

**ALPS SERIES TRUST**  
(the “Trust”)

**Carret Kansas Tax-Exempt Bond Fund**

Supplement dated August 16, 2024 to the  
Statement of Additional Information dated February 1, 2024 (the “SAI”)

Effective August 15, 2024, the Board of Trustees of the Trust approved the appointment of Theodore J. Uhl as the Trust’s new Chief Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Officer and Jennifer Mix as the Trust’s new Assistant Secretary. Accordingly, the Officers table in the section titled “TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS” in the SAI is hereby deleted and replaced in its entirety to reflect the appointment of each new officer of the Trust.

**Officers**

<b>Name, Birth Year &amp; Address*</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with Fund</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served**</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***</b>
<b>Lucas Foss,</b> <b>Birth Year: 1977</b>	President	President Since August 2022 Chief Compliance Officer from January 2018 - August 2022	Mr. Foss rejoined ALPS in November 2017 and is currently Director, Fund Compliance and Governance. Prior to his current role, Mr. Foss served as the Director of Compliance at Transamerica Asset Management (2015-2017) and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer at ALPS (2012-2015). Mr. Foss is also President of Financial Investors Trust and Chief Compliance Officer of Sound Point Meridian Capital Inc., the Bluerock Total Income + Real Estate Fund; Bluerock High Income Institutional Credit Fund; SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust, SPDR® Dow Jones® Industrial Average ETF Trust, and SPDR® S&P MIDCAP 400® ETF Trust.
<b>Jill McFate,</b> <b>Birth year: 1978</b>	Treasurer	Since December 2021	Ms. McFate joined ALPS in 2021 and is currently Senior Director, Fund Administration of ALPS. Prior to joining SS&C ALPS, Jill managed financial reporting and N-PORT regulatory reporting services during her 14 years at The Northern Trust Company as Vice President, Financial Reporting Manager.
<b>Theodore J. Uhl,</b> <b>Birth Year: 1974</b>	Chief Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Officer	Since August 2024	Mr. Uhl joined ALPS in October 2006, and is currently Deputy Compliance Officer of ALPS. Prior to his current role, Mr. Uhl served as Senior Risk Manager for ALPS from October 2006 until June 2010. Before joining ALPS, Mr. Uhl served a Sr. Analyst with Enenbach and Associates (RIA), and a Sr. Financial Analyst at Sprint. Because of his position with ALPS, Mr. Uhl is deemed an affiliate of the Trust as defined under the 1940 Act. Mr. Uhl is also Chief Compliance Officer of Financial Investors Trust, Centre Funds, GraniteShares ETF Trust, FS MVP Private Markets Fund, Accordant ODCE Index Fund, and the SS&C Interval Fund Platform.
<b>Jennifer Mix,</b> <b>Birth year: 1984</b>	Assistant Secretary	Since August 2024	Ms. Mix joined ALPS in 2021 and is currently a Senior Paralegal of ALPS Fund Services, Inc. Prior to her current role, Ms. Mix worked as Senior Legal Administrator at Directed Equity, Inc. (July 2018 - August 2021).

\* All communications to Trustees and Officers may be directed to ALPS Series Trust c/o 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80203.

\*\* This is the period for which the Trustee or Officer began serving the Trust. Each Trustee serves an indefinite term, until such Trustee’s successor is elected and appointed, or such Trustee resigns or is deceased. Each Officer is appointed on an annual basis, and serves until such Officer’s successor is appointed, or such Officer resigns or is deceased.

\*\*\* Except as otherwise indicated, each individual has held the office shown or other offices in the same company for the last five years.

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**INVESTORS SHOULD RETAIN THIS SUPPLEMENT  
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**February 1, 2024**

**CARRET KANSAS TAX-EXEMPT BOND FUND**

Institutional Class Shares (Ticker Symbol: SEK SX)  
Class A Shares (Ticker Symbol: IKSTX)

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) expands upon and supplements the information contained in the current Prospectus for the Fund listed above, each of which is a separate series of ALPS Series Trust, a Delaware statutory trust (“Trust”). Each series of the Trust represents shares of beneficial interest in a separate portfolio of securities and other assets with its own objective and policies. Carret Asset Management, LLC (the “Adviser”) is the investment adviser of the Fund.

This SAI is not a prospectus and is only authorized for distribution when preceded or accompanied by the Fund’s current prospectus dated February 1, 2024, as supplemented from time to time (collectively, the “Prospectus”). This SAI supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained without charge by writing the Fund at the address listed above, or by calling the Fund’s transfer agent at 1-833-287-7933. The Fund’s most recent Annual Report is incorporated by reference into this SAI and can be obtained free of charge, by calling the toll-free number printed above.

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## ORGANIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION

### ALPS Series Trust

This SAI includes information about the Carret Kansas Tax-Exempt Bond Fund (the “Fund” and formerly known as the American Independence Kansas Tax-Exempt Bond Fund). The Fund is a series of the ALPS Series Trust (“Trust”), an open-end, management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust on January 12, 2012.

### Classification

The Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (“1940 Act”), classifies mutual funds as either diversified or non-diversified. The Carret Kansas Tax-Exempt Bond Fund (the “Fund”) is non-diversified.

## ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND RISKS

The Fund’s principal investment objectives and strategies are discussed in the Prospectus under the “**SUMMARY SECTION**” for the Fund and under “**INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES.**” In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund generally makes investments of the sort described in the Prospectus.

The Fund may also invest in certain types of securities, or engage in certain investment activities, as generally discussed below. In addition, the Fund may be subject to additional risks in connection with its investments in such securities or as a result of the Fund’s investment strategies or activities.

### Bank Obligations

Bank obligations that may be purchased by the Fund include certificates of deposit, banker’s acceptances and fixed time deposits. A certificate of deposit is a short-term negotiable certificate issued by a commercial bank against funds deposited in the bank and is either interest-bearing or purchased on a discount basis. A banker’s acceptance is a short-term draft drawn on a commercial bank by a borrower, usually in connection with an international commercial transaction. The borrower is liable for payment, as is the bank, which unconditionally guarantees to pay the draft at its face amount on the maturity date. Fixed time deposits are obligations of branches of U.S. or non-U.S. banks which are payable at a stated maturity date and bear a fixed rate of interest. Although fixed time deposits do not have a market, there are no contractual restrictions on the right to transfer a beneficial interest in the deposit to a third party. Bank obligations may be general obligations of the parent bank or may be limited to the issuing branch by the terms of the specific obligations or by government regulation. Securities issued or guaranteed by non-U.S. banks and non-U.S. branches of U.S. banks are subject to many of the risks of investing in non-U.S. securities generally.

Banks are subject to extensive governmental regulations which may limit both the amounts and types of loans and other financial commitments which may be made and interest rates and fees which may be charged. The profitability of this industry is to a significant extent dependent upon the availability and cost of capital of funds used by the bank to finance its lending operations. Also, general economic conditions play an important part in the operations of this industry and exposure to credit losses arising from possible financial difficulties of borrowers might affect a bank's ability to meet its obligations.

### **Borrowing**

Borrowing creates an opportunity for increased return, but, at the same time, creates special risks. Furthermore, if the Fund were to engage in borrowing, an increase in interest rates could reduce the value of the Fund's shares by increasing the Fund's interest expense.

Subject to the limitations described under "**Investment Limitations**" below, the Fund may be permitted to borrow for temporary purposes and/or for investment 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. 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 emergency purposes. Any borrowings for temporary emergency 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 (excluding Sundays and holidays) or such longer period as the Commission may prescribe by rules and regulations in order to reduce the debt and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint if the Fund sells 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, if any. The Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowings 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. Reverse repurchase agreements are considered to be borrowings by the Fund. See "**Reverse Repurchase Agreements**" below.

### **Combined Transactions**

Depending on the investment techniques or types of securities used by the Fund, the Fund may enter into multiple transactions, including multiple options transactions, multiple currency transactions (including forward currency contracts), multiple interest rate transactions and any combination of options, currency and interest rate transactions, instead of a single derivative, as part of a single or combined strategy when, in the judgment of the Adviser, it is in the best interests of the Fund to do so. A combined transaction will usually contain elements of risk that are present in each of its component transactions. Although combined transactions will normally be entered into by the Fund based on the Adviser's judgment that the combined strategies will reduce risk or otherwise more effectively achieve the desired portfolio management goal, it is possible that the combination will instead increase the risks or hinder achievement of the Fund's investment objective.

### **Convertible Securities**

The Fund may invest in convertible securities, which are bonds, debentures, notes, preferred stock or other securities, which may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock of the same or different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or the dividend paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities ordinarily provide a stream of income, which generate higher yields than those of common stocks of the same or similar issuers but lower than the yield on non-convertible debt. Convertible securities are usually subordinate or are comparable to non-convertible securities but rank senior to common stock or shares in a company's capital structure. The value of a convertible security is a function of (i) its yield in comparison with the yields of other securities of comparable maturity and quality that do not have a conversion privilege and (ii) its worth, at market value, if converted into the underlying common stock. Convertible securities are typically issued by smaller capitalized companies whose stock prices may be volatile. The price of a convertible security often reflects such variations in the price of the underlying common stock in a way that non-convertible debt does not. A convertible security may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the convertible security's governing instrument.

## Credit Default Swaps

The Fund may enter into credit default swap contracts. When used for hedging purposes, the Fund would be the buyer of a credit default swap contract. In that case, the Fund would be entitled to receive the par (or other agreed-upon) value of a referenced debt obligation, index or other investment from the counterparty to the contract in the event of a default by a third party, such as a U.S. or foreign issuer, on the referenced debt obligation. In return, the Fund would pay to 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 have spent the stream of payments and received no benefit from the contract. When the Fund is the seller of a credit default swap contract, it receives the stream of payments but is obligated to pay upon default of the referenced debt obligation. As the seller, the Fund would effectively add leverage to its portfolio because, in addition to its total assets, the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap.

In addition to the risks applicable to derivatives generally, credit default swaps involve special risks because they are difficult to value, are highly susceptible to liquidity and credit risk, and generally pay a return to the party that has paid the premium only in the event of an actual default by the issuer of the underlying obligation, as opposed to a credit downgrade or other indication of financial difficulty.

Credit default swaps may be subject to regulation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”), Securities Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or both. Both the CFTC and the SEC have issued or amended guidance and relief regarding the implementation of various provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (“Dodd-Frank Act”) relating to the use of swaps. Further action by the CFTC or SEC may affect the Fund’s ability to use credit default swaps or may require additional disclosure by the Fund.

## Credit Ratings

The fixed-income securities in which the Fund may invest will not be required to meet a minimum rating standard. Fixed-income securities that are not rated for creditworthiness by any internationally recognized credit rating organization are commonly referred to as “junk bonds” and involve significantly greater risks, including price volatility and risk of default of payment of interest and principal than higher rated securities. A description of the ratings used by Moody’s and S&P is set forth in [Appendix A](#) to this SAL.

## Depository Receipts

Depository receipts include sponsored and unsponsored depository receipts that are or become available, including American Depository Receipts (“ADRs”), European Depository Receipts (“EDRs”) and Global Depository Receipts (“GDRs”) and other depository receipts. Depository receipts are typically issued by a financial institution (“depository”) and evidence ownership interests in a security or a pool of securities (“underlying securities”) that have been deposited with the depository. The depository for ADRs is typically a U.S. financial institution and the underlying securities are issued by a non-U.S. issuer. ADRs are publicly traded on exchanges or OTC in the United States and are issued through “sponsored” or “unsponsored” arrangements. In a sponsored ADR arrangement, the non-U.S. issuer assumes the obligation to pay some or all of the depository’s transaction fees, whereas under an unsponsored arrangement, the non-U.S. issuer assumes no obligation and the depository’s transaction fees are paid by the ADR holders. In addition, less information is available in the United States about an unsponsored ADR than about a sponsored ADR, and the financial information about a company may not be as reliable for an unsponsored ADR as it is for a sponsored ADR. In the case of GDRs, the depository can be a non-U.S. or a U.S. financial institution and the underlying securities are issued by a non-U.S. issuer. GDRs allow companies in Europe, Asia, the United States and Latin America to offer shares in many markets around the world, thus allowing them to raise capital in these markets, as opposed to just in their home market. The advantage of GDRs is that shares do not have to be bought through the issuing company’s home exchange, which may be difficult and expensive, but can be bought on all major stock exchanges. In addition, the share price and all dividends are converted to the shareholder’s home currency. As for other depository receipts, the depository may be a non-U.S. or a U.S. entity, and the underlying securities may have a non-U.S. or a U.S. issuer. For purposes of the Fund’s investment policies, investments in depository receipts will be deemed to be investments in the underlying securities. Thus, a depository receipt representing ownership of common stock will be treated as common stock. Depository receipts purchased by the Fund may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the underlying securities into which they may be converted, in which case the Fund may be exposed to relative currency fluctuations.

## Derivatives

The Fund may engage in a variety of derivative transactions in accordance with the applicable rules of the CFTC, and, to the extent applicable, the rules and regulations of certain national or foreign exchanges; however, the Fund will not be obligated to use derivatives and makes no representation as to the availability of these techniques at this time or at any time in the future. Generally, derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends on, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates, commodities, related indexes and other assets. The types of derivatives in which the Fund may invest include, but are not limited to, futures contracts, the purchase and sale (or writing) of exchange listed and OTC put and call options on debt securities, entering into various interest rate transactions such as swaps, caps floors, and collars, entering into equity swaps, caps and floors, the purchase and sale of indexed debt securities or trading in other similar types of instruments.

Derivatives may be used, among other reasons, as part of the Fund's investment strategy, to attempt to protect against possible changes in the market value of securities held or to be purchased for the Fund's portfolio resulting from securities markets fluctuations, to protect the Fund's unrealized gains in the value of its securities, to facilitate the sale of those securities for investment purposes, to manage the effective maturity or duration of the Fund's portfolio or to establish a position in the derivatives markets as a temporary substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities or to seek to enhance the Fund's income or gain. The Fund may use any or all types of derivatives which it is authorized to use at any time; no particular strategy will dictate the use of one type of transaction rather than another, as use of any authorized derivative will be a function of numerous variables, including market conditions. The ability of the Fund to utilize derivatives successfully will depend on numerous factors including the Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. These skills are different from those needed to select the Fund's portfolio securities.

Subject to the constraints described above, the Fund may (if and to the extent so authorized) enter into futures contracts, purchase and sell (or write) exchange listed and OTC put and call options on securities, loan participations and assignments, futures contracts, indices and other financial instruments, and the Fund may enter into interest rate transactions, equity swaps and related transactions and other similar transactions which may be developed to the extent the Adviser determines that they are consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies and applicable regulatory requirements. The Fund's interest rate transactions may take the form of swaps, caps, floors and collars, and the Fund's currency transactions may take the form of currency forward contracts, currency swaps and options on currencies.

Certain standardized swap transactions are currently subject to mandatory central clearing or may be eligible for voluntary central clearing. Central clearing is expected to decrease counterparty risk and increase liquidity compared to uncleared swaps because central clearing interposes the central clearinghouse as the counterpart to each participant's swap. However, central clearing does not eliminate counterparty risk or illiquidity risk entirely. In addition, depending on the size of the Fund and other factors, the margin required under the rules of a clearinghouse and by a clearing member may be in excess of the collateral required to be posted by the Fund to support its obligations under a similar uncleared swap.

In connection with the use of certain derivatives, the Adviser intends to comply with the requirements of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") by operating the Fund in a manner consistent with the restrictions of Rule 4.5, including filing a notice of eligibility of exemption from registration in accordance with applicable procedures and deadlines.

Derivatives involve special risks, including possible default by the other party to the transaction, illiquidity and, to the extent the Adviser's view as to certain market movements is incorrect, the risk that the use of derivatives could result in significantly greater losses than if it had not been used. Losses resulting from the use of derivatives will reduce the Fund's net asset value, and possibly income, and the losses may be significantly greater than if derivatives had not been used.

The Fund's use of derivatives may be limited by certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"). When used, derivatives may increase the amount and affect the timing and character of taxes payable by shareholders. See "**FEDERAL AND CERTAIN STATE INCOME TAXES.**"

### **Equity Investments**

The Fund will invest in equity securities. Equity securities (which generally include common stocks, preferred stocks, warrants, securities convertible into common or preferred stocks and similar securities) are generally volatile and riskier than some other forms of investment. Equity securities of companies with relatively small market capitalizations may be more volatile than the securities of larger, more established companies or broad equity market indices generally. Common stock and other equity securities may take the form of stock in corporations, partnership interests, interests in limited liability companies and other direct or indirect interests in business organizations.

### **Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs") and Other Similar Instruments**

Shares of ETFs and other similar instruments may be purchased by the Fund. Generally, an ETF is an investment company that is registered under the 1940 Act. Index ETFs that holds a portfolio of securities designed to track the performance of a particular index or index segment, actively managed ETFs are actively managed by an investment adviser. Similar instruments, issued by pools that are not investment companies, offer characteristics similar to index ETFs and may be designed to track the performance of an index or basket of securities of companies engaged in a particular market or sector. ETFs sell and redeem their shares at net asset value in large blocks (typically 50,000 of its shares) called "creation units." Shares representing fractional interests in these creation units are listed for trading on national securities exchanges and can be purchased and sold in the secondary market in lots of any size at any time during the trading day.

Investments in ETFs and other similar instruments involve certain inherent risks generally associated with investments in a broadly-based portfolio of stocks including: (i) risks that the general level of stock prices may decline, thereby adversely affecting the value of each unit of the ETF or other instrument; (ii) an index ETF may not fully replicate the performance of its benchmark index because of temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or discrepancies between the ETF and the index with respect to the weightings of securities or number of stocks held; (iii) an ETF may also be adversely affected by the performance of the specific index, market sector or group of industries on which it is based; and (iv) an index ETF may not track an index as well as a traditional index mutual fund because ETFs are valued by the market and, therefore, there may be a difference between the market value and the ETF's net asset value. The Fund may both purchase and effect short sales of shares of ETFs and may also purchase and sell options on shares of ETFs. These investments may be used for hedging purposes or to seek to increase total return (which is considered a speculative activity).



Because ETFs and pools that issue similar instruments incur various fees and expenses, the Fund's investment in these instruments will involve certain indirect costs, as well as transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions. The Adviser will consider expenses associated with an investment in determining whether to invest in an ETF or other instrument. In the case of ETFs that are investment companies, they invest substantially all of their assets in securities of various securities indices or a particular segment of a securities index. The market price of ETFs is expected to fluctuate in accordance with both changes in the asset values of their underlying indices and supply and demand of an ETF's shares on the exchange. ETFs may trade at relatively modest discounts or premiums to net asset value. In general, most ETFs have a limited operating history and information may be lacking regarding the actual performance and trading liquidity of such shares for extended periods or over complete market cycles. In addition, there is no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of ETFs in which the Fund invests will continue to be met or will remain unchanged. In the event substantial market or other disruptions affecting the shares of ETFs held by the Fund should occur in the future, the liquidity and value of that Fund's shares could also be adversely affected.

Limitations of the 1940 Act, which prohibit the Fund from acquiring more than 3% of the outstanding shares of another investment company, may restrict the Fund's ability to purchase shares of certain ETFs.

#### **Firm Commitments and When-Issued Securities**

The Fund may purchase securities on a firm commitment basis, including when-issued securities. The Fund may also be entitled to receive when-issued securities in relation to its holdings in common stock of companies that undertake certain corporate actions and reorganizations. Securities purchased on a firm commitment basis are purchased for delivery beyond the normal settlement date at a stated price and yield. No income accrues to the purchaser of a security on a firm commitment basis prior to delivery. Such securities are recorded as an asset and are subject to changes in value based upon changes in the general level of interest rates. Purchasing a security on a firm commitment basis can involve a risk that the market price at the time of delivery may be lower than the agreed upon purchase price, in which case there could be an unrealized loss at the time of delivery. The Fund will only make commitments to purchase securities on a firm commitment basis with the intention of actually acquiring the securities but may sell them before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable. As when-issued securities are subject to delayed or deferred settlement, such securities may be either illiquid, or suffer from severe constraints in liquidity. When purchasing securities pursuant to a when-issued or forward commitment transaction, payment for the securities is not required until the delivery date. However, the purchaser assumes the rights and risks of ownership, including the risks of price and yield fluctuations. When the Fund has sold a security pursuant to one of these transactions, the Fund does not participate in further gains or losses with respect to the security. The Fund may renegotiate a when-issued or firm commitment transaction and may sell the underlying securities before delivery, which may result in capital gains or losses for the Fund. When-issued and forward-commitment transactions will not be considered to constitute issuance by the Fund of a "senior security" as that term is defined in Section 18(g) of the 1940 Act, and therefore, such transactions will not be subject to the 300% asset coverage requirement otherwise applicable to borrowings by the Fund, if the Fund reasonably believes, at the time it enters into such agreement, that it will have sufficient cash and cash equivalents to meet its obligations with respect to all of its unfunded commitment agreements, in each case as they come due.

## **Fixed-Income Securities**

The Fund may invest in fixed-income securities. Fixed-income securities generally pay a specified rate of interest or dividends, or a rate that is adjusted periodically by reference to some specified index or market rate or other factor. Fixed-income securities may include securities issued by U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. governments and other agencies and instrumentalities, and by a wide range of private or corporate issuers. Fixed-income securities include, among others, bonds, notes, bills, debentures, convertible securities, bank obligations, mortgage and other asset-backed securities, loan participations and assignments and commercial paper.

Because interest rates vary, it is impossible to predict the income of the Fund for any particular period. Except to the extent that values are affected independently by other factors such as developments relating to a specific issuer or group of issuers, when interest rates decline, the value of fixed-income securities can generally be expected to rise. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the value of fixed-income securities can generally be expected to decline. Prices of longer-term securities generally increase or decrease more sharply than those of shorter-term securities in response to interest rate changes, particularly if such securities were purchased at a discount. It should be noted that the market values of securities rated below investment grade and comparable unrated securities tend to react less to fluctuations in interest rate levels than do those of higher-rated securities.

*Call or Buy-Back Features.* In addition, many fixed-income securities contain call or buy-back features that permit their issuers to call or repurchase the securities from their holders. Such securities may present risks based on payment expectations. Although the Fund may typically receive a premium if an issuer were to redeem a security, if an issuer exercises such a “call option” and redeems the security during a time of declining interest rates, the Fund may realize a capital loss on its investment if the security was purchased at a premium and the Fund may have to replace the called security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased rate of return to the Fund.

## **Floating and Variable Rate Instruments**

The Fund may invest in floating and variable rate obligations. Floating or variable rate obligations bear interest at rates that are not fixed but vary with changes in specified market rates or indices, such as the prime rate, and at specified intervals. Variable rate obligations invest include variable rate master demand notes, which are unsecured instruments issued pursuant to an agreement between the issuer and the holder that permit the indebtedness thereunder to vary and provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate. Certain floating or variable rate obligations may carry a demand feature that would permit the holder to tender them back to the issuer of the instrument or to a third party at par value prior to maturity. Some demand instruments may not be traded in a secondary market and derive their liquidity solely from the ability of the holder to demand repayment from the issuer or third-party providing credit support. If a demand instrument is not traded in a secondary market, the Fund will nonetheless treat the instrument as liquid for the purposes of its investment restriction limiting investments in illiquid securities unless the demand feature has a notice period of more than seven days; if the notice period is greater than seven days, such a demand instrument will be characterized as illiquid for such purpose. The Fund’s right to obtain payment at par on a demand instrument could be affected by events occurring between the date the Fund elects to demand payment and the date payment is due that may affect the ability of the issuer of the instrument or a third-party providing credit support to make payment when due. To facilitate settlement, some demand instruments may be held in book entry form at a bank other than the Fund’s custodian subject to a sub-custodian agreement approved by the Fund between that bank and the Fund’s custodian.

## **High-Yield Securities**

The Fund may invest in high-yield securities. High-yield securities are considered speculative with respect to the issuer’s capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligations. Under rating agency guidelines, any quality and protective characteristics of high-yield securities will likely be outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. Medium and lower rated securities may have poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing, may have a current identifiable vulnerability to default, may be unlikely to have the capacity to pay interest and repay principal when due in the event of adverse business, financial or economic conditions, and/or may be in default or not current in the payment of interest or principal.

The credit ratings of S&P, Fitch, Moody's or other agencies are evaluations of the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk, of lower-rated securities. Credit rating agencies may fail to change timely the credit ratings to reflect subsequent events. Many debt securities in international markets, especially in emerging markets, bear no rating whatsoever. Ratings organizations have declined to determine ratings for such securities for a host of reasons, including but not limited to the issuer's lack of scale, insufficient or inadequate disclosure by the issuer, or insufficient operating history on the part of the issuer.

Neither the Fund nor the Adviser can conclude that ratings issued by recognized agencies reflect the true financial position of the underlying issuer; nor can any Fund or the Adviser be certain an issuer will maintain its current credit rating in the future. When available, the Adviser may refer to selected ratings from recognized agencies. The Adviser may also choose to augment such ratings with its own analyses of issuers, which may include, among other things, review of historic and current financial conditions and anticipated future cash flows.

*Changes in Credit Ratings.* Changes by recognized rating services in their ratings of a high-yield security and in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal may also affect the value of these investments. A description of the ratings used by Moody's and S&P is set forth in Appendix A to this SAI. The ratings of Moody's and S&P generally represent the opinions of those organizations as to the quality of the securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, are not absolute standards of quality, are subject to change and do not evaluate the market risk or liquidity of the securities. Ratings of a non-U.S. debt instrument, to the extent that those ratings are undertaken, are related to evaluations of the country in which the issuer of the instrument is located, which may cause a rating to be lower than would otherwise be suggested by the intrinsic creditworthiness of the issuer.

*Liquidity.* The secondary markets for high-yield securities are not as liquid as the secondary markets for higher rated securities. The secondary markets for high-yield securities are concentrated in relatively few market makers and participants in the market are mostly institutional investors, including insurance companies, banks, other financial institutions and mutual funds. In addition, the trading volume for high-yield securities is generally lower than that for higher-rated securities and the secondary markets could contract under adverse market or economic conditions independent of any specific adverse changes in the condition of a particular issuer, decreasing the liquidity of high-yield securities held in general. These factors may have an adverse effect on the ability of the Fund holding such securities to dispose of particular portfolio investments at the price it would wish, may adversely affect the Fund's net asset value per share and may limit the ability of the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing securities and calculating net asset value.

*Legislative and Regulatory Developments.* Prices for high-yield securities may be affected by legislative and regulatory developments. These laws could adversely affect the Fund's investments in high-yield securities, the secondary market for high-yield securities, the financial condition of issuers of these securities and the value of outstanding high-yield securities. For example, federal legislation requiring the divestiture by federally insured savings and loan associations of their investments in high-yield bonds and limiting the deductibility of interest by certain corporate issuers of high-yield bonds adversely affected the market in prior years.

*High-Yield Corporate Securities.* While the market values of securities rated below investment grade and comparable unrated securities tend to react less to fluctuations in interest rate levels than do those of higher-rated securities, the values of certain of these securities also tend to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in economic conditions than higher-rated securities. In addition, such securities present a higher degree of credit risk. Issuers of these securities are often highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them, so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. The risk of loss due to default by such issuers is significantly greater than with investment grade securities because such securities generally are unsecured and subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. If the Fund holds such securities, the Fund also could incur additional expenses to the extent that it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal or interest on its portfolio holdings. These risks may be greater for non-U.S. high-yield securities especially those of issuers located in emerging markets.

The development of markets for high-yield corporate securities has been a relatively recent phenomenon, especially outside the United States. In addition, these markets have undergone significant changes in the past and may undergo significant changes in the future.

The Fund may invest in high-yield securities that bear interest at fixed rates, securities with variable rates of interest, or securities that involve equity features, such as contingent interest or participations based on revenues, sales or profits (*i.e.*, interest or other payments, often in addition to a fixed rate of return, that are based on the borrower's attainment of specified levels of revenues, sales or profits and thus enable the holder of the security to share in the potential success of the venture).

### **Illiquid Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 15% of the value of its net assets in illiquid securities. The term "illiquid securities" for this purpose means securities that cannot be disposed of within seven days in the ordinary course of business at approximately the amount at which the Fund has valued the securities. Illiquid securities are considered to include, among other things, written OTC options, repurchase agreements with maturities in excess of seven days, certain loan participation interests, fixed time deposits which are not subject to prepayment or provide for withdrawal penalties upon prepayment (other than overnight deposits), and other securities whose disposition is restricted under the federal securities laws.

To the extent that instruments that the Fund holds become illiquid due to the lack of sufficient buyers or market or other conditions, the percentage of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid assets would increase. The Adviser, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, monitors Fund investments in assignments and loan participations and will, in such a case, consider appropriate measures to enable the Fund to maintain sufficient liquidity for operating purposes and to meet redemption requests.

### **Inflation-Indexed Bonds**

Inflation-indexed bonds are fixed-income securities whose principal value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers use a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the Consumer Price Index accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Treasury have maturities of five, ten or twenty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. The U.S. Treasury securities pay interest on a semiannual 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 inflation over the first six months were 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 equaling 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 U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. The Fund may also invest in other inflation related bonds 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-indexed bonds 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.

### **Interest-Only Securities**

Interest only securities (“IOs”) are a form of stripped mortgage security. Stripped mortgage securities may be issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government, or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks and special purpose subsidiaries of the foregoing. The risk of early prepayment is the primary risk associated with IOs.

Stripped mortgage securities are structured with two or more classes of securities that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. IOs are one class of a stripped mortgage security that receives all of the interest (while another class will receive all of the principal (“POs” or “principal only class”)).

### **Interest-Rate and Equity Swaps and Related Transactions**

The Fund may enter into interest rate and equity swaps and may purchase or sell (*i.e.*, write) interest rate and equity caps, floors and collars. If the Fund enters into these types of transactions, the Fund expects that it would do so in order to hedge against either a decline in the value of the securities included in the Fund’s portfolio, or against an increase in the price of the securities which it plans to purchase, in order to preserve or maintain a return or spread on a particular investment or portion of its portfolio or to achieve a particular return on cash balances, or in order to increase income or gain. Interest rate and equity swaps involve the exchange between the parties to the swap of their respective commitments to make or receive payments based on a notional principal amount. The purchase of an interest rate or equity cap entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index exceeds a predetermined level, to receive payments on a contractually-based principal amount from the party selling the interest rate or equity cap. The purchase of an interest rate or equity floor entitles the purchaser, to the extent that a specified index falls below a predetermined rate, to receive payments on a contractually-based principal amount from the party selling the interest rate or equity floor. A collar is a combination of a cap and a floor which preserve a certain return within a predetermined range of values.

If the Fund enters into interest-rate and equity swaps, the Fund expects that it will usually enter into the swap on a net basis (*i.e.*, the two payment streams are netted out), with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments.

The use of interest rate and equity swaps is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. There is a risk that incorrect forecasts of market values, interest rates and other applicable factors, will diminish the investment performance of the Fund compared with what it would have been if these investment techniques were not utilized. Moreover, even if the forecasts are correct, there is a risk that the swap position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged.

As is the case with options strategies, the effective use of swaps and related transactions by the Fund may depend, among other things, on the Fund’s ability to terminate the transactions at times when the Adviser deems it desirable to do so. To the extent a transaction is not or cannot be terminated in a timely manner, the Fund may suffer a loss in excess of any amounts that it may have received, or expected to receive, as a result of entering into the transaction.

The liquidity of swap agreements will be determined based on various factors, including (i) the frequency of trades and quotations, (ii) the number of dealers and prospective purchasers in the marketplace, (iii) dealer undertakings to make a market, (iv) the nature of the security (including any demand or tender features), and (v) the nature of the marketplace for trades (including the ability to assign or offset the Fund's rights and obligations relating to the investment).

There is no limit on the amount of interest rate and equity swap transactions that may be entered into by the Fund. Because swaps and related transactions are bilateral contractual arrangements between the counterparties to the transactions, the Fund's ability to terminate such an arrangement may be considerably more limited than in the case of an exchange traded instrument. If the other party to a swap defaults, the Fund's risk of loss is the net amount of payments that the Fund contractually is entitled to receive, if any.

#### **Loans of Portfolio Securities**

Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the Fund may lend portfolio securities to brokers or dealers or other financial institutions in accordance with policies and procedures of the Trust, as may be adopted from time to time. The procedure for the lending of securities will typically include the following features and conditions. The collateral will consist either of U.S. Government Securities or the borrower of the securities will deposit cash with the Fund in an amount equal to a minimum of 100% of the market value of the securities lent. The Fund will seek to invest the collateral in short-term debt securities, cash equivalents (or pooled investment vehicle interests in cash, cash equivalents and short-term debt instruments) and earn the income thereon. A negotiated portion of the income so earned may be paid to the securities or lending agent (e.g., a bank or trust company) who arranged the loan. The collateral will be marked to market daily, and if the value of the collateral drops below the required minimum at any time, the borrower may typically be called upon to post additional collateral. These will be "demand" loans and may be terminated by the Fund at any time. The Fund will receive any payments in lieu of dividends and interest paid on the securities lent, although the U.S. federal income tax characteristics of such payment may change. The Fund's performance will continue to reflect changes in the value of the securities loaned.

The terms of the structure of the loan arrangements, as well as the aggregate amount of securities loans, must be consistent with the 1940 Act and rules and interpretations of the SEC thereunder. These provisions limit the amount of securities the Fund may lend to 33 1/3% of the Fund's total assets and require (1) the borrower pledge and maintain with the Fund collateral consisting of cash, an irrevocable letter of credit, or securities issued by the U.S. government having at all times not less than 100% of the value of the securities lent; (2) the borrower add to such collateral whenever the price of the securities lent rises; (3) the loan be made subject to termination by the Fund at any time; and (4) the Fund receives reasonable interest on the loan (which may include the Fund's investing any cash collateral in interest-bearing short-term investments), any distributions on the lent securities, and any increase in their market value. Loan arrangements made by the Fund will comply with all other applicable regulatory requirements, including the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, which presently require the borrower, after notice, to redeliver the securities within the normal settlement time of three business days. The Adviser will consider the creditworthiness of the borrower, among other things, in making decisions with respect to lending securities, subject to the oversight of the Board of Trustees. At present time, the SEC does not object if any investment company pays reasonable negotiated fees in connection with lent securities, so long as such fees are set forth in a written contract and approved by the investment company's trustees. In addition, voting rights pass with the lent securities, but if the Fund has knowledge that a material event will occur affecting securities on loan, and with respect to which the holder of securities will be entitled to vote or consent, the lender must be entitled to call the loaned securities in time to vote or consent. The Fund bears the risk that there may be a delay in the return of the securities, which may impair the Fund's ability to vote on such a matter. The Fund may include, as part of its total assets, the assets that it receives as collateral for loans of its portfolio securities, for purposes of determining compliance with the requirement that a mutual fund should not have on loan at any given time securities representing more than one-third of its total asset value.

These transactions must be fully collateralized at all times, but involve some credit risk to the Fund if the borrower or the party (if any) guaranteeing the loan should default on its obligations. In the event of the default or bankruptcy of the other party to a securities loan, the Fund could experience delays in recovering the securities it lent. To the extent that, in the meantime, the value of the securities the Fund lent has increased or the value of the collateral decreased, the Fund could experience a loss. In the event of a default by the borrower, the Fund will, if permitted by law, dispose of such collateral except that the Fund may retain any such part thereof that is a security in which the Fund is permitted to invest. The Fund may also lose money if it incurs losses on the reinvestment of cash collateral.

Although voting rights or rights to consent with respect to the loaned securities pass to the borrower, the Fund, as the lender, generally retains the right to call the loans and obtain the return of the securities loaned at any time on reasonable notice, and it will attempt to do so in order that the securities may be voted by the Fund if the holders of such securities are asked to vote upon or consent to matters which the Adviser believes materially affect the investment; however, the Fund may not be able to recall the securities in time for the Fund to be the owner on the record date for determining shareholders entitled to vote or consent on the matter. The Fund may typically also call such loans in order to sell the securities involved.

### **Money Market Instruments/Securities**

The Fund may hold money market instruments, including commercial paper, banker's acceptances, certificates of deposit and other short-term debt securities. The Fund may hold money market instruments for many reasons including, (i) as part of the Adviser's strategy in order to take advantage of investment opportunities as they arise, (ii) when the portfolio managers believe that market conditions are unfavorable for profitable investing for the Fund, (iii) when the portfolio managers are otherwise unable to locate attractive investment opportunities for the Fund, (iv) as a temporary measure in order to meet redemption requests, or (v) as a defensive measure in response to adverse market or economic conditions. During periods when the Fund maintains exposure to money market instruments, it may not participate in market movements to the same extent that it would if the Fund was more fully invested in equity securities.

### **Municipal Bonds**

Municipal bonds generally have a maturity at the time of issuance of more than one year. Municipal bonds may be issued to raise money for various public purposes—such as constructing public facilities and making loans to public institutions. There are generally two types of municipal bonds: general obligation bonds and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are backed by the taxing power of the issuing municipality and are considered the safest type of municipal bond. Revenue bonds are backed by the revenues of a project or facility—tolls from a toll road, for example. Certain types of municipal bonds are issued to obtain funding for privately operated facilities. Industrial development revenue bonds (which are private activity bonds) are a specific type of revenue bond backed by the credit and security of a private user, and therefore investments in these bonds have more potential risk. Investments in municipal bonds are rated investment grade or better by a NRSRO.

### **Municipal Commercial Paper**

Municipal commercial paper is a debt obligation with a stated maturity of one year or less which is issued to finance seasonal working capital needs or as short-term financing in anticipation of longer-term debt. Investments in municipal commercial paper are limited to commercial paper which is rated at the date of purchase: (i) "P-1" by Moody's and "A-1" or "A-1+" by S&P, "P-2" or better by Moody's and "A-2" or better by S&P; or (ii) in a comparable rating category by any two of the NRSROs that have rated commercial paper; or (iii) in a comparable rating category by only one such organization if it is the only organization that has rated the commercial paper; or (iv) if not rated, is, in the opinion of the Adviser, of comparable investment quality and within the credit quality policies and guidelines established by the Board of Trustees. Issuers of municipal commercial paper rated "P-1" have a "superior capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations". The "A-1" rating for commercial paper under the S&P classification indicates that the "degree of safety regarding timely payment is either overwhelming or very strong." Commercial paper with "overwhelming safety characteristics" will be rated "A-1+". Commercial paper receiving a "P-2" rating has a strong capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations. Commercial paper rated "A-2" has the capacity for timely payment although the relative degree of safety is not as overwhelming as for issues designated "A-1".

## **Municipal Leases**

Municipal leases are instruments, or participations in instruments, issued in connection with lease obligations or installment purchase contract obligations of municipalities. Although municipal lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the issuing municipality, a lease obligation is ordinarily backed by the municipality's covenant to budget for, appropriate funds for, and make the payments due under the lease obligation. However, certain lease obligations contain "non-appropriation" clauses, which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for such purpose in the relevant years. Municipal lease obligations will be treated as liquid only if they satisfy criteria set forth in guidelines established by the Board of Trustees, and there can be no assurance that a market will exist or continue to exist for any municipal lease obligation.

## **Municipal Notes**

Municipal notes are generally sold as interim financing in anticipation of the collection of taxes, a bond sale or receipt of other revenue. Municipal notes generally have maturities at the time of issuance of one year or less. Investments in municipal notes are limited to notes which are rated at the date of purchase: (i) MIG 1 or MIG 2 by Moody's and in a comparable rating category by at least one other nationally recognized statistical rating organization that has rated the notes, or (ii) in a comparable rating category by only one such organization, including Moody's, if it is the only organization that has rated the notes, or (iii) if not rated, are, in the opinion of the Adviser, of comparable investment quality and within the credit quality policies and guidelines established by the Board of Trustees.

Notes rated "MIG 1" are judged to be of the "best quality" and carry the smallest amount of investment risk. Notes rated "MIG 2" are judged to be of "high quality, with margins of protection ample although not as large as in the preceding group".

## **Options**

In addition to the options on instruments and indices described in this SAI, the Fund reserves the right to purchase or sell options on other instruments and indices and those which may be developed in the future to the extent consistent with applicable law, the Fund's investment objective and the restrictions set forth herein.

A put option gives the purchaser of the option, upon payment of a premium, the right to sell, and the writer of the option the obligation to buy (if the option is exercised), the underlying security, index, currency or other instrument at the exercise price. If the Fund were to purchase a put option on a security, for example, it might do so in an attempt to protect its holdings in the underlying instrument (or, in some cases, a similar instrument) against a substantial decline in the market value of such instrument by giving the Fund the right to sell the instrument at the option exercise price. A call option, upon payment of a premium, gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy (if the option is exercised), and the seller the obligation to sell, the underlying instrument at the exercise price. If the Fund were to purchase a call option on a security, index, currency or other instrument, for example, it might do so in an attempt to protect the Fund against an increase in the price of the underlying instrument that it intends to purchase in the future by fixing the price at which it may purchase the instrument. An "American" style put or call option may be exercised at any time during the option period, whereas a "European" style put or call option may be exercised only upon expiration or during a fixed period prior to expiration. Exchange-listed options are issued by a regulated intermediary such as the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"), which guarantees the performance of the obligations of the parties to the options.



The Fund may purchase put and call options or write “covered” put and call options on stock indices, interest rates and currencies in order to hedge against adverse market shifts or to potentially increase income or gain. In addition, the Fund may utilize options on currencies in order to hedge against currency exchange rate risks or to gain exposure to one or more currencies. A call option written by the Fund is “covered” so long as the Fund owns: (i) the underlying investment subject to the option; (ii) securities convertible or exchangeable without the payment of any consideration into the securities subject to the option; or (iii) a call option on the relevant security or currency with an exercise price no higher than the exercise price on the call option written. A put option written by the Fund is “covered” if the Fund has certain offsetting puts. Parties to options transactions must make certain payments and/or set aside certain amounts of assets in connection with each transaction.

If the Fund writes a call, the Fund will generally limit its opportunity to profit from an increase in the market value of the underlying investment above the exercise price of the option for as long as the Fund’s obligation as writer of the option continues. If the Fund writes a put, the Fund will generally limit its opportunity to profit from a decrease in the market value of the underlying investment below the exercise price of the option for as long as the Fund’s obligation as writer of the option continues. Upon the exercise of a put option written by the Fund, the Fund may suffer an economic loss equal to the difference between the price at which the Fund is required to purchase the underlying investment and its market value at the time of the option exercise, less the premium received for writing the option. Upon the exercise of a call option written by the Fund, the Fund may suffer an economic loss equal to an amount not less than the Fund’s acquisition cost of the investment underlying the option, less the sum of the premium received for writing the option and the exercise price paid to the Fund.

The Fund may choose to exercise the options it holds, permit them to expire or terminate them prior to their expiration by entering into closing transactions. The Fund may enter into a closing purchase transaction in which the Fund purchases an option having the same terms as the option it had written or a closing sale transaction in which the Fund sells an option having the same terms as the option it had purchased.

Exchange-listed options on securities and currencies, with certain exceptions, generally settle by physical delivery of the underlying security or currency, although in the future, cash settlement may become available. Frequently, rather than taking or making delivery of the underlying instrument through the process of exercising the option, listed options are closed by entering into offsetting purchase or sale transactions that do not result in ownership of the new option. Index options are cash settled for the net amount, if any, by which the option is “in-the-money” (that is, the amount by which the value of the underlying instrument exceeds, in the case of a call option, or is less than, in the case of a put option, the exercise price of the option) at the time the option is exercised.

OTC options are purchased from or sold to securities dealers, financial institutions or other parties (collectively referred to as “counterparties” and individually referred to as a “counterparty”) through a direct bilateral agreement with the counterparty. In contrast to exchange-listed options, which generally have standardized terms and performance mechanics, the terms of an OTC option, including such terms as method of settlement, term, exercise price, premium, guaranties and security, are determined by negotiation of the parties.

Unless the parties provide for it, no central clearing or guaranty function is involved in an OTC option. As a result, if a counterparty fails to make or take delivery of the security, currency or other instrument underlying an OTC option it has entered into with the Fund or fails to make a cash settlement payment due in accordance with the terms of that option, the Fund will lose any premium it paid for the option as well as any anticipated benefit of the transaction. Thus, the Adviser must assess the creditworthiness of each such counterparty or any guarantor or credit enhancement of the counterparty’s credit to determine the likelihood that the terms of the OTC option will be met.

If the Fund sells a call option, the premium that it receives may serve as a partial hedge, to the extent of the option premium, against a decrease in the value of the underlying securities or instruments held by the Fund or will increase the Fund's income. Similarly, the sale of put options can also provide gains for the Fund. The Fund may purchase and sell call options on securities that are traded on U.S. and foreign securities exchanges and in the OTC markets, and on securities indices and currencies. Even though the Fund will receive the option premium to help protect it against loss, use of options could result in losses to the Fund, force the purchase or sale of portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices higher or lower than current market values, or cause the Fund to hold a security it might otherwise sell or sell a security it might otherwise hold.

The Fund's ability to close out its position as a purchaser or seller of an OCC-issued or exchange-listed put or call option is dependent, in part, upon the liquidity of the particular option market. Among the possible reasons for the absence of a liquid option market on an exchange are: (i) insufficient trading interest in certain options; (ii) restrictions on transactions imposed by an exchange; (iii) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities, including reaching daily price limits; (iv) interruption of the normal operations of the OCC or an exchange; (v) inadequacy of the facilities of an exchange or the OCC to handle current trading volume; or (vi) a decision by one or more exchanges to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the relevant market for that option on that exchange would cease to exist, although any such outstanding options on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

The hours of trading for listed options may not coincide with the hours during which the underlying financial instruments are traded. To the extent that the option markets close before the markets for the underlying financial instruments, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that would not be reflected in the corresponding option markets.

*Options on Stocks and Stock Indices.* The Fund may purchase put and call options and write covered put and call options on stocks and stock indices in order to hedge against movements in the equity markets or to potentially increase income or gain to the Fund. In addition, the Fund may purchase options on stocks that are traded over-the-counter. Options on stock indices are similar to options on specific securities. However, because options on stock indices do not involve the delivery of an underlying security, the option represents the holder's right to obtain from the writer cash in an amount equal to a fixed multiple of the amount by which the exercise price exceeds (in the case of a put) or is less than (in the case of a call) the closing value of the underlying stock index on the exercise date. Options are also traded in certain industry or market segment indices. Stock index options are subject to position and exercise limits and other regulations imposed by the exchange on which they are traded.

For example, a purchase of a call option on a stock index could be used as a hedge against an increase in prices of particular equity securities the Fund wanted ultimately to buy if the Adviser expected general stock market prices to rise. If the stock index does rise, the price of the particular equity securities intended to be purchased may also increase, but that increase should be offset in part by the increase in the value of the Fund's index option resulting from the increase in the index. On the other hand, a purchase of a put option on the index could be used if the Adviser expected general stock market prices to decline. If that index does decline, the value of some or all of the equity securities in the Fund's portfolio may also be expected to decline, but that decrease would be offset in part by the increase in the value of the Fund's position in such put option.

#### **Other Investment Companies (excluding ETFs)**

The Fund may invest in shares of other investment companies, including open-end investment companies, subject to limits prescribed by the 1940 Act. These investment companies typically incur fees that are separate from those fees incurred directly by the Fund. The Fund's purchase of such investment company securities results in the layering of expenses, such that shareholders would indirectly bear a proportionate share of the operating expenses of such investment companies, including advisory fees, in addition to paying Fund expenses. No adjustments will be made to the advisory fee with respect to assets of the Fund invested in such investment companies.

The Fund's investment in other investment companies may include securities of closed-end investment companies investing in foreign securities. The Fund will invest in closed-end investment companies only in furtherance of their investment objectives. Growth in appreciation and dividends in foreign markets sometimes occurs at a faster rate than in domestic markets. The ability of the Fund to invest in closed-end investment companies that invest in foreign securities provides, indirectly, greater variety and added expertise with respect to investments in foreign markets than if the Fund invested directly in such markets. Such companies themselves, however, may have policies that are different from those of the Fund.

The Fund's investment in other investment companies may also include shares of ETFs, which are described elsewhere in this section under the heading "**Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs") and Other Similar Instruments.**"

#### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. A repurchase agreement is a transaction in which the seller of a security commits itself at the time of sale to repurchase that security from the buyer at a mutually agreed upon time and price. The resale price is in excess of the purchase price and reflects an agreed-upon market interest rate unrelated to the coupon rate on the purchased security. Such transactions afford the opportunity to earn a return on temporarily available cash at relatively low market risk. When the Fund enters into a repurchase agreement, the Adviser will monitor the value of the securities underlying the repurchase agreement at the time the transaction is entered into and at all times during the term of the repurchase agreement to ensure that the value of the securities always equals or exceeds the repurchase price. The Fund will require that additional securities be deposited if the value of the securities purchased decreases below their resale price and does not bear the risk of a decline in the value of the underlying security unless the seller defaults under the repurchase obligation.

While the underlying security may be a bill, certificate of indebtedness, note or bond issued by an agency, authority or instrumentality of the U.S. government, the obligation of the seller is not guaranteed by the U.S. government and there is a risk that the seller may fail to repurchase the underlying security. In such event, the Fund would attempt to exercise rights with respect to the underlying security, including possible disposition in the market. However, the Fund may be subject to various delays and risks of loss, including (i) possible declines in the value of the underlying security during the period while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights thereto, (ii) possible reduced levels of income and lack of access to income during this period, and (iii) inability to enforce rights and the expenses involved in the attempted enforcement.

Repurchase agreements with maturities of more than seven days will be treated as illiquid securities.

#### **Reverse Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may enter into "reverse" repurchase agreements to avoid selling securities during unfavorable market conditions to meet redemptions. Pursuant to a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund sells portfolio securities and agree to repurchase them from the buyer at a particular date and price. The Fund will pay interest on amounts obtained pursuant to reverse repurchase agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements are considered to be borrowings by the Fund. See "**Borrowing**" above.

#### **Restricted Securities and Securities with Limited Trading Markets (Rule 144A)**

The Fund may purchase securities for which there is a limited trading market or which are subject to restrictions on resale to the public. If the Fund were to acquire substantial positions in securities with limited trading markets, the activities of the Fund could have an adverse effect upon the liquidity and marketability of such securities and the Fund might not be able to dispose of its holdings in those securities at then current market prices. Circumstances could also exist (to satisfy redemptions, for example) when portfolio securities might have to be sold by the Fund at times which otherwise might be considered to be disadvantageous so that the Fund might receive lower proceeds from such sales than it had expected to realize. Investments in securities which are "restricted" may involve added expenses to the Fund should the Fund be required to bear registration costs with respect to such securities and could involve delays in disposing of such securities which might have an adverse effect upon the price and timing of sales of such securities and the liquidity of the Fund with respect to redemptions. Restricted securities and securities for which there is a limited trading market may be significantly more difficult to value due to the unavailability of reliable market quotations for such securities, and investment in such securities may have an adverse impact on net asset value. The Fund may purchase Rule 144A securities for which there may be a secondary market of qualified institutional buyers as contemplated by Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"). Liquidity determinations with respect to Rule 144A securities will be made by the Board of Trustees or by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines established by the Board. The Fund's holdings of Rule 144A securities which are considered liquid securities will not be subject to the Fund's applicable limitation on investments in illiquid securities.

### **Securities Related Issuers**

The 1940 Act limits the Fund's ability to invest in any equity security of an issuer which, in its most recent fiscal year, derived more than 15% of its revenues from "securities related activities," as defined by the rules thereunder. These provisions may also restrict the Fund's investments in certain non-U.S. banks and other financial institutions.

### **Short Sales**

The Fund may make short sales of securities consistent with its strategies. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline.

When the Fund makes a short sale, it must borrow the security sold short and deliver a security equal in value to the security sold short to the broker-dealer through which it made the short sale as collateral for its obligation to deliver the security upon conclusion of the sale. The Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and may be obligated to pay over any accrued interest and dividends on such borrowed securities.

If the Fund sells a security short and the price of the security increases between the time of the short sale and the time that the Fund replaces the borrowed security, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. The successful use of short selling may be adversely affected by imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the security sold short and the securities being hedged.

A short sale is "against the box" to the extent that the Fund contemporaneously owns, or has the right to obtain at no added cost, securities identical to those sold short. The Fund may engage in short selling to the extent permitted by the federal securities laws and rules and interpretations thereunder. To the extent the Fund engages in short selling in foreign (non-U.S.) jurisdictions, the Fund will do so to the extent permitted by the laws and regulations of such jurisdiction.

### **Temporary or Defensive Positions**

The Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies to meet redemption requests in response to adverse market, economic or political conditions by taking temporary or defensive positions by investing some or all of its assets in cash and/or cash equivalent securities or invest in other securities that the Adviser believes are less risky than those normally invested in by the Fund.

Cash equivalent securities include, but are not limited to, obligations of the U.S. government or by its agencies or instrumentalities, money market fund shares, commercial paper, certificates of deposit and/or banker's acceptances, as well as other interest bearing or discount obligations or debt instruments that carry an investment grade rating by a national rating agency. If the Fund invests all or a majority of its assets in cash or cash equivalents it will not achieve its investment objective.

### **U.S. Government Securities**

The Fund may invest without limit in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies or instrumentalities. U.S. government securities in general include a wide variety of U.S. Treasury obligations consisting of bills, notes and bonds, which principally differ only in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance. Securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities are debt securities issued by agencies or instrumentalities established or sponsored by the U.S. government and may be backed only by the credit of the issuing agency or instrumentality. The Fund will invest in such obligations only where the Adviser is satisfied that the credit risk with respect to the issuer is minimal.

Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of fixed-income securities, although, as a result, the yields available from these securities are generally lower than the yields available from corporate fixed-income securities. Like other debt securities, however, the values of U.S. government securities change as interest rates fluctuate, which could affect the Fund's net asset value. Under certain market conditions the Fund may, for temporary defensive purposes, accept lower current income from short-term investments rather than investing in higher yielding long-term securities. Some U.S. government securities (such as Fannie Maes and Freddie Macs) are guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest by the relevant entity (e.g., FNMA or FHLMC) but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Therefore, the securities would generally be neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.

### *CMOs and MBS Derivatives*

The collateralized mortgage obligation ("CMO") and stripped mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") markets were developed specifically to reallocate the various risks inherent in MBS across various bond classes ("tranches"). For example, CMO "companion" classes typically experience much greater average life variability than other CMO classes or MBS pass-throughs. Interest-only pass-through securities experience greater yield variability relative to changes in prepayments. "Inverse floaters" experience greater variability of returns relative to changes in interest rates. To the extent that the Fund concentrates its investments in these or other "derivative" securities, the prepayment risks, interest rate risks, and hedging risks associated with such securities will be severely magnified.

### **Warrants and Rights**

The Fund may invest in warrants and rights. Warrants are securities that are usually issued together with a debt security or preferred stock and that give the holder the right to buy a proportionate amount of common stock at a specified price until a stated expiration date. Buying a warrant generally can provide a greater potential for profit or loss than an investment of equivalent amounts in the underlying common stock. The market value of a warrant does not necessarily move with the value of the underlying securities. If a holder does not sell the warrant, it risks the loss of its entire investment if the market price of the underlying security does not, before the expiration date, exceed the exercise price of the warrant. Investing in warrants is a speculative activity. Warrants pay no dividends and confer no rights (other than the right to purchase the underlying securities) with respect to the assets of the issuer. A right is a privilege granted, typically to existing shareholders of a corporation, to subscribe for shares of a new issue of stock before it is issued. Rights normally have a short life, usually two to four weeks, may be freely transferable and generally entitle the holder to buy the new common stock at a lower price than the public offering price.

## Zero-Coupon Securities, Pay-In-Kind Bonds and Deferred Payment Securities

The Fund may invest in zero-coupon securities, pay-in-kind bonds and deferred payment securities. Zero-coupon securities are debt securities that pay no cash income but are sold at substantial discounts from their value at maturity. When a zero-coupon security is held to maturity, its entire return, which consists of the amortization of discount, comes from the difference between its purchase price and its maturity value. This difference is known at the time of purchase, so that investors holding zero-coupon securities until maturity know at the time of their investment what the expected return on their investment will be. Zero-coupon securities may have conversion features. The Fund also may purchase pay-in-kind bonds. Pay-in-kind bonds pay all or a portion of their interest in the form of debt or equity securities. 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.

Zero-coupon securities, pay-in-kind bonds and deferred payment securities tend to be subject to greater price fluctuations in response to changes in interest rates than are ordinary interest-paying debt securities with similar maturities. The value of zero-coupon securities appreciates more during periods of declining interest rates and depreciates more during periods of rising interest rates than ordinary interest-paying debt securities with similar maturities. Zero-coupon securities, pay-in-kind bonds and deferred payment securities may be issued by a wide variety of corporate and governmental issuers. Although these instruments are generally not traded on a national securities exchange, they are widely traded by brokers and dealers and, to such extent, will not generally be considered illiquid for the purposes of the Fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities.

Current U.S. federal income tax law requires the holder of a zero-coupon security, certain pay-in-kind bonds, deferred payment securities and certain other securities acquired at a discount to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. Accordingly, to avoid liability for U.S. federal income and excise taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements. See "**FEDERAL AND CERTAIN STATE INCOME TAXES.**"

## INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

The following restrictions apply to the Fund. Unless otherwise indicated, only Investment Restriction Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 15 are fundamental policies of the Fund, which can be changed only when permitted by law and approved by a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities. The nonfundamental investment restrictions can be changed by approval of a majority of the Board of Trustees. A "majority of the outstanding voting securities" means the lesser of (i) 67% of the shares represented at a meeting at which more than 50% of the outstanding shares are represented in person or by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares.

The Fund, except as indicated, may not:

1. Invest more than 15% of the value of its net assets in investments that are illiquid;
2. Borrow money or pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets, except that the Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements or borrow from banks up to 33-1/3% of the current value of its net assets for temporary or emergency purposes or to meet redemptions. The Fund has adopted a nonfundamental policy to limit such borrowing to 10% of its net assets and those borrowings may be secured by the pledge of not more than 15% of the current value of its total net assets (but investments may not be purchased by the Fund while any such borrowings exist), except as permitted by the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction;

3. Issue senior securities, except insofar as the Fund may be deemed to have issued a senior security in connection with any repurchase agreement or any permitted borrowing, except as permitted by the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction;
4. Make loans, except as permitted by the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction;
5. The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies that invest in the types of securities in which the particular Fund itself is permitted to invest. The Fund may not invest in securities of any registered investment company, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction or exemptive orders;
6. Invest in real property (including limited partnership interests but excluding real estate investment trusts and master limited partnerships, debt obligations secured by real estate or interests therein, and securities issued by other companies that invest in real estate or interest therein); invest in physical commodities, except that the Fund may invest in currency and financial instruments and contracts in accordance with its investment objective and policies, including, without limitation, structured notes, futures contracts, swaps, options on commodities, currencies, swaps and futures, ETFs, investment pools and other instruments, regardless of whether such instrument is considered to be a commodity;
7. Engage in the business of underwriting securities of other issuers, except to the extent that the disposal of an investment position may technically cause it to be considered an underwriter as that term is defined under the 1933 Act;
8. Sell securities short, except to the extent that the Fund contemporaneously owns or has the right to acquire at no additional cost securities identical to those sold short;
9. Purchase securities on margin, except that the Fund may obtain such short-term credits as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of securities;
10. Purchase or retain the securities of any issuer, if those individual officers and Trustees of the Trust, the Adviser, or the Distributor, each owning beneficially more than 1/2 of 1% of the securities of such issuer, together own more than 5% of the securities of such issuer;
11. Purchase a security if, as a result, more than 25% of the value of its total assets would be invested in securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal business activities in the same industry, provided that (a) this limitation shall not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities; (b) wholly-owned finance companies will be considered to be in the industries of their parents; and (c) utilities will be divided according to their services. For example, gas, gas transmission, electric and gas, electric, and telephone will each be considered a separate industry;
12. Invest more than 5% of its net assets in warrants which are unattached to securities, included within that amount, no more than 2% of the value of the Fund's net assets, may be warrants which are not listed on a U.S. stock exchange;
13. Write, purchase or sell puts, calls or combinations thereof, except that the Fund may purchase or sell puts and calls as otherwise described in the Prospectus or SAI; however, the Fund will invest no more than 5% of its total assets in these classes of securities for purposes other than bona fide hedging;

14. Invest more than 5% of the current value of its total assets in the securities of companies which, including predecessors, have a record of less than three years' continuous operation (except (a) obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities or (b) municipal securities which are rated by at least two NRSRO's or determined by the Adviser to be of a comparable rating), provided the Fund may invest all or a portion of its assets in another open-end management investment company or ETF with substantially the same investment objective, policies and investment restrictions as the Fund.

As a matter of fundamental policy, notwithstanding any limitation otherwise noted, the Fund is authorized to seek to achieve its investment objectives by investing all of its investable assets in an investment company having substantially the same investment objectives and policies as the Fund subject to the 1940 Act.

Except as set forth in the investment limitation on borrowing and the investment limitation on illiquid securities, if a percentage restriction on investment policies or the investment or use of assets set forth in the Prospectus or SAI are adhered to at the time a transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from changing assets values will not be considered a violation. If events subsequent to a transaction result in the Fund exceeding the percentage limitation on illiquid securities, the Adviser will take appropriate steps to reduce the percentage held in illiquid securities, as may be required by law, within a reasonable amount of time.

It is the intention of the Fund, unless otherwise indicated, that with respect to the Fund's policies that are the result of the application of law the Fund will take advantage of the flexibility provided by rules or interpretations of the SEC currently in existence or promulgated in the future or changes to such laws.

#### **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

Purchases and sales of portfolio securities may be made as considered advisable by the Adviser in the best interests of the shareholders. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate may vary from year to year, as well as within a year, as a result of the Fund's actively-managed strategy. The Fund's distributions of any net short-term capital gains realized from portfolio transactions are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In addition, higher portfolio turnover rates can result in corresponding increases in portfolio transaction costs for the Fund. See "**PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**" in this SAI.

For reporting purposes, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. In determining such portfolio turnover, all securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less are excluded. A 100% portfolio turnover rate would occur, for example, if all of the securities in the Fund's investment portfolio (other than short-term money market securities) were replaced once during the fiscal year. Portfolio turnover will not be a limiting factor should the Adviser deem it advisable to purchase or sell securities.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

This Policy sets forth the conditions under which Portfolio Holdings (defined below) data for the Trust on behalf of the Fund may be disclosed to Third Parties (defined below) (which may include the public) and Service Providers (defined below). No data about the Fund's portfolio holdings may be disclosed except in accordance with this Policy.

Portfolio Holdings data includes, but is not limited to, the following information about the Fund: (i) specific securities held; (ii) industry sector breakdowns as a percentage of portfolio net assets; (iii) asset composition (*e.g.*, equities versus bonds); (iv) U.S. versus foreign holdings percentage breakdowns and regional breakdowns (*e.g.*, Asia, North America); and (v) top 10 portfolio holdings in order of position size, including percentage of portfolio.



“Third Parties” or a “Third Party” means a person other than a Service Provider, an employee of a Service Provider, a Trustee of the Board of Trustees of the Trust, or an officer of the Trust.

“Service Providers” or a “Service Provider” includes, but is not limited to, the investment adviser, administrator, custodian, transfer agent, fund accountant, principal underwriter, software or technology service providers, pricing and proxy voting service providers, research and trading service providers, auditors, accountants, and legal counsel, or any other entity that has a need to know such information in order to fulfill their contractual obligations to provide services to the Fund.

### **Policy Overview**

The Board has adopted, on behalf of the Fund, policies and procedures relating to disclosure of the Portfolio Holdings. These policies and procedures are designed to protect the confidentiality of the Portfolio Holdings’ information and to prevent the selective disclosure of such information. These policies and procedures may be modified at any time with the approval of the Board.

In order to protect the Fund from any trading practices or other use by a Third Party that could harm the Fund, Portfolio Holdings’ and other Fund-specific information must not be selectively released or disclosed except under the circumstances described below.

Only officers of the Trust and their authorized agents, including, but not limited to, the Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, may approve the disclosure of the Fund’s Portfolio Holdings. Except as set forth under “**Policy Exceptions**” below, exceptions to this Policy may only be made if an officer of the Trust and its authorized agents, including, but not limited to, the Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, determines that the disclosure is being made for a legitimate business purpose and such disclosures must be documented and reported to the Board on a quarterly basis. In all cases, Third Parties and Service Providers are required to execute a non-disclosure agreement requiring the recipient to keep confidential any Portfolio Holdings data received and not to trade on the Confidential Portfolio Information (defined below) received. Neither the Trust nor its Service Providers (nor any persons affiliated with either) can receive any compensation or other consideration in connection with the sharing of the Fund’s Portfolio Holdings.

Disclosure of the Portfolio Holdings’ information that is not publicly available (“Confidential Portfolio Information”) may be made to Service Providers. In addition, to the extent permitted under applicable law, the investment adviser may distribute (or authorize the custodian or principal underwriter to distribute) Confidential Portfolio Information to the Fund’s relevant Service Providers and to facilitate the review of the Fund by certain mutual fund analysts and ratings agencies (such as Morningstar and Lipper Analytical Services) (“Rating Agencies”); provided that such disclosure is limited to the information that the Adviser believes is reasonably necessary in connection with the services to be provided. As noted above, except to the extent permitted under this Policy, Confidential Portfolio Information may not be disseminated for compensation or other consideration.

Before any disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Information to Service Providers or Rating Agencies is permitted, the Chief Compliance Officer for the Adviser (or persons designated by such Chief Compliance Officer) must determine in writing that, under the circumstances, the disclosure is being made for a legitimate business purpose. Furthermore, the recipient of Confidential Portfolio Information by a Service Provider or Rating Agency must be either subject to a written confidentiality agreement that prohibits any trading upon the Confidential Portfolio Information or subject to professional or ethical obligations not to disclose or otherwise improperly use the information, such as would apply to independent registered public accounting firms or legal counsel.

The identity of such entities is provided below:

<b>Name of Recipient</b>	<b>Frequency of Holdings Disclosure</b>	<b>Information Lag</b>	<b>Date of Information</b>	<b>Date Provided to Recipients</b>
Carret Asset Management, LLC (Adviser)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (Administrator)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
U.S. Bank, N.A. (Custodian)	Daily	None	Daily	Daily
Cohen & Company, Ltd. (Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm)	As needed	None	As needed	As needed
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP (Trust Counsel)	As needed	None	As needed	As needed
Thompson Hine LLP (Independent Counsel)	As needed	None	As needed	As needed
Bloomberg L.P.	Monthly	30 days	Monthly	Monthly
Thomson Reuters Lipper	Monthly	30 days	Monthly	Monthly
Morningstar, Inc.	Monthly	30 days	Monthly	Monthly
FactSet Research Systems Inc.	Monthly	30 days	Monthly	Monthly

The Fund's Adviser shall have primary responsibility for ensuring that the Portfolio Holdings' information is disclosed only in accordance with this Policy. As part of this responsibility, the Adviser will maintain such internal policies and procedures as it believes are reasonably necessary for preventing the unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Information.

#### **Full Portfolio Holdings**

The disclosure policy currently authorizes the quarterly dissemination of full portfolio holdings of the Fund with a fifteen (15) calendar day lag. Except as set forth in this Policy, the full holdings of the Fund will also be disclosed on a quarterly basis on forms required to be filed with the SEC as follows: (i) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of each fiscal year will be filed as part of the annual report filed on Form N-CSR; (ii) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters will be filed in Form N-PORT; and (iii) Portfolio Holdings as of the end of the second fiscal quarter will be filed as part of the semi-annual report filed on Form N-CSR. The Trust's Form N-CSRs and Form N-PORTs are available free of charge on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Portfolio holdings information may be separately provided to any person, including rating and ranking organizations such as Morningstar and Lipper, at the same time that it is filed with the SEC.

#### **Partial Portfolio Holdings**

Except as set forth in this Policy, partial Portfolio Holdings information will only be provided to Third Parties for the most recent month-end period and only after a fifteen (15) calendar day delay from the end of the month being provided. These holdings may include any combination of the Portfolio Holdings information, except for full Portfolio Holdings.

#### **Policy Exceptions**

The following disclosures of Portfolio Holdings are not prohibited by this Policy:

- § Disclosures that are required by law;

- § Disclosures necessary for Service Providers to perform services to the Funds, provided that they are made pursuant to a written agreement between the Service Provider and the receiving party that restricts the third party's use of the information;
- § Disclosure necessary for Rating Agencies to assess applicable fund ratings;
- § Disclosures necessary to broker-dealers or banks as a part of the normal buying, selling, shorting or other transactions in portfolio securities;
- § Disclosures to the applicable Fund's or Service Providers' regulatory authorities, accountants or counsel; and
- § Disclosures to the adviser of a Fund of compiled data concerning accounts managed by the adviser.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

### **Investment Decisions and Portfolio Transactions**

Investment decisions for the Fund are made with a view to achieving its investment objectives. Investment decisions are the product of many factors in addition to basic suitability for the particular client involved (including the Fund). Some securities considered for investment by the Fund may also be appropriate for other clients served by the Adviser. Thus, a particular security may be bought or sold for certain clients even though it could have been bought or sold for other clients at the same time.

When the Adviser determines that the purchase or sale of a particular security is appropriate for more than one client account, the Adviser may, but is not obligated to, aggregate client orders into one order ("Block Orders") for execution purposes. Block trading can avoid the adverse effect on a security's price when simultaneous separate and competing orders are placed. When aggregating orders and subsequently allocating Block Orders (purchases and sales) to individual client accounts, it is the policy of the Adviser to treat all clients fairly and to achieve an equitable distribution of aggregated orders.

When a Block Order is filled in its entirety, each participating account will receive the average share price for the order on the same business day and transaction costs shall be shared pro rata based on each client's participation in the Block Order. If the total amount of securities bought or sold is less than the amount requested in the Block Order, the portion that is executed will be allocated pro rata between all accounts participating in the Block Order at the average price obtained, and transaction costs will be shared pro rata based on each client's allocation in the initial block. Participating accounts that had an order for a de minimis number of shares may be allocated their full order before the remaining shares are allocated. Such allocations will be made pro rata to all participating accounts which had an order for a de minimis number of shares based on each client's participation in the order unless the cost of such allocation is deemed excessive. In situations for which pro-rata allocations would result in excessive trading costs, the allocation will be based on simple random selection.

If the Adviser receives an order for a security at the same time as there exists an open order with a broker, the additional order may be added to the existing open order. However, any partial fills of the existing open order that occurred prior to the time of the placement of the second order with the same broker shall be allocated solely to the clients participating in the existing open order, and the unfilled portion of the existing open order will be added into the subsequent order.

Some types of purchase or sale transactions cannot be included in Block Orders. Such trades often must be executed on an individual basis rather than aggregated with other trades. In such cases, clients may not receive as favorable executions as they might otherwise receive from Block Orders. Likewise, a particular security may be bought for one or more clients when one or more clients are selling the security. In some instances, one client may sell a particular security to another client. There may be circumstances when purchases or sales of portfolio securities for one or more clients will have an adverse effect on other clients, including the Fund.

## Brokerage and Research Services

The Adviser places orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities for the Fund through several brokers or dealers. The general policy of the Adviser is to use their best efforts to seek to obtain best execution for all client portfolio transactions, taking into account a variety of factors such as: (i) the security price; (ii) the commission rate; (iii) the size and difficulty of the order and timing of the transaction; (iv) the broker-dealer's execution capability, which includes the broker-dealer's relative ability to execute an order at the best available price, as well as the speed, quality, overall cost and certainty of execution; (v) the broker-dealer's responsiveness and financial responsibility, which includes the broker-dealer's creditworthiness and other factors that may impact the Adviser's confidence in the broker-dealer's stability; (vi) any conflicts of interest associated with using a broker-dealer; (vii) confidentiality provided by the broker-dealer; (viii) other factors, such as, the broker-dealer's integrity and quality of communication, the adequacy of information provided by the broker-dealer, the ability of the broker-dealer to provide ad hoc information or services, and the ability of the broker-dealer to handle client directed brokerage arrangements; and (ix) research capabilities of the broker-dealer. It is not the policy of the Adviser to seek the lowest available commission rate where it believes that a broker or dealer charging a higher commission rate would offer greater reliability or provide better price or execution. The Adviser cannot assure that best execution will be achieved for the Fund transaction. The Adviser maintains a list of approved broker-dealers they will use to place Fund and other client trades for execution. The Adviser will periodically reevaluate these broker-dealers to confirm that they meet the criteria and standards that have been set by the Adviser, including that they provide trade execution services that the Adviser view as satisfactory. Upon reevaluation, the Adviser may add or remove broker-dealers to or from the list of approved broker-dealers. Although the Fund may use a broker-dealer that sells Fund shares to effect transactions for the Fund's portfolios, the Fund will not consider the sale of Fund shares as a factor when selecting broker-dealers to execute those transactions.

Subject to the policy of seeking best execution for transactions, and subject to the criteria of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("1934 Act"), the Adviser is permitted to place trades with a broker-dealer that provides brokerage and research services. The Adviser may have an incentive to select or recommend a broker based on its interest in receiving research or other products or services, rather than its interest in receiving the most favorable execution for the Fund. However, in selecting a broker for research, the Adviser makes a good faith determination that the amount of commission charged is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research received. The determination may be viewed in terms of a particular transaction or the overall responsibilities of the Adviser with respect to the accounts over which they exercise investment discretion. Research and brokerage services provided by broker-dealers chosen to place the Fund's portfolio transactions may be useful to the Adviser in providing services to their other clients, although not all of these services may be necessarily useful and of value in managing the Fund. Conversely, brokerage and research products and services provided to the Adviser by broker-dealers in connection with trades executed on behalf of other clients may be useful to the Adviser in managing the Fund, although not all of these brokerage and research products and services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing such other clients. Subject to Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act, the Adviser may pay a broker additional commission in recognition of the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by that broker. When the Adviser uses Fund brokerage commissions to obtain research or other products or services, the Adviser would receive a benefit because it does not have to produce or pay for the research, products or services. The advisory fees paid by the Fund are not reduced because the Adviser receives such services even though the receipt of such services relieves the Adviser from expenses it might otherwise bear.

The Adviser may place orders for the purchase and sale of exchange-listed portfolio securities with a broker-dealer that is an affiliate of the Adviser where, in the judgment of the Adviser, such firm will be able to obtain a price and execution at least as favorable as other qualified broker-dealers. Pursuant to rules of the SEC, a broker-dealer that is an affiliate of the Adviser may receive and retain compensation for effecting portfolio transactions for the Fund on a securities exchange if the commissions paid to such an affiliated broker-dealer by the Fund on exchange transactions do not exceed "usual and customary brokerage commissions." The rules define "usual and customary" commissions to include amounts which are "reasonable and fair compared to the commission, fee or other remuneration received or to be received by other brokers in connection with comparable transactions involving similar securities being purchased or sold on a securities exchange during a comparable period of time." As required by applicable SEC rules, the Board has adopted procedures which are reasonably designed to provide that any commissions, fees or other remuneration paid to an affiliated broker are consistent with the foregoing standards. As of the date hereof, the Adviser does not have any affiliated broker-dealer.

The following tables list the total amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund for the fiscal years noted below:

	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2021
<b>Brokerage Commissions Paid by Fund</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0

No brokerage commissions were paid to affiliated brokers during the three most recent fiscal years, nor did the Fund own any securities of brokers to which they paid commissions in the three most recent fiscal years.

#### **PURCHASE, EXCHANGE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (“Transfer Agent”) will maintain an account for each shareholder upon which the registration and transfer of shares are recorded, and any transfers shall be reflected by bookkeeping entry, without physical delivery. Confirmations of each purchase or redemption are sent to each shareholder. Quarterly statements of account are sent which include shares purchased as a result of a reinvestment of Fund distributions. The Transfer Agent will require that a shareholder provide requests in writing, accompanied by a valid signature guarantee form, when changing certain information in an account (*i.e.*, wiring instructions, telephone privileges, etc.).

#### **Share Classes**

The Fund has two share classes: Institutional Class and Class A shares.

The assets received by each class of the Fund for the issue or sale of its shares and all income, earnings, profits, losses and proceeds therefrom, subject only to the rights of creditors, are allocated to, and constitute the underlying assets of, that class of the Fund. The underlying assets of each class of the Fund are segregated and are charged with the expenses with respect to that class of the Fund along with a share of the general expenses of the Fund and the Trust. Any general expenses of the Fund that are not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular class of the Fund are allocated by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees in such manner as they determine to be fair and reasonable.

#### **Purchase of Shares**

**Institutional Class Shares.** Institutional Class shares of the Fund are offered at net asset value without a sales load. Purchases of Institutional Class shares may only be made by one of the following types of “Institutional Investors”:

- (1) trusts, or investment management and other fiduciary accounts managed or administered by the Adviser or its affiliates or correspondents pursuant to a written agreement;
- (2) any persons purchasing shares with the proceeds of a distribution from a trust, investment management and other fiduciary account managed or administered by Carret Asset Management, LLC or its affiliates or correspondents, pursuant to a written agreement;
- (3) any registered investment advisor (RIA) or financial planner who uses the Institutional Class in conjunction with a “wrap fee” or asset-based fee; and

- (4) other persons or organizations authorized by the Distributor. The Trust and the Distributor reserve the right to waive or reduce the minimum initial investment amount with respect to certain accounts. All initial investments should be accompanied by a completed Purchase Application.

**Class A Shares.** Class A shares of the Fund are offered with a front-end sales charge and volume reductions. For purchases of \$1,000,000 or more, a contingent deferred sales charge (“CDSC”) of 1.00% will be assessed if redeemed within one year of purchase and a 0.50% CDSC will be assessed if redeemed after the first year and within the second year.

**Class A Share Sales Charge Schedule.** If you choose to buy Class A shares, you will pay the *Public Offering Price* (“POP”) which is the *Net Asset Value* (“NAV”) plus the applicable sales charge. Since sales charges are reduced for Class A share purchases above certain dollar amounts, known as “breakpoint levels”, the POP is lower for these purchases. The dollar amount of the sales charge is the difference between the POP of the shares purchased (based on the applicable sales charge in the table below) and the NAV of those shares. Because of rounding in the calculation of the POP, the actual sales charge you pay may be more or less than that calculated using the percentages shown below. At its discretion, the Distributor may provide the broker-dealer the full front-end sales charge.

Amount of Purchase	Front-End Sales Charge as % of Public Offering Price	Front-End Sales Charge as % of Net Amount Invested	Broker-Dealer Amount of Sales Concession
Less than \$50,000	4.25%	4.44%	4.00%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	3.75%	3.90%	3.50%
\$100,000 to \$249,999	3.00%	3.09%	2.75%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	2.50%	2.56%	2.25%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	2.00%	2.04%	1.75%
\$1,000,000 and over <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%

- (1) The Fund will assess Class A share purchases of \$1,000,000 or more a 1.00% CDSC if they are redeemed within the first 12 months after purchase of shares and 0.50% if redeemed within one and two years of purchase unless the dealer of record waived its commission with the Fund’s approval. Certain exceptions apply (see “CDSC Waivers” and “Waivers for Certain Parties”). The CDSC percentage you pay on Class A shares is applied to the NAV of the shares on the date of original purchase.

**Class A Shares Sales Charge Reductions.** If you believe you are eligible for any of the following reductions, it is up to you to ask the selling agent or the shareholder servicing agent for the reduction and to provide appropriate proof of eligibility.

- You pay no front-end or back-end sales charges on Fund shares you buy with *reinvested distributions*.
- You pay a lower sales charge if you are investing an amount over a **breakpoint level**. See the “Class A Share Sales Charge Schedule” above.
- By signing a **Letter of Intent** (“LOI”), you pay a lower sales charge now in exchange for promising to invest an amount over a specified breakpoint within the next 13 months. We will hold in escrow shares equal to approximately 5% of the amount you intend to buy. If you do not invest the amount specified in the LOI before the expiration date, we will redeem enough escrowed shares to pay the difference between the reduced sales load you paid and the sales load you should have paid. Otherwise, we will release the escrowed shares when you have invested the agreed amount.

- **Rights of Accumulation (“ROA”)** allow you to combine the amount you are investing and the total value of Class A shares of Carret Kansas Tax-Exempt Bond Fund already owned (excluding Class A shares acquired at *NAV*) to reach breakpoint levels and to qualify for sales load discounts on subsequent purchases of Class A shares.
- You pay no sales charges on Fund shares you purchase with the proceeds of redemption of Class A shares within 90 days of the date of redemption.

You, or your fiduciary or trustee, also may tell us to extend volume discounts, including the reductions offered for rights of accumulation and letters of intent, to include purchases made by:

- a family unit, including children under the age of twenty-one or single trust estate;
- a trustee or fiduciary purchasing for a single fiduciary relationship; or
- the members of a “qualified group”, which consists of a “company”, (as defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940), and related parties of such a “company”, which has been in existence for at least six months and which has a primary purpose other than acquiring Fund shares at a discount.

#### HOW A LETTER OF INTENT CAN SAVE YOU MONEY.

If you plan to invest, for example, \$200,000 in the Fund that charges a maximum sales load of 5.75% in installments over the next year, by signing a letter of intent you would pay only 4.00% sales load on the entire purchase. Otherwise, you might pay 5.75% on the first \$49,999, 5.00% on the next \$50,001 then 4.00% on the next \$100,000.

**CDSC Waivers.** The CDSC does not apply to: (1) redemption of shares when the Fund exercises its right to liquidate accounts which are less than the minimum account size; (2) redemptions following death or post-purchase disability (as defined by Section 72(m)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code); (3) the portion of a mandated minimum distribution from an IRA, SIMPLE IRA or an individual type 403(b)(7) plan equal to the percentage of your plan assets held in the applicable Class of shares of the Fund; (4) reinvested dividends and capital gains; and (5) a Systematic Withdrawal Plan of 10% where the minimum distribution is \$500 per month with an initial account of \$20,000 or greater.

**Waivers for Certain Parties.** If you are eligible for certain waivers, we will sell you Class A shares so you can avoid higher ongoing expenses. The following people can buy Class A shares at *NAV*:

- Current and retired employees, directors/trustees and officers of:
  - The Adviser and its affiliates;
  - The service providers to the Fund; and
  - Family members of any of the above.
- Current employees of:
  - Broker-dealers who act as selling agents; and
  - Immediate family members (spouse, sibling, parent or child) of any of the above.

**Contact your selling agent for further information.** The Adviser reserves the right to enter into agreements that reduce or eliminate sales charges for groups or classes of shareholders, or for Fund shares included in other investment plans such as “wrap accounts”. If you own Fund shares as part of another account or package such as an IRA or a sweep account, you must read the directions for that account. Those directions may supersede the terms and conditions discussed here.

The Trust has adopted a Distribution and Services Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (“Rule”) with respect to Class A shares of the Fund (“Plan”). Under the Plan, the Trust (i) may pay the Distributor or another person for distribution services provided and expenses assumed, and (ii) may pay, through the Distributor, broker-dealers or other financial institutions (“Service Organizations”) for services, as defined by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”).

**Distribution and Related Service Plans**

The Fund has adopted a separate distribution and services (12b-1) plan for Class A shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Plan”). Under the terms of the Plan, the Fund is authorized to make payments to financial intermediaries or the Distributor for remittance to financial intermediaries, as compensation for distribution and/or the provision of on-going shareholder services performed by such financial intermediaries for their customers who are investors in the Fund. The Plan permits payment at an annual rate of up to 0.25% of such Fund’s average daily net assets attributable to its Class A shares for services and related expenses in connection with a financial intermediary’s administration of mutual fund distribution platforms that offer Class A shares of the Fund. Because these fees are paid out of the Fund’s Class A share assets on an ongoing basis, over time, they will increase the cost of an investment in Class A shares.

The Distributor may retain some or all compensation payable pursuant to the Plan under certain circumstances, including but not limited to, such as if a financial intermediary resigns as the broker/dealer of record, or such financial intermediary failing to meet certain eligibility standards to be able to continue to be the broker/dealer of record.

**Amounts Expensed Under the 12b-1 Plan**

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the total amounts paid by Class A shares of the Fund to ADI (all of which ADI paid out as compensation to broker-dealers and other service providers) under the Fund’s Class A and Institutional Class Plan.

	Advertising	Printing and Mailing of Prospectuses to other than Current Shareholders	Compensation to Broker-Dealers	Compensation to Sales Personnel	Interest, Carrying or Other Financing Charge	Total 12b-1 Payments
Class A	\$--	\$--	\$2,766	\$--	\$--	\$2,766

**Shareholder Services Plan.** Under the Shareholder Services Plan, the Fund is authorized to pay financial institutions, including the Adviser and its affiliates, or other persons who provide certain services to the Fund, a services fee, within the meaning of FINRA Rules under the Plan at an aggregate fee in an amount not to exceed on an annual basis 0.25% for Class A shares of the average daily net asset value of the respective class of shares of the Fund (“Services Fees”) as compensation for providing service activities pursuant to an agreement with each Service Organization. Institutional shares are offered without any Services Fees.



The Fund may pay a Services Fee to the Service Organizations at a lesser rate than the fees described above. The Services Fees will be computed daily and payable quarterly by the Fund. The Fund is not currently imposing a Services Fee and does not intend to impose a fee during the period as described in the Prospectus.

### Investment Minimums and Subsequent Investments

The minimum investments in the Fund are as follows:

	Institutional Class Shares	Class A Shares
Initial Purchase	\$3,000,000	\$5,000
Subsequent Purchases	\$5,000	\$250

The Fund may waive minimum investment amounts in Institutional Class shares as described in the prospectus. Subsequent investments may be made at any time by mailing a check to the Transfer Agent, along with a detachable stub from the Statement of Account (or a letter providing the account number). Shareholders should be sure to write the Fund's account number on the check. Purchases of Fund shares (initial or subsequent) may not be made by third-party check.

Shares of the Fund may be purchased on any business day at the net asset value per share next determined after receipt of a purchase order. Share certificates will not be issued. Share purchase orders are effective on the date the Fund receives a completed Account Application Form (and other required documents) and federal funds become available.

Initial and subsequent investments may also be made by wire transfer. Shareholders should note that their bank may charge a fee in connection with transferring money by bank wire.

For a share purchase order for the Fund to become effective on a particular business day, prior to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time): (i) in the case of a wire transfer payment, a purchaser must call 1-833-287-7933 to inform the Transfer Agent of an incoming wire transfer; or (ii) in the case of payment by check or money order, a complete share purchase order must be actually received by the Transfer Agent, and, in either case, federal funds must be received by the Transfer Agent, on behalf of the Fund. If federal funds are received by the Transfer Agent that same day, the order will be effective on that day. If the Fund receives notification of a wire transfer or a complete share purchase order after 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), or if federal funds are not received by the Transfer Agent, such purchase order shall be executed as of the date that federal funds are actually received.

The price of the Fund's shares and the valuation of Fund assets are discussed below in "NET ASSET VALUE."

### Underwriting Commissions

The following chart reflects the total front-end sales charges paid in connection with the sale of Class A shares of the Fund and the amount retained by ALPS Distributors, Inc. for the fiscal year or period indicated below:

	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022
Total Sales Charge	\$22	\$44
Amount Retained	\$--	\$--

## Redemption of Shares

If the Board of Trustees determines that it is in the best interests of the remaining shareholders of the Fund, the Fund may pay the redemption price in whole, or in part, by a distribution in kind from the Fund, in lieu of cash, taking such securities at their value employed for determining such redemption price, and selecting the securities in such manner as such Board may deem fair and equitable. A shareholder who receives a distribution in kind may incur a brokerage commission upon a later disposition of such securities and may receive less than the redemption value of such securities or property upon sale, particularly where such securities are sold prior to maturity. However, the Fund is required to redeem shares solely for cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the NAV of the Fund during any 90-day period for any one shareholder. Should redemptions by any shareholder exceed such limitation, the Fund will have the option of redeeming the excess in cash or in-kind. Redemption in-kind is not as liquid as a cash redemption.

*Redemption Procedures.* The Fund will redeem all full and fractional shares of the Fund upon request on any business day at the applicable net asset value determined after the receipt of proper redemption instructions, less any applicable redemption fees. Shareholders liquidating their holdings will receive upon redemption all dividends reinvested through the date of redemption. If notice of redemption is received on any business day, the redemption will be effective on the date of receipt. Payment will ordinarily be made by wire on the next business day, but, in any case, within no more than seven business days from the date of receipt. If the notice is received on a day that is not a business day or after the close of regularly scheduled trading on the NYSE, the redemption notice will be deemed received as of the next business day. The value of shares at the time of redemption may be more or less than the shareholder's cost.

*Redemption Fees.* If you sell or exchange your shares of the Fund after holding them 60 calendar days or less, a 2.00% redemption fee may be deducted from the redemption amount. For this purpose, shares held longest will be treated as being redeemed first and shares held shortest as being redeemed last.

Redemption requests for shares recently purchased by check will be accepted only after the Fund has confirmed receipt of payment for the shares, which may take up to 10 days.

*Note: Under the 1940 Act, the Fund has the right to suspend or postpone redemptions of shares for any period (i) during which the NYSE or exchange is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings; (ii) during which trading on the NYSE or exchange is restricted; (iii) during which (as determined by the SEC or other regulatory authority by rule or regulation) an emergency exists as a result of which disposal or valuation of portfolio securities is not reasonably practicable, or (iv) as otherwise permitted by the SEC or other regulatory authority. The Fund may also suspend or postpone the recordation of the transfer of its shares upon the occurrence of any of the foregoing conditions.*

## TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The business and affairs of the Fund are managed under the direction of the Trust's Board of Trustees. The Board approves all significant agreements between/among the Fund and the persons or companies that furnish services to the Fund, including agreements with the Fund's distributor, Adviser, administrator, custodian and transfer agent. The day-to-day operations of the Fund are delegated to the Adviser and the Fund's administrator.

The name, address, year of birth, and principal occupations for the past five years of the Trustees and officers of the Trust are listed below, along with the number of portfolios in the Fund Complex overseen by and the other directorships held by the Trustee.

**Independent Trustees**

Name, Birth Year & Address*	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served**	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***	Number of Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee****	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years****
<b>Ward D. Armstrong,</b> Birth year: 1954	Trustee and Chairman	Mr. Armstrong was appointed to the Board on May 27, 2016 and elected to the Board by shareholders on April 12, 2021. Mr. Armstrong was appointed Chairman of the Board at the August 24, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees.	Mr. Armstrong is currently retired. From February 2010 to July 2015, he was Co-Founder and Managing Partner of NorthRock Partners, a private wealth advisory firm providing comprehensive wealth management and family office services to the high net-worth marketplace. Previously, he was Senior Vice President, Ameriprise Financial (1984 to 2007); Chairman of Ameriprise Trust Company (1996 to 2007) and President, American Express Institutional Asset Management (2002 to 2004). He has also served on several investment related Boards including Kenwood Capital Management, RiverSource Investments, American Express Asset Management International and was Chair of the Ordway Theatre Endowment Committee.	11	Mr. Armstrong is a Director of the Heartland Group, Inc. (3 funds) (2008 to present).
<b>J. Wayne Hutchens,</b> Birth year: 1944	Trustee	Mr. Hutchens was elected to the Board on October 30, 2012.	Mr. Hutchens is currently retired. From 2000 to January 2020, he served as Trustee of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and from May 2012 to February 2020, he served as Trustee of Children’s Hospital Colorado. From April 2006 to December 2012, he served as President and CEO of the University of Colorado (CU) Foundation and from April 2009 to December 2012, he was Executive Director of the CU Real Estate Foundation. Mr. Hutchens is also Director of AMG National Trust Bank (June 2012 to present). Prior to these positions, Mr. Hutchens spent 29 years in the banking industry, retiring as Chairman of Chase Bank Colorado.	11	Mr. Hutchens is a Director of RiverNorth Opportunities Fund, Inc. (2013 to present), RiverNorth Opportunistic Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (2018 to present), RiverNorth/Doubleline Strategic Opportunity Fund, Inc. (2018 to present), RiverNorth Specialty Finance Corporation (2018 to present), RiverNorth Managed Duration Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (2019 to present), RiverNorth Flexible Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (2020 to present) and RiverNorth Flexible Municipal Income II (2021 to present). He is a Board member of RiverNorth Funds (3 funds) (2020 to present).

<b>Merrilyn J. Kosier,</b> <b>Birth year:</b> <b>1959</b>	Trustee	Ms. Kosier was appointed to the Board on November 17, 2021.	Ms. Kosier retired from Ariel Investments as Executive Vice President in 2019. During her twenty year tenure at the firm, she served as Chief Marketing Officer, Ariel Mutual Funds (2007 - 2019); Trustee for Ariel Investment Trust (2003 - 2019) and President of Ariel Distributors, LLC (2002 - 2019). Prior to joining Ariel Investments, she was Senior Vice President at Wanger Asset Management, the investment adviser to Acorn Investment Trust (1993 - 1998); Vice President of Marketing Communications at Kemper Financial Services (1984 - 1993); and a Registered Sales Representative at R. J. O'Brien & Associates (1982 - 1984). Most recently, Ms. Kosier joined the board of Miami Corporation Management, a multi-generation family office and family holding company (June 2023 - present). She is also Board and CEO Advisor to Bridgeway Capital Management, a U.S. asset manager specializing in statistically driven institutional investment strategies, mutual funds, and sub-advisory services (December 2023 - present).	11	Ms. Kosier is a Trustee at the Harris Theater For Music and Dance (2006 - present) where she currently serves as Chair of the Board (2022 - present). She is also a Board Member at The Arts Club of Chicago (2021 - present).
<b>Patrick Seese,</b> <b>Birth year:</b> <b>1971</b>	Trustee	Mr. Seese was elected to the Board on October 30, 2012.	Mr. Seese is an owner and a Managing Director of Integris Partners, a middle-market investment banking firm serving closely-held companies, financial sponsors and public companies (February 2008 to present). Prior to this, Mr. Seese was a Managing Director of Headwaters MB, a middle-market investing banking firm (December 2003 to February 2008). Prior to that, Mr. Seese worked in Credit Suisse First Boston's Mergers and Acquisitions Group and served as Head of Corporation Development, Katy Industries, a publicly traded industrial and consumer products company and at Deloitte & Touche LLP, where he began his career in 1994.	11	Mr. Seese is a Director of the Alpha Alternative Assets Fund (September 2021 to Present), The Mile High Five Foundation (2013 to present) and SJ Panthers Foundation (2016 to present).

**Officers**

Name, Birth Year & Address*	Position(s) Held with Fund	Term of Office and Length of Time Served**	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years***
<b>Lucas Foss,</b> Birth Year: 1977	President	President Since August 2022  Chief Compliance Officer from January 2018 -August 2022	Mr. Foss rejoined ALPS in November 2017 and is currently Senior Director and Fund Chief Compliance Officer at SS&C ALPS. Prior to his current role, Mr. Foss served as the Director of Compliance at Transamerica Asset Management (2015-2017) and Deputy Chief Compliance Officer at ALPS (2012-2015). Mr. Foss is also the President of Financial Investors Trust and Chief Compliance Officer of Clough Global Funds; Clough Funds Trust; MVP Private Markets Funds; Bluerock Total Income + Real Estate Fund; Bluerock High Income Institutional Credit Fund; SPDR® S&P 500® ETF Trust, SPDR® Dow Jones® Industrial Average ETF Trust, SPDR® S&P MIDCAP 400® ETF Trust.
<b>Jill McFate</b> Birth year: 1978	Treasurer	Since December 2021	Ms. McFate joined ALPS in 2021 and is currently Senior Director, Fund Administration of ALPS. Prior to joining SS&C ALPS, Jill managed financial reporting and N-PORT regulatory reporting services during her 14 years at The Northern Trust Company as Vice President, Financial Reporting Manager.
<b>Ivana Kovačić,</b> Birth Year: 1977	Chief Compliance Officer	Since August 2022	Deputy Chief Compliance Officer, ALPS Holdings, Inc., since October 2021. Ms. Kovačić joined ALPS in March 2020 as Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Compliance. Prior to joining ALPS, Ms. Kovačić served as Senior Compliance Analyst at Jennison Associates (August 2013 to January 2019). Ms. Kovačić is also the Fund CCO of IWS Credit Income Fund, Goehring & Rozencwajg Investment Funds, X-Square Balanced Fund and X-Square Series Trust.
<b>Nicholas Adams,</b> Birth year: 1983	Secretary	Since May 2023	Mr. Adams is Principal Legal Counsel at SS&C Technologies and has served in that role since 2022. Mr. Adams is also Secretary of the Alpha Alternative Assets Fund and Principal Real Estate Income Fund, as well as Assistant Secretary of the WesMark Funds. Prior to this he was an Associate Attorney at Arnold, Newbold Sollars and Hollins, P.C. (2020-2022) as well as Stanzola Estate Law (2018-2020).

\* All communications to Trustees and Officers may be directed to ALPS Series Trust c/o 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80203.

\*\* This is the period for which the Trustee or Officer began serving the Trust. Each Trustee serves an indefinite term, until such Trustee’s successor is elected and appointed, or such Trustee resigns or is deceased. Officers are elected on an annual basis.

\*\*\* Except as otherwise indicated, each individual has held the office shown or other offices in the same company for the last five years.

\*\*\*\* The Fund Complex currently consists of 11 series of the Trust.

**Ward D. Armstrong-** Through his experience as a senior officer of and board member of financial and other organizations, Mr. Armstrong contributes his management and oversight experience to the Board. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds and operating companies. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business, financial services and investment management experience. Additional information regarding Mr. Armstrong’s principal occupations and other directorships held is presented in the chart above. Mr. Armstrong received a B.S. in Business Administration (Finance Emphasis) from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management.

**J. Wayne Hutchens-** Through his experience as a senior officer of and board member of financial and other organizations, Mr. Hutchens contributes his management and oversight experience to the Board. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business and financial services experience. Additional information regarding Mr. Hutchens' principal occupations and other directorships held is presented in the chart above. Mr. Hutchens is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder's School of Business and has done graduate study at Syracuse University and the University of Colorado.

**Merrilyn J. Kosier-** Through her experience as a senior officer and trustee in the investment management industry, Ms. Kosier contributes her management and oversight experience to the Board. The Board also benefits from her experience as a board member of other organizations. She was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on her business acumen, regulatory and 40 Act funds knowledge, distribution and marketing/communications experience in the financial services arena. Additional information regarding Ms. Kosier's principal occupations and other directorships held is presented in the chart above. Ms. Kosier is a graduate of Andrews University and earned an MBA from Loyola University Chicago.

**Patrick Seese -** Through his experience as a senior officer of and board member of financial and other organizations, Mr. Seese contributes his management and oversight experience to the Board. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other organizations. He was selected to serve as a Trustee of the Trust based on his business, financial services and accounting experience. Additional information regarding Mr. Seese's principal occupations and other directorships held is presented in the chart above. Mr. Seese is a graduate of the University of Colorado and earned an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He is one of the founders of The Mile High Five Foundation (MH5), a charity dedicated to fund youth/health-related organizations.

None of the Independent Trustees own securities in Carret Asset Management, LLC, the Fund's investment adviser, or ALPS Distributors, Inc., the Fund's principal underwriter, nor do they own securities in any entity directly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with these entities.

#### *Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities*

Overall responsibility for oversight of the Fund rests with the Trustees. The Trust has engaged the Adviser to manage the Fund on a day-to-day basis. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Adviser and other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act, applicable provisions of state and other laws and the Trust's Declaration of Trust. The Board is currently composed of four members, all of whom are Independent Trustees. The Board meets at regularly scheduled quarterly meetings each year. In addition, the Board may hold special in-person or telephonic meetings or informal conference calls to discuss specific matters that may arise or require action between regular meetings. As described below, the Board has established a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and an Audit Committee, and may establish *ad hoc* committees or working groups from time to time, to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Independent Trustees have also engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibilities.

The Board has appointed Ward D. Armstrong, an Independent Trustee, to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman's role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as a liaison with the Adviser, other service providers, counsel and other Trustees generally between meetings. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board reviews matters related to its leadership structure annually. The Board has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate given the Trust's characteristics and circumstances. These include the Trust's series of Fund shares, the Fund's single portfolio of assets, the fund's net assets and the services provided by the Fund's service providers.

Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of the Fund and is addressed as part of various Board and Committee activities. As part of its regular oversight of the Fund, the Board, directly or through a Committee, interacts with and reviews reports from, among others, Fund management, the Adviser, the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer, the Fund's legal counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund regarding risks faced by the Fund. The Board, with the assistance of Fund management and the Adviser, reviews investment policies and risks in connection with its review of the Fund's performance. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer to oversee the implementation and testing of the Fund's compliance program and reports to the Board regarding compliance matters for the Fund and their principal service providers. In addition, as part of the Board's periodic review of the Fund's advisory and other service provider agreements, the Board may consider risk management aspects of these service providers' operations and the functions for which they are responsible.

**Audit Committee.** The Board has an Audit Committee which considers such matters pertaining to the Trust's books of account, financial records, internal accounting controls and changes in accounting principles or practices as the Trustees may from time to time determine. The Audit Committee also considers the engagement and compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm ("Firm") and ensures receipt from the Firm of a formal written statement delineating relationships between the Firm and the Trust, consistent with Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Rule 3526. The Audit Committee also meets privately with the representatives of the Firm to review the scope and results of audits and other duties as set forth in the Audit Committee's Charter. The Audit Committee members, each of whom are Independent Trustees, are: Ward D. Armstrong, J. Wayne Hutchens, Merrilyn J. Kosier, and Patrick Seese. The Audit Committee met three times during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.** The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee meets periodically to advise and assist the Board in selecting nominees to serve as trustees of the Trust. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee believes the Board generally benefits from diversity of background, experience and views among its members and considers this a factor in evaluating the composition of the Board, but has not adopted any specific policy in this regard. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also advises and assists the Board in establishing, implementing and executing policies, procedures and practices that assure orderly and effective governance of the Trust and effective and efficient management of all business and financial affairs of the Trust. Members of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are: Ward D. Armstrong, J. Wayne Hutchens, Merrilyn J. Kosier, and Patrick Seese. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board met one time during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

**Independent Trustee Retirement Policy.** The Trustees do not serve a specified term of office. Each Trustee will hold office until the termination of the Trust or his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, incapacity, or removal. Under the Fund's Independent Trustee Retirement Policy ("Retirement Policy"), upon reaching the age of 75, an Independent Trustee is deemed to tender an offer of retirement, which retirement, if accepted, shall become effective upon the September 30<sup>th</sup> immediately following the tender of a retirement. The Board may decline the offer upon the vote of a majority of the continuing Trustees. If the Board declines an Independent Trustee's offer, then the term of office of such Independent Trustee continues in accordance with the term under which such Independent Trustee was elected or appointed, provided that such Independent Trustee shall be deemed to tender another offer of retirement upon each subsequent birthday. The Trustees review the Fund's Retirement Policy from time to time and may make changes as deemed appropriate.

**Shareholder Nominations.** The Board will consider shareholder nominees for Trustees. All nominees must possess the appropriate characteristics, skills and experience for serving on the Board. In particular, the Board and its Independent Trustees will consider each nominee's integrity, educational and professional background, understanding of the Trust's business on a technical level and commitment to devote the time and attention necessary to fulfill a Trustee's duties. All shareholders who wish to recommend nominees for consideration as Trustees shall submit the names and qualifications of the candidates to the Secretary of the Trust by writing to: ALPS Series Trust, c/o Secretary, 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado, 80203.

As of December 31, 2023, the dollar range of equity securities in the Fund beneficially owned by the Trustees were as follows:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies*</b>
Ward Armstrong	None	None
J. Wayne Hutchens	None	Over \$100,000
Merrilyn J. Kosier	None	None
Patrick Seese	None	None

\* The Fund Complex currently consists of 11 series of the Trust.

**Remuneration of Trustees.** Effective November 16, 2023, the Trustees of the Trust receive a quarterly retainer of \$16,250, plus \$5,000 for each regular Board or Committee meeting attended and \$2,000 for each special telephonic or in-person Board or Committee meeting attended. Additionally, the Audit Committee Chair receives a quarterly retainer of \$1,875 and the Independent Chair receives a quarterly retainer of \$4,250. The Trustees are also reimbursed for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses relating to attendance at meetings.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Trustees received the following compensation:

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation From the Trust</b>	<b>Pension Or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Fund Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b>	<b>Aggregate Compensation From The Trust And Fund Complex Paid To Trustees*</b>
Ward D. Armstrong	\$92,250	\$0	\$0	\$92,250
J. Wayne Hutchens	\$78,250	\$0	\$0	\$78,250
Merrilyn J. Kosier	\$78,250	\$0	\$0	\$78,250
Patrick Seese	\$83,875	\$0	\$0	\$83,875

\* The Fund Complex currently consists of 11 series of the Trust.

No officer, trustee or employee of the Adviser or any of its affiliates receives any compensation from the Fund for serving as an officer or trustee of the Fund.



## INVESTMENT MANAGER

Carret Asset Management, LLC (“Adviser”), subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees, furnishes continuing investment supervision to the Fund and is responsible for the management of the Fund’s portfolio. The Adviser’s principal address is 360 Madison Avenue, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor New York 10017.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement (“Advisory Agreement”) with the Adviser, the Fund pays the Adviser an annual management fee for the Fund of 0.30% based on the Fund’s average daily net assets. The management fee is paid on a monthly basis. The initial term of the Advisory Agreement is two years. The Board may extend the Advisory Agreement for additional one-year terms. The Board and shareholders of the Fund may terminate the Advisory Agreement upon sixty (60) days’ notice. The Adviser may terminate the Advisory Agreement upon one hundred twenty (120) days’ notice.

The Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the amount of the Fund’s total annual fund operating expenses, (excluding Rule 12b-1 Fees, Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, brokerage expenses, interest expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) to an annual rate of 0.48% of each class of the Fund’s average daily net assets. This agreement is in effect through at least January 31, 2025, and will automatically continue upon annual approval by the board for successive twelve-month periods unless (i) it is terminated earlier by the Board of Trustees, or (ii) the Adviser provides at least 30 days written notice of its non-continuance prior to the end of the then effective term. Except due to the Adviser’s notice of non-renewal, this Agreement may only be amended or terminated with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Trust. The Adviser will be permitted to recover, on a class by class basis, expenses it has borne through the expense limitation agreement described above (whether through reduction of its management fee or otherwise) only to the extent that the Fund’s expenses in later periods do not exceed the lesser of (1) the contractual expense limit in effect at the time the Adviser waives or limits the expenses or (2) the contractual expense limit in effect at the time the Adviser seeks to recover the expenses; provided, however, that the Fund will not be obligated to pay any such deferred fees or expenses more than three years after the date on which the fee and expense was reduced.

The Adviser further agrees that such fee waivers and reimbursements for the Fund shall continue at least through January 31, 2025; and will thereafter continue in effect for successive twelve-month periods provided that such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Trustees of the Trust and the Adviser does not provide at least 30 days written notice of non-continuance prior to the end of the then effective term. Except due to the Adviser’s notice of non-renewal, this Agreement may only be amended or terminated with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Trust.

The Adviser will be permitted to recover with respect to a Fund, on a class-by-class basis, expenses it has borne through this Agreement (whether through reduction of its management fee or otherwise) only to the extent that the applicable Fund’s expenses in later periods do not exceed the lesser of (1) the contractual expense limit in effect at the time the Adviser waives or limits the expenses or (2) the contractual expense limit in effect at the time the Adviser seeks to recover the expenses. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund will not be obligated to pay any such deferred fees or expenses more than three years after the date on which the fee and expense was reduced, as calculated on a monthly basis.

The table below shows the management fees for the Adviser for the fiscal year or period indicated below:

	<b>For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023</b>	<b>For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022</b>	<b>For the Fiscal Period Ended September 30, 2021</b>
Gross Advisory Fees	\$397,090	\$510,307	\$560,871
Waiver of Advisory Fees	\$160,735	\$175,564	\$147,550
Reimbursement of other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Advisory Fees	\$236,355	\$334,743	\$413,321

The Adviser began in its role as the Fund’s adviser on September 13, 2019. Prior to that date from the Fund’s reorganization into the Trust, Manifold Partners, LLC (“Manifold”) served as the Fund’s adviser, while Carret Asset Management, LLC was the Fund’s sub-adviser. For its services as the Fund’s adviser, the Fund paid Manifold an annual management fee for the Fund of 0.30% based on the Fund’s average daily net assets. While Manifold served as Adviser, it agreed to contractually limit the Fund’s total annual fund operating expenses to materially the same amounts and under the same terms as the Adviser’s current agreement.

#### DISTRIBUTOR

Shares of the Fund are offered on a continuous basis through ALPS Distributors, Inc. (an affiliate of ALPS Fund Services, Inc.) (the “Distributor”), located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80203, as distributor pursuant to a distribution agreement between the Distributor and the Trust on behalf of the Fund. The Distributor is not obligated to sell any specific amount of Fund shares.

#### CODE OF ETHICS

The Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor each have adopted a code of ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These codes of ethics permit the personnel of these entities to invest in securities, including securities that the Fund may purchase or hold. The codes of ethics are on public file with, and are available from, the SEC.

#### ADMINISTRATOR

The Trust on behalf of the Fund currently employs ALPS Fund Services, Inc. (an affiliate of the Distributor) (“ALPS” or the “Administrator”), located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80203, under an administration agreement to provide certain administrative services to the Fund.

The table below shows the administrative fees earned by ALPS for the fiscal year indicated below:

	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2022	For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2021
<b>Administrative Fees</b>	\$196,566	\$252,038	\$263,883

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Although individual Board members may not agree with particular policies or votes by the Adviser, the Board has approved delegating proxy voting discretion to the Adviser believing that the Adviser should be responsible for voting because it is a matter relating to the investment decision making process.

Attached as Appendix B is the Trust’s Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures and a summary of the Adviser’s proxy voting policies that the Adviser uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities, including the procedures that the Adviser uses when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of Fund shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Adviser or any affiliated person of the Fund or the Adviser, on the other. Appendix B provides a general indication as to how the Adviser will vote proxies relating to portfolio securities on each issue listed. However, Appendix B does not address all potential voting issues or the intricacies that may surround individual proxy votes. For that reason, there may be instances in which votes may vary from the Trust’s and the Adviser’s Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adviser always endeavors to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities in accordance with the Fund’s investment objectives. When applicable, information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent prior 12-month period ended June 30 will be available without charge, (i) upon request, by calling 1-888-628-8208 and (ii) on the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

## PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

To the best knowledge of the Trust, the names and addresses of the record and beneficial holders of 5% or more of the outstanding shares of each class of the Funds and the percentage of the outstanding shares held by such holders are set forth below. To the best knowledge of the Trust, entities shown as owning more than 25% of the outstanding Shares of a class of the Fund are not the beneficial owners of such Shares, unless otherwise indicated.

A shareholder who owns beneficially 25% or more of the outstanding securities of the Fund is presumed to “control” that Fund as defined in the 1940 Act. Such control may affect the voting rights of other shareholders.

As of December 31, 2023, the following shareholders owned 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a class of the Fund as listed below:

Class	Shareholder Name	Address	Percentage of Interest	Type of Ownership
Class A	LPL FINANCIAL CORPORATION	8202 E. 21 <sup>st</sup> STREET N WICHITA, KS 67206	73.92%	Record
Class A	PERSHING LLC	601 OFFICE CENTER DR STE 300 SAN DIEGO, CA 92131	10.04%	Record
Class A	ROBERT W BAIRD	8535 E. 21 <sup>st</sup> STREET, SUITE 125 WICHITA, KS 67206	11.29%	Record
Institutional Class	RELIANCE TRUST CO	PO BOX 78446 ATLANTA, GA 30357	98.30%	Record

As of December 31, 2023, the officers and Trustees of the Trust owned less than 1% of any class of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

## EXPENSES

The Fund’s expenses include taxes, interest, fees and salaries of the Trust’s Trustees and officers who are not trustees, officers or employees of the Fund’s service contractors, SEC fees, state securities qualification fees, costs of preparing and printing prospectuses for regulatory purposes and for distribution to existing shareholders, advisory and administration fees, charges of the custodian and of the transfer and dividend disbursing agent, certain insurance premiums, outside auditing and legal expenses, costs of shareholder reports and shareholder meetings and any extraordinary expenses. The Fund also pays for brokerage fees and commissions (if any) in connection with the purchase and sale of portfolio securities.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER

The following sections set forth certain additional information with respect to the portfolio manager for the Fund. Unless noted otherwise, all information is provided as of September 30, 2023.

### Other Accounts Managed by Portfolio Manager

The table below identifies as of September 30, 2023, the number of accounts (other than the Fund) for which the Fund's portfolio managers have day-to-day management responsibilities and the total assets in such accounts within each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts.

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number	Total Assets (in millions)	Number	Total Assets (in millions)*	Number*	Total Assets (in millions)*
Neil D. Klein	1	\$120	0	\$0	1,707	\$1,976,504
Jason R. Graybill	1	\$120	0	\$0	1,707	\$1,976,504

\* If an account was managed by a team, the total number of accounts and assets have been allocated to each respective team member. Therefore, some accounts and assets have been counted more than once.

### Portfolio Manager Compensation

Each portfolio manager's compensation consists primarily of a variable pay component. The variable pay component is based on assets under management. The portfolio manager's compensation is determined by a number of factors including the consistency of the portfolio manager's performance, the total value of the assets managed by the portfolio managers, the profitability of the investment advisor and the portfolio manager's contribution to profitability and the trends in industry compensation and levels.

Each Portfolio Manager also receives employee benefits, which may include health care and other insurance benefits as well as participation in the 401(k) program.

The structure of the portfolio manager's compensation may be modified from time to time to reflect, among other things, changes in responsibilities or the competitive environment.

### Potential Conflicts of Interest with Other Accounts

Potential conflicts of interest may arise when a fund's portfolio managers have day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to one or more other funds or other accounts, as is the case for the portfolio managers listed in the table above.

The Adviser and the Fund have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to mitigate various conflicts of interest that may arise for the Adviser and the individuals that it employs. For example, the Adviser's Code of Ethics requires employees to place the Adviser's clients' interests ahead of the employee's own interests. The Adviser has also adopted trade allocation procedures that are designed to facilitate the allocation of investment opportunities among multiple client accounts. There is no guarantee, however, that the policies and procedures adopted by the Adviser and the Fund will be able to detect and/or prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may appear. These potential conflicts include:

Allocation of Limited Time and Attention. A portfolio manager who is responsible for managing multiple funds and/or accounts may devote unequal time and attention to the management of those funds and/or accounts. As a result, the portfolio manager may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of those accounts as might be the case if he were to devote substantially more attention to the management of a single fund. The effects of this potential conflict may be more pronounced where funds and/or accounts overseen by a particular portfolio manager have different investment strategies.

Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities. If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple funds and/or accounts, the opportunity may be allocated among these several funds or accounts, which may limit a fund's ability to take full advantage of the investment opportunity.

Pursuit of Differing Strategies. At times, a portfolio manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the funds and/or accounts for which he exercises investment responsibility or may decide that certain of the funds and/or accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the portfolio manager may place separate transactions for one or more funds or accounts which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment or benefit of one or more other funds and/or accounts.

Selection of Brokers/Dealers. Portfolio managers may be able to select or influence the selection of the brokers and dealers that are used to execute securities transactions for the funds and/or account that they supervise. In addition to executing trades, some brokers and dealers provide portfolio managers with brokerage and research services (as those terms are defined in Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act), which may result in the payment of higher brokerage fees than might have otherwise been available. These services may be more beneficial to certain funds or accounts than to others. Although the payment of brokerage commissions is subject to the requirement that the portfolio manager determine in good faith that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided to the fund, a portfolio manager's decision as to the selection of brokers and dealers could yield disproportionate costs and benefits among the funds and/or accounts that he manages.

Variation in Compensation. A conflict of interest may arise where the financial or other benefits available to the portfolio manager differ among the funds and/or accounts that he manages. If the structure of the investment adviser's management fee and/or the portfolio manager's compensation differs among funds and/or accounts (such as where certain funds or accounts pay higher management fees or performance-based management fees), the portfolio manager might be motivated to help certain funds and/or accounts over others. The portfolio manager might be motivated to favor funds and/or accounts in which he has an interest or in which the investment adviser and/or its affiliates have interests. Similarly, the desire to maintain or raise assets under management or to enhance the portfolio manager's performance record or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the portfolio manager to lend preferential treatment to those funds and/or accounts that could most significantly benefit the portfolio manager.

Related Business Opportunities. The Adviser or its affiliates may provide more services (such as distribution or recordkeeping) for some types of funds or accounts than for others. In such cases, a portfolio manager may benefit, either directly or indirectly, by devoting disproportionate attention to the management of funds and/or accounts that provide greater overall returns to the Adviser and its affiliates.

#### **Ownership of Securities**

The table below identifies ownership of Fund securities by each Portfolio Manager as of September 30, 2023.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Ownership of Securities</b>
Neil D. Klein	\$0
Jason R. Graybill	\$0

## NET ASSET VALUE

The following is a description of the procedures used by the Fund in valuing its assets. For the purpose of pricing purchase and redemption orders, the net asset value per share of the Fund is determined once daily as of the close of regularly scheduled trading on the NYSE (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). The Fund's net asset value is calculated on each day that the NYSE is open for trading, *i.e.*, Monday through Friday, except for New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday when one of those holidays falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively.

In calculating net asset value, portfolio securities listed or traded on national securities exchanges for which market quotations are available are valued at the official closing price. If there is no official closing price, the valuation designee values the securities at the mean of the last bid and ask price which represents the current value of the security.

Securities that are primarily traded on foreign exchanges generally are valued at the preceding closing values of such securities on their respective exchanges, except that when an occurrence subsequent to the time a value was so established is likely to have changed such value, then the fair value of those securities will be determined by consideration of other factors by the valuation designee. In valuing assets, prices denominated in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollar equivalents at the current exchange rate. Securities may be valued by independent pricing services which use prices provided by market-makers or estimates of market values obtained from yield data relating to instruments or securities with similar characteristics. In certain circumstances, bid and ask prices may be obtained from (i) a broker/dealer specified and deemed reliable by the valuation designee, (ii) pink sheets, yellow sheets or the blue list, or (iii) a pricing agent that obtains quotations from broker/dealers or evaluates the value of the respective bid and ask prices. All other securities and other assets of the Fund will be valued at fair value as determined in good faith pursuant to procedures adopted by the valuation designee. Valuing securities at fair value involves greater reliance on judgement than valuation of securities based on readily available market quotations.

## FEDERAL AND CERTAIN STATE INCOME TAXES

### Federal Income Taxes

This section provides additional information primarily concerning U.S. federal income taxes. It is based on the Code, applicable Treasury Regulations, judicial authority and administrative rulings and practice, all as of the date of this SAI, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Except as specifically noted below, the following does not address any state, local or foreign or estate or gift tax matters.

A shareholder's U.S. federal income tax consequences from acquiring, holding and disposing of shares in the Fund may vary depending upon the shareholder's particular situation. This discussion only applies to shareholders who are U.S. persons. For purposes of this discussion, U.S. persons are: (i) U.S. citizens or residents, (ii) U.S. corporations (*i.e.* entities classified as corporations for U.S. tax purposes that are organized under the laws of the United States or any state), (iii) an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust, if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or if the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Except where otherwise noted, this discussion does not address issues of significance to U.S. persons in special situations such as: (i) certain types of tax-exempt entities, (ii) shareholders holding shares through tax-advantaged accounts (such as 401(k) plan accounts or individual retirement accounts), (iii) shareholders holding investments through foreign institutions (financial and non-financial), (iv) financial institutions, (v) broker-dealers, and traders in securities that elect to mark-to-market their securities holdings, (vi) entities not organized under the laws of the United States or a political subdivision thereof, (vii) shareholders holding shares as part of a hedge, straddle or conversion transaction, and (viii) shareholders who are subject to either the U.S. federal alternative minimum tax or the U.S. federal corporate minimum tax.

If a pass-through entity (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership or S corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of shares, the tax treatment of an owner in the pass-through entity will generally depend upon the status of the owner and the activities of the pass-through entity. Owners of pass-through entities that are considering the purchase of shares should consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares.

The Fund has not requested and will not request an advance ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") as to the U.S. federal income tax matters described below. The IRS could adopt positions contrary to those discussed below and such positions could be sustained. In addition, the foregoing discussion only addresses some of the U.S. federal income tax considerations generally affecting investments in the Fund. Prospective shareholders are urged to consult with their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund, as well as the applicability and effect of any state, local or foreign laws, and the effect of possible changes in applicable tax laws.

### **General Policies**

In general, it is the policy of the Fund to distribute to shareholders monthly substantially all of its investment company taxable income (which includes, among other items, interest and the excess of any net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses). It is the policy of the Fund to distribute annually the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses, if any, after offsetting any capital loss carryovers, as "capital gains dividends." Capital gains for the Fund is distributed at least annually.

Distributions of investment company taxable income and capital gain distributions are payable as of the close of the Exchange on the record date for each dividend or distribution.

Distributions and dividends are reinvested in additional Fund shares unless you instruct the Transfer Agent to have your distributions and/or dividends paid by check mailed to the address of record or transferred through an Automated Clearing House to the bank of your choice. If you elect to receive your dividends in cash and the dividend checks sent to you are returned "undeliverable" to the Fund or remain uncashed for six months, your cash election will automatically be changed and your future dividends will be reinvested. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed dividend or redemption checks.

As required by federal law, detailed U.S. federal tax information will be furnished to each shareholder for each calendar year.

### **Taxation of the Fund**

The Fund intends to elect to be treated and qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. The Fund also intends to be treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. Thus, the provisions of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies generally will apply separately to the Fund even though the Fund is a series of the Trust. Furthermore, the Fund will separately determine its income, gain, losses and expenses for federal income tax purposes. In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, the Fund must, among other things: (i) derive at least 90% of its gross income in each taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from interests in "qualified publicly traded partnerships;" (ii) diversify its holdings so that at the end of each fiscal quarter, (a) at least 50% of the value of its total assets consists of cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited generally, with respect to any one issuer, to no more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested in (1) the securities (other than those of the U.S. government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer, (2) the securities (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or (3) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships and (iii) distribute with respect to each taxable year an amount equal to or exceeding the sum of (a) 90% of its "investment company taxable income," as that term is defined in the Code (which generally includes, among other things, dividends, taxable interest, and the excess of any net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, as reduced by certain deductible expenses) without regard to the deduction for dividends paid, and (b) 90% of its tax-exempt interest income, net of expenses allocable thereto. For purposes of meeting the diversification requirement described in (ii) above, in the case of the Fund's investment in loan participations, the issuer may be the financial intermediary or the borrower. The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company may significantly limit the extent to which the Fund may invest in some investments.

With respect to (i) above, the IRS may limit qualifying income from foreign currency gains to the amount of such currency gains that are directly related to a regulated investment company's principal business of investing in stock or securities (or options and futures with respect thereto) pursuant to regulations that may be promulgated in the future. For purposes of the 90% gross income requirement described in (i) above, income derived from a partnership will generally be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership which would be qualifying income if realized by the regulated investment company. However, 100% of the net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership (defined as an entity taxed as a partnership (x) interests in which are traded on an established securities market or readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof and (y) that derives less than 90% of its income from the qualifying income described in (i) above) will be treated as qualifying income. In addition, although in general the passive activity loss rules of the Code do not apply to regulated investment companies, such rules do apply to a regulated investment company with respect to items attributable to an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. Finally, for purposes of (ii)(a) above, the term "outstanding voting securities of such issuer" will include the equity securities of a qualified publicly traded partnership.

To the extent that it qualifies for treatment as a regulated investment company, the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income distributed to its shareholders in a timely manner in the form of dividends (including capital gain dividends, defined below). In certain situations, the Fund can cure failures to meet the income and diversification tests described above, including, in some cases, by paying the Fund-level tax and, in the case of diversification failures, disposing of certain assets. If the Fund were to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company accorded special tax treatment in any taxable year – for example, because it was not sufficiently diversified under the applicable Code tests – the Fund would be subject to tax on its taxable income at corporate rates, and all distributions from earnings and profits, including any distributions of net tax-exempt income and net long-term capital gains, would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. To qualify again to be taxed as a regulated investment company that is accorded special treatment in a subsequent year, the Fund could be required to pay substantial taxes, penalties and interest and make substantial distributions. In addition, if the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company for a period greater than two taxable years, the Fund may be required to recognize and pay tax on any net built-in gain (the excess of aggregate gain, including items of income, over aggregate loss that would have been realized if the Fund had been liquidated) or, alternatively, to be subject to taxation on such built-in gain recognized for a period of five years, in order to qualify as a regulated investment company in a subsequent year.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its net capital gains (that is, any net long-term capital gains in excess of net short-term capital losses) properly reported by the Fund in a written statement to shareholders as capital gain dividends ("capital gain dividends") and its investment company taxable income if any, that the Fund distributes to shareholders on a timely basis. The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its investment company taxable income and net capital gains, after offsetting any capital loss carryforwards, in a taxable year. If the Fund does retain any investment company taxable income, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. However, the Fund may elect to have certain distributions paid after the close of a tax year treated as having been paid during the tax year for purposes of the regulated investment company distribution requirements and for purposes of determining its taxable income ("spill-back dividends"). Spill-back dividends are taxed to shareholders in the year in which they are received.



If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it will also be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained, but may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their shares of such undistributed amount, and (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's income and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence.

Generally, the excess (if any) of the Fund's net short-term capital loss over the net long-term capital gain for a taxable year will carry over as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the next tax year. In addition, the excess (if any) of the Fund's net long-term capital loss over the net short-term capital gain for the year will carry over as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the next tax year. Unused capital losses realized by the Fund may be carried forward indefinitely until they can be used to offset capital gains.

The Fund may be limited under Code Section 382 in its ability to offset its taxable income by capital loss carryforwards and net unrealized built-in losses after an "ownership change" of the Fund. The term "net unrealized built-in loss" refers to the excess, if any, of the Fund's aggregate adjusted basis in its assets immediately before an ownership change, over the fair market value of such assets at such time, subject to a *de minimis* rule. The Fund would experience an ownership change under Code Section 382 if and when 5-percent shareholders of the Fund increase their ownership by more than 50 percentage points in the aggregate over their respective lowest percentage ownership of the Fund's shares in a 3-year period. Under Code Section 382, if the Fund experiences an ownership change, the Fund may use its pre-change tax capital loss carryforwards and net unrealized built-in losses in a year after the ownership change generally only up to the product of the fair market value of the Fund's equity immediately before the ownership change and a certain interest rate published monthly by the U.S. Treasury known as the applicable long-term tax-exempt rate. The foregoing limitation on the use of pre-ownership change net unrealized built-in losses only applies for a period of five years after the ownership change, while the foregoing limitation on the use of pre-ownership change capital loss carryforwards lasts indefinitely.

If future capital gains are offset by carried-forward capital losses, such future capital gains are not subject to Fund-level federal income tax, regardless of whether they are distributed to shareholders. However, distributions of amounts of capital gains offset by carried-forward capital losses are generally treated as return of capital distributions to shareholders. The Fund cannot carry back or carry forward any net operating losses. As of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, the Fund had no accumulated capital loss carryforwards.

The Fund may elect to treat any post-October capital loss (defined as the Fund's net capital loss, net long-term capital loss, or net short-term capital loss, as applicable, in each case attributable to the portion of the taxable year after October 31) and late-year ordinary loss (generally, (i) net ordinary losses from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property, attributable to the portion of the taxable year after October 31, plus (ii) other net ordinary losses attributable to the portion of the taxable year after December 31) as if incurred in the succeeding taxable year.

If the Fund fails to distribute in a calendar year at least an amount equal to the sum of 98% of its ordinary income for such year (taking into account certain deferrals and elections) and 98.2% of its net capital gain income for the one-year period ending on October 31 of such year, plus any retained amount for the prior year, the Fund will be subject to a non-deductible excise tax on the undistributed amounts. For these purposes, ordinary gains and losses from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property that would be properly taken into account after October 31 are treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. Exempt-interest dividends are excluded from the Fund's distributed amount for purposes of calculating any excise tax liability for a calendar year. For purposes of the excise tax, the Fund will be treated as having distributed any amount on which it has been subject to corporate income tax in the taxable year ending within the calendar year.

The Fund intends to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the excise tax, although there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so. Moreover, the Fund reserves the right to pay an excise tax rather than make an additional distribution when circumstances warrant (for example, the amount of excise tax to be paid is deemed de minimis by the Fund).

#### **Equalization Accounting**

The Fund may use "equalization accounting" to determine the portion of its income and gains that has been distributed with respect to each taxable year. Under equalization accounting, the Fund would allocate a portion of its undistributed investment company taxable income and net capital gain to redemptions of Fund shares. This method would allow the Fund to reduce the amount of such income and gains that it distributes to non-redeeming shareholders but would not reduce the total return on a shareholder's investment. If the IRS determines that the Fund's equalization method is improper and that the Fund has under-distributed its income and gain for any taxable year, the Fund may be liable for federal income and/or excise tax. Equalization accounting is not available for the Fund that is a personal holding company for federal income tax purposes.

#### **Personal Holding Company**

If the Fund is a "personal holding company" and fails to distribute (or to be treated as distributing) all of its investment company taxable income, the Fund may be subject to a 20% nondeductible tax on its "undistributed personal holding company income." The Fund would generally be a personal holding company for a taxable year if five or fewer individuals own more than 50% of its outstanding shares at any time in the last half of the taxable year. The term "individual" for this purpose includes private foundations and certain trusts. The Fund does not expect to be subject to the tax on undistributed personal holding company income, although there can be no assurance that this will never occur.

#### **Taxation of Fund Distributions**

Dividends and other distributions by the Fund to a shareholder are generally treated for federal income tax purposes as received by the shareholders at the time the dividend or distribution is made. However, distributions declared and payable by the Fund during October, November or December to shareholders of record on a date in any such month and paid by the Fund during the following January will be treated for U.S. federal tax purposes as paid by the Fund and received by shareholders on December 31st of the year in which declared rather than the calendar year in which they were received.

The assets of the Fund will qualify to pay exempt-interest dividends if, at the close of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, at least 50 percent of the value of the total assets of the Fund consists of obligations described in Section 103(a) of the Code (generally, state or local bonds) or if the Fund is a "qualified fund of funds." The term "qualified fund of funds" means a regulated investment company if (at the close of each quarter of the taxable year) at least 50% of the value of its total assets is represented by interests in other regulated investment companies.

Exempt-interest dividends paid by the Fund are exempt from regular federal income taxes, whether paid in cash or in shares, and regardless of how long a shareholder has held shares of the Fund. No distributions paid by the Fund are expected to be eligible for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders or for any favorable tax rate that may apply to “qualified dividend income” in the hands of an individual shareholder.

Tax-exempt income must be taken into account in computing the portion, if any, of social security or railroad retirement benefits that must be included in an individual shareholder’s gross income subject to federal income tax.

Because the Fund will distribute exempt-interest dividends, interest on indebtedness incurred by shareholders, directly or indirectly, to purchase or carry shares in the Fund is not deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Under Treasury Regulations, the purchase of shares may be treated as having been made with borrowed funds even though the borrowed funds are not directly traceable to the purchase of shares of the Fund.

Shares of the Fund generally would not be suitable for tax-exempt institutions and may not be suitable for retirement plans qualified under Section 401 of the Code and individual retirement accounts because the recognition of taxable income on the earnings of such plans and accounts is generally deferred and, not only would the shareholder not gain any current benefit from the Fund’s dividends being tax-exempt, but such dividends would be ultimately taxable to the beneficiaries when distributed from the plan.

Although interest on certain private activity bonds is exempt from regular federal income tax, such interest is a tax preference item for non-corporate taxpayers when determining their alternative minimum tax under the Code and could subject a shareholder to or increase the shareholder’s liability under the federal alternative minimum tax, depending on the shareholder’s personal or corporate tax position.

In addition, the Fund may be an inappropriate investment for entities that are “substantial users” of facilities financed by “private activity bonds” owned by the Fund or “related persons” thereof. A “substantial user” is defined under U.S. Treasury Regulations to include a non-exempt person who regularly uses a part of such facilities in his or her trade or business provided one of the following is true: (i) the person’s gross revenues derived with respect to the facilities financed by the issuance of bonds are more than five percent of the total revenues derived by all users of such facilities; (ii) the person occupies more than five percent of the usable area of such facilities; or (iii) the facilities or a part thereof were specifically constructed, reconstructed or acquired for the person. “Related persons” generally includes certain (i) related natural persons, (ii) members of a controlled group of corporations, (iii) partnership and its partners (and their spouses and minor children), (iv) S corporations and its shareholders (and their spouses and minor children), and (v) two or more persons if the relationship between such persons would result in a disallowance of losses under certain sections of the Code.

Distributions paid by the Fund that are not exempt-interest dividends and are not properly designated as capital gain distributions will generally be taxable to the shareholders to the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits. Such dividends would generally be taxed as ordinary income. However, the Fund may designate certain taxable dividends as derived from “qualified dividend income,” which, when received by an individual, will be taxed at a maximum federal income tax rate applicable to long-term capital gain (assuming certain holding period requirements are satisfied), which (for this purpose) is 20%, in addition to the 3.8% Medicare tax discussed below.

Dividends received by corporate shareholders that are reported by the Fund in a written statement furnished to shareholders may qualify for a 50% dividends received deduction with respect to qualifying dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations and with respect to that portion (if any) of interest paid or accrued on certain high yield discount obligations owned by the Fund that is treated as dividends, so long as (in either case) certain holding period requirements are met.

If the Fund makes a distribution in excess of its current and accumulated “earnings and profits” in any taxable year, the excess distribution will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of a shareholder’s tax basis in the shareholder’s shares, and thereafter as capital gain. A return of capital is generally not taxable, but it reduces a shareholder’s basis in the shareholder’s shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent taxable disposition by the shareholder of such shares.

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax will be imposed on certain net investment income of U.S. individuals, estates and certain trusts to the extent that such person's gross income, as adjusted, exceeds threshold amounts. Net investment income includes distributions paid by the Fund (except exempt-interest dividends) and on capital gains from the sale or exchange of Fund shares. Net investment income also includes interest, dividends, royalties, rents, gross income from a trade or business involving passive activities, and net gain from disposition of property (other than property held in a non-passive trade or business). Net investment income is reduced by deductions properly allocable to such income.

Certain tax-exempt educational institutions are subject to a 1.4% tax on net investment income. For these purposes, certain dividends (other than exempt-interest dividends) and capital gain distributions, and certain gains from the disposition of the Fund's shares (among other categories of income), are generally taken into account in computing a shareholder's net investment income.

If the Fund makes a distribution in excess of its current and accumulated "earnings and profits" in any taxable year, the excess distribution will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of a shareholder's tax basis in shares, and thereafter as capital gain. A return of capital is generally not taxable, but it reduces a shareholder's basis in shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent taxable disposition by the shareholder of such shares.

#### **Sale or Redemption of Shares**

The sale or redemption of Fund shares may give rise to a gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount received for the shares and the shareholder's tax basis in the shares. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Fund shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year. Otherwise, such gain or loss will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term, rather than short-term, to the extent of any long-term capital gain distributions received (or deemed received) by the shareholder with respect to the shares. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Fund shares will be disallowed if other substantially identical shares of the same Fund or other substantially identical securities are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss on the redemption of shares held for six months or less in a Fund that pays exempt-interest dividends will be disallowed to the extent of the exempt-interest dividends received on such shares.

#### **Special Tax Considerations**

The following discussion relates to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of the investment policies of the Fund.

##### *Non-U.S. Taxes*

Investments in non-U.S. securities may cause the Fund to be liable to non-U.S. governments for taxes relating primarily to investment income or capital gains on non-U.S. securities in the Fund's portfolio. If at the close of its taxable year more than 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets consists of securities of foreign corporations (including foreign governments), the Fund may make an election under the Code that would allow Fund shareholders who are U.S. persons or U.S. corporations to claim a foreign tax credit or deduction (but not both) on their U.S. income tax return for their pro rata portion of qualified taxes paid by that Fund to non-U.S. countries in respect of non-U.S. securities held at least a minimum period as specified in the Code. If the Fund were eligible for and were to make the election, the amount of each shareholder's distribution reported on the information returns filed by the Fund with the IRS must be increased by the amount of the shareholder's portion of the Fund's foreign tax paid. A shareholder's ability to claim all or a part of a foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of non-U.S. taxes paid by the Fund would also be subject to certain holding period and other limitations imposed by the Code.

If the Fund were to qualify as a “qualified fund of funds,” the Fund could be entitled to elect to pass-through its foreign tax credits without regard to the above described 50% requirement.

The Fund does not anticipate that it will be eligible for the elections discussed in this section.

#### *Non-U.S. Currency Transactions*

Transactions in non-U.S. currencies, non-U.S.-currency denominated debt obligations and certain non-U.S. currency options, future contracts, and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the non-U.S. currency concerned and may increase the amount and affect the timing and character of taxes payable by shareholders. Certain of the Fund’s transactions, if any, in foreign currencies and foreign currency denominated instruments are likely to result in a difference between the Fund’s book income and taxable income. This difference may cause a portion of the Fund’s income distributions to constitute a return of capital or capital gain for tax purposes or require the Fund to make distributions exceeding book income to avoid excise tax liability and to qualify as a regulated investment company, which may have the effect of accelerating taxable distributions to shareholders of the Fund.

#### *Real Estate Investment Trusts*

The Fund’s investments in equity securities of a real estate investment trust (“REIT”), if any, may result in such Fund’s receipt of cash in excess of the REIT’s earnings. If the Fund receives such distributions all or a portion of these distributions will constitute a return of capital to such Fund. Receiving a return of capital distribution from a REIT will reduce the amount of income available to be distributed to Fund shareholders. Income from REIT securities generally will not be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income.

If the Fund invests in stock of a REIT, the Fund may be eligible to pay “section 199A dividends” to its shareholders with respect to certain dividends received by it from its investment in REITs. Section 199A dividends are taxable to individual and other noncorporate shareholders at a reduced effective federal income tax rate for years prior to 2026, provided that certain holding period requirements and other conditions are satisfied.

#### *Exchange-Traded Notes*

The Fund may invest in exchange-traded notes (“ETNs”). The tax treatment of ETNs will depend upon the particular features of the ETN in question, and may present significant uncertainties.

Some ETNs may be properly treated as indebtedness for federal income tax purposes. The Fund will be required to take into account interest income on such ETNs on the accrual method. If the ETN is issued or purchased at a discount, the Fund may be required to take the discount into income as original issue discount or market discount. See “**FEDERAL AND CERTAIN STATE INCOME TAXES**-Securities Issued or Purchased at a Discount.”

Other ETNs may be properly treated as prepaid forward or derivative contracts for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The tax consequences of an investment in such ETNs are unclear under current law. With regards to such ETNs, the Fund may not report any taxable income or loss over the term of the ETNs prior to their taxable disposition (including at maturity or pursuant to an early redemption or call). Upon a taxable disposition of a note, the Fund would report gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the taxable disposition and the Fund’s tax basis in the note (the latter of which should equal the amount paid to acquire the note). This gain or loss should be long term capital gain or loss if the Fund has held the note for more than one year at that time.

In addition, some ETNs may be taxed as “section 1256 contracts.” See “**Options and Other Financial Products**” below.

There are significant uncertainties regarding the tax consequences of the Fund’s ownership and disposition of ETNs treated as a prepaid forward or derivative contract. For example, the Fund might be required to include amounts in income during the term of the ETN notes and/or to treat all or a portion of the gain or loss on the taxable disposition of the ETN as ordinary income or loss or as short term capital gain or loss, without regard to how long the Fund holds the ETN.

Moreover, an investment in an ETN that is linked to a commodities index would also present uncertainties concerning whether income from the investment is qualifying income for purposes of the Fund’s qualification as a regulated investment company. Qualifying income includes gains from the sale or other disposition of securities, as well as “other income” derived with respect to a regulated investment company’s business of investment in securities. For this purpose, the term “securities” has the meaning provided in the 1940 Act. However, the IRS’s position is that there is no conclusive authority concerning whether a derivative contract on commodities is included within the 1940 Act’s definition of “security.” For several years, the IRS regularly issued private rulings that treated commodity-linked notes as producing qualifying income, but since then the IRS has generally stopped issuing rulings that require a determination of whether a financial instrument is a security under the 1940 Act. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that income derived by the Fund from a commodities-linked ETN will be qualifying income.

#### *Options and Other Financial Products*

The Fund’s investments, if any, in options, hedging transactions, forward contracts, swaps and certain other transactions will be subject to special tax rules (including mark-to-market, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale, short sale and other rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income recognized by the Fund, defer the Fund’s losses, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Fund’s securities, convert capital gain into ordinary income and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to Fund shareholders.

Certain positions undertaken by the Fund may constitute “straddles” for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The straddle rules may affect the character of gains or losses realized by the Fund. Losses realized by the Fund that are part of a straddle may be deferred beyond the point in time that they are realized. The straddle rules, if applicable, could increase the amount of short-term capital gain realized by the Fund, which is taxed as ordinary income when distributed to shareholders. Certain tax elections that the Fund may make with respect to straddles could affect the character and timing of recognition of gains and losses.

The Fund may make short sales of securities. Short sales may increase the amount of short-term capital gains realized by the Fund, which is taxed as ordinary income to the shareholders when distributed. Short sales may also constitute part of “constructive sales,” which would result in taxable income before the short-sale positions are terminated.

Certain of the Fund’s hedging activities including its transactions in options and foreign currencies, are likely to result in a difference between the Fund’s book income and taxable income. This difference may cause a portion of the Fund’s income distributions to constitute a return of capital or capital gain for tax purposes or require the Fund to make distributions exceeding book income to avoid excise tax liability and to qualify as a regulated investment company, which may have the effect of accelerating taxable distributions to shareholders.

Rules governing the tax aspects of notional principal contracts in which the Fund may invest are not clear in various respects. As a result, the IRS could challenge the Fund's methods of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes for such contracts, and such a challenge could affect the status of the Fund as a regulated investment company.

When the Fund sells a put or call option, the premium received generally is not included in income at the time of receipt. If the option expires, the premium is generally included in income of the Fund as short-term capital gain. If the Fund enters into a closing transaction, the difference between the amount paid to close out its position and the premium received is generally short-term capital gain or loss. If a call option written by the Fund is exercised, thereby requiring the Fund to sell the underlying security, the premium will increase the amount realized upon the sale of such security and any resulting gain or loss generally will be a capital gain or loss, and will be long-term or short-term depending upon the holding period of the security. With respect to a put or call option that is purchased by the Fund, if the option is sold any resulting gain or loss generally will be a capital gain or loss, and will be long-term or short-term, depending upon the holding period of the option. If the option expires, the resulting loss is a capital loss and is long-term or short-term, depending upon the holding period of the option. If the option is exercised, the cost of the option, in the case of a call option, is added to the basis of the purchased security and in the case of a put option, reduces the amount realized on the underlying security in determining gain or loss.

Some of the Fund's investments, such as certain option transactions, futures contract transactions, and forward foreign currency exchange contracts may be "section 1256 contracts." With certain exceptions, gains or losses attributable to section 1256 contracts generally are treated as sixty percent long-term capital gains or losses and forty percent short-term capital gains or losses ("60/40"). Section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of a taxable year (and, generally, for purposes of the excise tax, on October 31 of each year) are "marked-to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as 60/40 gain or loss.

The application of certain requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company and the application of certain other federal income tax rules may be unclear in some respects in connection with investments in certain derivatives and other investments. As a result, the Fund may be required to limit the extent to which it invests in such investments and the IRS may not agree with the Fund's treatment of such investments. In addition, the tax treatment of derivatives and certain other investments may be affected by future legislation, Treasury regulations and guidance issued by the IRS (which could apply retroactively) that could affect the timing, character and amount of the Fund's income and gains and distributions to shareholders, affect whether the Fund has made sufficient distributions and otherwise satisfied the requirements to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid federal income and excise taxes or limit the extent to which the Fund may invest in certain derivatives and other investments in the future.

#### *Securities Issued or Purchased at a Discount*

The Fund may acquire debt obligations that have original issue discount. "Original issue discount" is the excess of a debt obligation's stated redemption price at maturity over the obligation's issue price. Under long-standing tax rules, a taxpayer that acquires an obligation with original issue discount must include the original issue discount in income on a constant yield-to-maturity basis without regard to when, or whether, payments are made on the obligation. However, original issue discount on a tax-exempt obligation generally is treated as tax-exempt interest. Obligations owned by the Fund that have original issue discount may include investment in payment-in-kind securities, and certain other obligations. Obligations with original issue discount owned by the Fund will give rise to income that the Fund will be required to distribute even though the Fund does not receive an interest payment in cash on the obligation during the year. In order to generate sufficient cash to make the required distributions, the Fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio that it otherwise would have continued to hold. The Fund may realize gains or losses from such sales. If the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution than they would in the absence of such transactions.

Some debt obligations that are acquired by the Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. “Market discount” is generally the excess of the stated redemption price of the bond at maturity over the basis of the bond immediately after its acquisition by the taxpayer. Generally, any gain recognized on the receipt of principal payments or on the disposition of a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain does not exceed the “accrued market discount” on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily installments. The Fund may make certain elections applicable to debt obligations having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Gain on the disposition of market discount bonds is taxable as ordinary income even if interest on the debt obligation in question is tax exempt. In contrast, gain attributable to original issue discount, whenever recognized, on a tax-exempt obligation is treated as tax-exempt interest.

#### *Transfers between Classes of the Fund*

Exchanges of shares between classes of the Fund are generally not taxable transactions. Certain “significant holders” of the Fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.368-3(c)(1) will be required to include in their federal income tax returns for the year of the exchange of one class of stock for another the information listed in Treasury Regulation Section 1.368-3(b). The term “significant holders” refers to shareholders of the Fund who own at least one percent (by vote or value) of the total outstanding shares of the Fund, as well as shareholders who own shares of the Fund (immediately before the exchange in question) having a tax basis of at least \$1 million.

#### *High-Risk Securities*

The Fund may invest in debt obligations that are in the lowest rating categories or are unrated. Investments in debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present special tax issues for the Fund. The application of the U.S. federal income tax rules with respect to these types of investments is complicated and will depend upon the application of the law to facts that may be unclear, which may result in uncertainty about the U.S. federal income tax treatment of these investments (*e.g.*, such as when the Fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount, when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts, or worthless securities and how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income). These and other related issues will be addressed by the Fund if it invests in such securities in order to seek to ensure that the Fund distributes sufficient income to avoid becoming subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

#### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund generally is required to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury a percentage of the taxable distributions and redemption proceeds paid to any individual shareholder who (i) fails to properly furnish the Fund with a correct taxpayer identification number (TIN), (ii) is identified by the IRS as otherwise subject to backup withholding, or (iii) who fails to certify to the Fund that the shareholder is not subject to such withholding. The backup withholding tax rate is 24% for tax years beginning before January 1, 2026.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a shareholder generally may be refunded or credited against the shareholder’s federal income tax liability, if any, provided that certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS. A shareholder who has not been notified by the IRS that the shareholder has failed to report interest or dividends may normally avoid backup withholding by furnishing a properly completed IRS Form W-9. If a shareholder fails to furnish a valid TIN upon request, the shareholder can be subject to IRS penalties.

#### **Cost Basis Reporting**

The Fund (or its administrative agent) must report to the IRS and furnish to fund shareholders the cost basis information for Fund shares purchased on or after January 1, 2012 (“covered shares”), when such shares are subsequently, redeemed, exchanged or otherwise sold and whether these shares had a short-term or long-term holding period. In addition, the Fund is required to report the gross proceeds from the sale of all Fund shares (whether or not they are covered shares).



The Fund will allow shareholders to elect from among several IRS-accepted cost basis methods to calculate the cost basis of their covered shares. In the absence of such an election, the Fund will use its default cost basis method. Once a Fund shareholder has elected a cost basis reporting method, the election will apply to all future transactions in covered shares, unless the shareholder revokes or changes the standing election. The cost basis method elected or applied may not be changed after the settlement date of a sale of Fund shares. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisers concerning the most desirable IRS-accepted cost basis method for their tax situation.

### **Reportable Transactions**

If an individual shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to Fund shares of \$2 million or more or a corporate shareholder recognizes a loss of \$10 million or more in any single taxable year (or twice such amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. A shareholder who fails to make the required disclosure to the IRS may be subject to substantial penalties. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether or not the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

### **Shares Held Through Foreign Accounts**

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (or "FATCA"), special withholding rules apply when U.S. persons hold investments in the Funds through foreign financial institutions as defined by FATCA ("FFIs") or non-financial foreign entities as defined by FATCA ("NFFEs"). FFIs and NFFEs that are shareholders of the Fund may be subject to a 30% withholding tax on: (1) income dividends paid by the Fund, and (2) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds of a sale of Fund shares. The FATCA withholding tax generally may be avoided on payments to an: (a) FFI, if it reports certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and satisfies certain withholding obligations, and (b) NFFE, if the NFFE: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) reports information relating to them to the withholding agent (which may be the Fund). The U.S. Treasury has negotiated intergovernmental agreements (each, an "IGA") with certain countries and is in various stages of negotiations with other foreign countries with respect to one or more alternative approaches to implement FATCA. An entity in one of those countries may be required to comply with the terms of an IGA and applicable local law instead of U.S. Treasury regulations.

An FFI can avoid FATCA withholding by becoming a "participating FFI," which requires the FFI to enter into a tax compliance agreement with the IRS under section 1471(b) of the Code under which it agrees to verify, report and disclose certain of its U.S. accountholders and provided that such entity meets certain other specified requirements. The FFI will report to the IRS, or, depending on the FFI's country of residence, to the government of that country (pursuant to the terms and conditions of an applicable IGA and applicable law), which will, in turn, report to the IRS. An FFI that is resident in a country that has entered into an IGA with the U.S. to implement FATCA will be exempt from FATCA withholding provided that the FFI shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.

An NFFE that is the beneficial owner of a payment from the Fund can avoid FATCA withholding generally by certifying that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or by providing the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner. The NFFE will report to the Fund or other applicable withholding agent, which will, in turn, report information to the IRS.

Shares held through such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by U.S. Treasury regulations, IGAs, and other guidance regarding FATCA. An FFI or NFFE that invests in the Fund will need to provide the Fund with documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. The requirements imposed by FATCA are in addition to, the U.S. certification rules to avoid backup withholding described above.

#### **Other Tax Matters**

Special tax rules not described in this discussion apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans, as well as investments by tax-exempt entities. Shareholders should consult their tax adviser to determine the suitability of shares of the Fund as an investment through such plans or by such entities and the precise effect that investment in the Fund would have on their particular tax situation.

The foregoing discussion relates solely to U.S. federal income tax law. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding specific questions as to U.S. federal, state, local and, where applicable, foreign taxes. Foreign investors should consult their tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences of ownership of shares of the Fund, including the certification and filing requirements imposed on foreign investors in order to qualify for exemption from the backup withholding tax rates (or a reduced rate of withholding provided by treaty and the potential applicability of the U.S. estate tax).

The foregoing is a general and abbreviated summary of the applicable provisions of the Code and related regulations currently in effect. For the complete provisions, reference should be made to the pertinent Code sections and regulations. The Code and regulations are subject to change by legislative or administrative actions.

#### **Certain State and Local Income Tax Matters**

Dividends and other distributions paid by the Fund also may be subject to state and local taxes, and their treatment under state and local income tax laws may differ from federal income tax treatment. Distributions from the Fund that are derived from interest on obligations of the U.S. Government and certain of its agencies and instrumentalities may be exempt from state and local income taxes in certain states. State and local tax treatment may change if the Fund ever fails to qualify as a regulated investment company for federal income tax purposes. The treatment also may change if the Fund fails to meet certain reporting and filing requirements under state laws and regulations.

The assets of the Fund include interest bearing obligations issued on behalf of the State of Kansas and political subdivisions thereof (the "Kansas Bonds"). The following discussion relating to Kansas state and local income tax only addresses the taxation of persons who are full-time residents of the State of Kansas.

Interest dividends distributed by the Fund are exempt from income tax imposed by the State of Kansas ("Kansas Income Tax") if they are excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes and are attributable to interest on (i) Kansas Bonds issued after December 31, 1987, (ii) obligations exempted from tax under state law, including bonds issued by the Board of Regents Bonds for Kansas Colleges and Universities, Electrical Generation Revenue Bonds, Industrial Revenue Bonds, Kansas Highway Bonds, Kansas Turnpike Authority Bonds, and Urban Renewal Bonds; (iii) obligations issued by the government of Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands, or (iv) obligations issued by the U.S. federal government. Such tax-exempt interest from the Fund may nonetheless be subject to the privilege tax imposed by the State of Kansas for shareholders that are insurance companies, national banking associations, banks, trust companies, federally chartered savings banks and savings and loan associations.

Distributions from the Fund, other than interest dividends described in the foregoing paragraph will generally be subject to the Kansas Income Tax. You generally will be subject to the Kansas Income Tax on the gain recognized on the sale or redemption of a share of the Fund.

Interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry shares of the Fund is not deductible for purposes of the Kansas Income Tax. Ownership of shares in the Fund may result in other Kansas tax consequences and prospective investors should consult their tax advisors.

This discussion is based on Kansas laws as enacted and construed on the date of this SAI and in certain cases on administrative guidance from state revenue departments. Such laws and interpretation are subject to change. Fund shares and Fund distributions may be subject to other state and local taxes not discussed above.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST**

The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on January 12, 2012 and consists of multiple separate portfolios or series. The Board may establish additional series in the future. The capitalization of the Trust consists solely of an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest with no par value.

The Trust consists of multiple separate portfolios or series. When certain matters affect one Fund but not another, the shareholders vote as the Fund regarding such matters. Subject to the foregoing, on any matter submitted to a vote of shareholders, all shares then entitled to vote will be voted separately by the Fund unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, in which case all shares will be voted in the aggregate. For example, a change in the Fund's fundamental investment policies would be voted upon only by shareholders of the Fund. Additionally, approvals of Investment Advisory Contracts are matters to be determined separately by the Fund.

Approval by the shareholders of one Fund is effective as to that Fund whether or not sufficient votes are received from the shareholders of the other Fund to approve the proposal as to that Fund. The term "majority," when referring to approvals to be obtained from shareholders of the Fund means the vote of the lesser of (i) 67% of the shares of the Fund or class represented at a meeting if the holder of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund or class are present in person or by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the fund. The term "majority," when referring to the approvals to be obtained from shareholders of the Trust as a whole means the vote of the lesser of (i) 67% of the Trust's shares represented at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the Trust's outstanding shares are present in person or proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the Trust's outstanding shares. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each full share held and fractional votes for fractional shares held.

The Trust is not required to hold regular annual meetings of the Fund's shareholders and does not intend to do so. However, the Trust undertakes to hold a special meeting of its shareholders if the purpose of voting on the question of removal of a director or trustees is requested in writing by the holders of at least 10% of the Trust's outstanding voting securities, and to assist in communicating with other shareholders as required by Section 16(c) of the 1940 Act. The Declaration of Trust provides that the holders of not less than two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the Trust may remove a person serving as Trustee either by declaration in writing or at a meeting called for such purpose.

Each share of the Fund represents an equal proportional interest in the Fund with each other share and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of the income earned on the assets belonging to the Fund as are declared in the discretion of the Trustees. In the event of the liquidation or dissolution of the Trust, shareholders of the Fund are entitled to receive the assets attributable to the Fund that are available for distribution, and a distribution of any general assets of the Trust not attributable to the Fund that are available for distribution in such manner and on such basis as the Trustees in their sole discretion may determine.

Shareholders are not entitled to any preemptive rights. All shares, when issued, will be fully paid and non-assessable by the Trust.

Under Delaware law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of a series of the Trust but only to the extent of the shareholder's investment in such series. However, the Declaration of Trust disclaims liability of the shareholders, Trustees or officers of the Trust for acts or obligations of the Trust, which are binding only on the assets and property of each series of the Trust and requires that notice of the disclaimer be given in each contract or obligations entered into or executed by the Trust or the Trustees. The risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Trust itself would be unable to meet its obligations and should be considered remote and is limited to the amount of the shareholder's investment in the Fund.

## OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND

*Custodian.* U.S. Bank, N.A., located at 1555 North Rivercenter Dr., Suite 302, Milwaukee, WI 53212, serves as the custodian for the Fund. As such, the Custodian holds in safekeeping certificated securities and cash belonging to the Fund and, in such capacity, is the registered owner of securities in book-entry form belonging to the Fund. Upon instruction, the Custodian receives and delivers cash and securities of the Fund in connection with Fund transactions and collects all dividends and other distributions made with respect to Fund portfolio securities. The Custodian also maintains certain accounts and records of the Fund. Sub-custodians provide custodial services for any foreign assets held outside of the United States.

*Transfer Agent.* ALPS, pursuant to a Transfer Agency and Service Agreement, serves as transfer agent for the Fund. As Transfer Agent, ALPS has, among other things, agreed to (i) issue and redeem shares of the Fund; (ii) make dividend and other distributions to shareholders of the Fund; (iii) effect transfers of shares; (iv) mail communications to shareholders of the Fund, including account statements, confirmations, and dividend and distribution notices; (v) facilitate the electronic delivery of shareholder statements and reports and (vi) maintain shareholder accounts. Under the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement, ALPS receives from the Trust on behalf of the Fund an annual minimum fee and a fee based upon the number of shareholder accounts and is also reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. As described above, ALPS is an affiliate of the Distributor.

*Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.* Cohen & Company, Ltd. (“Cohen”) serves as the Trust’s independent registered public accounting firm. Cohen provides audit services, tax return review and assistance. Cohen is located at 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 800, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

*Counsel.* Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP serves as counsel to the Trust and is located at 1550 17th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202. Thompson Hine LLP serves as counsel to the Independent Trustees and is located at 41 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

## PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

*Yield and Total Return.* The Fund may from time to time include the yield and/or total return of its shares in advertisements or information in advertisements or information furnished to present or prospective shareholders.

The Fund’s yield will vary from time to time depending upon market conditions, the composition of its portfolios and operating expenses of the Trust allocated to the Fund. These factors, possible differences in the methods used in calculating yield, and the tax exempt status of distributions, should be considered when comparing the Fund’s yield to yields published for other investment companies and other investment vehicles. Yield should also be considered relative to changes in the value of the Fund’s shares and to the relative risks associated with the investment objectives and policies of the Fund.

At any time in the future, yields and total return may be higher or lower than past yields and there can be no assurance that any historical results will continue.

Investors in the Fund are specifically advised that share prices, expressed as the net asset value per share, will vary just as yield will vary. An investor's focus on the yield of the Fund to the exclusion of the consideration of the share price of the Fund may result in the investor's misunderstanding the total return he or she may derive from the Fund.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements of the Fund for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, and the report of Cohen & Company, Ltd., the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm, are incorporated herein by reference to the Fund's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The Annual Report is available at no charge by writing or telephoning the Fund at the address or number on the front page of this Statement of Additional Information.

## APPENDIX A

### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

A Fund may make use of average portfolio credit quality standards to assist institutional investors whose own investment guidelines limit their investments accordingly. In determining a Fund's overall dollar-weighted average quality, unrated securities are treated as if rated, based on the adviser's view of their comparability to rated securities. A Fund's use of average quality criteria is intended to be a guide for those investors whose investment guidelines require that assets be invested according to comparable criteria. Reference to an overall average quality rating for a Fund does not mean that all securities held by the Fund will be rated in that category or higher. A Fund's investments may range in quality from securities rated in the lowest category in which the Fund is permitted to invest to securities rated in the highest category (as rated by Moody's, S&P or Fitch or, if unrated, determined by the adviser to be of comparable quality). The percentage of a Fund's assets invested in securities in a particular rating category will vary. Following is a description of Moody's, S&P's and Fitch's ratings applicable to fixed-income securities.

#### **Moody's Investors Service, Inc.**

##### **Corporate and Municipal Bond Ratings**

**Aaa:** Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edge." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

**Aa:** Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present that make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger than with Aaa securities.

**A:** Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present that suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

**Baa:** Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured), interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba: Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

B: Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of a desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa: Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca: Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

C: Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Moody's bond ratings, where specified, are applicable to financial contracts, senior bank obligations and insurance company senior policyholder and claims obligations with an original maturity in excess of one year. Obligations relying upon support mechanisms such as letter-of-credit and bonds of indemnity are excluded unless explicitly rated. Obligations of a branch of a bank are considered to be domiciled in the country in which the branch is located.

Unless noted as an exception, Moody's rating on a bank's ability to repay senior obligations extends only to branches located in countries which carry a Moody's Sovereign Rating for Bank Deposits. Such branch obligations are rated at the lower of the bank's rating or Moody's Sovereign Rating for the Bank Deposits for the country in which the branch is located. When the currency in which an obligation is denominated is not the same as the currency of the country in which the obligation is domiciled, Moody's ratings do not incorporate an opinion as to whether payment of the obligation will be affected by the actions of the government controlling the currency of denomination. In addition, risk associated with bilateral conflicts between an investor's home country and either the issuer's home country or the country where an issuer branch is located are not incorporated into Moody's ratings.

Moody's makes no representation that rated bank obligations or insurance company obligations are exempt from registration under the Securities Act or issued in conformity with any other applicable law or regulation. Nor does Moody's represent that any specific bank or insurance company obligation is legally enforceable or a valid senior obligation of a rated issuer.

Moody's applies numerical modifiers, 1, 2, and 3 in each generic rating classified from Aa through Caa in its corporate bond rating system. The modifier 1 indicates that the security ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates that the issue ranks in the lower end of its generic rating category.

#### **Corporate Short-Term Debt Ratings**

Moody's short-term debt ratings are opinions of the ability of issuers to repay punctually senior debt obligations. These obligations have an original maturity not exceeding one year, unless explicitly noted.

Moody's employs the following three designations, all judged to be investment-grade, to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers:

PRIME-1: Issuers rated Prime-1 (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics: leading market positions in well-established industries; high rates of return on funds employed; conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection; broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation; and well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

PRIME-2: Issuers rated Prime-2 (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

PRIME-3: Issuers rated Prime-3 (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

NOT PRIME: Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

## **Standard & Poor's Ratings Services**

### **Issue Credit Rating Definitions**

A Standard & Poor's issue credit rating is a current opinion of the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium term note programs and commercial paper programs). It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and takes into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated. The issue credit rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell, or hold a financial obligation, inasmuch as it does not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor.

Issue credit ratings are based on current information furnished by the obligors or obtained by Standard & Poor's from other sources it considers reliable. Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit in connection with any credit rating and may, on occasion, rely on unaudited financial information. Credit ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information, or based on other circumstances.

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short term in the relevant market. In the U.S., for example, that means obligations with an original maturity of no more than 365 days, including commercial paper. Short-term ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. The result is a dual rating, in which the short-term rating addresses the put feature, in addition to the usual long-term rating. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on the following considerations: likelihood of payment; capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation; nature of and provisions of the obligation; and protection afforded by, and relative position of, the obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights.



The issue rating definitions are expressed in terms of default risk. As such, they pertain to senior obligations of an entity. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect the lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation applies when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.) Accordingly, in the case of junior debt the rating may not conform exactly with the category definition.

## **Corporate and Municipal Bond Ratings**

### ***Investment-grade***

AAA: An obligation rated AAA has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

AA: An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong.

A: An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

BBB: An obligation rated 'BBS' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

### ***Speculative Grade***

Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC' and 'C' are regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal. BB indicates the least degree of speculation and C the highest. While such debt will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

BB: An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

B: An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

CCC: An obligation rated 'CCC' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

CC: An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

C: A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'C' rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

D: An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

Plus (+) or Minus (-): The ratings from AA to CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

Provisional ratings: The letter "p" indicates that the rating is provisional. A provisional rating assumes the successful completion of the project being financed by the debt being rated and indicates that payment of debt service requirements is largely or entirely dependent upon the successful and timely completion of the project. This rating, however, while addressing credit quality subsequent to completion of the project, makes no comment on the likelihood of, or the risk of default upon failure of, such completion. The investor should exercise his own judgment with respect to such likelihood and risk.

r: This symbol is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk - such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

The absence of an "r" symbol should not be taken as an indication that an obligation will exhibit no volatility or variability in total return.

N.R.: This indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that Standard & Poor's does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Debt obligations of issuers outside the United States and its territories are rated on the same basis as domestic corporate and municipal issues. The ratings measure the creditworthiness of the obligor but do not take into account currency exchange and related uncertainties.

### **Commercial Paper Rating Definitions**

A Standard & Poor's commercial paper rating is a current assessment of the likelihood of timely payment of debt having an original maturity of no more than 365 days. Ratings are graded into several categories, ranging from A for the highest quality obligations to D for the lowest. These categories are as follows:

A-1: A short-term obligation rated 'A-1' is rated in the highest category by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong.

A-2: A short-term obligation rated 'A-2' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is satisfactory.

A-3: A short-term obligation rated 'A-3' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

B: A short-term obligation rated 'B' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

C: A short-term obligation rated 'C' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

D: A short-term obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

A commercial paper rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security inasmuch as it does not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. The ratings are based on current information furnished to Standard & Poor's by the issuer or obtained from other sources it considers reliable. Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit in connection with any rating and may, on occasion, rely on unaudited financial information. The ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of such information.

#### **Fitch Investor Services, Inc.**

#### **Credit Ratings**

Fitch's credit ratings provide an opinion on the relative ability of an entity to meet financial commitments, such as interest, preferred dividends, repayment of principal, insurance claims or counterparty obligations. Credit ratings are used by investors as indications of the likelihood of receiving their money back in accordance with the terms on which they invested. Fitch's credit ratings cover the global spectrum of corporate, sovereign (including supranational and sub-national), financial, bank, insurance, municipal and other public finance entities and the securities or other obligations they issue, as well as structured finance securities backed by receivables or other financial assets.

The use of credit ratings defines their function: "investment grade" ratings (international Long-term 'AAA' to 'BBB-' categories; Short-term 'F1' to 'F3') indicate relatively low to moderate credit risk, while those in the "speculative" or "non-investment grade" categories (international Long-term 'BB+' to 'D'; Short-term 'B' to 'D') either signal a higher level of credit risk or that a default has already occurred. Credit ratings express risk in relative rank order, which is to say they are ordinal measures of credit risk and are not predictive of a specific frequency of default or loss.

Depending on their application, credit ratings address benchmark measures of probability of default as well relative expectations of loss given default. For example, issuers are typically assigned Issuer Default Ratings that are relative measures of default probability. Similarly, short-term credit ratings give primary consideration to the likelihood that obligations will be met on a timely basis. Securities, however, are rated taking into consideration probability of default and loss given default. As a result, for entities such as corporations, security ratings may be rated higher, lower or the same as the issuer rating to reflect expectations of the security's relative recovery prospects, as well as differences in ability and willingness to pay. While recovery analysis plays an important role throughout the ratings scale, it becomes a more critical consideration for below investment-grade securities and obligations, particularly at the lower end of the non-investment-grade ratings scale where Fitch often publishes actual Recovery Ratings that are complementary to the credit ratings.

Structured finance ratings typically are assigned to each individual security or tranche in a transaction, and not to an issuer. Each structured finance tranche is rated on the basis of various stress scenarios in combination with its relative seniority, prioritization of cash flows and other structural mechanisms.

### **International Long-Term Credit Ratings**

International Long-Term Credit Ratings (LTCR) may also be referred to as Long-Term Ratings. When assigned to most issuers, it is used as a benchmark measure of probability of default and is formally described as an Issuer Default Rating (IDR). The major exception is within Public Finance, where IDRs will not be assigned as market convention has always focused on timeliness and does not draw analytical distinctions between issuers and their underlying obligations. When applied to issues or securities, the LTCR may be higher or lower than the issuer rating (IDR) to reflect relative differences in recovery expectations.

The following rating scale applies to foreign currency and local currency ratings:

#### ***Investment Grade***

##### **AAA**

Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

##### **AA**

Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

##### **A**

High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

##### **BBB**

Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that there are currently expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse changes in circumstances and economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment grade category.

#### ***Speculative Grade***

##### **BB**

##### **Speculative**

'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

**B****Highly speculative**

For issuers and performing obligations, 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for extremely high recoveries. Such obligations would possess a Recovery Rating of 'R1' (outstanding).

**CCC**

For issuers and performing obligations, default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic conditions.

For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for average to superior levels of recovery. Differences in credit quality may be denoted by plus/minus distinctions. Such obligations typically would possess a Recovery Rating of 'R2' (superior), or 'R3' (good) or 'R4' (average).

**CC**

For issuers and performing obligations, default of some kind appears probable.

For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with a Recovery Rating of 'R4' (average) or 'R5' (below average).

**C**

For issuers and performing obligations, default is imminent.

For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for below-average to poor recoveries. Such obligations would possess a Recovery Rating of 'R6' (poor).

**RD**

Indicates an entity that has failed to make due payments (within the applicable grace period) on some but not all material financial obligations, but continues to honor other classes of obligations.

**D**

Indicates an entity or sovereign that has defaulted on all of its financial obligations. Default generally is defined as one of the following:

- failure of an obligor to make timely payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of any financial obligation;
- the bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of business of an obligor; or

- the distressed or other coercive exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation.

Default ratings are not assigned prospectively; within this context, non-payment on an instrument that contains a deferral feature or grace period will not be considered a default until after the expiration of the deferral or grace period.

Issuers will be rated 'D' upon a default. Defaulted and distressed obligations typically are rated along the continuum of 'C' to 'B' ratings categories, depending upon their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. Additionally, in structured finance transactions, where analysis indicates that an instrument is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to meet pay interest and or principal in full in accordance with the terms of the obligation's documentation during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default in accordance with the terms of the documentation is imminent, the obligation may be rated in the 'B' or 'CCC-C' categories.

Default is determined by reference to the terms of the obligations' documentation. Fitch will assign default ratings where it has reasonably determined that payment has not been made on a material obligation in accordance with the requirements of the obligation's documentation, or where it believes that default ratings consistent with Fitch's published definition of default are the most appropriate ratings to assign.

### **International Short-Term Credit Ratings**

The following ratings scale applies to foreign currency and local currency ratings. A Short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 13 months for most obligations, or up to three years for US public finance, in line with industry standards, to reflect unique risk characteristics of bond, tax, and revenue anticipation notes that are commonly issued with terms up to three years. Short-term ratings thus place greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

#### **F1**

Highest credit quality. Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

#### **F2**

Good credit quality. A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

#### **F3**

Fair credit quality. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate; however, near term adverse changes could result in a reduction to non-investment grade.

#### **B**

Speculative. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

## **C**

High default risk. Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

## **RD**

Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other obligations.

## **D**

Indicates an entity or sovereign that has defaulted on all of its financial obligations.

### **Notes to International Long-Term and Short-Term ratings:**

The modifiers “+” or “-” may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA’ Long-term rating category, to categories below ‘CCC’ or to Short-term ratings other than ‘F1’. (The +/- modifiers are only used to denote issues within the CCC category, whereas issuers are only rated CCC without the use of modifiers.)

**Rating Watch:** Ratings are placed on Rating Watch to notify investors that there is a reasonable probability of a rating change and the likely direction of such change. These are designated as “Positive,” indicating a potential upgrade, “Negative,” for a potential downgrade, or “Evolving,” if ratings may be raised, lowered or maintained. Rating Watch is typically resolved over a relatively short period.

**Rating Outlook:** An Outlook indicates the direction a rating is likely to move over a one to two-year period. Outlooks may be positive, stable or negative. A positive or negative Rating Outlook does not imply a rating change is inevitable. Similarly, ratings for which outlooks are “stable” could be upgraded or downgraded before an outlook moves to positive or negative if circumstances warrant such an action. Occasionally, Fitch Ratings may be unable to identify the fundamental trend. In these cases, the Rating Outlook may be described as evolving.

Program ratings (such as those assigned to MTN shelf registrations) relate only to standard issues made under the program concerned: it should not be assumed that these ratings apply to every issue made under the program. In particular, in the case of non-standard issues, i.e. those that are linked to the credit of a third party or linked to the performance of an index, ratings of these issues may deviate from the applicable program rating.

Variable rate demand obligations and other securities which contain a short-term “put” or other similar demand feature will have a dual rating, such as AAA/F1+. The first rating reflects the ability to meet long-term principal and interest payments, whereas the second rating reflects the ability to honor the demand feature in full and on time.

### **Interest Only**

Interest Only ratings are assigned to interest strips. These ratings do not address the possibility that a security holder might fail to recover some or all of its initial investment due to voluntary or involuntary principal repayments.

### **Principal Only**

Principal Only ratings address the likelihood that a security holder will receive their initial principal investment either before or by the scheduled maturity date.

**Rate of Return**

Ratings also may be assigned to gauge the likelihood of an investor receiving a certain predetermined internal rate of return without regard to the precise timing of any cash flows.

**‘PIF’**

Paid-in-Full: denotes a security that is paid-in-full, matured, called, or refinanced.

‘NR’ indicates that Fitch Ratings does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

‘Withdrawn’: A rating is withdrawn when Fitch Ratings deems the amount of information available to be inadequate for rating purposes, or when an obligation matures, is called, or refinanced, or for any other reason Fitch Ratings deems sufficient.



## APPENDIX B

### ALPS SERIES TRUST

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Trust has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy used to determine how the Fund votes proxies relating to their portfolio securities. Under the Trust's Proxy Voting Policy, the Fund has, subject to the oversight of the Trust's Board, delegated to the Adviser the following duties: (1) to make the proxy voting decisions for the Fund, subject to the exceptions described below; and (2) to assist the Fund in disclosing their respective proxy voting record as required by Rule 30b1-4 under the 1940 Act.

In cases where a matter with respect to which the Fund was entitled to vote presents a conflict between the interest of the Fund's shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Fund's investment adviser, principal underwriter or an affiliated person of the Fund, its investment adviser, or principal underwriter, on the other hand, the Fund shall always vote in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders. For purposes of this Policy, a vote shall be considered in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders when a vote is cast consistent with a specific voting policy as set forth in the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policy (described below), provided such specific voting policy was approved by the Board.

The Fund CCO shall ensure that the Adviser has adopted a Proxy Voting Policy, which it uses to vote proxies for its clients, including the Fund.

#### **General**

The Trust and the Fund believe that the voting of proxies is an important part of portfolio management as it represents an opportunity for shareholders to make their voices heard and to influence the direction of a company. The Trust and the Fund are committed to voting corporate proxies in the manner that best serves the interests of the Fund's shareholders.

#### **Delegation to the Adviser**

The Trust believes that the Adviser is in the best position to make individual voting decisions for the Fund consistent with this Policy. Therefore, subject to the oversight of the Board, the Adviser is hereby delegated the following duties:

(1) to make the proxy voting decisions for the Fund, in accordance with the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policy, except as provided herein; and

(2) to assist the Fund in disclosing their respective proxy voting record as required by Rule 30b1-4 under the 1940 Act, including providing the following information for each matter with respect to which the Fund is entitled to vote: (a) information identifying the matter voted on; (b) whether the matter was proposed by the issuer or by a security holder; (c) whether and how the Fund cast its vote; and (d) whether the Fund cast its vote for or against management.

The Board, including a majority of the independent trustees of the Board, must approve the Adviser's Proxy Voting and Disclosure Policy (the "Adviser Voting Policy") as it relates to the Fund. The Board must also approve any material changes to the Adviser Voting Policy no later than six (6) months after adoption by the Adviser.

#### **Conflicts**

In cases where a matter with respect to which the Fund was entitled to vote presents a conflict between the interest of the Fund's shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Fund's investment adviser, principal underwriter, or an affiliated person of the Fund, its investment adviser, or principal underwriter, on the other hand, the Fund shall always vote in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders. For purposes of this Policy, a vote shall be considered in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders when a vote is cast consistent with the specific voting policy as set forth in the Adviser Voting Policy, provided such specific voting policy was approved by the Board.

### **CARRET ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC SUMMARY OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES**

A. Unless Carret Asset Management, LLC ("Carret") has agreed to otherwise, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) directing the manner in which proxies solicited by issuers of securities owned by the client shall be voted, and (2) making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings or other type events pertaining to the client's investment assets.

In the event that Carret does vote proxies, absent mitigating circumstances and/or conflicts of interest (to the extent any such circumstance or conflict is presented, if ever, information pertaining to how Carret addressed any such circumstance or conflict shall be maintained by Carret), it is Carret's general policy to vote proxies in conjunction with the services provided by, and consistent with the recommendations of Broadridge Investor Communications Solutions ("Broadridge"). With regard to Taft-Hartley clients, Carret has retained Broadridge, at no cost to the client, to vote all proxies in accordance with AFL-CIO Guidelines for Voting Proxies which by definition is in the best interests of the client.

Carret (in conjunction with the services provided by Broadridge) shall monitor corporate actions of individual issuers and investment companies consistent with Carret's fiduciary duty to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients. With respect to individual issuers, Carret may be solicited to vote on matters including corporate governance, adoption or amendments to compensation plans (including stock options), and matters involving social issues and corporate responsibility. With respect to investment companies (e.g., mutual funds), Carret may be solicited to vote on matters including the approval of advisory contracts, distribution plans, and mergers. Carret (in conjunction with the services provided by Broadridge) shall maintain records pertaining to proxy voting as required pursuant to Rule 204-2 (c)(2) under the Advisers Act. Copies of Rules 206(4)-6 and 204-2(c)(2) are available upon written request. In addition, information pertaining to how Carret voted on any specific proxy issue is also available upon written request. Requests should be made by contacting Carret's Chief Compliance Officer, Marco A. Vega.

- B. Unless Carret has agreed to vote client proxies, clients will receive their proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian. Clients may contact Carret to discuss any questions they may have with a particular solicitation. Carret may provide information but will not act or advise Clients in any legal proceedings, including but not limited to class actions, involving securities held or previously held by the account.