails the risks of derivative instruments described elsewhere in this SAI. CDOs may charge management fees and administrative expenses, which are in addition to those of the Fund.

For both CBOs and CLOs, the cash flows from the SPE are split into two or more portions, called tranches, varying in risk and yield. The riskiest portion is the “equity” tranche, which bears the first loss from defaults from the bonds or loans in the SPE and serves to protect the other, more senior tranches from default (though such protection is not complete). Since it is partially protected from defaults, a senior tranche from a CBO or CLO typically has higher ratings and lower yields than its underlying securities, and may be rated investment grade. Despite the protection from the equity tranche, CBO or CLO tranches can experience substantial losses due to actual defaults, downgrades of the underlying collateral by rating agencies, forced liquidation of the collateral pool due to a failure of coverage tests, increased sensitivity to defaults due to collateral default and disappearance of protecting tranches, market anticipation of defaults, as well as investor aversion to CBO or CLO securities as a class. Interest on certain tranches of a CDO may be paid in kind or deferred and capitalized (paid in the form of obligations of the same type rather than cash), which involves continued exposure to default risk with respect to such payments.

The risks of an investment in a CDO depend largely on the type of the collateral securities and the class of the CDO in which the Fund invests. Normally, CBOs, CLOs and other CDOs are privately offered and sold, and thus are not registered under the securities laws. As a result, investments in CDOs may be characterized by the Fund as illiquid securities. However, an active dealer market may exist for CDOs, allowing a CDO to qualify for Rule 144A transactions. In addition to the normal risks associated with fixed income securities and asset-backed securities generally discussed elsewhere in this SAI, CDOs carry additional risks including, but not limited to: (i) the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest or other payments; (ii) the risk that the collateral may default or decline in value or be downgraded, if rated by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSRO”); (iii) the Fund may invest in tranches of CDOs that are subordinate to other tranches; (iv) the structure and complexity of the transaction and the legal documents could lead to disputes among investors regarding the characterization of proceeds; (v) the investment return achieved by the Fund could be significantly different than those predicted by financial models; (vi) the lack of a readily available secondary market for CDOs; (vii) risk of forced “fire sale” liquidation due to technical defaults such as coverage test failures; and (viii) the CDO’s manager may perform poorly.

Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses set forth in the fee table and Financial Highlights section of the Fund’s Prospectus does not include any expenses associated with investments in certain structured or synthetic products that may rely on the exception from the definition of “investment company” provided by Section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”).

## **Auction Rate Securities**

Auction rate securities consist of auction rate municipal securities and auction rate preferred securities sold through an auction process issued by closed-end investment companies, municipalities and governmental agencies. Provided that the auction mechanism is successful, auction rate securities usually permit the holder to sell the securities in an auction at par value at specified intervals. The dividend is reset by "Dutch" auction in which bids are made by broker-dealers and other institutions for a certain amount of securities at a specified minimum yield. The dividend rate set by the auction is the lowest interest or dividend rate that covers all securities offered for sale. While this process is designed to permit auction rate securities to be traded at par value, there is the risk that an auction will fail due to insufficient demand for the securities. Since February 2008, numerous auctions have failed due to insufficient demand for securities and have continued to fail for an extended period of time. Failed auctions may adversely impact the liquidity of auction rate securities investments. Although some issuers of auction rate securities are redeeming or are considering redeeming such securities, such issuers are not obligated to do so and, therefore, there is no guarantee that a liquid market will exist for the Fund's investments in auction rate securities at a time when the Fund wishes to dispose of such securities.

Dividends on auction rate preferred securities issued by a closed-end fund may be designated as exempt from federal income tax to the extent they are attributable to tax-exempt interest income earned by the closed-end fund on the securities in its portfolio and distributed to holders of the preferred securities. However, such designation may be made only if the closed-end fund treats preferred securities as equity securities for federal income tax purposes and the closed-end fund complies with certain requirements under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "IRC").

The Fund's investment in auction rate preferred securities of closed-end funds is subject to limitations on investments in other U.S. registered investment companies, which limitations are prescribed under the 1940 Act. Except as permitted by rule or exemptive order (see "Investment Company Securities and Exchange Traded Funds" below for more information), the Fund is generally prohibited from acquiring more than 3% of the voting securities of any other such investment company, and investing more than 5% of the Fund's total assets in securities of any one such investment company or more than 10% of its total assets in securities of all such investment companies. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management fees paid by such closed-end funds in addition to the advisory fee payable directly by the Fund.

## **Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances, and Time Deposits**

Certificates of deposit are receipts issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the receipt on the date specified on the certificate. The certificate usually can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. Bankers' acceptances typically arise from short-term credit arrangements designed to enable businesses to obtain funds to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then "accepted" by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an earning asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of discount for a specific maturity. Although maturities for acceptances can be as long as 270 days, most acceptances have maturities of six months or less. Time deposits are non-negotiable receipts issued by a bank in exchange for the deposit of funds. Like certificates of deposits, time deposits earn a specified rate of interest over a definite period of time; however, it cannot be traded in the secondary market. Time deposits with a withdrawal penalty or that mature in more than seven days are considered to be illiquid securities.

## **Commercial Paper**

Commercial paper is defined as short-term obligations with maturities from 1 to 270 days issued by banks or bank holding companies, corporations and finance companies. Although commercial paper is generally unsecured, the Fund may also purchase secured commercial paper. In the event of a default of an issuer of secured commercial paper, the Fund may hold the securities and other investments that were pledged as collateral even if it does not invest in such securities or investments. In such a case, the Fund would take steps to dispose of such securities or investments in a commercially reasonable manner. Commercial paper includes master demand obligations. See "Variable and Floating Rate Instruments" below.

The Fund may also invest in Canadian commercial paper, which is commercial paper issued by a Canadian corporation or a Canadian counterpart of a U.S. corporation, and in Europaper, which is U.S. dollar denominated commercial paper of a foreign issuer. See "Risk Factors of Foreign Investments" below.

## **Custodial Receipts**

The Fund may acquire securities in the form of custodial receipts that evidence ownership of future interest payments, principal

payments or both on certain U.S. Treasury notes or bonds in connection with programs sponsored by banks and brokerage firms. These are not considered U.S. government securities and are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. These notes and bonds are held in custody by a bank on behalf of the owners of the receipts.

## **Debt Securities**

**Corporate Debt Securities.** Corporate debt securities may include bonds and other debt securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers, including obligations of industrial, utility, banking and other corporate issuers. All debt securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on the obligation and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as market interest rates, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

**High Yield/High Risk Securities/Junk Bonds.** The Fund may invest in high yield securities. High yield bonds are securities that are generally rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies (BB+ or lower by S&P and Bal or lower by Moody's) or unrated but determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality. Other terms used to describe such securities include "lower rated bonds," "non-investment grade bonds," "below investment grade bonds," and "junk bonds." These securities are considered to be high-risk investments.

High yield securities are regarded as predominately speculative. There is a greater risk that issuers of lower rated securities will default than issuers of higher rated securities. Issuers of lower rated securities generally are less creditworthy and may be highly indebted, financially distressed, or bankrupt. These issuers are more vulnerable to real or perceived economic changes, political changes or adverse industry developments. In addition, high yield securities are frequently subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. If an issuer fails to pay principal or interest, the Fund would experience a decrease in income and a decline in the market value of its investments. The Fund may also incur additional expenses in seeking recovery from the issuer.

The income and market value of lower rated securities may fluctuate more than higher rated securities. Non-investment grade securities are more sensitive to short-term corporate, economic and market developments. During periods of economic uncertainty and change, the market price of the investments in lower rated securities may be volatile. The default rate for high yield bonds tends to be cyclical, with defaults rising in periods of economic downturn.

It is often more difficult to value lower rated securities than higher rated securities. If an issuer's financial condition deteriorates, accurate financial and business information may be limited or unavailable. The lower rated investments may be thinly traded and there may be no established secondary market. Because of the lack of market pricing and current information for investments in lower rated securities, valuation of such investments is much more dependent on the judgment of the Adviser than is the case with higher rated securities. In addition, relatively few institutional purchasers may hold a major portion of an issue of lower-rated securities at times. As a result, if the Fund invests in lower rated securities it may be required to sell investments at substantial losses or retain them indefinitely even where an issuer's financial condition is deteriorating.

Credit quality of non-investment grade securities can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and even recently issued credit ratings may not fully reflect the actual risks posed by a particular high-yield security. Future legislation may have a possible negative impact on the market for high yield, high risk bonds. As an example, in the late 1980's, legislation required federally-insured savings and loan associations to divest their investments in high yield, high risk bonds. New legislation, if enacted, could have a material negative effect on the Fund's investments in lower rated securities.

**Inflation-Linked Debt Securities.** Inflation-linked securities include fixed and floating rate debt securities of varying maturities issued by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities, such as Treasury Inflation Protected Securities ("TIPS"), as well as securities issued by other entities such as corporations, municipalities, foreign governments and foreign issuers, including foreign issuers from emerging markets. See also "Foreign Investments (including Foreign Currencies)." Typically, such securities are structured as fixed income investments whose principal value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. The following two structures are common: (i) the U.S. Treasury and some other issuers issue inflation-linked securities that accrue inflation into the principal value of the security and (ii) other issuers may pay out the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") accruals as part of a semi-annual coupon. Other types of inflation-linked securities exist which use an inflation index other than the CPI. Inflation-linked securities issued by the U.S. Treasury, such as TIPS, have maturities of approximately five, ten or thirty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. Typically, TIPS pay interest on a semi-annual basis equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. For example, if the Fund purchased an inflation-indexed bond with a par value of \$1,000 and a 3% real rate of return coupon (payable 1.5% semi-annually), and the rate of inflation over the first six months was 1%, the mid-year par value of the bond would be \$1,010 and the first semi-annual interest payment would be \$15.15 (\$1,010 times 1.5%). If inflation during the second half of the year resulted in the whole year's inflation of 3%, the end-of-year par value of the bond would be \$1,030 and the second semi-annual interest payment would be \$15.45 (\$1,030 times 1.5%).

If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of TIPS, even during a period of deflation, although the inflation-adjusted principal received could be less than the inflation-adjusted principal that had accrued to the bond at the time of purchase. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. Other inflation related bonds exist which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal.

The value of inflation-linked securities is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-linked securities.

While inflation-linked securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-linked securities is tied to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), which is not seasonally adjusted and which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-linked securities issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or a foreign inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the U.S. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-linked security will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

**Variable and Floating Rate Instruments.** Certain obligations purchased by the Fund may carry variable or floating rates of interest, may involve a conditional or unconditional demand feature and may include variable amount master demand notes. Variable and floating rate instruments are issued by a wide variety of issuers and may be issued for a wide variety of purposes, including as a method of reconstructing cash flows.

Subject to their investment objective policies and restrictions, the Fund may acquire variable and floating rate instruments. A variable rate instrument is one whose terms provide for the adjustment of its interest rate on set dates and which, upon such adjustment, can reasonably be expected to have a market value that approximates its par value. The Fund may purchase extendable commercial notes. Extendable commercial notes are variable rate notes which normally mature within a short period of time (e.g., 1 month) but which may be extended by the issuer for a maximum maturity of thirteen months.

A floating rate instrument is one whose terms provide for the adjustment of its interest rate whenever a specified interest rate changes and which, at any time, can reasonably be expected to have a market value that approximates its par value. Floating rate instruments are frequently not rated by credit rating agencies; however, unrated variable and floating rate instruments purchased by the Fund will be determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality at the time of purchase to rated instruments eligible for purchase under the Fund's investment policies. In making such determinations, the Adviser will consider the earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios of the issuers of such instruments (such issuers include financial, merchandising, bank holding and other companies) and will monitor on an ongoing basis their financial condition. There may be no active secondary market with respect to a particular variable or floating rate instrument purchased by the Fund. The absence of such an active secondary market could make it difficult for the Fund to dispose of the variable or floating rate instrument involved in the event the issuer of the instrument defaulted on its payment obligations, and the Fund could, for this or other reasons, suffer a loss to the extent of the default. Variable or floating rate instruments may be secured by bank letters of credit or other assets. The Fund may purchase a variable or floating rate instrument to facilitate portfolio liquidity or to permit investment of the Fund's assets at a favorable rate of return. As a result of the floating and variable rate nature of these investments, the Fund's yields may decline, and these investments may forego the opportunity for capital appreciation during periods when interest rates decline; however, during periods when interest rates increase, the Fund's yields may increase, and they may have reduced risk of capital depreciation.

Past periods of high inflation, together with the fiscal measures adopted to attempt to deal with it, have seen wide fluctuations in interest rates, particularly "prime rates" charged by banks. While the value of the underlying floating or variable rate securities may change with changes in interest rates generally, the nature of the underlying floating or variable rate should minimize changes in value of the instruments. Accordingly, as interest rates decrease or increase, the potential



for capital appreciation and the risk of potential capital depreciation is less than would be the case with a portfolio of fixed rate securities. The Fund's portfolio may contain floating or variable rate securities on which stated minimum or maximum rates, or maximum rates set by state law limit the degree to which interest on such floating or variable rate securities may fluctuate; to the extent it does, increases or decreases in value may be somewhat greater than would be the case without such limits. Because the adjustment of interest rates on the floating or variable rate securities is made in relation to movements of the applicable banks' "prime rates" or other short-term rate securities adjustment indices, the floating or variable rate securities are not comparable to long-term fixed rate securities. Accordingly, interest rates on the floating or variable rate securities may be higher or lower than current market rates for fixed rate obligations of comparable quality with similar maturities.

*Variable Amount Master Notes.* Variable amount master notes are notes, which may possess a demand feature, that permit the indebtedness to vary and provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate according to the terms of the instrument. Variable amount master notes may not be secured by collateral. To the extent that variable amount master notes are secured by collateral, they are subject to the risks described under the section "Loans—Collateral and Subordination Risk."

Because master notes are direct lending arrangements between the Fund and the issuer of the notes, they are not normally traded. Although there is no secondary market in the notes, the Fund may demand payment of principal and accrued interest. If the Fund is not repaid such principal and accrued interest, the Fund may not be able to dispose of the notes due to the lack of a secondary market.

While master notes are not typically rated by credit rating agencies, issuers of variable amount master notes (which are normally manufacturing, retail, financial, brokerage, investment banking and other business concerns) must satisfy the same criteria as those set forth with respect to commercial paper. The Adviser will consider the credit risk of the issuers of such notes, including its earning power, cash flow, and other liquidity ratios of such issuers and will regularly monitor their financial status and ability to meet payment on demand. In determining average weighted portfolio maturity, a variable amount master note will be deemed to have a maturity equal to the period of time remaining until the principal amount can be recovered from the issuer.

*Variable Rate Instruments and Money Market Funds.* Variable or floating rate instruments with stated maturities of more than 397 days may, under the SEC's amortized cost rule applicable to money market funds, Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act, be deemed to have shorter maturities (other than in connection with the calculation of dollar-weighted average life to maturity of a portfolio) as follows:

**Adjustable Rate Government Securities.** A Government Security which is a variable rate security where the variable rate of interest is readjusted no less frequently than every 397 days shall be deemed to have a maturity equal to the period remaining until the next readjustment of the interest rate. A Government Security which is a floating rate security shall be deemed to have a remaining maturity of one day.

**Short-Term Variable Rate Securities.** A variable rate security, the principal amount of which, in accordance with the terms of the security, must unconditionally be paid in 397 calendar days or less shall be deemed to have maturity equal to the earlier of the period remaining until the next readjustment of the interest rate or the period remaining until the principal amount can be recovered through demand.

**Long-Term Variable Rate Securities.** A variable rate security, the principal amount of which is scheduled to be paid in more than 397 days, that is subject to a demand feature shall be deemed to have a maturity equal to the longer of the period remaining until the next readjustment of the interest rate or the period remaining until the principal amount can be recovered through demand.

**Short-Term Floating Rate Securities.** A floating rate security, the principal amount of which, in accordance with the terms of the security, must unconditionally be paid in 397 calendar days or less shall be deemed to have a maturity of one day.

**Long-Term Floating Rate Securities.** A floating rate security, the principal amount of which is scheduled to be paid in more than 397 days, that is subject to a demand feature, shall be deemed to have a maturity equal to the period remaining until the principal amount can be recovered through demand. As used above, a note is "subject to a demand feature" where the Fund is entitled to receive the principal amount of the note either at any time on no more than 30 days' notice or at specified intervals not exceeding 397 calendar days and upon no more than 30 days' notice.

*Limitations on the Use of Variable and Floating Rate Notes.* Variable and floating rate instruments for which no readily available market exists (e.g., illiquid securities) will be purchased in an amount which, together with securities with legal or contractual restrictions on resale or for which no readily available market exists (including repurchase agreements providing for settlement more than seven days after notice), exceeds 15% of the Fund's net assets only if such instruments are subject to a demand

feature that will permit the Fund to demand payment of the principal within seven days after demand by the Fund. There is no limit on the extent to which the Fund may purchase demand instruments that are not illiquid or deemed to be liquid in accordance with the Adviser's liquidity determination procedures. If not rated, such instruments must be found by the Adviser to be of comparable quality to instruments in which the Fund may invest.

**Zero-Coupon, Pay-in-Kind and Deferred Payment Securities.** Zero-coupon securities are securities that are sold at a discount to par value and on which interest payments are not made during the life of the security. Upon maturity, the holder is entitled to receive the par value of the security. Pay-in-kind securities are securities that have interest payable by delivery of additional securities. Upon maturity, the holder is entitled to receive the aggregate par value of the securities. A Fund accrues income with respect to zero-coupon and pay-in-kind securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. Deferred payment securities are securities that remain zero-coupon securities until a predetermined date, at which time the stated coupon rate becomes effective and interest becomes payable at regular intervals. While interest payments are not made on such securities, holders of such securities are deemed to have received "phantom income." Because the Fund will distribute "phantom income" to shareholders, to the extent that shareholders elect to receive dividends in cash rather than reinvesting such dividends in additional shares, the Fund will have fewer assets with which to purchase income-producing securities. Zero-coupon, pay-in-kind and deferred payment securities may be subject to greater fluctuation in value and lesser liquidity in the event of adverse market conditions than comparably rated securities paying cash interest at regular interest payment periods.

### **Equity and Equity-Related Securities**

Equity securities consist of common stock, preferred stock, securities convertible into common and preferred stock, rights, warrants, income trusts and Master Limited Partnerships ("MLP"). Common stocks, the most familiar type, represent an equity (ownership) interest in a corporation. Preferred stocks represent an equity interest in an issuer that pays dividends at a specified rate and that has precedence over common stock in the payment of dividends or in the event of issuer liquidation or bankruptcy. Warrants are options to purchase equity securities at a specified price for a specific time period. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have a short duration and are distributed by the issuer to its shareholders. Convertible securities are bonds, debentures, notes, preferred stocks that may be converted or exchanged into shares of the underlying common stock at a stated exchange ratio. Income trusts and Master Limited Partnerships units are equity investments and may lack diversification as such trusts are primarily invested in oil and gas, pipelines, and other infrastructures whereas MLPs are primarily engaged in the transportation, storage, processing, refining, marketing, exploration, productions, and mining of minerals and natural resources. Although equity securities have a history of long-term growth in value, their prices fluctuate based on changes in a company's financial condition and on overall market and economic conditions.

Investments in equity securities are subject to inherent market risks and fluctuations in value due to earnings, economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Adviser. As a result, the return and net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund will fluctuate. Securities in the Fund's portfolio may not increase as much as the market as a whole and some undervalued securities may continue to be undervalued for long periods of time. Although profits in some Fund holdings may be realized quickly, it is not expected that most investments will appreciate rapidly.

**Common Stock.** Common stock represents a share of ownership in a company and usually carries voting rights and may earn dividends. Unlike preferred stock, common stock dividends are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer's board of directors. Common stock occupies the most junior position in a company's capital structure. As with all equity securities, the price of common stock fluctuates based on changes in a company's financial condition and overall market and economic conditions.

**Rights.** Rights are usually granted to existing shareholders of a corporation to subscribe to shares of a new issue of common stock before it is issued to the public. The right entitles its holder to buy common stock at a specified price. Rights have similar features to warrants, except that the life of a right is typically much shorter, usually a few weeks. The risk of investing in a right is that the right may expire prior to the market value of the common stock exceeding the price fixed by the right.

**Warrants.** Warrants are securities that are usually issued with a bond or preferred stock but may trade separately in the market. A warrant allows its holder to purchase a specified amount of common stock at a specified price for a specified time. The risk of investing in a warrant is that the warrant may expire prior to the market value of the common stock exceeding the price fixed by the warrant. The Fund may receive warrants pursuant to a corporate event involving one of its portfolio holdings. In addition, the percentage increase or decrease in the market price of a warrant may tend to be greater than the percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the optioned common stock.

**Preferred Stock.** Preferred stocks, like some debt obligations, are generally fixed-income securities. Shareholders of preferred stocks normally have the right to receive dividends at a fixed rate when and as declared by the issuer's board of

directors, but do not participate in other amounts available for distribution by the issuing corporation. Dividends on the preferred stock may be cumulative, and all cumulative dividends usually must be paid prior to shareholders of common stock receiving any dividends. Because preferred stock dividends must be paid before common stock dividends, preferred stocks generally entail less risk than common stocks. Upon liquidation, preferred stocks are entitled to a specified liquidation preference, which is generally the same as the par or stated value, and are senior in right of payment to common stock. Preferred stocks are, however, equity securities in the sense that they do not represent a liability of the issuer and, therefore, do not offer as great a degree of protection of capital or assurance of continued income as investments in corporate debt securities. Preferred stock dividends are not guaranteed and management can elect to forego the preferred dividend, resulting in a loss to a Fund. Preferred stocks are generally subordinated in right of payment to all debt obligations and creditors of the issuer, and convertible preferred stocks may be subordinated to other preferred stock of the same issue. Preferred stocks lack voting rights and the Adviser may incorrectly analyze the security, resulting in a loss to a Fund.

**Convertible Securities.** Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of "usable" bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure, but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. While providing a fixed-income stream (generally higher in yield than the income derivable from common stock but lower than that afforded by a similar non-convertible security), a convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security's underlying common stock.

### **Foreign and Emerging Markets Investments**

Investing in foreign securities generally represents a greater degree of risk than investing in domestic securities, due to possible exchange controls or exchange rate fluctuations, limits on repatriation of capital, less publicly available information as a result of accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards different from those used in the U.S., more volatile markets, potentially less securities regulation, less favorable tax provisions, political or economic instability, war or expropriation. As a result of its investments in foreign securities, the Fund may receive interest or dividend payments, or the proceeds of the sale or redemption of such securities, in the foreign currencies in which such securities are denominated.

The Fund may also invest in countries or regions with relatively low gross national product per capita compared to the world's major economies, and in countries or regions with the potential for rapid economic growth (emerging markets). The Adviser includes within its definition of an emerging market country, any emerging markets or frontier markets defined as such by MSCI classification.

The risks of investing in foreign securities may be heightened in the case of investments in emerging markets. Securities of many issuers in emerging markets may be less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable domestic issuers. Emerging markets also may have different clearance and settlement procedures, and in certain markets there have been times when settlements have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Delays in settlement could result in temporary periods when a portion of the assets of the Fund is uninvested and no return is earned thereon. Securities prices in emerging markets can be significantly more volatile than in the more developed nations of the world, reflecting the greater uncertainties of investing in less established markets and economies. The economies of countries with emerging markets may be predominantly based on only a few industries, may be highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions, and may suffer from extreme and volatile debt burdens or inflation rates. Local securities markets may trade a small number of securities and may be unable to respond effectively to increases in trading volume, potentially making prompt liquidation of substantial holdings difficult or impossible at times. Securities of issuers located in countries with emerging markets may have limited marketability and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements.

Certain emerging markets may require governmental approval for the repatriation of investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors. In addition, if a deterioration occurs in an emerging market's balance of payments or for other reasons, a country could impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. The Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, any required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to the Fund of any restrictions on investments. Investments in certain foreign emerging market debt obligations may be restricted or controlled to varying degrees. These restrictions or controls may at times preclude investment in certain foreign emerging market debt obligations and increase the expenses of the Fund.

*Participatory Notes.* The Fund may also invest in participatory notes. Participatory notes issued by banks or broker-dealers are designed to replicate the performance of certain non-U.S. companies traded on a non-U.S. exchange. Participatory notes are a type of equity-linked derivative that generally are traded over-the-counter. Even though a participatory note is

intended to reflect the performance of the underlying equity securities on a one-to-one basis so that investors will not normally gain or lose more in absolute terms than they would have made or lost had they invested in the underlying securities directly, the performance results of participatory notes will not replicate exactly the performance of the issuers or markets that the notes seek to replicate due to transaction costs and other expenses. Investments in participatory notes involve risks normally associated with a direct investment in the underlying securities. In addition, participatory notes are subject to counterparty risk, which is the risk that the broker-dealer or bank that issues the notes will not fulfill its contractual obligation to complete the transaction with the Fund. Participatory notes constitute general unsecured, unsubordinated contractual obligations of the banks or broker-dealers that issue them, and the Fund is relying on the creditworthiness of such banks or broker-dealers and has no rights under a participatory note against the issuers of the securities underlying such participatory notes. There can be no assurance that the trading price or value of participatory notes will equal the value of the underlying value of the equity securities they seek to replicate.

### **Foreign Currency and Foreign Currency Forward Contracts, Futures, and Options**

When investing in foreign securities, the Fund may effect currency exchange transactions on a spot (i.e., cash) basis at the spot rate prevailing in the foreign exchange market. The Fund incurs expenses in converting assets from one currency to another. The Fund may engage in currency exchange transactions to protect against uncertainty in the level of future foreign currency exchange rates and to increase current return. There can be no assurance that appropriate foreign currency transactions will be available for a Fund at any time or that the Fund will enter into such transactions at any time or under any circumstances even if appropriate transactions are available to it.

*Forward Contracts.* The Fund may enter into foreign currency forward contracts for the purchase or sale of a fixed quantity of a foreign currency at a future date ("forward contracts") for hedging purposes, either to "lock-in" the U.S. dollar purchase price of the securities denominated in a foreign currency or the U.S. dollar value of interest and dividends to be paid on such securities, or to hedge against the possibility that the currency of a foreign country in which a Fund has investments may suffer a decline against the U.S. dollar, as well as for non-hedging purposes. The Fund may also enter into a forward contract on one currency in order to hedge against risk of loss arising from fluctuations in the value of a second currency ("cross hedging"). Forward contracts are traded over-the-counter, and not on organized commodities or securities exchanges. As a result, such contracts operate in a manner distinct from exchange-traded instruments, and their use involves certain risks beyond those associated with transactions in futures contracts or options traded on an exchange, including counterparty credit risk.

Only a limited market, if any, currently exists for hedging transactions relating to currencies in many emerging market countries, or to securities of issuers domiciled or principally engaged in business in emerging market countries, in which the Fund may invest. This may limit a Fund's ability to effectively hedge its investments in those emerging markets.

*Foreign Currency Futures.* Generally, foreign currency futures provide for the delivery of a specified amount of a given currency, on the settlement date, for a pre-negotiated price denominated in U.S. dollars or other currency. Foreign currency futures contracts would be entered into for the same reason and under the same circumstances as forward contracts. The Adviser will assess such factors as cost spreads, liquidity and transaction costs in determining whether to utilize futures contracts or forward contracts in its foreign currency transactions and hedging strategy.

Purchasers and sellers of foreign currency futures contracts are subject to the same risks that apply to the buying and selling of futures generally. A Fund must accept or make delivery of the underlying foreign currency, through banking arrangements, in accordance with any U.S. or foreign restrictions or regulations regarding the maintenance of foreign banking arrangements by U.S. residents and may be required to pay any fees, taxes or charges associated with such delivery which are assessed in the issuing country.

*Foreign Currency Options.* The Fund may purchase and write options on foreign currencies for purposes similar to those involved with investing in forward contracts. For example, in order to protect against declines in the dollar value of portfolio securities which are denominated in a foreign currency, or to protect against potential declines in its portfolio securities that are denominated in foreign currencies. The value of a foreign currency option depends upon the value of the underlying currency relative to the U.S. dollar. As a result, the price of the option position may vary with changes in the value of either or both currencies and have no relationship to the investment merits of a foreign security, including foreign securities held in a "hedged" investment portfolio. Because foreign currency transactions occurring in the interbank market involve substantially larger amounts than those that may be involved in the use of foreign currency options, investors may be disadvantaged by having to deal in an odd lot market (generally consisting of transactions of less than \$1 million) for the underlying foreign currencies at prices that are less favorable than for round lots.

As in the case of other kinds of options, the use of foreign currency options constitutes only a partial hedge, and the Fund could be required to purchase or sell foreign currencies at disadvantageous exchange rates, thereby incurring losses. The

purchase of an option on a foreign currency may not necessarily constitute an effective hedge against fluctuations in exchange rates and, in the event of rate movements adverse to a Fund's position, the Fund may forfeit the entire amount of the premium plus related transaction costs.

Options on foreign currencies written or purchased by the Fund may be traded on U.S. or foreign exchanges or over the counter. There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies traded over the counter or any regulatory requirement that quotations available through dealers or other market sources be firm or revised on a timely basis.

Available quotation information is generally representative of very large transactions in the interbank market and thus may not reflect relatively smaller transactions (i.e., less than \$1 million) where rates may be less favorable. The interbank market in foreign currencies is a global, around-the-clock market. To the extent that the U.S. options markets are closed while the markets for the underlying currencies remain open, significant price and rate movements may take place in the underlying markets that are not reflected in the options market.

*Additional Risk Factors.* As a result of its investments in foreign securities, the Fund may receive interest or dividend payments, or the proceeds of the sale or redemption of such securities, in the foreign currencies in which such securities are denominated. In that event, a Fund may convert such currencies into dollars at the then current exchange rate. Under certain circumstances, however, such as where the Adviser believes that the applicable rate is unfavorable at the time the currencies are received or the Adviser anticipates, for any other reason, that the exchange rate will improve, the Fund may hold such currencies for an indefinite period of time. In addition, a Fund may be required to receive delivery of the foreign currency underlying forward foreign currency contracts it has entered into. This could occur, for example, if an option written by the Fund is exercised or the Fund is unable to close out a forward contract. The Fund may hold foreign currency in anticipation of purchasing foreign securities.

The Fund may also elect to take delivery of the currencies' underlying options or forward contracts if, in the judgment of the Adviser, it is in the best interest of a Fund to do so. In such instances as well, a Fund may convert the foreign currencies to dollars at the then current exchange rates, or may hold such currencies for an indefinite period of time.

While the holding of currencies will permit the Fund to take advantage of favorable movements in the applicable exchange rate, it also exposes the Fund to risk of loss if such rates move in a direction adverse to a Fund's position. Such losses could reduce any profits or increase any losses sustained by the Fund from the sale or redemption of securities, and could reduce the dollar value of interest or dividend payments received. In addition, the holding of currencies could adversely affect a Fund's profit or loss on currency options or forward contracts, as well as its hedging strategies.

### **Other Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies, including shares of money market funds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), open-end and closed-end investment companies, real estate investment trusts and passive foreign investment companies.

ETFs are typically not actively managed. Rather, an ETF's objective is to track the performance of a specified index. Therefore, securities may be purchased, retained and sold by ETFs at times when an actively managed trust would not do so. As a result, a Fund may have a greater risk of loss (and a correspondingly greater prospect of gain) from changes in the value of the securities that are heavily weighted in the index than would be the case if the ETF were not fully invested in such securities. Because of this, an ETF's price can be volatile. In addition, the results of an ETF will not match the performance of the specified index due to reductions in the ETF's performance attributable to transaction and other expenses, including fees paid by the ETF to service providers.

The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by a Fund will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and a Fund may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of a Fund's shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by a Fund at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Fund. Also, there may be a limited secondary market for shares of closed-end funds.

Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (including preferred stock and debt obligations) for the purpose of leveraging the closed-end fund's common shares in an attempt to enhance the current return to such closed-end fund's common shareholders. A Fund's investment in the common shares of closed-end funds that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure.

Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs (except, in the case of ETFs, for “aggregation units” of 50,000 shares) are not individually redeemable, but are traded on securities exchanges. The prices of such shares are based upon, but not necessarily identical to, the value of the securities held by the issuer. There is no assurance that the requirements of the securities exchange necessary to maintain the listing of shares of any closed-end fund or ETF will continue to be met.

Some of the countries in which the Fund may invest, may not permit, or may place economic restrictions on, direct investment by outside investors. Investments in such countries may be permitted only through foreign government-approved or -authorized investment vehicles, which may include other investment companies. These funds may also invest in other investment companies that invest in foreign securities. Investing through such vehicles may involve frequent or layered fees or expenses and may also be subject to limitation under the 1940 Act. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company’s expenses, including advisory fees. Those expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that a Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations.

## **Loans**

The Fund may invest in fixed and floating rate loans (“Loans”). Loans may include senior floating rate loans (“Senior Loans”) and secured and unsecured loans, second lien or more junior loans (“Junior Loans”) and bridge loans or bridge facilities (“Bridge Loans”). Loans are typically arranged through private negotiations between borrowers in the U.S. or in foreign or emerging markets which may be corporate issuers or issuers of sovereign debt obligations (“Borrowers”) and one or more financial institutions and other lenders (“Lenders”). Generally, the Fund invests in Loans by purchasing assignments of all or a portion of Loans (“Assignments”) or Loan participations (“Participations”) from third parties.

The Fund has direct rights against the Borrower on the Loan when it purchases an Assignment. Because Assignments are arranged through private negotiations between potential assignees and potential assignors, however, the rights and obligations acquired by the Fund as the purchaser of an Assignment may differ from, and be more limited than, those held by the assigning Lender. With respect to Participations, typically, the Fund will have a contractual relationship only with the Lender and not with the Borrower. The agreement governing Participations may limit the rights of the Fund to vote on certain changes which may be made to the Loan agreement, such as waiving a breach of a covenant. However, the holder of a Participation will generally have the right to vote on certain fundamental issues such as changes in principal amount, payment dates and interest rate. Participations may entail certain risks relating to the creditworthiness of the parties from which the participations are obtained.

A Loan is typically originated, negotiated and structured by a U.S. or foreign commercial bank, insurance company, finance company or other financial institution (the “Agent”) for a group of Loan investors. The Agent typically administers and enforces the Loan on behalf of the other Loan investors in the syndicate. The Agent’s duties may include responsibility for the collection of principal and interest payments from the Borrower and the apportionment of these payments to the credit of all Loan investors. The Agent is also typically responsible for monitoring compliance with the covenants contained in the Loan agreement based upon reports prepared by the Borrower. In addition, an institution, typically but not always the Agent, holds any collateral on behalf of the Loan investors. In the event of a default by the Borrower, it is possible, though unlikely, that the Fund could receive a portion of the borrower’s collateral. If the Fund receives collateral other than cash, any proceeds received from liquidation of such collateral will be available for investment as part of the Fund’s portfolio.

In the process of buying, selling and holding Loans, the Fund may receive and/or pay certain fees. These fees are in addition to interest payments received and may include facility fees, commitment fees, commissions and prepayment penalty fees. When the Fund buys or sells a Loan it may pay a fee. In certain circumstances, the Fund may receive a prepayment penalty fee upon prepayment of a Loan.

*Additional Information concerning Senior Loans.* Senior Loans typically hold the most senior position in the capital structure of the Borrower, are typically secured with specific collateral and have a claim on the assets and/or stock of the Borrower that is senior to that held by subordinated debt holders and shareholders of the Borrower. Collateral for Senior Loans may include (i) working capital assets, such as accounts receivable and inventory; (ii) tangible fixed assets, such as real property, buildings and equipment; (iii) intangible assets, such as trademarks and patent rights; and/or, (iv) security interests in shares of stock of subsidiaries or affiliates.

*Additional Information concerning Junior Loans.* Junior Loans include secured and unsecured loans including subordinated loans, second lien and more junior loans, and bridge loans. Second lien and more junior loans (“Junior Lien Loans”) are generally second or further in line in terms of repayment priority. In addition, Junior Lien Loans may have a claim on the same collateral pool as the first lien or other more senior liens or may be secured by a separate set of assets. Junior Loans generally give investors priority over general unsecured creditors in the event of an asset sale.

*Additional Information concerning Bridge Loans.* Bridge Loans are short-term loan arrangements (e.g., 12 to 18 months) typically made by a Borrower in anticipation of intermediate-term or long-term permanent financing. Most Bridge Loans are structured as floating-rate debt with step-up provisions under which the interest rate on the Bridge Loan rises the longer the Loan remains outstanding. In addition, Bridge Loans commonly contain a conversion feature that allows the Bridge Loan investor to convert its Loan interest to senior exchange notes if the Loan has not been prepaid in full on or prior to its maturity date. Bridge Loans typically are structured as Senior Loans but may be structured as Junior Loans.

*Additional Information concerning Unfunded Commitments.* Unfunded commitments are contractual obligations pursuant to which the Fund agrees to invest in a Loan at a future date. Typically, the Fund receives a commitment fee for entering into the Unfunded Commitment.

*Additional Information concerning Synthetic Letters of Credit.* Loans may include synthetic letters of credit. In a synthetic letter of credit transaction, the Lender typically creates a special purpose entity or a credit-linked deposit account for the purpose of funding a letter of credit to the borrower. When the Fund invests in a synthetic letter of credit, the Fund is typically paid a rate based on the Lender's borrowing costs and the terms of the synthetic letter of credit. Synthetic letters of credit are typically structured as Assignments with the Fund acquiring direct rights against the Borrower.

*Risk Factors of Loans.* Loans are subject to the risks associated with debt obligations in general including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. When a Loan is acquired from a Lender, the risk includes the credit risk associated with the Borrower of the underlying Loan. The Fund may incur additional credit risk when the Fund acquires a participation in a Loan from another lender because the Fund must assume the risk of insolvency or bankruptcy of the other lender from which the Loan was acquired. To the extent that Loans involve Borrowers in foreign or emerging markets, such Loans are subject to the risks associated with foreign investments or investments in emerging markets in general. The following outlines some of the additional risks associated with Loans.

*High Yield Securities Risk.* The Loans that the Fund invests in may not be rated by an NRSRO, will not be registered with the SEC or any state securities commission and will not be listed on any national securities exchange. To the extent that such high yield Loans are rated, they typically will be rated below investment grade and are subject to an increased risk of default in the payment of principal and interest as well as the other risks described under "High Yield/High Risk Securities/Junk Bonds." Loans are vulnerable to market sentiment such that economic conditions or other events may reduce the demand for Loans and cause their value to decline rapidly and unpredictably.

*Liquidity Risk.* Loans that are deemed to be liquid at the time of purchase may become illiquid or less liquid. No active trading market may exist for certain Loans and certain Loans may be subject to restrictions on resale or have a limited secondary market. Certain Loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods. The inability to dispose of certain Loans in a timely fashion or at a favorable price could result in losses to the Fund.

*Collateral and Subordination Risk.* With respect to Loans that are secured, the Fund is subject to the risk that collateral securing the Loan will decline in value or have no value or that the Fund's lien is or will become junior in payment to other liens. A decline in value of the collateral, whether as a result of market value declines, bankruptcy proceedings or otherwise, could cause the Loan to be under collateralized or unsecured. In such event, the Fund may have the ability to require that the Borrower pledge additional collateral. The Fund, however, is subject to the risk that the Borrower may not pledge such additional collateral or a sufficient amount of collateral. In some cases, there may be no formal requirement for the Borrower to pledge additional collateral. In addition, collateral may consist of assets that may not be readily liquidated, and there is no assurance that the liquidation of such assets would satisfy a Borrower's obligation on a Loan. If the Fund were unable to obtain sufficient proceeds upon a liquidation of such assets, this could negatively affect Fund performance.

If a Borrower becomes involved in bankruptcy proceedings, a court may restrict the ability of the Fund to demand immediate repayment of the Loan by Borrower or otherwise liquidate the collateral. A court may also invalidate the Loan or the Fund's security interest in collateral or subordinate the Fund's rights under a Senior Loan or Junior Loan to the interest of the Borrower's other creditors, including unsecured creditors, or cause interest or principal previously paid to be refunded to the Borrower. If a court required interest or principal to be refunded, it could negatively affect Fund performance. Such action by a court could be based, for example, on a "fraudulent conveyance" claim to the effect that the Borrower did not receive fair consideration for granting the security interest in the Loan collateral to the Fund. For Senior Loans made in connection with a highly leveraged transaction, consideration for granting a security interest may be deemed inadequate if the proceeds of the Loan were not received or retained by the Borrower, but were instead paid to other persons (such as shareholders of the Borrower) in an amount which left the Borrower insolvent or without sufficient working capital. There are also other events, such as the failure to perfect a security interest due to faulty documentation or faulty official filings, which could lead to the invalidation of the Fund's security interest in Loan collateral. If the Fund's security interest in Loan collateral is invalidated or a Senior Loan were subordinated to other debt of an Borrower in bankruptcy or other proceedings, the Fund would have

substantially lower recovery, and perhaps no recovery on the full amount of the principal and interest due on the Loan, or the Fund could have to refund interest. Lenders and investors in Loans can be sued by other creditors and shareholders of the Borrowers. Losses can be greater than the original Loan amount and occur years after the principal and interest on the Loan have been repaid.

**Agent Risk.** Selling Lenders, Agents and other entities who may be positioned between the Fund and the Borrower will likely conduct their principal business activities in the banking, finance and financial services industries. Investments in Loans may be more impacted by a single economic, political or regulatory occurrence affecting such industries than other types of investments. Entities engaged in such industries may be more susceptible to, among other things, fluctuations in interest rates, changes in the Federal Open Market Committee's monetary policy, government regulations concerning such industries and concerning capital raising activities generally and fluctuations in the financial markets generally. An Agent, Lender or other entity positioned between the Fund and the Borrower may become insolvent or enter FDIC receivership or bankruptcy.

The Fund might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment on a Loan or suffer a loss of principal and/ or interest if assets or interests held by the Agent, Lender or other party positioned between the Fund and the Borrower are determined to be subject to the claims of the Agent's, Lender's or such other party's creditors.

**Junior Loan Risk.** Junior Loans are subject to the same general risks inherent to any Loan investment. Due to their lower place in the Borrower's capital structure and possible unsecured status, Junior Loans involve a higher degree of overall risk than Senior Loans of the same Borrower. Junior Loans that are Bridge Loans generally carry the expectation that the Borrower will be able to obtain permanent financing in the near future. Any delay in obtaining permanent financing subjects the Bridge Loan investor to increased risk. A Borrower's use of Bridge Loans also involves the risk that the Borrower may be unable to locate permanent financing to replace the Bridge Loan, which may impair the Borrower's perceived creditworthiness.

**Mezzanine Loan Risk.** In addition to the risk factors described above, mezzanine loans are subject to additional risks. Unlike conventional mortgage loans, mezzanine loans are not secured by a mortgage on the underlying real property but rather by a pledge of equity interests (such as a partnership or limited liability company membership) in the property owner or another company in the ownership structures that has control over the property. Such companies are typically structured as special purpose entities. Generally, mezzanine loans may be more highly leveraged than other types of Loans and subordinate in the capital structure of the Borrower. While foreclosure of a mezzanine loan generally takes substantially less time than foreclosure of a traditional mortgage, the holders of a mezzanine loan have different remedies available versus the holder of a first lien mortgage loan. In addition, a sale of the underlying real property would not be unencumbered, and thus would be subject to encumbrances by more senior mortgages and liens of other creditors. Upon foreclosure of a mezzanine loan, the holder of the mezzanine loan acquires an equity interest in the Borrower. However, because of the subordinate nature of a mezzanine loan, the real property continues to be subject to the lien of the mortgage and other liens encumbering the real estate. In the event the holder of a mezzanine loan forecloses on its equity collateral, the holder may need to cure the Borrower's existing mortgage defaults or, to the extent permissible under the governing agreements, sell the property to pay off other creditors. To the extent that the amount of mortgages and senior indebtedness and liens exceed the value of the real estate, the collateral underlying the mezzanine loan may have little or no value.

**Foreclosure Risk.** There may be additional costs associated with enforcing the Fund's remedies under a Loan including additional legal costs and payment of real property transfer taxes upon foreclosure in certain jurisdictions. As a result of these additional costs, the Fund may determine that pursuing foreclosure on the Loan collateral is not worth the associated costs. In addition, if the Fund incurs costs and the collateral loses value or is not recovered by the Fund in foreclosure, the Fund could lose more than its original investment in the Loan. Foreclosure risk is heightened for Junior Loans, including certain mezzanine loans.

### **Miscellaneous Investment Strategies**

**Borrowings.** The Fund may borrow for temporary purposes. Such a practice will result in leveraging of the Fund's assets and may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it would not be advantageous to do so. This borrowing may be secured or unsecured. If the Fund utilizes borrowings, it may pledge up to 33 1/3% of its total assets to secure such borrowings. Provisions of the 1940 Act require the Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (that is, total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed, with an exception for borrowings not in excess of 5% of the Fund's total assets made for temporary administrative or emergency purposes. Any borrowings for temporary administrative purposes in excess of 5% of the Fund's total assets must maintain continuous asset coverage. If the 300% asset coverage should decline as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, the Fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio holdings within three days to reduce the debt and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to sell securities at that time. Borrowing will tend to exaggerate the effect on net asset value of any increase or decrease in the market value of the Fund's portfolio. Money borrowed will be subject to



interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased. The Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

Certain types of investments are considered to be borrowings under precedents issued by the SEC. Such investments are subject to the limitations as well as asset segregation requirements.

**Commodity-Linked Derivatives.** Commodity-linked derivatives are derivative instruments the value of which is linked to the value of a commodity, commodity index or commodity futures contract. The Fund's investment in commodity-linked derivative instruments may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities, particularly if the instruments involve leverage. The value of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, embargoes, tariffs and international economic, political and regulatory developments. Use of leveraged commodity-linked derivatives creates the possibility for greater loss (including the likelihood of greater volatility of the Fund's net asset value), and there can be no assurance that the Fund's use of leverage will be successful. Tax considerations may limit the Fund's ability to pursue investments in commodity-linked derivatives.

**New Financial Products.** New options and futures contracts and other financial products, and various combinations thereof, including over-the-counter products, continue to be developed. These various products may be used to adjust the risk and return characteristics of the Fund's investments. These various products may increase or decrease exposure to security prices, interest rates, commodity prices, or other factors that affect security values, regardless of the issuer's credit risk. If market conditions do not perform as expected, the performance of the Fund would be less favorable than it would have been if these products were not used. In addition, losses may occur if counterparties involved in transactions do not perform as promised. These products may expose the Fund to potentially greater return as well as potentially greater risk of loss than more traditional fixed income investments.

### ***Restricted and Illiquid Securities.***

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities are any investment that the Adviser reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. Illiquid securities may be subject to the potential for delays on resale and uncertainty in valuation for an indefinite period of time. The Fund might be unable to dispose of illiquid securities promptly or at reasonable prices and might thereby experience difficulty in satisfying redemption requests from shareholders.

Illiquid securities may include, among other things, (i) private placements or restricted securities (i.e. Rule 144A securities and Section 4(2) commercial paper) subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale because they have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"); (ii) securities that are otherwise not readily marketable (e.g., because trading in the security is suspended or because market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers) (iii) repurchase agreements maturing in more than 7 calendar days; (iv) private equity investments; and (v) OTC options and other derivative securities.

A large institutional market exists for certain securities that are not registered under the Securities Act, including foreign securities. The fact that there are contractual or legal restrictions on resale to the general public or to certain institutions may not be indicative of the liquidity of such investments. Rule 144A under the Securities Act allows such a broader institutional trading market for securities otherwise subject to restrictions on resale to the general public. Rule 144A establishes a "safe harbor" from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for resale of certain securities to qualified institutional buyers. Rule 144A has produced enhanced liquidity for many restricted securities, and market liquidity for such securities may continue to expand as a result of this regulation.

Under procedures adopted by the Trust's Board, the Adviser has designated a Liquidity Committee to assess the liquidity risk of the Fund based on factors specific to the Fund. In making this determination, the Adviser's Liquidity Committee will consider, as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and among other factors: (i) the Fund's investment strategy and liquidity of portfolio investments during both normal and reasonably foreseeable stressed conditions, including whether the investment strategy is suitable for an open-ended structure; (ii) the extent to which the strategy involves a relatively concentrated portfolio or large positions in particular issuers; (iii) the use of borrowings for investment purposes (whether from a bank or through financing transactions such as repurchase agreements and short sales); (iv) short-term and long-term cash flow projections during both normal and reasonably foreseeable stressed conditions; and (vi) holdings of cash and cash equivalents, as well as borrowing arrangements and other funding sources. The Trust procedures require the Adviser's Liquidity Committee to classify the liquidity of portfolio investments (including derivative positions) based on the number of

days in which the Adviser reasonably expects the investment would be convertible to cash (or sold or disposed of, but not necessarily settled) in current market conditions without significantly changing the market value of the investment, taking into account relevant market, trading and investment-specific considerations.

Although the Adviser's Liquidity Committee monitors the liquidity of the securities held in the portfolio, the Board of Trustees oversees and retains ultimate responsibility for the Adviser's liquidity determinations.

**Securities Issued in Connection with Reorganizations and Corporate Restructuring.** Debt securities may be downgraded and issuers of debt securities including investment grade securities may default in the payment of principal or interest or be subject to bankruptcy proceedings. In connection with reorganizing or restructuring of an issuer, an issuer may issue common stock or other securities to holders of its debt securities. The Fund may hold such common stock and other securities even though it does not ordinarily invest in such securities.

### **Mortgage-Related Securities**

**U.S. Government Obligations.** The Fund may invest in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, including bills, notes and bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury. Obligations of certain agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government, such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury; others, such as those of Fannie Mae ("FNMA"), are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; still others, such as those of the Federal Farm Credit Banks or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to U.S. government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, such as FNMA, or the Freddie Mac, since it is not obligated to do so by law. These agencies or instrumentalities are supported by the issuer's right to borrow specific amounts from the U.S. Treasury, the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase certain obligations from such agencies or instrumentalities, or the credit of the agency or instrumentality. Whether backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury or not, U.S. government securities are not guaranteed against price movements due to fluctuating interest rates.

In the past, U.S. sovereign credit has experienced downgrades and there can be no guarantee that it will not experience further downgrades in the future by rating agencies. The market prices and yields of securities supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government may be adversely affected by a rating agency's decision to downgrade the sovereign credit rating of the United States.

**Mortgages (Directly Held).** Mortgages are debt instruments secured by real property. Unlike mortgage-backed securities, which generally represent an interest in a pool of mortgages, direct investments in mortgages involve prepayment and credit risks of an individual issuer and real property. Consequently, these investments require different investment and credit analysis by the Adviser.

Directly placed mortgages may include residential mortgages, multifamily mortgages, mortgages on cooperative apartment buildings, commercial mortgages, and sale-leasebacks. These investments are backed by assets such as office buildings, shopping centers, retail stores, warehouses, apartment buildings and single-family dwellings. In the event that the Fund forecloses on any non-performing mortgage, and acquires a direct interest in the real property, the Fund will be subject to the risks generally associated with the ownership of real property. There may be fluctuations in the market value of the foreclosed property and its occupancy rates, rent schedules and operating expenses. There may also be adverse changes in local, regional or general economic conditions, deterioration of the real estate market and the financial circumstances of tenants and sellers, unfavorable changes in zoning, building, environmental and other laws, increased real property taxes, rising interest rates, reduced availability and increased cost of mortgage borrowings, the need for unanticipated renovations, unexpected increases in the cost of energy, environmental factors, acts of God and other factors which are beyond the control of the Fund or the Adviser. Hazardous or toxic substances may be present on, at or under the mortgaged property and adversely affect the value of the property. In addition, the owners of property containing such substances may be held responsible, under various laws, for containing, monitoring, removing, or cleaning up such substances. The presence of such substances may also provide a basis for other claims by third parties. Costs of clean up or of liabilities to third parties may exceed the value of the property. In addition, these risks may be uninsurable. In light of these and similar risks, it may be impossible to dispose profitably of properties in foreclosure.

**Mortgage-Backed Securities (CMOs and REMICs).** Mortgage-backed securities include collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") and Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits ("REMICs"). A REMIC is a CMO that qualifies for special tax treatment under the IRC and invests in certain mortgages principally secured by interests in real property and other permitted investments.

Mortgage-backed securities represent pools of mortgage loans assembled for sale to investors by various governmental agencies such as Ginnie Mae, organizations such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and non-governmental issuers such as

commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, and private mortgage insurance companies (non-governmental mortgage securities cannot be treated as U.S. government securities for purposes of investment policies).

There are a number of important differences among the agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government that issue mortgage-related securities and among the securities that they issue.

*Ginnie Mae Securities.* Mortgage-related securities issued by Ginnie Mae include Ginnie Mae Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates which are guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by Ginnie Mae. Ginnie Mae's guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Ginnie Mae is a wholly-owned U.S. government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ginnie Mae certificates also are supported by the authority of Ginnie Mae to borrow funds from the U.S. Treasury to make payments under its guarantee.

*Fannie Mae Securities.* Mortgage-related securities issued by Fannie Mae include Fannie Mae Guaranteed Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates which are solely the obligations of Fannie Mae and are not backed by or entitled to the full faith and credit of the U.S. Fannie Mae is a government-sponsored organization owned entirely by private stockholders. Fannie Mae Certificates are guaranteed as to timely payment of the principal and interest by Fannie Mae.

*Freddie Mac Securities.* Mortgage-related securities issued by Freddie Mac include Freddie Mac Mortgage Participation Certificates. Freddie Mac is a corporate instrumentality of the U.S., created pursuant to an Act of Congress, which is owned by private stockholders. Freddie Mac Certificates are not guaranteed by the U.S. or by any Federal Home Loan Bank and do not constitute a debt or obligation of the U.S. or of any Federal Home Loan Bank. Freddie Mac Certificates entitle the holder to timely payment of interest, which is guaranteed by Freddie Mac. Freddie Mac guarantees either ultimate collection or timely payment of all principal payments on the underlying mortgage loans. When Freddie Mac does not guarantee timely payment of principal, Freddie Mac may remit the amount due on account of its guarantee of ultimate payment of principal at any time after default on an underlying mortgage, but in no event later than one year after it becomes payable.

For more information on recent events impacting Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac securities, see "*Recent Events Regarding Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Securities*" under the heading "Risk Factors of Mortgage-Related Securities" below.

CMOs and guaranteed REMIC pass-through certificates ("REMIC Certificates") issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae and private issuers are types of multiple class pass-through securities. Investors may purchase beneficial interests in REMICs, which are known as "regular" interests or "residual" interests. The Fund does not currently intend to purchase residual interests in REMICs. The REMIC Certificates represent beneficial ownership interests in a REMIC Trust, generally consisting of mortgage loans or Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae guaranteed mortgage pass-through certificates (the "Mortgage Assets"). The obligations of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae under their respective guaranty of the REMIC Certificates are obligations solely of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae, respectively.

*Fannie Mae REMIC Certificates.* Fannie Mae REMIC Certificates are issued and guaranteed as to timely distribution of principal and interest by Fannie Mae. In addition, Fannie Mae will be obligated to distribute the principal balance of each class of REMIC Certificates in full, whether or not sufficient funds are otherwise available.

*Freddie Mac REMIC Certificates.* Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest, and also guarantees the payment of principal as payments are required to be made on the underlying mortgage participation certificates ("PCs"). PCs represent undivided interests in specified residential mortgages or participation therein purchased by Freddie Mac and placed in a PC pool. With respect to principal payments on PCs, Freddie Mac generally guarantees ultimate collection of all principal of the related mortgage loans without offset or deduction. Freddie Mac also guarantees timely payment of principal on certain PCs referred to as "Gold PCs."

*Ginnie Mae REMIC Certificates.* Ginnie Mae guarantees the full and timely payment of interest and principal on each class of securities (in accordance with the terms of those classes as specified in the related offering circular supplement). The Ginnie Mae guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. REMIC Certificates issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae are treated as U.S. Government securities for purposes of investment policies.

CMOs and REMIC Certificates provide for the redistribution of cash flow to multiple classes. Each class of CMOs or REMIC Certificates, often referred to as a "tranche," is issued at a specific adjustable or fixed interest rate and must be fully retired no later than its final distribution date. This reallocation of interest and principal results in the redistribution of prepayment risk across different classes. This allows for the creation of bonds with more or less risk than the underlying collateral exhibits. Principal prepayments on the mortgage loans or the Mortgage Assets underlying the CMOs or REMIC Certificates may cause some or all of the classes of CMOs or REMIC Certificates to be retired substantially earlier than their final distribution dates. Generally, interest is paid or accrues on all classes of CMOs or REMIC Certificates on a monthly basis.

The principal of and interest on the Mortgage Assets may be allocated among the several classes of CMOs or REMIC Certificates in various ways. In certain structures (known as "sequential pay" CMOs or REMIC Certificates), payments of

principal, including any principal prepayments, on the Mortgage Assets generally are applied to the classes of CMOs or REMIC Certificates in the order of their respective final distribution dates. Thus, no payment of principal will be made on any class of sequential pay CMOs or REMIC Certificates until all other classes having an earlier final distribution date have been paid in full.

Additional structures of CMOs and REMIC Certificates include, among others, principal only structures, interest only structures, inverse floaters and "parallel pay" CMOs and REMIC Certificates. Certain of these structures may be more volatile than other types of CMO and REMIC structures. Parallel pay CMOs or REMIC Certificates are those which are structured to apply principal payments and prepayments of the Mortgage Assets to two or more classes concurrently on a proportionate or disproportionate basis. These simultaneous payments are taken into account in calculating the final distribution date of each class.

A wide variety of REMIC Certificates may be issued in the parallel pay or sequential pay structures. These securities include accrual certificates (also known as "Z-Bonds"), which only accrue interest at a specified rate until all other certificates having an earlier final distribution date have been retired and are converted thereafter to an interest-paying security, and planned amortization class ("PAC") certificates, which are parallel pay REMIC Certificates which generally require that specified amounts of principal be applied on each payment date to one or more classes of REMIC Certificates (the "PAC Certificates"), even though all other principal payments and prepayments of the Mortgage Assets are then required to be applied to one or more other classes of the certificates. The scheduled principal payments for the PAC Certificates generally have the highest priority on each payment date after interest due has been paid to all classes entitled to receive interest currently. Shortfalls, if any, are added to the amount of principal payable on the next payment date. The PAC Certificate payment schedule is taken into account in calculating the final distribution date of each class of PAC. In order to create PAC tranches, one or more tranches generally must be created that absorb most of the volatility in the underlying Mortgage Assets. These tranches tend to have market prices and yields that are much more volatile than the PAC classes. The Z-Bonds in which the Fund may invest may bear the same non-credit-related risks as do other types of Z-Bonds. Z-Bonds in which the Fund may invest will not include residual interest.

**Private Mortgage Pass-Through Securities.** Private mortgage pass-through securities are structured similarly to the Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage pass-through securities and are issued by United States and foreign private issuers such as originators of and investors in mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks and special purpose subsidiaries of the foregoing. These securities usually are backed by a pool of conventional fixed rate or adjustable rate mortgage loans. Since private mortgage pass-through securities typically are not guaranteed by an entity having the credit status of Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, such securities generally are structured with one or more types of credit enhancement.

Mortgage-backed securities are often backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations of a number of different parties. To lessen the effect of failures by obligors on underlying assets to make payments, those securities may contain elements of credit support, which fall into two categories: (i) liquidity protection and (ii) protection against losses resulting from ultimate default by an obligor on the underlying assets. Liquidity protection refers to the provision of advances, generally by the entity administering the pool of assets, to ensure that the receipt of payments on the underlying pool occurs in a timely fashion. Protection against losses resulting from default ensures ultimate payment of the obligations on at least a portion of the assets in the pool. This protection may be provided through guarantees, insurance policies or letters of credit obtained by the issuer or sponsor from third parties, through various means of structuring the transaction or through a combination of such approaches. The degree of credit support provided for each issue is generally based on historical information respecting the level of credit risk associated with the underlying assets. Delinquencies or losses in excess of those anticipated could adversely affect the return on an investment in a security. The Fund will not pay any fees for credit support, although the existence of credit support may increase the price of a security.

**Mortgage Dollar Rolls.** In a mortgage dollar roll transaction, one party sells mortgage-backed securities, principally Mortgage TBAs, for delivery in the current month and simultaneously contracts with the same counterparty to repurchase similar (same type, coupon and maturity) but not identical securities on a specified future date. When the Fund enters into mortgage dollar rolls, the Fund will earmark and reserve until the settlement date Fund assets, in cash or liquid securities, in an amount equal to the forward purchase price. During the period between the sale and repurchase in a mortgage dollar roll transaction, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on securities sold. Losses may arise due to changes in the value of the securities or if the counterparty does not perform under the terms of the agreement. If the counterparty files for bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, the Fund's right to repurchase or sell securities may be limited. Mortgage dollar rolls may be subject to leverage risks. In addition, mortgage dollar rolls may increase interest rate risk and result in an increased portfolio turnover rate which increases costs and may increase taxable gains. The benefits of mortgage dollar rolls may depend upon the Adviser's ability to predict mortgage prepayments and interest rates. There is no assurance that mortgage dollar rolls can be successfully employed. For purposes of diversification and investment limitations, mortgage dollar rolls are considered to be mortgage-backed securities.

**Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities (“SMBS”) are derivative multiclass mortgage securities issued outside the REMIC or CMO structure. SMBS are usually structured with two classes that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions from a pool of mortgage assets. A common type of SMBS will have one class receiving all of the interest from the mortgage assets (“IOs”), while the other class will receive all of the principal (“POs”). Mortgage IOs receive monthly interest payments based upon a notional amount that declines over time as a result of the normal monthly amortization and unscheduled prepayments of principal on the associated mortgage POs.

In addition to the risks applicable to Mortgage-Related Securities in general, SMBS are subject to the following additional risks:

*Prepayment/Interest Rate Sensitivity.* SMBS are extremely sensitive to changes in prepayments and interest rates. Even though these securities have been guaranteed by an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. government, under certain interest rate or prepayment rate scenarios, the Fund may lose money on investments in SMBS.

*Interest Only SMBS.* Changes in prepayment rates can cause the return on investment in IOs to be highly volatile. Under extremely high prepayment conditions, IOs can incur significant losses.

*Principal Only SMBS.* POs are bought at a discount to the ultimate principal repayment value. The rate of return on a PO will vary with prepayments, rising as prepayments increase and falling as prepayments decrease. Generally, the market value of these securities is unusually volatile in response to changes in interest rates.

*Yield Characteristics.* Although SMBS may yield more than other mortgage-backed securities, their cash flow patterns are more volatile and there is a greater risk that any premium paid will not be fully recouped. The Adviser will seek to manage these risks (and potential benefits) by investing in a variety of such securities and by using certain analytical and hedging techniques.

**Adjustable Rate Mortgage Loans.** The Fund may invest in adjustable rate mortgage loans (“ARMs”). ARMs eligible for inclusion in a mortgage pool will generally provide for a fixed initial mortgage interest rate for a specified period of time. Thereafter, the interest rates (the “Mortgage Interest Rates”) may be subject to periodic adjustment based on changes in the applicable index rate (the “Index Rate”). The adjusted rate would be equal to the Index Rate plus a gross margin, which is a fixed percentage spread over the Index Rate established for each ARM at the time of its origination.

Adjustable interest rates can cause payment increases that some borrowers may find difficult to make. However, certain ARMs may provide that the Mortgage Interest Rate may not be adjusted to a rate above an applicable lifetime maximum rate or below an applicable lifetime minimum rate for such ARM. Certain ARMs may also be subject to limitations on the maximum amount by which the Mortgage Interest Rate may adjust for any single adjustment period (the “Maximum Adjustment”). Other ARMs (“Negatively Amortizing ARMs”) may provide instead or as well for limitations on changes in the monthly payment on such ARMs. Limitations on monthly payments can result in monthly payments which are greater or less than the amount necessary to amortize a Negatively Amortizing ARM by its maturity at the Mortgage Interest Rate in effect in any particular month. In the event that a monthly payment is not sufficient to pay the interest accruing on a Negatively Amortizing ARM, any such excess interest is added to the principal balance of the loan, causing negative amortization and will be repaid through future monthly payments. It may take borrowers under Negatively Amortizing ARMs longer periods of time to achieve equity and may increase the likelihood of default by such borrowers. In the event that a monthly payment exceeds the sum of the interest accrued at the applicable Mortgage Interest Rate and the principal payment which would have been necessary to amortize the outstanding principal balance over the remaining term of the loan, the excess (or “accelerated amortization”) further reduces the principal balance of the ARM. Negatively Amortizing ARMs do not provide for the extension of their original maturity to accommodate changes in their Mortgage Interest Rate. As a result, unless there is a periodic recalculation of the payment amount (which there generally is), the final payment may be substantially larger than the other payments. These limitations on periodic increases in interest rates and on changes in monthly payments protect borrowers from unlimited interest rate and payment increases.

Certain ARMs may provide for periodic adjustments of scheduled payments in order to amortize fully the mortgage loan by its stated maturity. Other ARMs may permit their stated maturity to be extended or shortened in accordance with the portion of each payment that is applied to interest as affected by the periodic interest rate adjustments. There are two main categories of indices which provide the basis for rate adjustments on ARMs: those based on U.S. Treasury securities and those derived from a calculated measure such as a cost of funds index or a moving average of mortgage rates. Commonly utilized indices include the one-year, three-year and five-year constant maturity Treasury bill rates, the three-month Treasury bill rate, the 180-day Treasury bill rate, rates on longer-term Treasury securities, the 11th District Federal Home Loan Bank Cost of Funds, the National Median Cost of Funds, the one-month, three-month, six-month or one-year London InterBank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), (until June 30, 2023, at which time all LIBOR settings will be discontinued), the prime rate of a specific bank, or commercial paper rates. Some indices, such as the one-year constant maturity Treasury rate, closely mirror changes in market interest rate levels. Others, such as the 11th District Federal Home Loan Bank Cost of Funds index, tend to lag behind

changes in market rate levels and tend to be somewhat less volatile. The degree of volatility in the market value of the Fund's portfolio and therefore in the net asset value of the Fund's shares will be a function of the length of the interest rate reset periods and the degree of volatility in the applicable indices.

In general, changes in both prepayment rates and interest rates will change the yield on Mortgage-Backed Securities. The rate of principal prepayments with respect to ARMs has fluctuated in recent years. As is the case with fixed mortgage loans, ARMs may be subject to a greater rate of principal prepayments in a declining interest rate environment. For example, if prevailing interest rates fall significantly, ARMs could be subject to higher prepayment rates than if prevailing interest rates remain constant because the availability of fixed rate mortgage loans at competitive interest rates may encourage mortgagors to refinance their ARMs to "lock-in" a lower fixed interest rate. Conversely, if prevailing interest rates rise significantly, ARMs may prepay at lower rates than if prevailing rates remain at or below those in effect at the time such ARMs were originated. As with fixed rate mortgages, there can be no certainty as to the rate of prepayments on the ARMs in either stable or changing interest rate environments. In addition, there can be no certainty as to whether increases in the principal balances of the ARMs due to the addition of deferred interest may result in a default rate higher than that on ARMs that do not provide for negative amortization.

Other factors affecting prepayment of ARMs include changes in mortgagors' housing needs, job transfers, unemployment, mortgagors' net equity in the mortgage properties and servicing decisions.

**Inverse Floaters and Interest Rate Caps.** Inverse floaters are instruments whose interest rates bear an inverse relationship to the interest rate on another security or the value of an index. The market value of an inverse floater will vary inversely with changes in market interest rates and will be more volatile in response to interest rate changes than that of a fixed rate obligation. Interest rate caps are financial instruments under which payments occur if an interest rate index exceeds a certain predetermined interest rate level, known as the cap rate, which is tied to a specific index. These financial products will be more volatile in price than securities which do not include such a structure.

**Risk Factors of Mortgage-Related Securities.** The following is a summary of certain risks associated with Mortgage-Related Securities:

*Guarantor Risk.* There can be no assurance that the U.S. government would provide financial support to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac if necessary in the future. Although certain mortgage-related securities are guaranteed by a third party or otherwise similarly secured, the market value of the security, which may fluctuate, is not so secured.

*Interest Rate Sensitivity.* If the Fund purchases a mortgage-related security at a premium, that portion may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security whether resulting from changes in interest rates or prepayments in the underlying mortgage collateral. As with other interest-bearing securities, the prices of such securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates. Although the value of a mortgage-related security may decline when interest rates rise, the converse is not necessarily true since in periods of declining interest rates the mortgages underlying the securities are prone to prepayment. For this and other reasons, a mortgage-related security's stated maturity may be shortened by unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgages and, therefore, it is not possible to predict accurately the security's return to the Fund. In addition, regular payments received in respect of mortgage-related securities include both interest and principal. No assurance can be given as to the return the Fund will receive when these amounts are reinvested.

*Market Value.* The market value of the Fund's adjustable rate Mortgage-Backed Securities may be adversely affected if interest rates increase faster than the rates of interest payable on such securities or by the adjustable rate mortgage loans underlying such securities. Furthermore, adjustable rate Mortgage-Backed Securities or the mortgage loans underlying such securities may contain provisions limiting the amount by which rates may be adjusted upward and downward and may limit the amount by which monthly payments may be increased or decreased to accommodate upward and downward adjustments in interest rates. When the market value of the properties underlying the Mortgage-Backed Securities suffer broad declines on a regional or national level, the values of the corresponding Mortgage-Backed Securities or Mortgage-Backed Securities as a whole, may be adversely affected as well.

*Prepayments.* Adjustable rate Mortgage-Backed Securities have less potential for capital appreciation than fixed rate Mortgage-Backed Securities because their coupon rates will decline in response to market interest rate declines. The market value of fixed rate Mortgage-Backed Securities may be adversely affected as a result of increases in interest rates and, because of the risk of unscheduled principal prepayments, may benefit less than other fixed rate securities of similar maturity from declining interest rates. Finally, to the extent Mortgage-Backed Securities are purchased at a premium, mortgage foreclosures and unscheduled principal prepayments may result in some loss of the Fund's principal investment to the extent of the premium paid. On the other hand, if such securities are purchased at a discount, both a scheduled payment of principal and an unscheduled prepayment of principal will increase current and total returns and will accelerate the recognition of income.

*Yield Characteristics.* The yield characteristics of Mortgage-Backed Securities differ from those of traditional fixed income securities. The major differences typically include more frequent interest and principal payments, usually monthly, and the

possibility that prepayments of principal may be made at any time. Prepayment rates are influenced by changes in current interest rates and a variety of economic, geographic, social and other factors and cannot be predicted with certainty. As with fixed rate mortgage loans, adjustable rate mortgage loans may be subject to a greater prepayment rate in a declining interest rate environment. The yields to maturity of the Mortgage-Backed Securities in which the Fund invests will be affected by the actual rate of payment (including prepayments) of principal of the underlying mortgage loans. The mortgage loans underlying such securities generally may be prepaid at any time without penalty. In a fluctuating interest rate environment, a predominant factor affecting the prepayment rate on a pool of mortgage loans is the difference between the interest rates on the mortgage loans and prevailing mortgage loan interest rates taking into account the cost of any refinancing. In general, if mortgage loan interest rates fall sufficiently below the interest rates on fixed rate mortgage loans underlying mortgage pass-through securities, the rate of prepayment would be expected to increase. Conversely, if mortgage loan interest rates rise above the interest rates on the fixed rate mortgage loans underlying the mortgage pass-through securities, the rate of prepayment may be expected to decrease.

### **Options and Futures Transactions**

The Fund may purchase and sell (a) exchange traded and over-the-counter ("OTC") put and call options on securities, on indexes of securities and other types of instruments, and on futures contracts on securities and indexes of securities and other instruments such as interest rate futures and global interest rate futures and (b) futures contracts on securities and other types of instruments and on indexes of securities and other types of instruments. Each of these instruments is a derivative instrument as its value derives from the underlying asset or index.

The Fund may use futures contracts and options for hedging and risk management purposes and to seek to enhance portfolio performance.

Options and futures contracts may be used to manage the Fund's exposure to changing interest rates and/or security prices. Some options and futures strategies, including selling futures contracts and buying puts, tend to hedge the Fund's investments against price fluctuations. Other strategies, including buying futures contracts and buying calls, tend to increase market exposure. Options and futures contracts may be combined with each other or with forward contracts in order to adjust the risk and return characteristics of the Fund's overall strategy in a manner deemed appropriate by the Adviser and consistent with the Fund's objective and policies. Because combined options positions involve multiple trades, they result in higher transaction costs and may be more difficult to open and close out.

The use of options and futures is a highly specialized activity which involves investment strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions, and there can be no guarantee that their use will increase the Fund's return. While the use of these instruments by the Fund may reduce certain risks associated with owning its portfolio securities, these techniques themselves entail certain other risks. If the Adviser applies a strategy at an inappropriate time or judges market conditions or trends incorrectly, options and futures strategies may lower the Fund's return. Certain strategies limit the Fund's possibilities to realize gains, as well as its exposure to losses. The Fund could also experience losses if the prices of its options and futures positions were poorly correlated with its other investments, or if it could not close out its positions because of an illiquid secondary market. In addition, the Fund will incur transaction costs, including trading commissions and option premiums, in connection with its futures and options transactions, and these transactions could significantly increase the Fund's turnover rate.

A notice claiming an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended ("CEA"), and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") promulgated thereunder, with respect to the Adviser's operations with respect to the Fund has been filed with the National Futures Association. Accordingly, the Adviser is not currently subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator.

**Purchasing Put and Call Options.** By purchasing a put option, the Fund obtains the right (but not the obligation) to sell the instrument underlying the option at a fixed strike price. In return for this right, the Fund pays the current market price for the option (known as the option premium). Options have various types of underlying instruments, including specific securities, indexes of securities, indexes of securities prices, and futures contracts. The Fund may terminate its position in a put option it has purchased by allowing it to expire or by exercising the option. The Fund may also close out a put option position by entering into an offsetting transaction, if a liquid market exists. If the option is allowed to expire, the Fund will lose the entire premium it paid. If the Fund exercises a put option on a security, it will sell the instrument underlying the option at the strike price. If the Fund exercises an option on an index, settlement is in cash and does not involve the actual purchase or sale of securities. If an option is American style, it may be exercised on any day up to its expiration date. A European style option may be exercised only on its expiration date.

The buyer of a typical put option can expect to realize a gain if the value of the underlying instrument falls substantially. However, if the price of the instrument underlying the option does not fall enough to offset the cost of purchasing the option, a put buyer can expect to suffer a loss (limited to the amount of the premium paid, plus related transaction costs).

The features of call options are essentially the same as those of put options, except that the purchaser of a call option obtains the right to purchase, rather than sell, the instrument underlying the option at the option's strike price. A call buyer typically attempts to participate in potential price increases of the instrument underlying the option with risk limited to the cost of the option if security prices fall. At the same time, the buyer can expect to suffer a loss if security prices do not rise sufficiently to offset the cost of the option.

**Selling (Writing) Put and Call Options on Securities.** When the Fund writes a put option on a security, it takes the opposite side of the transaction from the option's purchaser. In return for the receipt of the premium, the Fund assumes the obligation to pay the strike price for the security underlying the option if the other party to the option chooses to exercise it. The Fund may seek to terminate its position in a put option it writes before exercise by purchasing an offsetting option in the market at its current price. If the market is not liquid for a put option the Fund has written, however, it must continue to be prepared to pay the strike price while the option is outstanding, regardless of price changes, and must continue to post margin as discussed below. If the market value of the underlying securities does not move to a level that would make exercise of the option profitable to its holder, the option will generally expire unexercised, and the Fund will realize as profit the premium it received.

If the price of the underlying instrument rises, a put writer would generally expect to profit, although its gain would be limited to the amount of the premium it received. If security prices remain the same over time, it is likely that the writer will also profit, because it should be able to close out the option at a lower price. If security prices fall, the put writer would expect to suffer a loss. This loss should be less than the loss from purchasing and holding the underlying security directly, however, because the premium received for writing the option should offset a portion of the decline.

Writing a call option obligates the Fund to sell or deliver the option's underlying security in return for the strike price upon exercise of the option. The characteristics of writing call options are similar to those of writing put options, except that writing calls generally is a profitable strategy if prices remain the same or fall. Through receipt of the option premium, a call writer offsets part of the effect of a price decline. At the same time, because a call writer must be prepared to deliver the underlying instrument in return for the strike price, even if its current value is greater, a call writer gives up some ability to participate in security price increases. In order to meet its asset coverage requirements, when the Fund writes an exchange traded put or call option on a security, it will be required to deposit cash or securities or a letter of credit as margin and to make mark to market payments of variation margin as the position becomes unprofitable.

The Fund will usually sell covered call options or cash-secured put options on securities. A call option is covered if the writer either owns the underlying security (or comparable securities satisfying the cover requirements of the securities exchanges) or has the right to acquire such securities. A put option is cash-secured if the writer segregates cash, high-grade short-term debt obligations, or other permissible collateral equal to the exercise price. As the writer of a covered call option, the Fund foregoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the security covering the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the call, but has retained the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security decline. As the Fund writes covered calls over more of its portfolio, its ability to benefit from capital appreciation becomes more limited. The writer of an option has no control over the time when it may be required to fulfill its obligation, but may terminate its position by entering into an offsetting option. Once an option writer has received an exercise notice, it cannot effect an offsetting transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option and must deliver the underlying security at the exercise price.

When the Fund writes cash-secured put options, it bears the risk of loss if the value of the underlying stock declines below the exercise price minus the put premium. If the option is exercised, the Fund could incur a loss if it is required to purchase the stock underlying the put option at a price greater than the market price of the stock at the time of exercise plus the put premium the Fund received when it wrote the option. While the Fund's potential gain in writing a cash-secured put option is limited to distributions earned on the liquid assets securing the put option plus the premium received from the purchaser of the put option, the Fund risks a loss equal to the entire exercise price of the option minus the put premium.

**Engaging in Straddles and Spreads.** In a straddle transaction, the Fund either buys a call and a put or sells a call and a put on the same security. In a spread, the Fund purchases and sells a call or a put. The Fund will sell a straddle when the Adviser believes the price of a security will be stable. The Fund will receive a premium on the sale of the put and the call. A spread permits the Fund to make a hedged investment that the price of a security will increase or decline.

**Options on Indexes.** The Fund may purchase and sell options on securities indexes and other types of indexes. Options on indexes are similar to options on securities, except that the exercise of index options may be settled by cash payments (or



in some instances by a futures contract) and does not involve the actual purchase or sale of securities or the instruments in the index. In addition, these options are designed to reflect price fluctuations in a group of securities or instruments or segment of the securities' or instruments' market rather than price fluctuations in a single security or instrument. The Fund, in purchasing or selling index options, is subject to the risk that the value of its portfolio may not change as much as an index because the Fund's investments generally will not match the composition of an index. Unlike call options on securities, index options are cash settled, or settled with a futures contract in some instances, rather than settled by delivery of the underlying index securities or instruments.

The Fund purchases and sells credit options which are options on indexes of derivative instruments such as credit default swap indexes. Like other index options, credit options can be cash settled or settled with a futures contract in some instances. In addition, credit options can also be settled in some instances by delivery of the underlying index instrument. Credit options may be used for a variety of purposes including hedging, risk management such as positioning a portfolio for anticipated volatility or increasing income or gain to the Fund. There is no guarantee that the strategy of using options on indexes or credit options in particular will be successful.

For a number of reasons, a liquid market may not exist and thus the Fund may not be able to close out an option position that it has previously entered into. When the Fund purchases an OTC option (as defined below), it will be relying on its counterparty to perform its obligations and the Fund may incur additional losses if the counterparty is unable to perform.

**Exchange-Traded and OTC Options.** All options purchased or sold by the Fund will be traded on a securities exchange or will be purchased or sold by securities dealers ("OTC options") that meet the Fund's creditworthiness standards. While exchange-traded options are obligations of the Options Clearing Corporation, in the case of OTC options, the Fund relies on the dealer from which it purchased the option to perform if the option is exercised. Thus, when the Fund purchases an OTC option, it relies on the dealer from which it purchased the option to make or take delivery of the underlying securities. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Fund as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Provided that the Fund has arrangements with certain qualified dealers who agree that the Fund may repurchase any option it writes for a maximum price to be calculated by a predetermined formula, the Fund may treat the underlying securities used to cover written OTC options as liquid. In these cases, the OTC option itself would only be considered illiquid to the extent that the maximum repurchase price under the formula exceeds the intrinsic value of the option.

**Futures Contracts.** When the Fund purchases a futures contract, it agrees to purchase a specified quantity of an underlying instrument at a specified future date or, in the case of an index futures contract, to make a cash payment based on the value of a securities index. When the Fund sells a futures contract, it agrees to sell a specified quantity of the underlying instrument at a specified future date or, in the case of an index futures contract, to receive a cash payment based on the value of a securities index. The price at which the purchase and sale will take place is fixed when the Fund enters into the contract. Futures can be held until their delivery dates or the position can be (and normally is) closed out before then. There is no assurance, however, that a liquid market will exist when the Fund wishes to close out a particular position.

When the Fund purchases a futures contract, the value of the futures contract tends to increase and decrease in tandem with the value of its underlying instrument. Therefore, purchasing futures contracts will tend to increase the Fund's exposure to positive and negative price fluctuations in the underlying instrument, much as if it had purchased the underlying instrument directly. When the Fund sells a futures contract, by contrast, the value of its futures position will tend to move in a direction contrary to the value of the underlying instrument. Selling futures contracts, therefore, will tend to offset both positive and negative market price changes, much as if the underlying instrument had been sold.

The purchaser or seller of a futures contract is not required to deliver or pay for the underlying instrument unless the contract is held until the delivery date. However, when the Fund buys or sells a futures contract it will be required to deposit "initial margin" with a futures commission merchant ("FCM"). Initial margin deposits are typically equal to a small percentage of the contract's value. If the value of either party's position declines, that party will be required to make additional "variation margin" payments equal to the change in value on a daily basis. The party that has a gain may be entitled to receive all or a portion of this amount. The Fund may be obligated to make payments of variation margin at a time when it is disadvantageous to do so. Furthermore, it may not always be possible for the Fund to close out its futures positions. Until it closes out a futures position, the Fund will be obligated to continue to pay variation margin. Initial and variation margin payments do not constitute purchasing on margin for purposes of the Fund's investment restrictions. In the event of the bankruptcy of an FCM that holds margin on behalf of the Fund, the Fund may be entitled to return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the Fund.

The Fund only invests in futures contracts on securities to the extent they could invest in the underlying securities directly. The Fund may also invest in indexes where the underlying securities or instruments are not available for direct investments by the Fund.

**Cash Equalization.** The objective where equity futures are used to “equitize” cash is to match the notional value of all futures contracts to a Fund’s cash balance. The notional values of the futures contracts and of the cash are monitored daily. As the cash is invested in securities and/or paid out to participants in redemptions, the Adviser simultaneously adjusts the futures positions. Through such procedures, a Fund not only gains equity exposure from the use of futures, but also benefits from increased flexibility in responding to client cash flow needs. Additionally, because it can be less expensive to trade a list of securities as a package or program trade rather than as a group of individual orders, futures provide a means through which transaction costs can be reduced. Such non-hedging risk management techniques involve leverage, and thus present, as do all leveraged transactions, the possibility of losses as well as gains that are greater than if these techniques involved the purchase and sale of the securities themselves rather than their synthetic derivatives.

**Options on Futures Contracts.** Futures contracts obligate the buyer to take and the seller to make delivery at a future date of a specified quantity of a financial instrument or an amount of cash based on the value of a securities or other index. Currently, futures contracts are available on various types of securities, including but not limited to U.S. Treasury bonds, notes and bills, Eurodollar certificates of deposit and on indexes of securities. Unlike a futures contract, which requires the parties to buy and sell a security or make a cash settlement payment based on changes in a financial instrument or securities or other index on an agreed date, an option on a futures contract entitles its holder to decide on or before a future date whether to enter into such a contract. If the holder decides not to exercise its option, the holder may close out the option position by entering into an offsetting transaction or may decide to let the option expire and forfeit the premium thereon. The purchaser of an option on a futures contract pays a premium for the option but makes no initial margin payments or daily payments of cash in the nature of “variation margin” payments to reflect the change in the value of the underlying contract as does a purchaser or seller of a futures contract.

The seller of an option on a futures contract receives the premium paid by the purchaser and may be required to pay initial margin.

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”)**

The Fund may invest in equity interests or debt obligations issued by REITs. REITs are pooled investment vehicles which invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interest. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling property that has appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. Similar to investment companies, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with several requirements of the IRC. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of expenses incurred by REITs in which the Fund invests in addition to the expenses incurred directly by the Fund. Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. REITs are dependent upon management skills and on cash flows, are not diversified, and are subject to default by borrowers and self-liquidation. REITs are also subject to the possibilities of failing to qualify for tax free pass-through of income under the IRC and failing to maintain their exemption from registration under the 1940 Act.

REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are also subject to interest rate risks. When interest rates decline, the value of a REIT’s investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to rise. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the value of a REIT’s investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to decline. In contrast, as interest rates on adjustable rate mortgage loans are reset periodically, yields on a REIT’s investment in such loans will gradually align themselves to fluctuate less dramatically in response to interest rate fluctuations than would investments in fixed rate obligations.

Investment in REITs involves risks similar to those associated with investing in small capitalization companies. These risks include limited financial resources, infrequent or limited trading, and more abrupt or erratic price movements than larger company securities. In addition, small capitalization stocks, such as certain REITs, historically have been more volatile in price than the larger capitalization stocks included in the S&P 500 Index.

## **Repurchase Agreements**

To maintain liquidity, the Fund may enter into repurchase agreements (agreements to purchase U.S. Treasury notes and bills, subject to the seller's agreement to repurchase them at a specified time and price) with well-established registered securities dealers or banks.

A repurchase agreement is a transaction in which the Fund purchases a security and, at the same time, the seller (normally a commercial bank or broker-dealer) agrees to repurchase the same security (and/or a security substituted for it under the repurchase agreement) at an agreed-upon price and date in the future. The resale price is in excess of the purchase price, as it reflects an agreed-upon market interest rate effective for the period of time during which the Fund holds the securities. Repurchase agreements may be viewed as a type of secured lending. The purchaser maintains custody of the underlying securities prior to their repurchase; thus the obligation of the bank or dealer to pay the repurchase price on the date agreed to is, in effect, secured by such underlying securities. If the value of such securities is less than the repurchase price, the other party to the agreement is required to provide additional collateral so that all times the collateral is at least 102% of the repurchase price.

The majority of these transactions run from day to day and not more than seven days from the original purchase. However, the maturities of the securities subject to repurchase agreements are not subject to any limits and may exceed one year. The securities will be marked to market every business day so that their value is at least equal to the amount due from the seller, including accrued interest. The Fund's risk is limited to the ability of the seller to pay the agreed-upon sum on the delivery date.

Although repurchase agreements carry certain risks not associated with direct investments in securities, the Fund intends to enter into repurchase agreements only with banks and dealers believed by the Adviser to present minimum credit risks in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Trustees.

A repurchase agreement is subject to the risk that the seller may fail to repurchase the security. In the event of default by the seller under a repurchase agreement construed to be a collateralized loan, the underlying securities would not be owned by the Fund, but would only constitute collateral for the seller's obligation to pay the repurchase price. Therefore, the Fund may suffer time delays and incur costs in connection with the disposition of the collateral. The collateral underlying repurchase agreements may be more susceptible to claims of the seller's creditors than would be the case with securities owned by the Fund.

## **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

In a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund sells a security and agrees to repurchase the same security at a mutually agreed upon date and price reflecting the interest rate effective for the term of the agreement. For purposes of the 1940 Act, a reverse repurchase agreement is considered borrowing by the Fund and, therefore, a form of leverage. Leverage may cause any gains or losses for the Fund to be magnified. The Fund will invest the proceeds of borrowings under reverse repurchase agreements. In addition, except for liquidity purposes, the Fund will enter into a reverse repurchase agreement only when the expected return from the investment of the proceeds is greater than the expense of the transaction. The Fund will not invest the proceeds of a reverse repurchase agreement for a period which exceeds the duration of the reverse repurchase agreement. The Fund would be required to pay interest on amounts obtained through reverse repurchase agreements, which are considered borrowings under federal securities laws. The repurchase price is generally equal to the original sales price plus interest. Reverse repurchase agreements are usually for seven days or less and cannot be repaid prior to their expiration dates. The Fund will earmark and reserve Fund assets, in cash or liquid securities, in an amount at least equal to its purchase obligations under its reverse repurchase agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the portfolio securities transferred may decline below the price at which the Fund is obliged to purchase the securities. All forms of borrowing (including reverse repurchase agreements) are limited in the aggregate and may not exceed 33 1/3% of the Fund's total assets, except as permitted by law.

## **Securities Lending**

The Fund may, subject to guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees, lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and financial institutions deemed creditworthy and receive, as collateral, cash or cash equivalents which at all times while the loan is outstanding will be maintained in amounts equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. Any cash collateral will be invested in short-term securities that will increase the current income of the Fund lending its securities. The Fund will have the right to regain record ownership of loaned securities to exercise beneficial rights such as voting rights and subscription rights. While a securities loan is outstanding, the Fund is to receive an amount equal to any dividends, interest, or other distributions with respect to the loaned securities. The Fund may pay reasonable fees to persons unaffiliated with the Trust for services in arranging such loans.

Even though securities lending usually does not impose market risks on the lending Fund, as with any extension of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery of the loaned securities and in some cases loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. In addition, the value of the collateral taken as security for the securities loaned may decline in value or may be difficult to convert to cash in the event that a Fund must rely on the collateral to recover the value of the securities. Moreover, if the borrower of the securities is insolvent, under current bankruptcy law, the Fund could be ordered by a court not to liquidate the collateral for an indeterminate period of time. If the borrower is the subject of insolvency proceedings and the collateral held might not be liquidated, the result could be a material adverse impact on the liquidity of the lending Fund.

The Fund will not lend securities having a value in excess of 33 1/3% of its assets, including collateral received for loaned securities (valued at the time of any loan).

### **Short Selling**

In short selling transactions, the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the market value of the security. To complete the transaction, the Fund must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it subsequently at the market price at the time of replacement. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund, which may result in a loss or gain, respectively. Unlike taking a long position in a security by purchasing the security, where potential losses are limited to the purchase price, short sales have no cap on maximum losses, and gains are limited to the price of the security at the time of the short sale.

Short sales of forward commitments and derivatives do not involve borrowing a security. These types of short sales may include futures, options, contracts for differences, forward contracts on financial instruments and options such as contracts, credit linked instruments, and swap contracts.

The Fund may not always be able to borrow a security it wants to sell short. The Fund also may be unable to close out an established short position at an acceptable price and may have to sell long positions at disadvantageous times to cover its short positions.

Short sales also involve other costs. The Fund must repay to the lender an amount equal to any dividends or interest that accrues while the loan is outstanding. To borrow the security, the Fund may be required to pay a premium. The Fund also will incur transaction costs in effecting short sales. The amount of any ultimate gain for the Fund resulting from a short sale will be decreased and the amount of any ultimate loss will be increased by the amount of premiums, interest or expenses the Fund may be required to pay in connection with the short sale. Until the Fund closes the short position, it will earmark and reserve Fund assets, in cash or liquid securities, to offset a portion of the leverage risk. Realized gains from short sales are typically treated as short-term gains/losses.

### **Short-Term Funding Agreements**

Short-term funding agreements issued by insurance companies are sometimes referred to as Guaranteed Investment Contracts ("GICs"), while those issued by banks are referred to as Bank Investment Contracts ("BICs"). Pursuant to such agreements, a Fund makes cash contributions to a deposit account at a bank or insurance company. The bank or insurance company then credits to the Fund on a monthly basis guaranteed interest at either a fixed, variable or floating rate. These contracts are general obligations of the issuing bank or insurance company (although they may be the obligations of an insurance company separate account) and are paid from the general assets of the issuing entity.

The Fund will purchase short-term funding agreements only from banks and insurance companies which, at the time of purchase, are rated in one of the three highest rating categories and have assets of \$1 billion or more. Generally, there is no active secondary market in short-term funding agreements. Therefore, short-term funding agreements may be considered by the Fund to be illiquid investments. To the extent that a short-term funding agreement is determined to be illiquid, such agreements will be acquired by the Fund only if, at the time of purchase, no more than 15% of the Fund's net assets will be invested in short-term funding agreements and other illiquid securities.

### **Structured Investments**

A structured investment is a security having a return tied to an underlying index or other security or asset class. Structured investments generally are individually negotiated agreements and may be traded over-the-counter. Structured investments are organized and operated to restructure the investment characteristics of the underlying security. This restructuring involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity, such as a corporation or trust, or specified instruments (such as commercial bank loans) and the issuance by that entity or one or more classes of securities ("structured securities") backed by, or representing

interests in, the underlying instruments. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly issued structured securities to create securities with different investment characteristics, such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of such payments made with respect to structured securities is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. Because structured securities typically involve no credit enhancement, their credit risk generally will be equivalent to that of the underlying instruments. Investments in structured securities are generally of a class of structured securities that is either subordinated or unsubordinated to the right of payment of another class. Subordinated structured securities typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated structured securities. Structured instruments include structured notes. In addition to the risks applicable to investments in structured investments and debt securities in general, structured notes bear the risk that the issuer may not be required to pay interest on the structured note if the index rate rises above or falls below a certain level. Structured securities are typically sold in private placement transactions, and there currently is no active trading market for structured securities. Investments in government and government-related restructured debt instruments are subject to special risks, including the inability or unwillingness to repay principal and interest, requests to reschedule or restructure outstanding debt and requests to extend additional loan amounts. Structured investments include a wide variety of instruments including, without limitation, Collateralized Debt Obligations, credit linked notes, and participation notes and participatory notes.

Structured instruments that are registered under the federal securities laws may be treated as liquid. In addition, many structured instruments may not be registered under the federal securities laws. In that event, the Fund's ability to resell such a structured instrument may be more limited than its ability to resell other Fund securities. The Fund will treat such instruments as illiquid and will limit its investments in such instruments to no more than 15% of the Fund's net assets when combined with all other illiquid investments of the Fund.

### **Swaps and Related Swap Products**

Swap transactions may include, but are not limited to, interest rate swaps, currency swaps, cross-currency interest rate swaps, forward rate agreements, contracts for differences, total return swaps, index swaps, basket swaps, specific security swaps, fixed income sectors swaps, commodity swaps, asset-backed swaps (ABX), commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) and indexes of CMBS (CMBX), credit default swaps, interest rate caps, price lock swaps, floors and collars and swaptions (collectively defined as "swap transactions").

The Fund may enter into swap transactions for any legal purpose consistent with its investment objective and policies, such as for the purpose of attempting to obtain or preserve a particular return or spread at a lower cost than obtaining that return or spread through purchases and/or sales of instruments in cash markets, to protect against currency fluctuations, to protect against any increase in the price of securities the Fund anticipates purchasing at a later date, or to gain exposure to certain markets in the most economical way possible.

Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional counterparties for periods ranging from a few weeks to several years. In a standard swap transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) that would be earned or realized on specified notional investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are calculated by reference to a "notional amount," i.e., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency or commodity, or in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index. The purchaser of an interest rate cap or floor, upon payment of a fee, has the right to receive payments (and the seller of the cap or floor is obligated to make payments) to the extent a specified interest rate exceeds (in the case of a cap) or is less than (in the case of a floor) a specified level over a specified period of time or at specified dates. The purchaser of an interest rate collar, upon payment of a fee, has the right to receive payments (and the seller of the collar is obligated to make payments) to the extent that a specified interest rate falls outside an agreed upon range over a specified period of time or at specified dates. The purchaser of an option on an interest rate swap, also known as a "swaption," upon payment of a fee (either at the time of purchase or in the form of higher payments or lower receipts within an interest rate swap transaction) has the right, but not the obligation, to initiate a new swap transaction of a pre-specified notional amount with pre-specified terms with the seller of the swaption as the counterparty.

The "notional amount" of a swap transaction is the agreed upon basis for calculating the payments that the parties have agreed to exchange. For example, one swap counterparty may agree to pay a floating rate of interest (e.g., 3 month LIBOR or another reference rate) calculated based on a \$10 million notional amount on a quarterly basis in exchange for receipt of payments calculated based on the same notional amount and a fixed rate of interest on a semi-annual basis. In the event the Fund is obligated to make payments more frequently than it receives payments from the other party, it will incur incremental credit exposure to that swap counterparty. This risk may be mitigated somewhat by the use of swap agreements which call for a net payment to be made by the party with the larger payment obligation when the obligations of the parties fall due on the same date. Under most swap agreements entered into by the Fund, payments by the parties will be exchanged on a "net basis", and the Fund will receive or pay, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments.

The amount of the Fund's potential gain or loss on any swap transaction is not subject to any fixed limit. Nor is there any fixed limit on the Fund's potential loss if it sells a cap or collar. If the Fund buys a cap, floor or collar, however, the Fund's potential loss is limited to the amount of the fee that it has paid. When measured against the initial amount of cash required to initiate the transaction, which is typically zero in the case of most conventional swap transactions, swaps, caps, floors and collars tend to be more volatile than many other types of instruments.

The use of swap transactions, caps, floors and collars involves investment techniques and risks that are different from those associated with portfolio security transactions. If the Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates, and other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund will be less favorable than if these techniques had not been used. These instruments are typically not traded on exchanges. Accordingly, there is a risk that the other party to certain of these instruments will not perform its obligations to the Fund or that the Fund may be unable to enter into offsetting positions to terminate its exposure or liquidate its position under certain of these instruments when it wishes to do so. Such occurrences could result in losses to the Fund. The Adviser will consider such risks and will enter into swap and other derivatives transactions only when it believes that the risks are not unreasonable.

The Fund will earmark and reserve Fund assets, in cash or liquid securities, in an amount sufficient at all times to cover its current obligations under its swap transactions, caps, floors and collars. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on a net basis, it will earmark and reserve assets with a daily value at least equal to the excess, if any, of the Fund's accrued obligations under the swap agreement over the accrued amount the Fund is entitled to receive under the agreement. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on other than a net basis, or sells a cap, floor or collar, it will earmark and reserve assets with a daily value at least equal to the full amount of the Fund's accrued obligations under the agreement. The Fund will not enter into any swap transaction, cap, floor, or collar, unless the counterparty to the transaction is deemed creditworthy by the Adviser. If a counterparty defaults, the Fund may have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. The swap markets in which many types of swap transactions are traded have grown substantially in recent years, with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the markets for certain types of swaps (e.g., interest rate swaps) have become relatively liquid. The markets for some types of caps, floors and collars are less liquid.

The liquidity of swap transactions, caps, floors and collars will be as set forth in guidelines established by the Adviser and approved by the Trustees which are based on various factors, including: (1) the availability of dealer quotations and the estimated transaction volume for the instrument, (2) the number of dealers and end users for the instrument in the marketplace, (3) the level of market making by dealers in the type of instrument, (4) the nature of the instrument (including any right of a party to terminate it on demand) and (5) the nature of the marketplace for trades (including the ability to assign or offset the Fund's rights and obligations relating to the instrument). Such determination will govern whether the instrument will be deemed within the applicable liquidity restriction on investments in securities that are not readily marketable.

During the term of a swap, cap, floor or collar, changes in the value of the instrument are recognized as unrealized gains or losses by marking to market to reflect the market value of the instrument. When the instrument is terminated, the Fund will record a realized gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the proceeds from (or cost of) the closing transaction and the Fund's basis in the contract. The federal income tax treatment with respect to swap transactions, caps, floors, and collars may impose limitations on the extent to which the Fund may engage in such transactions.

**Credit Default Swaps.** As described above, swap agreements are two party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In the case of a credit default swap ("CDS"), the contract gives one party (the buyer) the right to recoup the economic value of a decline in the value of debt securities of the reference issuer if the credit event (a downgrade or default) occurs. This value is obtained by delivering a debt security of the reference issuer to the party in return for a previously agreed payment from the other party (frequently, the par value of the debt security). CDS include credit default swaps, which are contracts on individual securities, and CDX, which are contracts on baskets or indices of securities.

Credit default swaps may require initial premium (discount) payments as well as periodic payments (receipts) related to the interest leg of the swap or to the default of a reference obligation. The Fund will earmark and reserve assets, in cash or liquid securities, to cover any accrued payment obligations when it is the buyer of a CDS. In cases where a Fund is a seller of a CDS contract, the Fund will earmark and reserve assets, in cash or liquid securities, to cover its obligation (for credit default swaps on individual securities, such amount will be the notional amount of the CDS).

If the Fund is a seller of protection under a CDS contract, the Fund would be required to pay the par (or other agreed upon) value of a referenced debt obligation to the counterparty in the event of a default or other credit event by the reference issuer, such as a U.S. or foreign corporate issuer, with respect to such debt obligations. In return, the Fund would receive from the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided that no event of default has occurred.

If no default occurs, the Fund would keep the stream of payments and would have no payment obligations. As the seller, the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap.

If the Fund is a buyer of protection under a CDS contract, the Fund would have the right to deliver a referenced debt obligation and receive the par (or other agreed-upon) value of such debt obligation from the counterparty in the event of a default or other credit event (such as a downgrade in credit rating) by the reference issuer, such as a U.S. or foreign corporation, with respect to its debt obligations. In return, the Fund would pay the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided that no event of default has occurred. If no default occurs, the counterparty would keep the stream of payments and would have no further obligations to the Fund.

The use of CDSs, like all swap agreements, is subject to certain risks. If a counterparty's creditworthiness declines, the value of the swap would likely decline. Moreover, there is no guarantee that the Fund could eliminate its exposure under an outstanding swap agreement by entering into an offsetting swap agreement with the same or another party. In addition to general market risks, CDSs involve liquidity, credit and counterparty risks. The recent increase in corporate defaults further raises these liquidity and credit risks, increasing the possibility that sellers will not have sufficient funds to make payments. As unregulated instruments, CDSs are difficult to value and are therefore susceptible to liquidity and credit risks. Counterparty risks also stem from the lack of regulation of CDSs. Collateral posting requirements are individually negotiated between counterparties and there is no regulatory requirement concerning the amount of collateral that a counterparty must post to secure its obligations under a CDS. Because they are unregulated, there is no requirement that parties to a contract be informed in advance when a CDS is sold. As a result, investors may have difficulty identifying the party responsible for payment of their claims.

If a counterparty's credit becomes significantly impaired, multiple requests for collateral posting in a short period of time could increase the risk that the Fund may not receive adequate collateral. There is no readily available market for trading out of CDS contracts. In order to eliminate a position it has taken in a CDS, the Fund must terminate the existing CDS contract or enter into an offsetting trade. The Fund may only exit its obligations under a CDS contract by terminating the contract and paying applicable breakage fees, which could result in additional losses to the Fund. Furthermore, the cost of entering into an offsetting CDS position could cause the Fund to incur losses.

### ***Synthetic Variable Rate Instruments***

Synthetic variable rate instruments generally involve the deposit of a long-term tax exempt bond in a custody or trust arrangement and the creation of a mechanism to adjust the long-term interest rate on the bond to a variable short-term rate and a right (subject to certain conditions) on the part of the purchaser to tender it periodically to a third party at par. The Adviser reviews the structure of synthetic variable rate instruments to identify credit and liquidity risks (including the conditions under which the right to tender the instrument would no longer be available) and will monitor those risks. In the event that the right to tender the instrument is no longer available, the risk to the Fund will be that of holding the long-term bond. In the case of some types of instruments credit enhancement is not provided, and if certain events occur, which may include (a) default in the payment of principal or interest on the underlying bond, (b) downgrading of the bond below investment grade or (c) a loss of the bond's tax exempt status, then the put will terminate and the risk to the Fund will be that of holding a long-term bond.

### ***Treasury Receipts***

The Fund may purchase interests in separately traded interest and principal component parts of U.S. Treasury obligations that are issued by banks or brokerage firms and are created by depositing U.S. Treasury notes and U.S. Treasury bonds into a special account at a custodian bank. Receipts include Treasury Receipts ("TRs"), Treasury Investment Growth Receipts ("TIGRs"), and Certificates of Accrual on Treasury Securities ("CATS"). Receipts in which an entity other than the government separates the interest and principal components are not considered government securities unless such securities are issued through the Treasury Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities ("STRIPS") program.

### ***Trust Preferred Securities***

The Fund may purchase trust preferred securities, also known as "trust preferreds", which are preferred stocks issued by a special purpose trust subsidiary backed by subordinated debt of the corporate parent. An issuer creates trust preferred securities by creating a trust and issuing debt to the trust. The trust in turn issues trust preferred securities. Trust preferred securities are hybrid securities with characteristics of both subordinated debt and preferred stock. Such characteristics include long maturities (typically 30 years or more), early redemption by the issuer, periodic fixed or variable interest payments, and maturities at face value. In addition, trust preferred securities issued by a bank holding company may allow deferral of interest payments for up to 5 years. Holders of trust preferred securities have limited voting rights to control the activities of the trust and no voting rights with respect to the parent company.

### **When-Issued Securities, Delayed Delivery Securities and Forward Commitments**

Securities may be purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. For example, delivery of and payment for these securities can take place a month or more after the date of the purchase commitment. The purchase price and the interest rate payable, if any, on the securities are fixed on the purchase commitment date or at the time the settlement date is fixed. The value of such securities is subject to market fluctuation, and for money market instruments and other fixed income securities, no interest accrues to a Fund until settlement takes place. At the time the Fund makes the commitment to purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, it will record the transaction, reflect the value each day of such securities in determining its NAV and, if applicable, calculate the maturity for the purposes of average maturity from that date. At the time of settlement, a when-issued security may be valued at less than the purchase price. On delivery dates for such transactions, the Fund will meet its obligations from maturities or sales of the securities earmarked and reserved for such purpose and/or from cash flow. If the Fund chooses to dispose of the right to acquire a when-issued security prior to its acquisition, it could, as with the disposition of any other portfolio obligation, incur a gain or loss due to market fluctuation. Also, the Fund may be disadvantaged if the other party to the transaction defaults.

*Forward Commitments.* Securities may be purchased for delivery at a future date, which may increase their overall investment exposure and involves a risk of loss if the value of the securities declines prior to the settlement date. In order to invest the Fund's assets immediately, while awaiting delivery of securities purchased on a forward commitment basis, short-term obligations that offer same-day settlement and earnings will normally be purchased. For the purpose of determining the adequacy of the securities reserved for payment of commitments, the reserved securities will be valued at market value. If the market value of such securities declines, additional cash, cash equivalents or highly liquid securities will be reserved for payment of the commitment so that the value of the Fund's assets reserved for payment of the commitments will equal the amount of such commitments purchased by the Fund.

Purchases of securities on a forward commitment basis may involve more risk than other types of purchases. Securities purchased on a forward commitment basis and the securities held in the Fund's portfolio are subject to changes in value based upon the public's perception of the issuer and changes, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment basis can involve the risk that the yields available in the market when the delivery takes place may actually be higher or lower than those obtained in the transaction itself. On the settlement date of the forward commitment transaction, the Fund will meet its obligations from then-available cash flow, sale of securities reserved for payment of the commitment, sale of other securities or, although it would not normally expect to do so, from sale of the forward commitment securities themselves (which may have a value greater or lesser than the Fund's payment obligations). The sale of securities to meet such obligations may result in the realization of capital gains or losses. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment basis can also involve the risk of default by the other party on its obligation, delaying or preventing the Fund from recovering the collateral or completing the transaction.

To the extent the Fund engages in forward commitment transactions, it will do so for the purpose of acquiring securities consistent with its investment objective and policies and not for the purpose of investment leverage.

### **Temporary Defensive Position**

From time to time, the Fund may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies, in attempting to respond to adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions. For example, the Fund may hold all or a portion of its assets in money market instruments (high quality income securities with maturities of less than one year), securities of money market funds or U.S. Government repurchase agreements. The Fund may also invest in such investments at any time to maintain liquidity or pending selection of investments in accordance with its policies. As a result, the Fund may not achieve its investment objective.

### **Cybersecurity Risk**

With the increased use of technologies such as mobile devices and Web-based or "cloud" applications, and the dependence on the Internet and computer systems to conduct business, the Fund is susceptible to operational, information security, and related risks. In general, cybersecurity incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events (arising from external or internal sources) that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, physical damage to a computer or network system or lose operational capacity. Cybersecurity attacks include, but are not limited to, infection by malicious software, such as malware or computer viruses or gaining unauthorized access to digital systems, networks or devices that are used to service the Fund's operations (e.g., through "hacking," "phishing" or malicious software coding), or other means for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cybersecurity attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on the Fund's websites (i.e., efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). In addition, authorized persons could inadvertently or intentionally release confidential or proprietary information stored on the Fund's systems.



Cybersecurity incidents affecting the Adviser, other service providers (including, but not limited to, the administrator, custodian, and transfer agent) or the Fund's shareholders have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to both the Fund and shareholders, interference with the Fund's ability to calculate its NAV, impediments to trading, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions (including fulfillment of Fund share purchases and redemptions), violations of applicable privacy and other laws (including the release of private shareholder information) and attendant breach notification and credit monitoring costs, regulatory fines, penalties, litigation costs, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, forensic investigation and remediation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity incidents affecting issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, counterparties with which the Fund engage in transactions, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies and other financial institutions (including other service providers), and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to safeguard against and reduce the risk of any cybersecurity incidents in the future. In addition to administrative, technological, and procedural safeguards, the Adviser has established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent or reduce the impact of, such cybersecurity incidents. However, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified, as well as the rapid development of new threats. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control the cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers or any other third parties whose operations may affect the Fund or its shareholders. The Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

## Investment Restrictions

### **Fundamental Investment Limitations.**

The investment limitations described below have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund and are fundamental ("Fundamental"), i.e., they may not be changed without the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. As used in the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information, the term "majority" of the outstanding shares of a Fund means the lesser of: (1) 67% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented at such meeting; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Other investment practices, which may be changed by the Board of Trustees without the approval of shareholders to the extent permitted by applicable law, regulation or regulatory policy, are considered non-fundamental ("Non-Fundamental").

- 1. Borrowing Money.** The Fund will not borrow money, except: (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of a Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Fund has asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and reverse repurchase commitments of a Fund.
- 2. Senior Securities.** The Fund will not issue senior securities. This limitation is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Fund, provided that the Fund's engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the SEC or its staff.
- 3. Underwriting.** The Fund will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.
- 4. Real Estate.** The Fund will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including real estate investment trusts).
- 5. Commodities.** The Fund will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies, which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.
- 6. Loans.** The Fund will not make loans to other persons, except: (a) by loaning portfolio securities (limited at any given time to no more than one-third of the Fund's total assets); (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements; or (c) by purchasing or holding non-publicly offered debt instruments in accordance with its investment objectives and policies. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.

**7. Concentration.** The Fund will invest no more than 25% of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries. This limitation is not applicable to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto.

With respect to the percentages adopted by the Trust as maximum limitations on its investment policies and limitations, an excess above the fixed percentage will not be a violation of the policy or limitation unless the excess results immediately and directly from the acquisition of any security or the action taken. This provision does not apply to the borrowing policy set forth in paragraph 1 above. For purposes of the Fund's fundamental policy on concentration, the Adviser will determine on behalf of the Fund the appropriate industry classification to assign to each issuer of securities in which the Fund invests. As a general matter, the Fund considers an industry to be a group of companies whose principal activities, products or services give them a similar economic risk profile vis à vis issuers in other sectors of the economy. As a result, the definition of any particular industry may change over time, particularly for industries or sectors that are new or are undergoing rapid development. Some issuers could reasonably fall within more than one industry. The Adviser will use its reasonable efforts to assign issuers to the category the Adviser believes is most appropriate. In addition, the Fund takes the position that mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities, whether government-issued or privately issued, do not represent interests in any particular industry or group of industries and therefore the 25% concentration restriction noted above does not apply to such securities. However, the Fund does look through each mortgage-backed and asset-backed security to examine the security's underlying collateral to determine and monitor industry exposure. For purposes of the Fund's investment policies (including the fundamental policies above), any actions taken or omitted or investments made in reliance on, or in accordance with, exemptive or no action relief, interpretive guidance or other regulatory or governmental action or guidance shall be considered to have been taken, made or omitted in accordance with applicable law.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing limitations, any investment company, whether organized as a trust, association or corporation, or a personal holding company, may be merged or consolidated with or acquired by the Trust, provided that if such merger, consolidation or acquisition results in an investment in the securities of any issuer prohibited by said paragraphs, the Trust shall, within ninety days after the consummation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of all of the securities of such issuer so acquired or such portion thereof as shall bring the total investment therein within the limitations imposed by said paragraphs above as of the date of consummation.

#### **Non-Fundamental.**

The following limitations have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund and are Non-Fundamental (see "Investment Limitations – Fundamental" above).

**Pledging.** The Fund will not mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any assets of the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings described in fundamental investment limitation (1) above. Margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques are not deemed to be a mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of assets for purposes of this limitation.

**Borrowing.** The Fund will not purchase any security while borrowings (including reverse repurchase agreements) representing more than one-third of its total assets are outstanding.

**Margin Purchases.** The Fund will not purchase securities or evidences of interest thereon on "margin." This limitation is not applicable to short-term credit obtained by the Fund for the clearance of purchases and sales or redemption of securities, or to arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investment techniques.

**Illiquid Investments.** The Fund will not acquire "illiquid securities" if such acquisition would cause the aggregate value of illiquid securities to exceed 15% of the Fund's net assets. Illiquid securities are any investment that the Adviser reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

## **SHARES OF THE FUND**

The Fund offers one class of shares.

#### **How to Purchase Shares**

You may purchase shares directly from the Fund or through your broker or financial intermediary on any business day which the Fund is open, subject to certain restrictions described below. Purchase requests received by the Fund or an authorized

financial intermediary before 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time ("ET")/3:00 p.m. Central Time ("CT") (or before the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") closes, if it closes early) will be effective at that day's share price. Purchase requests received by the Fund or an authorized financial intermediary after the close of trading on the NYSE are processed at the share price determined on the following business day.

**Institutional Shares** of the Fund are primarily for institutional investors such as corporations, pensions and profit sharing or defined contribution plans, non-profit organizations, charitable trusts, foundations and endowments investing for their own or their customers' accounts and require an initial minimum investment of \$100,000. Institutional Shares may also be purchased by officers, trustees, and employees, and their immediate family members (i.e., spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and any dependent of the person, as defined in Section 152 of the IRC), of the Fund or the Adviser and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and the Fund will waive the minimum initial investment amount for Institutional Shares for such purchases. If you purchase Institutional Shares of the Fund, you will not pay a sales charge at the time of purchase and you will not pay shareholder servicing fees. Institutional Shares also may be available on certain brokerage platforms. An investor transacting in Institutional Shares through a broker acting as an agent for the investor may be required to pay a commission and/or other forms of compensation to the broker.

### **How to Redeem Shares**

You may redeem all or part of your investment in the Fund on any day that the Fund is open for business, subject to certain restrictions described below. Redemption requests received by the Fund or an authorized financial intermediary before 4:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. CT (or before the NYSE closes if it closes early) will be effective that day. Redemption requests received by the Fund or an authorized financial intermediary after the close of trading on the NYSE are processed at the NAV determined on the following business day.

### **Additional Purchase and Redemption Information**

Generally, all purchases must be made in cash. However, the Fund reserves the right to accept payment in readily marketable securities instead of cash in accordance with procedures approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees. If payment is made in securities, the Fund will value the securities in the same manner in which it computes its NAV. Generally, all redemptions will be for cash. However, if you redeem shares worth over the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the NAV of the Fund, the Fund reserves the right to pay part or all of your redemption proceeds in readily marketable securities instead of cash in accordance with procedures approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees. If payment is made in securities, the Fund will value the securities selected in the same manner in which it computes its NAV. This process minimizes the effect of large redemptions on the Fund and its remaining shareholders.

The Trust may suspend the right of redemption for such periods as are permitted under the 1940 Act and under the following unusual circumstances: (a) when the NYSE is closed (other than weekends and holidays) or trading is restricted, (b) when an emergency exists, making disposal of portfolio securities or the valuation of net assets not reasonably practicable, or (c) during any period when the SEC has by order permitted a suspension of redemption for the protection of shareholders.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST

### **The Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees supervises the business activities of the Trust and appoints the officers. Each Trustee serves until the termination of the Trust unless the Trustee dies, resigns, retires, or is removed. The Board generally meets four times a year to review the progress and status of the Fund. The following table provides information regarding each Trustee who is not an "interested person" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act.

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office/Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
Robert Gordon Year of Birth: 1961	Trustee	Indefinite/January 2022 to present	Independent Director, VAM Funds Luxembourg, 2018 to present; Independent Director, Anchor Capital Advisors, 2020 to present; Independent Director, Trust Company of Illinois, 2019 to 2021; President and Chief Executive Officer, Driehaus Capital Management, 2006 to 2017.	9	VAM Funds Luxembourg, Anchor Capital Advisors, Trust Company of Illinois
D'Ray Moore Year of Birth: 1959	Trustee	Indefinite/July, 2011 to present	Independent Trustee, Diamond Hill Funds, 2007 to 2022; Chairperson, Diamond Hill Funds, 2014 to 2022.	9	Diamond Hill Funds (retired 2022)
Steven R. Sutermeister Year of Birth: 1954	Trustee	Indefinite/July, 2011 to present	President, Vadar Capital LLC, 2008 to 2017.	9	None

<sup>1</sup> The mailing address of each Trustee is 50 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

The following table provides information regarding each officer of the Trust.

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office/Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
Barbara J. Nelligan Year of Birth: 1969	President	Indefinite/August 2017 to present	Senior Vice President, Global Fund Services Fund Governance Solutions, The Northern Trust Company, 2018 to Present; Senior Vice President, Global Fund Services Product Management, The Northern Trust Company, 2007 to 2018; Vice President of Advisers Investment Trust, 2012 to 2017.	N/A	N/A

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office/Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years</b>
Gregory T. Mino Year of Birth: 1971	Vice President	Indefinite/ December 2023 to present	Vice President, Global Fund Services Fund Governance Solutions, The Northern Trust Company, 2020 to Present; Nuveen Solutions Chief Operating Officer, Nuveen Services LLC, 2017 to 2019.	N/A	N/A
Rodney L. Ruehle Year of Birth: 1968	Chief Compliance Officer and AML Officer	Indefinite/March 2019 to present	Senior Principal Consultant, ACA Group, 2022 to present; Director, Foreside Fund Officer Services, LLC (formerly Foreside Compliance Services, LLC) (financial services) 2016 to 2022.	N/A	N/A
Kara M. Schneider Year of Birth: 1973	Secretary	Indefinite/March 2023 to Present	Second Vice President, Global Fund Services Fund Governance Solutions The Northern Trust Company, 2021 to present; Manager, Ultimus Fund Solutions LLC, 2017 to 2021; Assistant Secretary of Advisers Investment Trust, 2021 to March 2023.	N/A	N/A
Troy A. Sheets Year of Birth: 1971	Treasurer	Indefinite/January 2022 to present	Senior Principal Consultant, ACA Group, 2022 to present; Senior Director, Foreside Financial Group, LLC, 2016 to 2022; Assistant Treasurer of Advisers Investment Trust, May 2021 to December 2021; Treasurer of Advisers Investment Trust, 2011 to 2021.	N/A	N/A
Tracy L. Dotolo Year of Birth: 1976	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite/January 2022 to present	Senior Principal Consultant, ACA Group, 2022 to present; Director, Foreside Fund Officer Services, LLC, 2016 to 2022; Treasurer of Advisers Investment Trust, May 2021 to December 2021.	N/A	N/A
Stefania C. Suci Year of Birth: 1979	Assistant Secretary	Indefinite/March 2023 to present	Second Vice President, Global Fund Services Fund The Northern Trust Company, 2015 to present.	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> The mailing address of Messrs. Ruehle and Sheets and Ms. Dotolo is 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101. The mailing address of Mr. Mino and Mses. Nelligan, Schneider, and Suci is 333 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604.

The following table sets forth the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee as of December 31, 2023.

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds within the Trust Overseen by Trustee</b>
Robert Gordon	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
D'Ray Moore	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Steven R. Sutermeister	None	Over \$100,000

### **Trustee Compensation**

The Trust has no retirement or pension plans. The compensation paid to the Trustees for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023 for the Trust is set forth in the following table.

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</b>	<b>Total Compensation from the Trust</b>
Robert Gordon	\$20,881	\$128,500
D'Ray Moore	\$20,881	\$128,500
Steven R. Sutermeister	\$20,881	\$128,500
Michael M. Van Buskirk <sup>1</sup>	\$ 5,078	\$ 31,250

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Van Buskirk retired from the Board of Trustees effective December 15, 2022.

### **Leadership Structure and Board of Trustees**

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to represent the interests of the shareholders of the Trust and to provide oversight of the management of the Trust. Each of the Trustees on the Board is independent of and not affiliated with the Adviser or its affiliates. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees is D'Ray Moore, who is an independent Trustee. The Board has adopted Fund Governance Guidelines to provide guidance for effective leadership. The guidance sets forth criteria for Board membership, trustee orientation and continuing education, and annual trustee evaluations. The Board reviews quarterly reports from the Adviser, as well as quarterly reports from the Chief Compliance Officer (the "CCO") and other service providers. This process allows the Board to effectively evaluate issues that impact the Trust as a whole as well as issues that are unique to the Fund. The Board has determined that this leadership structure is appropriate to ensure that the regular business of the Board is conducted efficiently while still permitting the Trustees to effectively fulfill their fiduciary and oversight obligations. The Board reviews its structure and the structure of its committees annually.

The Trustees have delegated day to day operations to various service providers whose activities they oversee. The Trustees have also engaged legal counsel (who is also legal counsel to the Trust) that is independent of the Adviser or its affiliates to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust. The Trustees meet separately in an executive session on a quarterly basis and meet separately in executive session with the Fund's CCO at least annually. On an annual basis, the Board conducts a self-assessment and evaluates its structure. The Board has two standing committees, the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee (the "Committees").

All of the independent Trustees are members of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee's function is to oversee the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, its internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; to oversee the quality and objectivity of the Trust's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; and to act as a liaison between the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm and the full Board of Trustees. The Audit Committee is able to focus Board time and attention to matters of interest to shareholders and, through its private sessions with the Fund's auditor, Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") and legal counsel, stay fully informed regarding management decisions. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Audit Committee held three meetings.

The Nominating and Governance Committee nominates candidates for election to the Board of Trustees, makes nominations for membership on all committees. The Committee also reviews as necessary the responsibilities of any committees of the Board and whether there is a continuing need for each committee, whether there is a need for additional committees of the Board, and whether committees should be combined or reorganized. The Committee makes recommendations for any such action to the full Board. The Committee also considers candidates for trustees nominated by shareholders. Shareholders may recommend candidates for Board positions by forwarding their correspondence to the Secretary of the Trust at the Trust's address and the shareholder communication will be forwarded to the Committee Chairperson for evaluation. During the fiscal

year ended September 30, 2023, the Nominating and Governance Committee held one meeting. All of the independent Trustees are members of the Committee.

### **Board Oversight of Risk**

The Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, operational and financial risks, among others. Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of the Fund and is addressed as part of various Board and committee activities. Day-to-day risk management with respect to the Fund resides with the Adviser or other service providers, subject to supervision by Fund Management. The Committees and the Board oversee efforts by management and service providers to manage the risk to which the Fund may be exposed. For example, the Board meets with portfolio managers and receives regular reports regarding investment and liquidity risk. The Board meets with the CCO and receives regular reports regarding compliance and regulatory risks. The Audit Committee meets with the Trust's Treasurer and receives regular reports regarding fund operations and risks related to the valuation and overall financial reporting of the Fund. From its review of these reports and discussions with management, the Board learns in detail about the material risks to which the Fund is exposed, enabling a dialogue about how management and service providers mitigate those risks.

Not all risks that may affect the Fund can be identified nor can controls be developed to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects. It may not be practical or cost effective to eliminate or mitigate certain risks, the processes and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness, and some risks are simply beyond the reasonable control of the Fund or the Adviser, its affiliates, or other service providers. Moreover, it is necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment related risks) to achieve the Fund's goals. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, the Fund's ability to manage risk is subject to substantial limitations. The Trustees believe that their current oversight approach is an appropriate way to manage risks facing the Fund, whether investment, compliance, financial, or otherwise. The Trustees may, at any time in their discretion, change the manner in which they conduct risk oversight of the Fund.

### **Trustee Attributes**

The Board believes each of the Trustees has demonstrated leadership abilities and possesses experience, qualifications, and skills valuable to the Trust. Each of the Trustees has substantial business and professional backgrounds that indicate they have the ability to critically review, evaluate, and access information provided to them.

Below is additional information concerning each particular Trustee and their attributes. The information provided below, and in the chart above, is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, work ethic, the ability to work together and the ability to communicate effectively, exercise judgment, ask incisive questions, manage people and problems, or develop solutions.

**Robert Gordon** has over 35 years of experience in the investment management industry and 20 years serving in a Chief Executive capacity. His career includes roles at a diversity of investment firms, ranging from large global financial institutions to focused investment management boutiques. Mr. Gordon brings a broad range of skills to the Trust including investment management, risk oversight, fund administration, and sales and marketing with a particular focus on delivering best practices. His experience includes familiarity with a broad range of asset classes of equities, fixed income, alternative investments, and derivative products. In addition to serving as an Independent Director to the Trust, he serves as a board member and adviser to investment management companies both in the US and abroad.

**D'Ray Moore** has worked for a major service provider to investment managers and mutual funds for over 10 years, including as Senior Vice President for European relationship management. Her expertise in mutual fund operations enables Ms. Moore to bring to the Trust a unique perspective on service provider oversight. Ms. Moore's experience also includes serving as Chairman and independent trustee for other mutual funds and 10 years of experience in banking and financial services, including retail investment sales and sales management.

**Steven R. Sutermeister** has over 40 years of experience in the financial services industry (with significant experience in the mutual fund industry), including more than 25 years in management, executive management and board experience at other financial institutions. His experience as the Chief Investment Officer of a life insurance company, Director and President of a mutual fund complex, and Director and Audit Committee Chair of a public bank holding company allows him to bring seasoned perspective, insight, and financial acumen to issues and strategies related to the Trust including regulatory relationships, investment risks, and enterprise risk management.

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Trust, the Adviser, and the principal underwriter have each adopted a Code of Ethics (the "Code") under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. The personnel subject to the Code are permitted to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. Shareholders may obtain a copy of the Code from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's EDGAR web site <http://www.sec.gov> or by calling the Fund at 800-245-0371 (toll free) or 312-557-0164.

## DISTRIBUTION

### ***Financial Intermediaries***

The Fund may authorize certain financial intermediaries to accept purchase and redemption orders on its behalf. The Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when a financial intermediary or its designee accepts the order. These orders will be priced at the NAV next calculated after the order is accepted.

The Fund may enter into agreements with financial intermediaries under which the Fund pays the financial intermediaries for services, such as networking, sub-transfer agency and/or omnibus recordkeeping. Payments made pursuant to such agreements generally are based on either (1) a percentage of the average daily net assets of clients serviced by such financial intermediaries, or (2) the number of accounts serviced by such financial intermediary. Any payments made pursuant to such agreements are in addition to, rather than in lieu of, shareholder servicing fees that a financial intermediary may be receiving under an agreement with Foreside Financial Services, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (d/b/a ACA Group) (the "Distributor"). The Adviser may pay all or a portion of the fees for networking, sub-transfer agency and/or omnibus accounting at its own expense and out of its legitimate profits.

### ***Payment of Additional Cash Compensation***

On occasion, the Adviser may make payments out of its resources and profits, which may include profits the Adviser derives from investment advisory fees paid by the Fund, to financial intermediaries as incentives to market the Fund, to cooperate with the Adviser's promotional efforts, or in recognition of the provision of administrative services and marketing and/or processing support. These payments are often referred to as "additional cash compensation" and are in addition to the sales charges and payments to financial intermediaries as discussed in above. The payments are made pursuant to agreements between financial intermediaries and the Adviser and do not affect the price investors pay to purchase shares of the Fund, the amount the Fund will receive as proceeds from such sales, or the amount of other expenses paid by the Fund.

Additional cash compensation payments may be used to pay financial intermediaries for: (1) transaction support, including any one-time charges for establishing access to Fund shares on particular trading systems (known as "platform access fees"); (2) program support, such as expenses related to including the Fund in retirement programs, fee-based advisory or wrap fee programs, fund supermarkets, bank or trust company products, and/or insurance programs (e.g., individual or group annuity contracts); (3) marketing support, such as providing representatives of the Adviser access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives; (4) firm support, such as business planning assistance, advertising, and assistance with educating sales personnel about the Fund and shareholder financial planning needs; (5) providing shareholder and administrative services; and (6) providing other distribution-related or asset retention services.

Additional cash compensation payments generally are structured as basis point payments on gross or net sales or, in the case of platform access fees, fixed dollar amounts.

In addition to member firms of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"), the Adviser also reserves the ability to make payments, as described above, to other financial intermediaries that sell or provide services to the Fund and shareholders, such as banks, insurance companies, and plan administrators. These firms may include affiliates of the Adviser. You should ask your financial intermediary whether it receives additional cash compensation payments, as described above, from the Adviser or its affiliates.

The Adviser and its affiliates also may pay non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries and their representatives in the form of (1) occasional gifts; (2) occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; and/or (3) sponsorship support of regional or national conferences or seminars. Such non-cash compensation will be made subject to applicable law.



## CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

As of January 2, 2024, the following persons owned of record 5% or more of the Fund's outstanding shares. Shareholders owning more than 25% of the shares of the Fund are considered to "control" the Fund as that term is defined under the 1940 Act. Persons controlling the Fund can determine the outcome of any proposal submitted to the shareholders for approval, including changes to the Fund's fundamental policies or the terms of the management agreement with the Adviser.

Shareholder Name, Address	% Ownership
Charles Schwab & Co Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	35.22%
National Financial Services LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of Our Customers 499 Washington Blvd Attn: Mutual Funds Department 4th Floor Jersey City, NJ 07310	21.94%
Vanguard Brokerage Services Attn: Dealer Contracts Unit Malvern, PA 19355	9.17%
LPL Financial FBO Customer Accounts PO Box 509046 ATTN Mutual Fund Operations San Diego, CA 92150	5.85%

### Management Ownership

As of January 2, 2024, all officers and Trustees as a group beneficially owned less than 1% of the Fund.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

### Investment Adviser

River Canyon Fund Management LLC (the "Adviser" or "River Canyon") serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Adviser's principal place of business is 2728 North Harwood Street, 2nd Floor, Dallas, TX 75201. As Adviser, River Canyon makes investment decisions for the Fund and also ensures compliance with the Fund's investment policies and guidelines. As of December 31, 2023, River Canyon had approximately \$ 883.2 million in assets under management.

Under the terms of the Trust's advisory agreement with the Adviser ("Advisory Agreement"), the Adviser, subject to the supervision of the Board of Trustees, provides or arranges to be provided to the Fund such investment advice as it deems advisable and will furnish or arrange to be furnished a continuous investment program for the Fund consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies. As compensation for management services, the Fund is obligated to pay the Adviser fees computed and accrued daily and paid monthly at the annual rate set forth below:

Fund	Percentage of Average Daily Net Assets
River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund	0.65%

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Fund paid the following investment management fees to the Adviser for the fiscal periods ended September 30, 2023, September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2021:

	Fees	
	Fees Earned	Waived/Reimbursed*
2023	\$2,930,744	\$ 973,234
2022	\$5,583,321	\$1,483,301
2021	\$2,718,905	\$ 932,666

\* Fees waived pursuant to Expense Limitation Agreement in place at the time.

The Advisory Agreement will continue on a year-to-year basis provided that continuance is approved at least annually by specific approval of the Board of Trustees or by vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. In either event, it must also be approved by a majority of the Trustees who are neither parties to the agreement nor interested persons, as defined in the 1940 Act, at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated at any time on 60 days' written notice, without the payment of any penalty, by the Board of Trustees, vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, or the Adviser. In the event of its assignment, the Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically.

The Adviser has contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses to the extent that total annual operating expenses (excluding brokerage costs, interest, taxes, dividend expense on short positions, litigation, and indemnification expenses, expenses associated with investments in underlying investment companies, and extraordinary expenses) exceed amounts specified in the prospectus of Fund until January 28, 2025. If it becomes unnecessary for the Adviser to waive fees or make reimbursements, the Adviser may recapture any of its prior waivers or reimbursements for a period not to exceed three years from the date on which the waiver or reimbursement was made to the extent that such a recapture does not cause the total annual fund operating expenses (excluding brokerage costs, interest, taxes, dividend expense on short positions, litigation and indemnification expenses, expenses associated with investments in underlying investment companies, and extraordinary expenses) to exceed the applicable expense limitation that was in effect at the time of the waiver or reimbursement. The expense limitation agreement will terminate on the earlier of January 28, 2025 or the termination of the Investment Advisory Agreement.

The balances of recoverable expenses to River Canyon by the Fund at September 30, 2023 were as follows:

<b>For the:</b>	<b>Expiring</b>	<b>River Canyon</b>
Year Ended September 30, 2021	September 30, 2024	\$ 932,666
Year Ended September 30, 2022	September 30, 2025	1,483,301
Year Ended September 30, 2023	September 30, 2026	973,234
Balances of Recoverable Expenses to the Adviser		\$3,389,201

The Adviser may make payments to banks or other financial institutions that provide shareholder services and administer shareholder accounts. If a bank were prohibited from continuing to perform all or a part of such services, management of the Fund believes that there would be no material impact on the Fund or its shareholders. Banks may charge their customers fees for offering these services to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authorities, and the overall return to those shareholders availing themselves of the bank services will be lower than to those shareholders who do not. The Fund may from time to time purchase securities issued by banks that provide such services; however, in selecting investments for the Fund, no preference will be shown for such securities.

### **Portfolio Manager Holdings**

The following table indicates for the Fund the dollar range of shares beneficially owned by the portfolio manager as of September 30, 2023.

<b>Individual</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Shares in the Fund</b>				
			<b>\$1 – \$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000 – \$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,001 – \$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,001 – \$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,001 – Over \$1,000,000</b>
Todd Lemkin	Partner and Chief Investment Officer		X				
Sam Reid	Partner			X			
Adam Rizkalla	Senior Vice President		X				

### **Other Portfolio Manager Information**

The portfolio manager may also be responsible for managing other account portfolios in addition to the Fund which he or she manages.

A portfolio manager's management of other accounts may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with their management of the Fund investments on the one hand and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The side-by-side management of the Fund and other accounts presents a variety of potential conflicts of interests. For example, the portfolio manager may purchase or sell securities for one portfolio and not another. The performance of securities within one portfolio may differ from the performance of securities in another portfolio. In some cases, another account managed by the

same portfolio manager may compensate the Adviser based on performance of the portfolio held by that account. Performance-based fee arrangements may create an incentive for the Adviser to favor higher fee paying accounts over other accounts, including accounts that are charged no performance-based fees, in the allocation of investment opportunities. The Adviser has adopted policies and procedures that seek to mitigate such conflicts and to ensure that all clients are treated fairly and equally.

Another potential conflict could arise in instances in which securities considered as investments for the Fund are also appropriate investments for other investment accounts managed by the Adviser. When a decision is made to buy or sell a security by the Fund and one or more of the other accounts, the adviser may aggregate the purchase or sale of the securities and will allocate the securities transactions in a manner it believes to be equitable under the circumstances. However, a variety of factors can determine whether a particular account may participate in a particular aggregated transaction. Because of such differences, there may be differences in invested positions and securities held in accounts managed according to similar strategies. When aggregating orders, the Adviser employs procedures designed to ensure accounts will be treated in a fair and equitable manner and no account will be favored over any other. The Adviser has implemented specific policies and procedures to address any potential conflicts.

The following tables indicate the number of accounts and assets under management for each type of account for the portfolio manager as of September 30, 2023.

Todd Lemkin, Partner and Chief Investment Officer

<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Number of Accounts</b>		<b>Assets Under Management (in millions)</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>
Registered Investment Companies	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	15	14	\$11,072.7	\$10,985.1
Other Accounts	0	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$11,072.7</b>	<b>\$10,985.1</b>

Sam Reid, Partner

<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Number of Accounts</b>		<b>Assets Under Management (in millions)</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>
Registered Investment Companies	0	0	\$0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	0	\$0	\$0
Other Accounts	0	0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Adam Rizkalla, Senior Vice President

<b>Account Type</b>	<b>Number of Accounts</b>		<b>Assets Under Management (in millions)</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Subject to a Performance Fee</b>
Registered Investment Companies	0	0	\$0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	0	\$0	\$0
Other Accounts	0	0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Portfolio Manager Compensation

The Adviser compensates the portfolio managers for their management of the Fund. River Canyon portfolio managers are compensated through a variety of components and their compensation may vary from year to year based on a number of factors. The portfolio managers may receive all or some combination of salary, annual discretionary bonus, and interests in the carried interest in certain of Canyon's funds.

Partners are compensated by salary and ownership/division of the profits of the firm, which includes River Canyon's parent company, Canyon Capital Advisors, LLC. Employees are compensated by salary plus discretionary bonus. The firm has established an Equity Plan for certain investment professionals and members of senior management who have been named partners, including Mr. Lemkin and Mr. Reid. Participants will generally receive a share of the net profits of the firm, including that of River Canyon. There are currently 16 partners. As of 2023, over 50% of the firm's net profits are allocated to partners. Generally, up to 25% of such amounts are subject to deferral for two years. Partners also have the right to participate in capital events. No capital event is currently contemplated.

Overall compensation is tied to several factors, including individual performance and the firm's performance. Senior employees participate in the firm's long term incentive program, a deferred compensation program in which a portion of compensation vests over three years and is paid at the end of five years. Returns on deferred compensation are linked to the performance of certain funds advised by Canyon.

## Fund Services

The Northern Trust Company, 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, serves as the Administrator ("Administrator") for the Fund and serves as the Fund's Transfer Agent, Custodian, and Fund Accounting Agent. The Custodian acts as the Trust's depository, provides safekeeping of its portfolio securities, collects all income and other payments with respect thereto, disburses funds at the Trust's request and maintains records in connection with its duties. The Transfer Agent maintains the records of each shareholder's account, answers shareholders' inquiries concerning their accounts, processes purchases and redemptions of Fund shares, acts as dividend and distribution disbursing agent and performs other accounting and shareholder service functions. The fees and certain expenses of the Transfer Agent, Custodian, Fund Accounting Agent, and Administrator are paid by the Fund. Pursuant to these agreements, the Fund paid the following fees to Northern Trust, inclusive of certain ancillary administration support fees related to Form N-PORT, for the fiscal periods ended September 30, 2023, September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021:

	<b>Fees Earned</b>	<b>Fees Waived/Reimbursed</b>
2023	\$444,135	\$0
2022	\$750,238	\$0
2021	\$407,007	\$0

Foreside Fund Officer Services, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (d/b/a ACA Group) ("ACA Group"), located at 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101 provides compliance services and financial controls services for the Fund. Services are provided to the Fund pursuant to written agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and ACA Group. The fees are paid by the Fund.

Pursuant to this agreement, the Fund paid the following fees to ACA Group for the fiscal periods ended September 30, 2023, September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021:

	<b>Fees Earned</b>	<b>Fees Waived/Reimbursed</b>
2023	\$224,629	\$0
2022	\$357,696	\$0
2021	\$206,753	\$0

## Distributor

Foreside Financial Services, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (d/b/a ACA Group) (the "Distributor"), located at 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101, provides distribution services to the Fund pursuant to a distribution agreement with the Trust. Under its agreement with the Trust, the Distributor acts as an agent of the Trust in connection with the offering of the shares of the Fund on a continuous basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Fund shares. The Distributor, and its officers have no role in determining the Fund's investment policies or

which securities to buy or sell. The Adviser, at its own expense, pays the Distributor a fee for distribution-related services. The Distributor may enter into agreements with selected broker-dealers, banks, or other financial institutions for distribution of shares of the Fund. The Trust in its discretion also may issue shares of the Fund otherwise than through Distributor in connection with: (i) the payment or reinvestment of dividends or distributions; (ii) any merger or consolidation of the Trust or the Fund with any other investment company or trust or any personal holding company, or the acquisition of the assets of any such entity or another series of the Trust; (iii) any offer of exchange authorized by the Board of the Trustees; (iv) any sales of shares to Trustees and officers of the Trust or to Distributor or such other persons identified in the Prospectus; or (v) the issuance of such shares to a unit investment trust if such unit investment trust has elected to use shares as an underlying investment.

## Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP, 111 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, has been selected as independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 in accordance with the requirements of the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder. Deloitte & Touche LLP will perform an annual audit of the Fund's financial statements and provides audit services as requested.

## BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES

Subject to policies established by the Board of Trustees, the Adviser is responsible for the Fund's portfolio decisions and the placing of the Fund's portfolio transactions. In placing portfolio transactions, the Adviser seeks the best qualitative execution, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), the execution capability, financial responsibility and responsiveness of the broker or dealer and the brokerage and research services provided by the broker or dealer. The Adviser generally seeks favorable prices and commission rates that are reasonable in relation to the benefits received.

All decisions concerning the purchase and sale of securities and the allocation of brokerage commissions on behalf of the Fund are made by the Adviser. In selecting broker-dealers to use for such transactions, the Adviser will seek to achieve the best overall result for the Fund taking into consideration a range of factors that include not just price, but also the broker's reliability, reputation in the industry, financial standing, infrastructure, research and execution services and ability to accommodate special transaction needs. The Adviser will use knowledge of the Fund's circumstances and requirements to determine the factors that the Adviser takes into account for the purpose of providing the Fund with "best execution."

In selecting qualified broker-dealers to execute brokerage transactions, the Adviser may consider broker-dealers who provide or procure for the Adviser brokerage or research services or products within the meaning of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such services and products may include fundamental research reports and technical and portfolio analyses. Certain of the brokerage and research services received may benefit some or all of the Adviser's clients and accounts under the management of the Adviser and may not benefit directly the Fund. Broker-dealers who provide such services may receive a commission which is in excess of the amount of the commission another broker-dealer may have charged if in the judgment of the Adviser the higher commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services rendered. All commissions paid, regardless of whether the executing broker-dealer provides research services, will generally be within a competitive range for full service brokers.

The Fund paid the following amounts in brokerage commissions for the fiscal periods ended September 30, 2023, September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021.

2023	\$1,980.80
2022	\$9,076.94
2021	\$2,779.59

## DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Fund will not disclose (or authorize its custodian or principal underwriter to disclose) portfolio holdings information to any person or entity except as follows:

- To persons providing services to the Fund who have a need to know such information in order to fulfill their obligations to the Fund, such as portfolio managers, administrators, custodians, pricing services, proxy voting services, accounting and auditing services, liquidity vendors, and research and trading services, and the Trust's Board of Trustees;

- In connection with periodic reports that are available to shareholders and the public;
- To mutual fund rating or statistical agencies or persons performing similar functions;
- Pursuant to a regulatory request or as otherwise required by law; or
- To persons approved in writing by the Fund's President and CCO or President of the Trust.

The Fund will disclose portfolio holdings quarterly, in the annual and semi-annual Reports, as well as in filings with the SEC, in each case no later than 60 days after the end of the applicable fiscal period.

The Fund makes portfolio holdings available on its website, [www.rivercanyonfunds.com](http://www.rivercanyonfunds.com), 15 calendar days after each quarter. Portfolio holdings are also available, by request, 15 calendar days after each quarter. Pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees, the Fund has ongoing arrangements to release portfolio holdings information on a daily basis to the Adviser, Administrator, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent, and Custodian and on an as needed basis to other third parties providing services to the Fund. The Adviser, Administrator, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent, and Custodian receive portfolio holdings information daily in order to carry out the essential operations of the Fund. The Fund will disclose portfolio holdings to their auditors, legal counsel, proxy voting services (if applicable), pricing services, printers, parties to merger and reorganization agreements and their agents, and prospective or newly hired investment advisers or sub-advisers. The lag between the date of the information and the date on which the information is disclosed will vary based on the identity of the party to whom the information is disclosed. For instance, the information may be provided to auditors within days of the end of an annual period, while the information may be given to legal counsel at any time.

The Fund, the Adviser, the Transfer Agent, the Fund Accounting Agent, and the Custodian are prohibited from entering into any special or ad hoc arrangements with any person to make available information about the Fund's portfolio holdings without the specific approval of the Trust's CCO or President. Any party wishing to release portfolio holdings information on an ad hoc or special basis must submit any proposed arrangement to the CCO, which will review the arrangement to determine (i) whether the arrangement is in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders, (ii) whether the information will be kept confidential (based on the factors discussed below), (iii) whether sufficient protections are in place to guard against personal trading based on the information, and (iv) whether the disclosure presents a conflict of interest between the interests of Fund shareholders and those of the Adviser, or any affiliated person of the Fund or the Adviser. The CCO will provide to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis a report regarding all portfolio holdings information released on an ad hoc or special basis. Additionally, the Adviser, and any affiliated persons of the Adviser, are prohibited from receiving compensation or other consideration, for themselves or on behalf of the Fund, as a result of disclosing the Fund's portfolio holdings. The Trust's CCO monitors compliance with these procedures, and reviews their effectiveness on an annual basis.

Information disclosed to third parties, whether on an ongoing or ad hoc basis, is disclosed under conditions of confidentiality. "Conditions of confidentiality" include (i) confidentiality clauses in written agreements, (ii) confidentiality implied by the nature of the relationship (e.g., attorney-client relationship), (iii) confidentiality required by fiduciary or regulatory principles (e.g., custody relationships), or (iv) understandings or expectations between the parties that the information will be kept confidential. The agreements with the Adviser, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent, and Custodian contain confidentiality clauses, which the Board and these parties have determined extend to the disclosure of non-public information about the Fund's portfolio holdings and the duty not to trade on the non-public information. The Trust believes that these are reasonable procedures to protect the confidentiality of the Fund's portfolio holdings and will provide sufficient protection against personal trading based on the information.

## **DETERMINATION OF SHARE PRICE**

The price (NAV) of the shares of the Fund is determined at the close of trading of the NYSE, normally 4:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. CT. The NYSE is closed on the following days: Saturdays and Sundays; U.S. national holidays including New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. For a description of the methods used to determine the NAV, see "Valuing the Fund's Assets" in the Prospectus.

Security prices are generally provided by an approved third party pricing service as of the close of the NYSE, normally at 4:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. CT, each business day on which the share price of the Fund is calculated (as defined in the Fund's prospectus).

Equity securities (including options, rights, warrants, futures, and options on futures) traded in the over-the-counter market or on a primary exchange shall be valued at the closing price or last trade price, as applicable, as determined by the primary

exchange. If no sale occurred on the valuation date, the securities will be valued at the latest quotations available from the designated pricing vendor as of the closing of the primary exchange. Securities for which quotations are either (1) not readily available or determined to not accurately reflect their value are valued at their fair value using procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. Significant bid-ask spreads, or infrequent trading may indicate a lack of readily available market quotations. Securities traded on more than one exchange will first be valued at the last sale price on the primary exchange, and then the secondary exchange. The NASD National Market System is considered an exchange. Mutual fund investments will be valued at the most recently calculated (current day) NAV.

Fixed income securities will be valued at the latest quotations available from the designated pricing vendor. These quotations will be derived by an approved pricing service based on their proprietary calculation models. In the event that market quotations are not readily available for short-term debt instruments, securities with less than 61 days to maturity may be valued at amortized cost as long as there are no credit or other impairments of the issuer.

In the event an approved pricing service is unable to provide a readily available quotation, the security may be priced by an alternative source, such as a broker who covers the security and can provide a daily market quotation. The appropriateness of the alternative source, such as the continued use of the broker, will be reviewed and ratified quarterly by the Adviser as the "valuation designee."

Securities for which quotations are (1) not readily available, (2) not provided by an approved pricing service or broker, or determined to not accurately reflect their value, are valued by the Adviser using procedures approved by the Board of Trustees.

Foreign securities, currencies and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate of such currencies against the U.S. Dollar, as of valuation time, as provided by an approved pricing service.

## **REDEMPTION-IN-KIND**

The Fund does not intend to redeem shares in any form except cash. However, if the amount redeemed is over the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net assets, the Fund has the right to redeem shares by giving the redeeming shareholder the amount that exceeds the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net assets in securities instead of cash. In the event that an in-kind distribution is made, a shareholder may incur additional expenses, such as the payment of brokerage commissions, on the sale or other disposition of the securities received from the Fund.

## **TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences is general in nature and should not be regarded as an exhaustive presentation of all possible tax ramifications. Each shareholder should consult a qualified tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the Fund. The tax considerations relevant to a specific shareholder depend upon the shareholder's specific circumstances, and the following general summary does not attempt to discuss all potential tax considerations that could be relevant to a prospective shareholder with respect to the Fund or its investments. This general summary is based on the IRC, the U.S. federal income tax regulations promulgated thereunder, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change (potentially on a retroactive basis).

The Fund intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the IRC, which requires compliance with certain requirements concerning the sources of its income, diversification of its assets, and the amount and timing of its distributions to shareholders. Such qualification does not involve supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency or bureau. By so qualifying, the Fund should not be subject to federal income or excise tax on net investment income or net realized capital gain, which are distributed to shareholders in accordance with the applicable timing requirements.

The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment income (including any excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and net realized capital gain (that is, any excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses) in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the IRC and therefore should not be required to pay any federal income or excise taxes. Net realized capital gain for a fiscal year is computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. As of September 30, 2023, the Fund has a short-term capital loss carryforward of \$36,119,452 and long-term capital loss carryforward of \$7,406,032 for federal income tax purposes.

To be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the IRC, the Fund must also (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, net income from certain publicly traded

partnerships and gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in such securities or currencies, and (b) diversify its holding so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities (for purposes of this calculation, generally limited in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the market value of the Fund's assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer, two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or the securities of certain publicly traded partnerships.

If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M in any fiscal year, it may be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. As such, the Fund would be required to pay income taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, at the rates generally applicable to corporations. Shareholders of the Fund generally would not be liable for income tax on the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains in their individual capacities. However, distributions to shareholders, whether from the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains, would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Fund.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund is subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on certain undistributed amounts of ordinary income and net realized capital gain under a prescribed formula contained in Section 4982 of the IRC. The formula requires payment to shareholders during a calendar year of distributions representing at least 98% of the Fund's ordinary income for the calendar year and at least 98.2% of its net realized capital gain (i.e., the excess of its capital gains over capital losses) realized during the one-year period ending October 31 during such year plus 100% of any income that was neither distributed nor taxed to the Fund during the preceding calendar year. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund expects to time its distributions so as to avoid liability for this tax.

The following discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences is for the general information of shareholders that are U.S. persons that are subject to tax. Shareholders that are invested in IRAs or other qualified retirement plans generally are exempt from income taxation under the IRC. Shareholders that are non-U.S. persons, IRAs or other qualified retirement plans should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the Fund.

Distributions of taxable net investment income (including the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term realized capital loss) generally are taxable to shareholders at ordinary income tax rates, regardless of whether you elect to receive or reinvest such distributions. However, distributions by the Fund to a non-corporate shareholder may be subject to income tax at the shareholder's applicable tax rate for long-term capital gain, to the extent that the Fund receives qualified dividend income on the securities it holds, the Fund properly designates the distribution as qualified dividend income, and the Fund and the non-corporate shareholder receiving the distribution meets certain holding period and other requirements. Distributions of taxable net investment income (including qualified dividend income) may be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax as discussed below.

Distributions of net realized capital gain ("capital gain dividends") generally are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gain, regardless of the length of time the shares of the Trust have been held by such shareholders. Under current law, capital gain dividends recognized by a non-corporate shareholder generally will be taxed at a maximum income tax rate of 20% and may be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax as discussed below. Capital gains of corporate shareholders are taxed at the same rate as ordinary income.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and net realized capital gain will be taxable as described above, whether received in additional cash or shares. All distributions of taxable net investment income and net realized capital gain, whether received in shares or in cash, must be reported by each taxable shareholder on his or her federal income tax return. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31, if paid during January of the following year. Redemptions of shares may result in tax consequences (gain or loss) to the shareholder and are also subject to these reporting requirements.

Redemption of Fund shares by a shareholder will result in the recognition of taxable gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's tax basis in the shareholder's Fund shares. Such gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets. However, any loss realized upon the redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as capital gain dividends during such six-month period. All or a portion of any loss realized upon the redemption of shares may be disallowed to the extent shares are purchased (including shares acquired by means of reinvested dividends) within 30 days before or after such redemption.



Under the IRC, the Fund will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all distributions of taxable income and net realized capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of certain exempt shareholders. Under the backup withholding provisions of Section 3406 of the IRC, distributions of taxable net investment income and net realized capital gain and proceeds from the redemption or exchange of the shares of the Fund may be subject to withholding of federal income tax (currently, at a rate of 24%) in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the investment company with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law, or if the Fund is notified by the IRS or a broker that withholding is required due to an incorrect TIN or a previous failure to report taxable interest or dividends. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld.

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax generally will be imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares) of U.S. individuals, estates and trusts to the extent that any such person's "modified adjusted gross income" (in the case of an individual) or "adjusted gross income" (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds certain threshold amounts. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state, local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

Should additional series, or funds, be created by the Trustees, the Fund would be treated as a separate tax entity for federal tax purposes.

Payments to a shareholder that is either a foreign financial institution ("FFI") or a non-financial foreign entity ("NFFE") within the meaning of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") may be subject to a generally nonrefundable 30% withholding tax on: (a) income dividends paid by a Fund after June 30, 2014 and (b) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Fund shares paid by the Fund after December 31, 2018. FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, subject to any applicable intergovernmental agreement or other exemption, if it enters into a valid agreement with the IRS to, among other requirements, report required information about certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reports information relating to them. A Fund may disclose the information that it receives from its shareholders to the IRS, non-U.S. taxing authorities or other parties as necessary to comply with FATCA. Withholding also may be required if a foreign entity that is a shareholder of a Fund fails to provide the Fund with appropriate certifications or other documentation concerning its status under FATCA.

Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state, local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Board of Trustees has delegated responsibilities for decisions regarding proxy voting for securities held by the Fund to the Adviser, subject to the general oversight of the Board. The Adviser has adopted written proxy voting policies and procedures ("Proxy Policy") as required by Rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, consistent with its fiduciary obligations. The Board of Trustees periodically reviews the Proxy Policy. The Proxy Policy is designed and implemented in a manner reasonably expected to ensure that voting and consent rights are exercised prudently considering all relevant factors and without undue influence from individuals or groups who may have an economic interest in the outcome of a proxy vote. Any conflict between the best economic interests of the Fund and the Adviser's interests will be resolved in the Fund's favor pursuant to the Proxy Policy. The Adviser's proxy voting policies and procedures are attached as Appendix A.

MORE INFORMATION. Investors may obtain a copy of the proxy voting policies and procedures by writing to the Trust in the name of the pertinent Fund c/o The Northern Trust Company, P.O. Box 4766, Chicago, Illinois 60680-4766 or by calling the Trust at 800-245-0371 (toll free) or 312-557-0164.

Information about how the Fund votes proxies relating to portfolio securities for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Trust at 800-245-0371 (toll free) or 312-557-0164 and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements and independent registered public accounting firm's report to the Annual Report to Shareholders of River Canyon Total Return Bond Fund for the fiscal period ended September 30, 2023 are incorporated herein by reference. The Fund will provide the Annual Report without charge at written request or request by telephone.

# APPENDIX A - PROXY VOTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

## River Canyon Fund Management LLC

### I. BACKGROUND

The act of managing assets of clients may include the voting of proxies related to such managed assets. Where the power to vote in person or by proxy has been delegated, directly or indirectly, to the investment adviser, the investment adviser has the fiduciary responsibility for (a) voting in a manner that is in the best interests of the client, and (b) properly dealing with potential conflicts of interest arising from proxy proposals being voted upon.

The policies and procedures of River Canyon Fund Management LLC (the "Adviser") for voting proxies received for accounts managed by the Adviser are set forth below and are applicable if:

- The underlying advisory agreement entered into with the client expressly provides that the Adviser shall be responsible to vote proxies received in connection with the client's account; or
- The underlying advisory agreement entered into with the client is silent as to whether or not the Adviser shall be responsible to vote proxies received in connection with the client's account and the Adviser has discretionary authority over investment decisions for the client's account.

These Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are designed to ensure that proxies are voted in an appropriate manner and should complement the Adviser's investment policies and procedures regarding its general responsibility to monitor the performance and/or corporate events of companies that are issuers of securities held by funds and/or managed accounts advised by the Adviser. Any questions about these policies and procedures should be directed to Doug Anderson at 310/272-1360.

### II. PROXY VOTING POLICIES

**A.** The Adviser will generally consider proxies relating to a security held by any account advised by the Adviser. If the Adviser elects to vote, the Adviser shall vote these proxies in a manner that is in the best interest of the client. The Adviser shall consider only those factors that relate to the client's investment or dictated by the client's written instructions, including how the result of the requested vote will economically impact and affect the value of the client's investment (keeping in mind that, after conducting an appropriate cost-benefit analysis, avoiding further expense of investigation and not voting at all on a presented proposal may be in the best interest of the client). Proxies involving money market or mutual funds will generally not be considered given the nature of their proxy matters (i.e., approval of auditors and/or investment advisors).

In voting on each and every issue, the Adviser and its Employees shall vote in a prudent and timely fashion and only after a careful evaluation of the issue(s) presented on the ballot.

The Adviser has hired Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS") to assist in coordinating its voting of proxies and to provide certain record keeping services. ISS does not vote proxies for the Adviser, but does inform the Adviser about upcoming proxies related to the securities held by the Adviser's clients.

#### **B. Conflicts of Interest**

In exercising its voting discretion, the Adviser and its Employees shall avoid any direct or indirect conflict of interest raised by such voting decision. The Adviser will provide adequate disclosure to the client to the extent that the Adviser is aware of any substantive aspect or foreseeable result of the subject matter to be voted upon that raises an actual or potential conflict of interest to the Adviser or:

- any affiliate of the Adviser (for purposes of these Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, an affiliate means: (i) any person directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser; (ii) any officer, director, principal, partner, employer, or direct or indirect beneficial owner of any 10% or greater equity or voting interest of the Adviser; or (iii) any other person for which a person described in clause (ii) acts in any such capacity);
- any issuer of a security for which the Adviser (or any affiliate of the Adviser) acts as a sponsor, advisor, manager, custodian, distributor, underwriter, broker, or other similar capacity; or
- any person with whom the Adviser (or any affiliate of the Adviser) has an existing, material contract or business relationship that was not entered into in the ordinary course of the Adviser's (or its affiliate's) business.

(Each of the above persons being an "Interested Person.")

After informing the client of any potential conflict of interest, the Adviser will take other appropriate action as required under these Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, as provided below.

The Adviser has retained ISS to keep certain records required by applicable law in connection with the Adviser's proxy voting activities for clients. The Adviser will provide proxy-voting information to clients upon their written or oral request.

### III. Proxy Voting Procedures

**A.** The analyst responsible for monitoring the security (the "Responsible Party") shall be designated by the Adviser to make discretionary voting decisions for the client's account after consultation with senior management. The Accounting Department will be responsible for processing proxy votes. The Responsible Party should assume that he or she has the power to vote all proxies related to a security held by a fund or a managed account advised by the Adviser.

**B.** Generally all proxies and ballots are delivered to and/or received by ISS. Any proxies received by the Adviser will be forwarded to the Accounting Department and then forwarded to ISS, who will log such proxy upon receipt.

**C.** If the Responsible Party has determined that the proxy shall be evaluated, the Responsible Party or the Accounting Department shall follow the procedures set forth below:

1. Prior to voting, the Responsible Party will verify whether his or her voting power is subject to any limitations or guidelines issued by the client. At this time, there are no limitations or guidelines imposed by any client.
2. Prior to voting, the Responsible Party, in consultation with the Compliance Department, will consider whether an actual or potential conflict of interest with the Adviser or any Interested Person exists in connection with the subject proposal(s) to be voted upon. If a conflict exists, the determination regarding the presence of any actual or potential conflict of interest shall be noted by the Responsible Party and/or Compliance Department (i.e., comparing the apparent parties affected by the proxy proposal being voted upon against the Adviser's internal list of Interested Persons and, for any matches found, describing the process taken to determine the anticipated magnitude and possible probability of any conflict of interest being present), which shall be reviewed and signed off on by the Responsible Party's direct supervisor (and if none, by Senior Personnel of the Advisor). If no such conflict exists, the Responsible Party will skip to clause 4 below.
3. If an actual or potential conflict is found to exist, written notification of the conflict (the "Conflict Notice") shall be given to the client or the client's designee in sufficient detail and with sufficient time (to the extent practicable under the circumstances) to reasonably inform the client of the actual or potential conflict involved.

Specifically, the Conflict Notice should describe: (a) the proposal to be voted upon; (b) the actual or potential conflict of interest involved; (c) the Adviser's vote recommendation (with a summary of material factors supporting the recommended vote); and (d) if applicable, the relationship between the Adviser and any Interested Person.

The Conflict Notice will either request the client's consent to the Adviser's vote recommendation or request the client to vote the proxy directly or through a designee of the client. The Conflict Notice and consent thereto may be sent or received, as the case may be, by mail, fax, electronic transmission or any other reliable form of communication that may be recalled, retrieved, produced, or printed in accordance with the recordkeeping policies and procedures of the Adviser. If the client is unreachable or has not affirmatively responded before the response deadline for the matter being voted upon, in an effort to act in the best interest of the client under the circumstances, the Adviser may:

- a. rely upon the vote recommendation of an independent third-party (in such a situation the Adviser will likely rely on the vote recommendation of ISS) if the vote recommendation would fall in favor of the Adviser's interest (or the interest of an Interested Person);
  - b. cast its vote as recommended, if the vote recommendation would fall against the Adviser's interest (or the interest of an Interested Person); or
  - c. abstain from voting.
4. Once a decision has been made regarding whether or not to vote the proxy, the Responsible Party will instruct the Accounting Department how to vote (i.e., either for or against the various proposals).

In accordance with SEC Rule 204-2(c)(2), as amended, the Adviser shall retain the following:

- A record of the vote cast, if any (unless this record is retained by a third party for the benefit of the Adviser and the third party is able to promptly provide the Adviser with a copy of the voting record upon its request);
- A record memorializing the basis for the vote cast or, if no vote is cast, a record of the analysis and determination that the cost of voting the proxy exceeds the benefit to the client of voting the proxy.

- A copy of any document created by the Adviser or its Employees that was material in making the decision on how to vote the subject proxy; and
- A copy of any Conflict Notice and/or conflict consent, if applicable.

The above copies and records shall be retained by the Adviser for a period not less than five (5) years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record (or in the case of an Employee benefit plan, no less than six (6) years), which shall be maintained at the appropriate office of the Adviser.

**D. In accordance with SEC Rule 204-2(c)(2), as amended, the Adviser shall retain the following:**

1. A copy of the proxy statement received, unless retained by a third party for the benefit of the Adviser or the proxy statement is available from the SEC's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system; and
2. A copy of any request or any other written communication (including emails or other electronic communications) to or from the client regarding the subject proxy vote cast by, or the vote recommendation of, the Adviser.

The above copies and records shall be retained in the client's file for a period not less than five (5) years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record (or in the case of an Employee benefit plan, no less than six (6) years), which shall be maintained at the appropriate office of the Adviser.

**Shareholder Proposals**

We believe that companies can identify opportunities to create value for shareholders when they consider stakeholder impacts alongside financial metrics in business planning and strategic decision making. We expect companies to respect human, worker and community rights; invest in an engaged, diverse and inclusive workforce; provide safe, healthy and equitable products and services; operate ethically and transparently; minimize and mitigate environmental impacts; and hold their suppliers to similar standards. We aim to vote in alignment with our principles and in pursuit of long-term value for our shareholders as it relates to shareholder proposals.

**Environment and Climate**

We will generally vote for reasonable proposals that promote:

- Material disclosure of environmental practices, policies, and performance;
- Assessment and mitigation of physical and transition climate risks;
- Water stewardship, including actions that address water use, quality, and access;
- and prudent management of waste, hazardous substances, and pollutants resulting from operations and supply chains.

**Human and Labor Rights**

We will generally vote for reasonable proposals that promote:

- Adoption, implementation, and disclosure of policies and practices to protect human rights, including digital rights, and identify and mitigate related risks within a company's operations and supply chains;
- Strong labor practices, including those that promote fair wages and benefits, employee health and safety, freedom of association and right to collective bargaining, nonretaliation and whistleblower protection, and responsible outsourcing;
- Strong corporate action in support of civil rights and racial equity across all business activities; and
- Transparency of forced labor, child labor, and workplace discrimination and harassment.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

We will generally vote for reasonable proposals that encourage:

- Material disclosure of a company's performance and practices related to workforce diversity, pay and promotion equity, and nondiscrimination policies;
- Improving diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the workforce and management; and
- Improving board diversity.

**Impacts on Customers and Communities**

We will generally vote for reasonable proposals that support:

- Respect for individuals' rights, as laid out in the International Bill of Human Rights;

- Responsible, fair, and ethical marketing practices;
- Equitable access to basic needs such as healthcare, nutrition, and financial services;
- Environmental justice principles;
- Respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights;
- Consumer protection through actions such as reducing the use of chemicals of concern in products, eliminating discriminatory lending practices, and strengthening product safety oversight;
- Preservation of human rights in conflict-affected or high-risk areas; and

#### **IV. Disclosure**

Consistent with SEC Rule 206(4)-6, as amended, the Adviser shall take reasonable measures to inform its clients of (1) its proxy voting policies and procedures, and (2) the process or procedures clients must follow to obtain information regarding how the Adviser voted with respect to assets held in their accounts. This information may be provided to clients through the Adviser's Form ADV Part 2A disclosure or by separate notice to the client (or in the case of an Employee benefit plan, the plan's trustee or other fiduciaries).