# THIS FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS FOR FUNDS THAT ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



### **IVA FUNDS**

# STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

January 31, 2021

IVA Worldwide Fund		IVA International Fund	
Share Class	Ticker Symbol	Share Class	Ticker Symbol
Class A	IVWAX	Class A	IVIOX
Class C	IVWCX	Class C	IVICX
Class I	IVWIX	Class I	IVIQX

717 Fifth Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10022 (866) 941-4482

IVA Fiduciary Trust (the "Trust") consists of IVA Worldwide Fund (the "Worldwide Fund") and IVA International Fund (the "International Fund") (each, a "Fund" and, together, the "Funds").

Each Fund is a diversified investment portfolio of the Trust, an open-end series management investment company organized as a Massachusetts business trust.

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus and is only authorized for distribution when preceded or accompanied by the Funds' current prospectus dated January 31, 2021, as supplemented from time to time (the "Prospectus"). This SAI supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus. This SAI incorporates by reference each Fund's financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, as well as the related opinion of the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm, as included in the Funds' most recent annual report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. A copy of the Prospectus or annual report may be obtained without charge by writing the Funds at the address, or by calling the toll-free telephone number, listed above.

# IVA FIDUCIARY TRUST

# IVA Worldwide Fund IVA International Fund

Supplement dated March 19, 2021 to the Statement of Additional Information dated January 31, 2021 for the IVA Worldwide Fund and IVA International Fund (together, the "Funds")

This supplement updates information in the Statement of Additional Information of the IVA Fiduciary Trust (the "Trust") dated January 31, 2021. You may obtain a copy of the Statement of Additional Information free of charge, upon request, by calling the toll-free number (866) 941-4482 or by visiting the Trust's website at www.ivafunds.com.

Effective March 18, 2021, Stefanie J. Hempstead is no longer Treasurer of the Trust and is no longer Chief Financial Officer of International Value Advisers, LLC, the Investment Adviser of the Funds. All references to Ms. Hempstead are hereby removed from the Statement of Additional Information.

Valery Iskhakova, Controller at the Adviser, has been elected Treasurer of the Trust.

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

### IVA FIDUCIARY TRUST

# IVA Worldwide Fund IVA International Fund

Supplement dated March 10, 2021 to the Summary Prospectuses, Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, each dated January 31, 2021 for the IVA Worldwide Fund and IVA International Fund (each a "Fund" and, together, the "Funds")

This supplement updates information in the Summary Prospectuses, Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information of the IVA Fiduciary Trust (the "Trust") dated January 31, 2021. You may obtain copies of the Summary Prospectuses, Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information free of charge, upon request, by calling the toll-free number (866) 941-4482 or by visiting the Trust's website at www.ivafunds.com.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

On March 10, 2021, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Trust, on behalf of each of its series, the Funds, and upon the recommendation of the Funds' adviser, International Value Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser"), approved for each Fund a plan to liquidate the Fund (the "Liquidation Plan"), which will take effect on March 10, 2021 (the "Effective Date"). The Adviser has informed the Board of its intention to close all investment products with the intention of deregistering as an investment adviser and terminating its existence. As of the Effective Date, each Fund will begin liquidating its portfolio assets and shall hold or reinvest the proceeds thereof in cash and such short-term securities as the Fund may lawfully hold or invest. As a result, the Funds will not be pursuing their investment objectives after the Effective Date. The liquidations are expected to take place on or about April 19, 2021 (the "Liquidation Date").

As of the close of business on the Effective Date, purchases are no longer permitted and each Fund is closed to new and existing investors, including shareholders who hold an account directly with a Fund and those shareholders who invest in a Fund through a financial intermediary account, a financial platform, defined contribution, defined benefit or asset allocation program (collectively, "financial intermediaries"), and shareholders who invest through automatic investment plans. In addition, as of the close of business on the Effective Date, exchanges and reinvestment of dividends into the Funds are no longer permitted.

At any time prior to the Liquidation Date, shareholders may redeem their shares of a Fund pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Prospectus, as supplemented. Any shares of the Funds outstanding on the Liquidation Date will be automatically redeemed on that date. Any such redemptions will not be subject to any sales charges, including contingent deferred sales charges. Any such redemptions will not be subject to redemption fees or limitations on redemptions in connection with policies designed to deter short term trading. Further, any such redemption will generally be considered a taxable event for federal income tax purposes. Shareholders who hold their shares in a Fund through a financial intermediary should contact their financial representative to discuss their options with respect to the liquidation and the distribution of such shareholders' redemption proceeds.

IVA Worldwide Fund recently received payment from the French government of reclaims with respect to French taxes previously withheld from French-source income earned by the Fund. The payment is subject to federal income tax claims that will be determined pursuant to a closing agreement between IVA Worldwide Fund and the Internal Revenue Service (the "Service"). The amount received, less the estimated taxes and related expenses, is included in the current net asset value of IVA Worldwide Fund's shares. It is likely that a closing agreement with the Service will not be reached prior to the Liquidation Date, resulting in a delay in the distribution of the after-tax, after-expense reclaim amount to shareholders being redeemed on the Liquidation Date.

Additionally, both IVA Worldwide Fund and IVA International Fund have pending certain additional foreign tax reclaims, both in France (which are not included in share net asset value due to uncertainty regarding the receipt of payment with respect to such reclaims) and in other countries (which are included in share net asset value). Because payment of any such reclaims may not be received prior to the Liquidation Date, or prior to the termination of the Trust and the Funds, the Board has reserved the right to amend each Fund's Liquidation Plan, based on developments with respect to the likelihood of the receipt of payment of such reclaims, in order to make arrangements to increase the ability of the Funds to receive such reclaims and distribute the resulting after-tax amounts to shareholders. Such arrangements could include the establishment of liquidating trusts designed to receive reclaim amounts, negotiate any necessary closing agreements with the Service, fulfill tax reporting requirements and make distributions to shareholders. Such arrangements would result in additional costs to the Funds, which costs will be borne increasingly by shareholders remaining in the Funds when and if such arrangements are adopted. The shareholders remaining in the Funds will also receive the benefit of such additional tax reclaims and other receivables as the Funds are able to collect by or, if applicable, after the Liquidation Date. The Board will take into account the delays and costs, as well as the possible benefits, involved in any such arrangement as part of its consideration of whether or not to amend the Liquidation Plans.

Shareholders, particularly IRA account holders and qualified plan participants, should consult with their own advisors regarding the potential income tax consequences of delayed distributions and participation in liquidating trusts.

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

# IVA FUNDS

# IVA Worldwide Fund IVA International Fund

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### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND RESTRICTIONS

The Prospectus discusses the investment objectives of the Worldwide Fund and the International Fund, as well as the primary strategies they employ to achieve those investment objectives. The Trust was organized on June 12, 2008. A copy of the Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust, as amended (the "Declaration of Trust"), of the Trust, which is governed by Massachusetts law, is on file with the Secretary of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The discussion below supplements the information set forth in the Prospectus under the "Investment Objective" and "Principal Investment Strategies" sections. References herein to the "Adviser" shall mean International Value Advisers, LLC.

# **Investment Objectives of the Funds**

*IVA Worldwide Fund*. The Fund will seek long-term growth of capital by investing in a range of securities and asset classes from markets around the world, including U.S. markets. No attempt is made to construct a portfolio relative to a benchmark. Rather, the objective is to achieve a positive annual return with moderate annual downside risk.

There is no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved. Additionally, since the Fund's investment objective has been adopted as a non-fundamental investment policy, the Fund's investment objective may be changed without a vote of shareholders.

*IVA International Fund*. The Fund will seek long-term growth of capital by investing in a range of securities and asset classes from markets around the world. No attempt is made to construct a portfolio relative to a benchmark. Rather, the objective is to achieve a positive annual return with moderate annual downside risk.

There is no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved. Additionally, since the Fund's investment objective has been adopted as a non-fundamental investment policy, the Fund's investment objective may be changed without a vote of shareholders.

# Principal Investment Strategies and Risks of the Funds

*IVA Worldwide Fund.* To achieve its investment objective, the Fund primarily seeks investment opportunities in companies of any capitalization that the Adviser believes have fundamental value, financial strength and stability. The Fund may, however, invest in companies with fundamental value that do not have the other characteristics. The Adviser, under normal market conditions, will invest no less than 30%, although it intends to invest at least 40%, of the Fund's total assets in equity and debt securities issued by foreign companies and governments.

*IVA International Fund*. To achieve its investment objective, the Fund primarily seeks investment opportunities in companies of any capitalization that the Adviser believes have fundamental value, financial strength and stability. The Fund may, however, invest in companies with fundamental value that do not have the other characteristics. The Adviser, under normal market conditions, will invest no less than 30%, although it intends to invest at least 65% of the International Fund's total assets in equity and debt securities issued by foreign companies and governments.

# **Principal Investment Strategies**

As part of the principal investment strategies, the Funds intend to invest in both foreign and domestic fixed income securities and equities, as well as precious metals.

Each Fund may invest a maximum of 25% of its total assets in precious metals, primarily gold bullion, silver, platinum, and palladium.

Fixed income securities include bonds, notes, bills and debentures, high-yield debt securities (commonly referred to as "junk-bonds"), convertible securities, Rule 144A securities, structured notes, securities issued by supranational organizations, and sovereign debt securities.

Each Fund normally will invest its assets in common stocks, preferred stocks, derivatives (including forward contracts and futures contracts), convertible securities, bonds, debentures, or other debt instruments. A Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers directly or in the form of American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") or other securities representing underlying shares of foreign issuers. When deemed appropriate by the Adviser for short-term investment or defensive

purposes, a Fund may hold up to 100% of its assets in cash and equivalents including government obligations in the local currency of any developed country including the U.S., money market funds, commercial paper and certificates of deposit.

As a result of the Adviser's disciplined investment process, from time to time, and for extended periods of time, a Fund may hold a substantial position in cash, money market instruments, or money market funds which may be used to take advantage of future investment opportunities, meet redemption requests, or make other anticipated cash payments without selling portfolio securities. During periods of rising securities prices, a substantial cash position may result in "cash drag," i.e., the opportunity cost of not being fully invested.

Among the types of fixed income securities in which the Funds may invest from time to time are United States ("U.S.") government obligations. U.S. Government obligations include Treasury Notes, Bonds and Bills, which are direct obligations of the U.S. Government backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S., and securities issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, which may be: (i) guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, such as the securities of the Government National Mortgage Association; or (ii) supported by the issuer's right to borrow from the Treasury and backed by the credit of the federal agency or instrumentality itself, such as securities of the Federal Intermediate Land Banks, Federal Land Banks, Bank of Cooperatives, Federal Home Loan Banks, Tennessee Valley Authority and Farmers Home Administration.

For all securities that give rise to an obligation on the part of the Funds to repay an obligation, the Funds will establish and maintain segregated accounts to cover such obligations as agreed upon with the counterparty and consistent with any regulatory requirements under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

# **Principal Investment Risks**

Asset Segregation. With respect to certain kinds of derivative transactions entered into by a Fund that involve obligations to make future payments to third parties, under applicable federal securities laws and rules, and interpretations thereof, the Fund must "set aside" (referred to sometimes as "asset segregation") liquid assets (which may include assets pledged as collateral), or engage in other measures to "cover" open positions with respect to such transactions. For example, with respect to certain foreign currency transactions and futures contracts that are not contractually required to "cash-settle," a Fund must cover its open positions by setting aside liquid assets equal to the contracts' full, notional value, except that certain deliverable foreign currency transactions for currencies that are liquid will be treated as the equivalent of "cash-settled" contracts. As such, a Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation (i.e., the Fund's daily net liability, if any) rather than the full notional amount under such deliverable foreign currency transactions. With respect to certain forward foreign currency exchange contracts and futures contracts that are contractually required to "cash-settle," a Fund may set aside liquid assets in an amount equal to the Fund's daily marked-to-market (net) obligation rather than the notional value. Each Fund reserves the right to modify its asset segregation policies in the future. As a result, if a large portion of assets is segregated or committed as cover, it could impede portfolio management or the ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations.

<u>Bank Obligations</u>. Each Fund may invest in bank obligations, which may include bank certificates of deposit ("CDs"), time deposits or bankers' acceptances. CDs and time deposits are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity.

Domestic commercial banks organized under federal law are supervised and examined by the Comptroller of the Currency and are required to be members of the Federal Reserve System and to have their deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"). Domestic banks organized under state law are supervised and examined by state banking authorities and are members of the Federal Reserve System only if they elect to join. In addition, state banks whose CDs may be purchased by the Funds are insured by the FDIC (although such insurance may not be of material benefit to a Fund, depending on the principal amount of the CDs of each bank held by the Fund) and are subject to federal examination and to a substantial body of federal law and regulation. As a result of federal or state laws and regulations, domestic branches of domestic banks whose CDs may be purchased by the Funds generally are required, among other things, to maintain specified levels of reserves, are limited in the amounts that they can loan to a single borrower and are subject to other regulations designed to promote financial soundness. However, not all of such laws and regulations apply to the foreign branches of domestic banks.

Obligations of foreign branches of domestic banks, foreign subsidiaries of domestic banks and domestic and foreign branches of foreign banks, such as CDs and time deposits, may be general obligations of the parent banks in addition to

the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation and/or governmental regulation. Such obligations are subject to different risks than are those of domestic banks. These risks include foreign economic and political developments, foreign governmental restrictions that may adversely affect payment of principal and interest on the obligations, foreign exchange controls and foreign withholding and other taxes on amounts realized on the obligations. These foreign branches and subsidiaries are not necessarily subject to the same or similar regulatory requirements that apply to domestic banks, such as mandatory reserve requirements, loan limitations, and accounting, auditing and financial record keeping requirements. In addition, less information may be publicly available about a foreign branch of a domestic bank or about a foreign bank than about a domestic bank.

Obligations of U.S. branches of foreign banks may be general obligations of the parent bank in addition to the issuing branch, or may be limited by the terms of a specific obligation or by federal or state regulation, as well as governmental action in the country in which the foreign bank has its head office. A domestic branch of a foreign bank with assets in excess of \$1 billion may be subject to reserve requirements imposed by the Federal Reserve System or by the state in which the branch is located if the branch is licensed in that state.

<u>Commodities and Commodity Contracts</u>. Each Fund may purchase or sell precious metals directly or may invest in precious metal commodity contracts and options on such contracts (metals are considered "commodities" under the federal commodities laws). Investing in precious metals in this manner carries risks, as described below. Each Fund also may invest in instruments related to precious metals, including structured notes and securities of precious metal finance and operating companies. A Fund's exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The value of commodity-linked instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, and other risks affecting a particular industry or commodity.

<u>Precious Metals</u>. Each Fund may invest a maximum of 25% of its total assets in precious metals. Precious metals at times have been subject to substantial price fluctuations over short periods of time and may be affected by unpredictable monetary and political policies such as currency devaluations or revaluations, economic and social conditions within a country, trade imbalances, or trade or currency restrictions between countries. The prices of precious metals, however, are less subject to local and company-specific factors than securities of individual companies. As a result, precious metals may be more or less volatile in price than securities of companies engaged in precious metals-related businesses. Investments in precious metals can present concerns such as delivery, storage and maintenance, possible illiquidity, and the unavailability of accurate market valuations. Although precious metals can be purchased in any form, including bullion and coins, the Funds intend to purchase only those forms of precious metals that are readily marketable and that can be stored in accordance with custody regulations applicable to mutual funds. A Fund may incur higher custody and transaction costs for precious metals than for securities. Also, precious metals investments do not pay income.

For a Fund to qualify as a regulated investment company under current federal tax law, gains from selling precious metals may not exceed 10% of the Fund's gross income for its taxable year. This tax requirement could cause a Fund to hold or sell precious metals or securities when it would not otherwise do so.

<u>Commodity Pool Operator Exemption</u>. The Funds are not deemed to be "commodity pool operators" under the Commodity Exchange Act and are not subject to registration or regulation as such under the Commodity Exchange Act. The Adviser has claimed an exclusion from registration as a "commodity pool operator" with respect to its service as investment adviser to the Funds pursuant to a claim for exclusion filed with the National Futures Association with respect to each Fund under Commodity Futures Trading Commission Rule 4.5, as of the date of this SAI. The Funds intend to limit their investments in commodity interests so as to remain exempt from the definition of commodity pools.

<u>Currency Exchange Transactions</u>. A Fund may engage in currency transactions with counterparties to gain or reduce exposure to certain currencies, to generate income or gains or to hedge the value of portfolio securities denominated in particular currencies against fluctuations in relative value.

Currency transactions include currency forward contracts, exchange-listed currency futures contracts and options thereon, exchange-listed and over-the-counter ("OTC") options on currencies, and currency swaps. A forward currency contract involves a privately negotiated obligation to purchase or sell (with delivery generally required) a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. A currency swap is an agreement to exchange cash flows based on the notional difference among two or more currencies and operates similarly to an interest rate swap.

Each Fund may enter into a forward contract to sell, for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars, the amount of that currency approximating the value of some or all of a Fund's portfolio securities denominated in such currency. For example, a Fund may do this if the manager believes that the currency of a particular country may decline in relation to the U.S. dollar. Forward contracts may limit potential gain from a positive change in the relationship between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. Transaction hedging includes entering into a currency transaction with respect to specific assets or liabilities of the Fund, which will generally arise in connection with the purchase or sale of portfolio securities or the receipt of income from them. Position hedging is entering into a currency transaction with respect to portfolio securities positions denominated or generally quoted in that currency.

Each Fund may cross-hedge currencies by entering into transactions to purchase or sell one or more currencies that are expected to increase or decline in value relative to other currencies to which the Fund has or in which the Fund expects to have exposure. To reduce the effect of currency fluctuations on the value of existing or anticipated holdings of its securities, a Fund also may engage in proxy hedging. Proxy hedging is often used when the currency to which the Fund's holdings is exposed is difficult to hedge generally or difficult to hedge against the dollar. Proxy hedging entails entering into a forward contract to sell a currency, the changes in the value of which are generally considered to be linked to a currency or currencies in which some or all of the Fund's securities are or are expected to be denominated, and to buy dollars.

Currency hedging involves some of the same risks and considerations as other derivative transactions. Currency transactions can result in losses to a Fund if the currency being hedged fluctuates in value to a degree or in a direction that is not anticipated. Further, the risk exists that the perceived linkage between various currencies may not be present or may not be present during the particular time that the Fund is engaging in these transactions. Currency transactions are also subject to risks different from those of other portfolio transactions. Because currency control is of great importance to the issuing governments and influences economic planning and policy, purchases and sales of currency and related instruments can be adversely affected by government exchange controls, limitations or restrictions on repatriation of currency, and manipulations or exchange restrictions imposed by governments. These forms of governmental actions can result in losses to a Fund if it is unable to deliver or receive currency or monies in settlement of obligations and could also cause hedges it has entered into to be rendered useless, resulting in full currency exposure as well as incurring transaction costs. Buyers and sellers of currency futures contracts are subject to the same risks that apply to the use of futures contracts generally. Further, settlement of a currency futures contract for the purchase of most currencies must occur at a bank based in the issuing nation. Trading options on currency futures contracts is relatively new, and the ability to establish and close out positions on these options is subject to the maintenance of a liquid market that may not always be available. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate based on factors extrinsic to that country's economy.

<u>Cybersecurity Risk.</u> Cybersecurity breaches are either intentional or unintentional events that allow an unauthorized party to gain access to Fund assets, customer data, or proprietary information, or cause a Fund or Fund service provider to suffer data corruption or lose operational functionality. Intentional cybersecurity incidents include: unauthorized access to systems, networks or devices (such as through "hacking" activity), infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code, and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes or website access or functionality. In addition, unintentional incidents can occur, such as the inadvertent release of confidential information.

A cybersecurity breach could result in the loss or theft of customer data or funds, the inability to access electronic systems ("denial of services"), loss or theft of proprietary information or corporate data, physical damage to a computer or network system, or costs associated with system repairs, any of which could have a substantial impact on the Funds. For example, in a denial of service, Fund shareholders could lose access to their electronic accounts indefinitely, and employees of the Adviser or the Funds' other service providers may not be able to access electronic systems to perform critical duties for the Funds, such as trading, net asset value ("NAV") calculation, shareholder accounting, or fulfilment of Fund share purchases and redemptions. Cybersecurity incidents could cause a Fund, the Adviser, or other service providers or trading counterparties to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, compliance costs associated with corrective measures, significant financial loss and/or otherwise disrupt normal business operations. They may also cause a Fund to violate applicable privacy and other laws. In addition, such incidents could affect issuers in which a Fund invests, thereby causing the Fund's investments to lose value.

The Adviser and its affiliates have established risk management systems that seek to reduce cybersecurity risks, and business continuity plans in the event of a cybersecurity breach. However, there are inherent limitations in such plans, including that certain risks have not been identified, and there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially since the Adviser does not control the cybersecurity systems of the Funds' third-party service providers (including the Funds' transfer agent and custodian), or those of the issuers of securities in which the Funds invest.

<u>Derivatives</u>. Generally speaking, a derivative is a financial contract whose value is based on the value of values of designated securities, commodities, currencies, indices, or other assets or instruments including other derivative contracts, (each a "Reference Instrument" and collectively, "Reference Instruments"). Investments in derivatives may subject the Fund to risks different from, and possibly greater than, those of investments directly in the underlying securities or assets. Each Fund may invest in a derivative contract if it is permitted to own, invest in, or otherwise have economic exposure to the Reference Instrument. A Fund is not required to own a Reference Instrument in order to buy or sell a derivative contract relating to that Reference Instrument. Fund obligations created pursuant to derivative instruments may give rise to leverage, which would subject the Fund to asset coverage and asset segregation requirements as described elsewhere in this SAI.

Each Fund may invest a portion of its assets in derivative instruments. These include forward contracts and futures contracts. The Funds may invest in derivatives primarily to seek to hedge exposure to certain markets and securities and/or for speculative (i.e., non-hedging) purposes. The Funds may seek to hedge their exposure to foreign currencies, typically through the use of foreign currency derivatives, including currency forward contracts and may engage in currency transactions with counterparties to gain or reduce exposure to certain currencies or to generate income or gains. The Funds may also invest in futures and options contracts, as well as other derivative instruments.

Derivatives are subject to a number of risks, such as interest rate risk, market risk, credit risk and management risk. They also involve the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index, or that the counterparty to a derivative contract might default on its obligations. A small investment in a derivative could have a relatively large positive or negative impact on the performance of a Fund, potentially resulting in losses to Fund shareholders. Other risks, such as liquidity risk, arise from the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for a Fund's derivatives positions at any time. In fact, many over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) will not be liquid. Over-the-counter instruments also involve the risk that the other party to the derivative transaction will not meet its obligations.

The regulation of the U.S. and non-U.S. derivatives markets has undergone substantial changes in recent years. In particular, as a result of changes under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act") in the United States and regulation changes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. In particular, the Dodd-Frank Act and related regulations require many derivatives to be cleared and traded on an exchange, expand entity registration requirements, impose business conduct requirements on counterparties, and impose other regulatory requirements that will continue to change derivatives markets as regulations are implemented.

In addition, new Rule 18f-4 (the "Derivatives Rule"), adopted by the SEC on October 28, 2020, replaces the asset segregation regime of Investment Company Act Release No. 10666 (Release 10666) with a new framework for the use of derivatives by registered funds. For funds using a significant amount of derivatives, the Derivatives Rule mandates a fund adopt and/or implement: (i) value at risk limitations in lieu of asset segregation requirements; (ii) a written derivatives risk management program; (iii) new Board oversight responsibilities; and (iv) new reporting and recordkeeping requirements. The Derivatives Rule provides an exception for funds with derivative exposure not exceeding 10% of its net assets, excluding certain currency and interest rate hedging transactions. In addition, the Derivatives Rule provides special treatment for reverse repurchase agreements and similar financing transactions and unfunded commitment agreements. In 2022, the SEC will rescind Release 10666 and withdraw letters and similar guidance addressing a fund's use of derivatives and require funds to satisfy the requirements of the Derivatives Rule.

The use of derivative instruments may involve risks different from, or potentially greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other, more traditional assets. In particular, the use of derivative instruments exposes a fund to the risk that the counterparty to an OTC derivatives contract will be unable or unwilling to make timely settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. OTC derivatives transactions typically can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction, although either party may engage in an offsetting transaction that puts that party in the same economic position as if it had closed out the transaction with the counterparty or may obtain the other party's consent to assign the transaction to a third party. If the counterparty defaults, the fund will have contractual remedies, but there is no assurance that the counterparty will meet its contractual obligations or that, in the event of default, the fund will succeed in enforcing them. For example, because the contract for each OTC derivatives transaction is individually negotiated with a specific counterparty, a fund is subject to the risk that a counterparty may interpret contractual terms (e.g., the definition of default) differently than the fund when the fund seeks to enforce its contractual rights. If that occurs, the cost and unpredictability of the legal proceedings required for the fund to enforce its contractual rights may lead it to decide not to pursue its claims against the counterparty. The fund, therefore, assumes the risk that it may be unable to obtain payments owed to it under OTC derivatives contracts or that those payments may be delayed or made only after the fund has

incurred the costs of litigation. While a manager intends to monitor the creditworthiness of counterparties, there can be no assurance that a counterparty will meet its obligations, especially during unusually adverse market conditions. To the extent a fund contracts with a limited number of counterparties, the fund's risk will be concentrated and events that affect the creditworthiness of any of those counterparties may have a pronounced effect on the fund. Derivatives are also subject to a number of other risks, including market risk and liquidity risk. Since the value of derivatives is calculated and derived from the value of other assets, instruments, or references, there is a risk that they will be improperly valued. Derivatives also involve the risk that changes in their value may not correlate perfectly with the assets, rates, or indexes they are designed to hedge or closely track. Suitable derivatives transactions may not be available in all circumstances. The fund is also subject to the risk that the counterparty closes out the derivatives transactions upon the occurrence of certain triggering events. In addition, a manager may determine not to use derivatives to hedge or otherwise reduce risk exposure. Government legislation or regulation could affect the use of derivatives transactions and could limit a fund's ability to pursue its investment strategies.

Additional future regulation of the derivatives markets may make the use of derivatives more costly, may limit the availability or reduce the liquidity of derivatives, and may impose limits or restrictions on the counterparties with which the Fund engages in derivative transactions. Fund management cannot predict the effects of any new governmental regulation that may be implemented, and future regulation may impair the effectiveness of a Fund's derivative transactions and its ability to achieve its investment objectives.

<u>Floating Rate, Inverse Floating Rate and Index Obligations</u>. Each Fund may invest in debt securities with interest payments or maturity values that are not fixed, but float in conjunction with (or inversely to) an underlying index or price. These securities may be backed by sovereign or corporate issuers, or by collateral such as mortgages. The indices and prices upon which such securities can be based include interest rates, currency rates and commodities prices.

Floating rate securities pay interest according to a coupon, which is reset periodically. The reset mechanism may be formula based, or reflect the passing through of floating interest payments on an underlying collateral pool. Inverse floating rate securities are similar to floating rate securities except that their coupon payments vary inversely with an underlying index by use of a formula. Inverse floating rate securities tend to exhibit greater price volatility than other floating rate securities.

Floating rate obligations generally exhibit a low price volatility for a given stated maturity or average life because their coupons adjust with changes in interest rates. Interest rate risk and price volatility on inverse floating rate obligations can be high, especially if leverage is used in the formula. Index securities pay a fixed rate of interest, but have a maturity value that varies by formula, so that when the obligation matures a gain or loss may be realized. The risk of index obligations depends on the volatility of the underlying index, the coupon payment and the maturity of the obligation.

<u>Foreign (non-U.S.) Securities</u>. Investors should recognize that investing in the securities of foreign issuers generally, and particularly in emerging market issuers, involves special considerations, which are not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers. Investments in securities of foreign issuers may involve risks arising from differences between U.S. and foreign securities markets, including less volume, much greater price volatility in and relative illiquidity of foreign securities markets, different trading and settlement practices and less governmental supervision and regulation, from changes in currency exchange rates, from high and volatile rates of inflation, from economic, social and political conditions and, as with domestic multinational corporations, from fluctuating interest rates.

Since most foreign securities are denominated in foreign currencies or traded primarily in securities markets in which settlements are made in foreign currencies, the value of these investments and the net investment income available for distribution to shareholders of a Fund may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency exchange rates or exchange control regulations. Because a Fund may purchase securities denominated in foreign currencies, a change in the value of any such currency against the U.S. dollar will result in a change in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets and the Fund's income available for distribution. Certain of the Funds' foreign currency transactions may give rise to ordinary income or loss, for federal income tax purposes, to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency.

In addition, although a Fund's income may be received or realized in foreign currencies, the Fund will be required to compute and distribute its income in U.S. dollars. Therefore, if the value of a currency relative to the U.S. dollar declines after a Fund's income has been earned in that currency, translated into U.S. dollars and declared as a dividend, but before payment of such dividend, the Fund could be required to liquidate portfolio securities to pay such dividend. Similarly, if the value of a currency relative to the U.S. dollar declines between the time a Fund incurs expenses or other obligations in

U.S. dollars in order to pay such expenses in U.S. dollars will be greater than the equivalent amount in such currency of such expenses at the time they were incurred.

Certain markets are in only the earliest stages of development. There is also a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries, as well as a high concentration of investors and financial intermediaries. Many of such markets also may be affected by developments with respect to more established markets in the region. Brokers in foreign and emerging market countries typically are fewer in number and less capitalized than brokers in the United States. These factors, combined with the U.S. regulatory requirements for open-end investment companies and the restrictions on foreign investment, result in potentially fewer investment opportunities for a Fund and may have an adverse impact on the investment performance of a Fund.

There generally is less governmental supervision and regulation of exchanges, brokers and issuers in foreign countries than there is in the United States. For example, there may be no comparable provisions under certain foreign laws to insider trading and similar investor protection securities laws that apply with respect to securities transactions consummated in the United States. Further, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs on foreign securities exchanges generally are higher than in the United States. With respect to investments in certain emerging market countries, archaic legal systems may have an adverse impact on a Fund. For example, while the potential liability of a shareholder in a U.S. corporation with respect to acts of the corporation generally is limited to the amount of the shareholder's investment, the notion of limited liability is less clear in certain emerging market countries. Similarly, the rights of investors in emerging market companies may be more limited than those of shareholders of U.S. corporations.

Other investment risks include the possible imposition of foreign withholding taxes on certain amounts of a Fund's income which may reduce the net return on foreign investments as compared to income received from a U.S. issuer, the possible seizure or nationalization of foreign assets and the possible establishment of exchange controls, expropriation, confiscatory taxation, other foreign governmental laws or restrictions which might affect adversely payments due on securities held by a Fund, the lack of extensive operating experience of eligible foreign subcustodians and legal limitations on the ability of a Fund to recover assets held in custody by a foreign subcustodian in the event of the subcustodian's bankruptcy.

In addition, there may be less publicly-available information about a foreign issuer than about a U.S. issuer, and foreign issuers may not be subject to the same accounting, auditing and financial record-keeping standards and requirements as U.S. issuers. In particular, the assets and profits appearing on the financial statements of an emerging market country issuer may not reflect its financial position or results of operations in the way they would be reflected had the financial statements been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, for an issuer that keeps accounting records in local currency, inflation accounting rules may require, for both tax and accounting purposes, that certain assets and liabilities be restated on the issuer's balance sheet in order to express items in terms of currency of constant purchasing power. Inflation accounting may indirectly generate losses or profits. Consequently, financial data may be materially affected by restatements for inflation and may not accurately reflect the real condition of those issuers and securities markets. Finally, in the event of a default of any such foreign obligations, it may be more difficult for a Fund to obtain or enforce a judgment against the issuers of such obligations. The manner in which foreign investors may invest in companies in certain emerging market countries, as well as limitations on such investments, also may have an adverse impact on the operations of a Fund. For example, the Fund may be required in certain of such countries to invest initially through a local broker or other entity and then have the shares purchased re-registered in the name of the Fund. Re-registration may in some instances not be able to occur on a timely basis, resulting in a delay during which the Fund may be denied certain of its rights as an investor.

Foreign markets have different clearance and settlement procedures, and in certain markets there have been times when settlements have failed to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Further, satisfactory custodial services for investment securities may not be available in some countries having smaller, emerging capital markets, which may result in a Fund incurring additional costs and delays in transporting and custodying such securities outside such countries. Delays in settlement or other problems could result in periods when assets of a Fund are uninvested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of a Fund to make intended security purchases due to settlement problems or the risk of intermediary counterparty failures could cause a Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities. The inability to dispose of a portfolio security due to settlement problems could result either in losses to a Fund due to subsequent declines in the value of such portfolio security or, if the Fund has entered into a contract to sell the security, could result in possible liability to the purchaser.

<u>Asian Economic Risk</u>. Investment in securities of issuers in Asia involves risks and special considerations not typically associated with investment in the U.S. securities markets. Certain Asian economies have experienced high inflation, high

unemployment, currency devaluations, fluctuations and restrictions, and over-extension of credit. Many Asian economies have experienced rapid growth, pollution and industrialization, and there is no assurance that this growth rate will be maintained. Economic events in any one Asian country may have a significant economic effect on the entire Asian region, as well as on major trading partners outside Asia, or on the Funds. Any adverse event in the Asian markets may have a significant adverse effect on some or all of the economies of Asian countries in which the Funds invest. Many Asian countries are subject to political risk, including corruption and regional conflict with neighboring countries. In addition, many Asian countries are subject to social and labor risks associated with demands for improved political, economic and social conditions. From time to time, the Funds may have significant exposure to China. There is a greater risk in China than in many other countries of currency fluctuations, currency non-convertibility, interest rate fluctuations and higher rates of inflation as a result of internal social unrest or conflicts with other countries. Accounting, auditing, financial, and other reporting standards, practices and disclosure requirements in China are different, sometimes in fundamental ways, from those in the United States and certain Western European countries. For example, financial reporting by companies domiciled in China does not have as much regulatory oversight as reporting by companies in the United States. Unanticipated political or social developments may result in sudden and significant investment losses. China's growing income inequality and worsening environmental conditions also are factors that may affect the Chinese economy. The Chinese government has implemented significant economic reforms in order to liberalize trade policy, promote foreign investment in the economy, reduce government control of the economy and develop market mechanisms. There can be no assurance these reforms will continue or that they will be effective. Despite recent reform and privatizations, significant regulation of investment and industry is still pervasive, including restrictions on investment in companies or industries deemed to be sensitive to particular national interests, and the Chinese government may restrict foreign ownership of Chinese corporations and/or repatriate assets. The Chinese economy has grown rapidly during the past several years and there is no assurance that this growth rate will be maintained. In fact, the Chinese economy may experience a significant slowdown as a result of, among other things, deterioration in global demand for Chinese exports, as well as contraction in spending on domestic goods by Chinese consumers. Further contributing to a potential economic slowdown are ongoing trade tensions between the U.S. and China. These trade tensions could result in trade tariffs, embargos or other restrictions or limitations on trade, including but not limited to restrictions on investments in certain Chinese companies. The imposition of any actions on trade could trigger a significant reduction in trade, an oversupply of certain manufactured goods, substantial price reductions of goods and possible failure of individual companies or industries which could have a negative impact on one or more national economies and also negatively impact the Funds' performance. Events such as these are difficult to predict and may or may not occur in the future. From time to time, the Funds may also have significant exposure to Japan. Japanese issuers are subject to additional risks, including those associated with poor corporate governance, limited rights of shareholders, interlocking company ownership structures, uncertain accounting practices, restrictive immigration policies, an aging labor population (which is likely to result in a shrinking workforce and higher welfare costs), regional political strains, a dependency on manufacturing exports and on oil imports, uncertainty facing the future of its nuclear power industry, ongoing natural disaster risks and large government deficits. While many of these risks are not unique to Japan, and may be found in issuers in any Asian country, they may be more acute or more likely to affect stock prices for Japanese issuers. In order to counter a persistent low-growth economic environment, the Japanese government, under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, has instituted aggressive policies, focusing on monetary policy, fiscal policy, and growth strategies. These policies, dubbed "Abenomics," seek to achieve 2% inflation mainly through quantitative easing and the introduction of negative interest rates. There is no assurance, however, that such measures will prove successful, and another measure, an increase in the consumption tax in 2014, sparked a recession. The risks described above, among others, may adversely affect the value of the Funds' investments.

European Economic Risk. The Funds' investments could be negatively impacted by any economic or political instability in any European country. The Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union (the "EU") requires compliance with restrictions on inflation rates, deficits, interest rates, debt levels and fiscal and monetary controls, each of which may significantly affect every country in Europe. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or EU regulations on trade, changes in the exchange rate of the euro, the default or threat of default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, and/or an economic recession in an EU member country may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of EU member countries and their trading partners. The European financial markets have in recent years experienced volatility and adverse trends due to concerns about economic downturns in, or rising government debt and national unemployment levels of, several European countries, including Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Some of these characteristics can be observed in France, as well. These events have adversely affected the exchange rate of the euro, the common currency of the EU, and may continue to significantly affect every country in Europe, including countries that do not use the euro. Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. It may be the case that policies designed to manage deficits or defend the Euro will have adverse effects on specific countries and their economies. Certain European debt

issuers have defaulted and have restructured their obligations. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and other entities of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world. In addition, one or more countries may abandon or be forced to exit the euro, the common currency of the EU, and/or withdraw from the EU. The EU itself may fail to achieve a budget for the European Commission, which may have difficulty operating effectively. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, is not clear but could be significant and far-reaching.

There is continuing uncertainty regarding the terms of the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union after its exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as "Brexit"). Effective January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom ceased to be a member of the European Union and entered into a transition period, during which the European Union and the United Kingdom Government have engaged in a series of negotiations regarding the terms of the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union. The transition period expired on December 31, 2020. There remains significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit's ramifications, and the range and potential implications of the possible political, regulatory, economic, and market outcomes are difficult to predict. Moreover, the uncertainty about the ramifications of Brexit may cause significant volatility and/or declines in the value of the euro and the British pound. The end of the Brexit transition period may cause greater market volatility and illiquidity, currency fluctuations, deterioration in economic activity, a decrease in business confidence, and an increased likelihood of a recession in the United Kingdom.

This uncertainty may affect other countries in the European Union and elsewhere, and may cause volatility within the European Union, triggering prolonged economic downturns in certain countries within the European Union. Brexit may also adversely affect United Kingdom based financial firms that have counterparties in the European Union or participate in market infrastructure (trading venues, clearing houses, settlement facilities) based in the European Union. These consequences may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as discussed above. Political events, including nationalist unrest in Europe, uncertainties surrounding the sovereign debt of a number of European Union countries and the viability of the European Union (or the euro) itself, also may cause market disruptions. If one or more additional countries leave the European Union or the European Union dissolves, the world's securities markets likely will be significantly disrupted. The impact of these actions or events is not clear, but could be significant and far-reaching. The risks described above, among others, may adversely affect the value of the Funds' investments.

<u>Futures</u>. Each Fund may use interest rate, foreign currency, index and other futures contracts. A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified quantity of the security or other financial instrument at a specified price and time. A futures contract on an index is an agreement pursuant to which two parties agree to take or make delivery of an amount of cash equal to the difference between the value of the index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the index contract originally was written. Although the value of an index might be a function of the value of certain specified securities, physical delivery of these securities is not always made. A public market exists in futures contracts covering a number of indexes, as well as financial instruments, including, without limitation: U.S. Treasury bonds; U.S. Treasury notes; GNMA Certificates; three-month U.S. Treasury bills; 90-day commercial paper; bank CDs; Eurodollar CDs; the Australian dollar; the Canadian dollar; the British pound; the Japanese yen; Japanese Government Bonds; the Swiss franc; the Mexican peso; and certain multinational currencies, such as the euro. It is expected that other futures contracts will be developed and traded in the future.

When a purchase or sale of a futures contract is made by a Fund, the Fund is required to deposit with a futures broker, known as a futures commission merchant ("FCM"), a specified amount of liquid assets ("initial margin"). The margin required for a futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded and may be modified during the term of the contract. The initial margin is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the futures contract that is returned to the Fund upon termination of the contract, assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Each Fund expects to earn taxable interest income on its initial margin deposits. A futures contract held by a Fund is valued daily at the official settlement price of the exchange on which it is traded. Each day the Fund pays or receives cash, called "variation margin," equal to the daily change in value of the futures contract. This process is known as "marking to market." Variation margin does not represent a borrowing or loan by the Fund but is instead a settlement between the Fund and the broker of the amount one would owe the other if the futures contract expired. In computing its NAV, each Fund will mark to market its open futures positions.

Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities, generally these obligations are closed out prior to delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (involving the same exchange, underlying security or index and delivery month). If an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, a Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is more, the Fund realizes a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, a Fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is less, the Fund realizes a capital loss. The transaction costs also must be included in these calculations.

<u>LIBOR Rate Risk.</u> Many debt securities, derivatives and other financial instruments, including some of the Funds' investments, utilize the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") as the reference or benchmark rate for variable interest rate calculations. In July 2017, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, announced that it will stop encouraging banks to provide the quotations needed to sustain LIBOR after 2021. This may cause LIBOR to cease to be published. LIBOR panel banks have agreed to submit quotations to LIBOR through the end of 2021. Before then, it is expected that market participants will transition to the use of different reference or benchmark rates. Although the transition process away from LIBOR has become increasingly well-defined in advance of the anticipated discontinuation date, there remains uncertainty regarding the future utilization of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement rate or rates.

Regulators have suggested alternative reference rates, but global consensus is lacking and the process for amending existing contracts or instruments to transition away from LIBOR remains unclear. For example, in June 2017, the Alternative Reference Rates Committee, a group of large U.S. banks working with the Federal Reserve, announced its selection of a new Secured Overnight Funding Rate, which is intended to be a broad measure of secured overnight U.S. Treasury repo rates, as an appropriate replacement for LIBOR. Bank working groups and regulators in other countries have suggested other alternatives for their markets, including the Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate in England. The elimination of LIBOR or changes to other reference rates or any other changes or reforms to the determination or supervision of reference rates could have an adverse impact on the market for, or value of, any securities or payments linked to those reference rates, which may adversely affect a Fund's performance and/or net asset value.

Uncertainty and risk also remain regarding the willingness and ability of issuers and lenders to include revised provisions in new and existing contracts or instruments. Additionally, while some existing LIBOR-based instruments may contemplate a scenario where LIBOR is no longer available by providing for an alternative rate-setting methodology, there may be significant uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of any such alternative methodologies to replicate LIBOR. Not all existing LIBOR-based instruments may have alternative rate-setting provisions and there remains uncertainty regarding the willingness and ability of issuers to add alternative rate-setting provisions in certain existing instruments. Consequently, the transition away from LIBOR to other reference rates may lead to increased volatility and illiquidity in markets that are tied to LIBOR, fluctuations in values of LIBOR-related investments or investments in issuers that utilize LIBOR, increased difficulty in borrowing or refinancing and diminished effectiveness of hedging strategies, adversely affecting a Fund's performance. Furthermore, the risks associated with the expected discontinuation of LIBOR and transition may be exacerbated if the work necessary to effect an orderly transition to an alternative reference rate is not completed in a timely manner. Because the usefulness of LIBOR as a benchmark could deteriorate during the transition period, these effects could occur prior to the end of 2021.

<u>Limitations on Use of Futures</u>. When purchasing a futures contract, the purchaser or seller of a futures contract is not required to deliver or pay for the underlying instrument unless the contract is held until the delivery date. However, both the purchaser and seller are required to deposit "initial margin" with an FCM, when the contract is entered into. If the value of either party's position declines, that party will be required to make additional "variation margin" payments to settle the change in value on a daily basis.

This process of "marking to market" will be reflected in the calculation of open positions computed in a Fund's NAV per share. The party that has a gain is entitled to receive all or a portion of this amount. Initial and variation margin payments do not constitute purchasing securities on margin for purposes of a Fund's investment restrictions. In the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of an FCM that holds margin on behalf of a Fund, the Fund may be entitled to return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the Fund. Each Fund will be required to comply with asset coverage requirements pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") guidelines. See "Asset Segregation."

The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), also may limit the extent to which a Fund may enter into futures or forward contracts.

<u>Risks Associated with Futures</u>. There are several risks associated with the use of futures contracts. A purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in losses in excess of the amount invested in the futures contract. There can be no guarantee that there will be a correlation between price movements in the futures contracts and in the securities or index positions covering them. In addition, there are significant differences between the securities and indexes and futures markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between the markets. The degree of imperfection of correlation depends on circumstances such as variations in speculative market demand for futures, including technical influences in futures trading, and differences between the financial instruments held by a Fund and the instruments underlying the standard contracts available for trading in such respects as interest rate levels, maturities and creditworthiness of issuers. A

decision as to whether, when and how to employ futures contracts involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even well-conceived uses may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected interest rate trends.

Futures exchanges may limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in certain futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price at the end of the current trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a futures contract subject to the limit, no more trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movements during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses because the limit may work to prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. For example, futures prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of positions and subjecting some holders of futures contracts to substantial losses.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist at a time when a Fund seeks to close out a futures contract, and the Fund would remain obligated to meet margin requirements until the position is closed. In addition, many of the contracts discussed above are relatively new instruments without a significant trading history. As a result, there can be no assurance that an active secondary market will develop or continue to exist.

<u>Illiquid Assets and Restricted Securities</u>. Each Fund may hold up to 15% of its respective net assets in illiquid securities, including certain securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale ("restricted securities"). Generally, restricted securities may be sold only in privately negotiated transactions or in a public offering with respect to which a registration statement is in effect under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"). Where registration is required, a Fund may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expenses and a considerable period may elapse between the time of the decision to sell and the time the Fund may be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, a Fund might obtain a less favorable price than that which prevailed when it decided to sell. Restricted securities will be priced at fair value as determined in good faith by the procedures adopted, approved and set forth by the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board").

Notwithstanding the above, a Fund may purchase securities that have been privately placed but that are eligible for purchase and sale under Rule 144A under the 1933 Act. That rule permits certain qualified institutional buyers, such as the Funds, to trade in privately placed securities that have not been registered for sale under the 1933 Act. The Adviser, under the supervision of the Board, will consider whether securities purchased under Rule 144A are illiquid and thus subject to a Fund's restriction on investing in illiquid securities. A determination as to whether a Rule 144A security is liquid or not is a factual issue requiring an evaluation of a number of factors. In making this determination, the Adviser will consider the trading markets for the specific security, taking into account the unregistered nature of a Rule 144A security. In addition, the Adviser could consider: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes; (2) the number of dealers and potential purchasers; (3) the dealer undertakings to make a market; and (4) the nature of the security and of marketplace trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer). The liquidity of Rule 144A securities would be monitored and if, as a result of changed conditions, it is determined that a Rule 144A security is no longer liquid, a Fund's holdings of illiquid securities would be reviewed to determine what steps, if any, are required to assure that the Fund does not invest more than the maximum percentage of its assets in illiquid securities.

Investing in Rule 144A securities could have the effect of increasing the amount of a Fund's assets invested in illiquid securities if qualified institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities. Because the liquidity or illiquidity of a security depends on various factors, other types of restricted securities also may be determined to be liquid under largely the same type of analysis and process as is applied in respect of Rule 144A.

<u>Liquidity Risk Management</u>. Many factors may influence the price at which a Fund could sell an investment at a given time. Investments are subject to liquidity risk when they are difficult to purchase or sell under favorable conditions. Investments in certain securities or other assets may be particularly subject to liquidity risk. A Fund's ability to sell an instrument may be negatively impacted as a result of various market events or circumstances or characteristics of the particular instrument. In addition, market participants attempting to sell the same or similar instruments at the same time as the relevant Fund may increase such Fund's exposure to liquidity risk. Investments in less liquid or illiquid investments may reduce the returns of the Fund because it may be unable to sell the investments at an advantageous time or price. Thus, a Fund may be forced to accept a lower sale price for the security, sell other investments or forego another more attractive investment opportunity. Liquid investments purchased by a Fund may subsequently become less liquid or illiquid, and harder to value.

Pursuant to Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, a Fund may not acquire any "illiquid investment" if, immediately after the acquisition, the relevant Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An "illiquid investment" is any investment that a Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. The Trust has implemented a written liquidity risk management program and related procedures ("Liquidity Program") that is reasonably designed to assess and manage each Fund's "liquidity risk" (defined by the SEC as the risk that a Fund could not meet requests to redeem shares issued by the relevant Fund without significant dilution of remaining investors' interests in such Fund). The Board has designated the Adviser to serve as the administrator of the Liquidity Program and the related procedures. As part of the Liquidity Program, the Adviser is responsible for identifying illiquid investments and categorizing the relative liquidity of a Fund's investments in accordance with Rule 22e-4. Under the Liquidity Program, the Adviser assesses, manages, and periodically reviews a Fund's liquidity risk, and is responsible to make periodic reports to the Board and the SEC regarding the liquidity of a Fund's investments, and to notify the Board and the SEC of certain liquidity events specified in Rule 22e-4. The liquidity of a Fund's portfolio investments is determined based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, relevant market, trading and investment-specific considerations under the Liquidity Program. When a Fund's holdings in illiquid securities exceed 15% of net assets, the Adviser will use its best efforts to remedy the situation as promptly as practicable under the circumstances. The Funds are required to notify the SEC when a Fund's illiquid investment holdings exceed 15%.

<u>Lower-Rated Debt Securities</u>. Each Fund may invest in lower-rated fixed-income securities (commonly known as "junk bonds"). The lower ratings reflect a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions, or both, or an unanticipated rise in interest rates, may impair the ability of the issuer to make payments of interest and principal. The inability (or perceived inability) of issuers to make timely payment of interest and principal would likely make the values of securities held by the Fund more volatile and could limit the Fund's ability to sell its securities at prices approximating the values the Fund had placed on such securities. In the absence of a liquid trading market for securities held by it, the Fund at times may be unable to establish the fair value of such securities.

Securities ratings are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' analysis at the time of rating. Consequently, the rating assigned to any particular security is not necessarily a reflection of the issuer's current financial condition, which may be better or worse than the rating would indicate. In addition, the rating assigned to a security by Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), Fitch Ratings, Ltd ("Fitch") or S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") does not reflect an assessment of the volatility of the security's market value or the liquidity of an investment in the security.

Like those of other fixed-income securities, the values of lower-rated securities fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. A decrease in interest rates generally will result in an increase in the value of a Fund's fixed-income assets. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, the value of a Fund's fixed-income assets generally will decline. Recent and potential future changes in government monetary policy may affect the level of interest rates.

The longer a fixed-income security's duration, the more sensitive it will be to changes in interest rates. Similarly, a fund with a longer average portfolio duration will be more sensitive to changes in interest rates than a fund with a shorter average portfolio duration. Duration is a measure used to determine the sensitivity of a security's price to changes in interest rates that incorporates a security's yield, coupon, final maturity, and call features, among other characteristics. All other things remaining equal, for each one percentage point increase in interest rates, the value of a portfolio of fixed-income investments would generally be expected to decline by one percent for every year of the portfolio's average duration above zero. For example, the price of a bond fund with an average duration of eight years would be expected to fall approximately 8% if interest rates rose by one percentage point. The maturity of a security, another commonly used measure of price sensitivity, measures only the time until final payment is due, whereas duration takes into account the pattern of all payments of interest and principal on a security over time, including how these payments are affected by prepayments and by changes in interest rates, as well as the time until an interest rate is reset (in the case of variable-rate securities).

The values of lower-rated securities may often be affected to a greater extent by changes in general economic conditions and business conditions affecting the issuers of such securities and their industries. Negative publicity or investor perceptions also may adversely affect the values of lower-rated securities. Changes by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations in their ratings of any fixed-income security and changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal also may affect the value of these investments. Changes in the value of portfolio securities generally will not affect income derived from these securities, but will affect a Fund's NAV. A Fund will not necessarily dispose of a security when its rating is reduced below its rating at the time of purchase. However, the Adviser will take this reduction into consideration when analyzing an investment and will carefully monitor the investment to determine

whether its retention will assist in meeting the Fund's investment objective.

Issuers of lower-rated securities often are highly leveraged, so that their ability to service their debt obligations during an economic downturn or during sustained periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. Such issuers may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them and may be unable to repay outstanding obligations at maturity by refinancing. The risk of loss due to default in payment of interest or repayment of principal by such issuers is significantly greater because such securities frequently are unsecured and subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness.

At times, a substantial portion of each Fund's assets may be invested in an issue of which the Fund, by itself or together with other funds and accounts managed by the Adviser, holds all or a major portion. Although the Adviser generally considers such securities to be liquid because of the availability of an institutional market for such securities, it is possible that, under adverse market or economic conditions or in the event of adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer, a Fund could find it more difficult to sell these securities when the Adviser believes it advisable to do so or may be able to sell the securities only at prices lower than if they were more widely held. Under these circumstances, it also may be more difficult to determine the fair value of such securities for purposes of computing a Fund's NAV. In order to enforce its rights in the event of a default, a Fund may be required to participate in various legal proceedings or take possession of and manage assets securing the issuer's obligations on such securities. This could increase the Fund's operating expenses and adversely affect the Fund's NAV. In addition, the Fund's intention to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the Code may limit the extent to which the Fund may exercise its rights by taking possession of such assets.

To the extent that a Fund invests in securities in the lower rating categories, the achievement of the Fund's goals is more dependent on the Adviser's investment analysis than would be the case if the Fund were investing in securities in the higher rating categories.

<u>Pricing Arbitrage</u>. To the extent that a Fund invests significantly in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the Fund's valuation time, it may be particularly susceptible to dilution as a result of excessive trading. Because events may occur after the close of foreign markets and before the Fund's valuation time that influence the value of foreign securities, investors may seek to trade Fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of foreign securities as of the Fund's valuation time. The Funds have adopted procedures designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign securities under certain circumstances to reflect what the Funds believe to be the fair value of those securities as of their valuation time. To the extent the adjustments don't work fully, investors engaging in price arbitrage may cause dilution in the value of a Fund's shares held by other shareholders.

Economic and Market Events Risk. Certain economic and market events in the U.S. and many foreign economies over the past years, including the European sovereign debt and banking crises, the United Kingdom's departure from the EU, the institution of tariffs or other trade barriers and rising U.S. interest rates, have resulted, and may continue to result, in an unusually high degree of volatility in the financial markets, both domestic and foreign, and in the NAVs of many mutual funds, including to some extent the Funds. The values of some sovereign debt and of securities of issuers that hold that sovereign debt have fallen. Financial markets have been affected by governmental efforts to limit short selling and high frequency trading; measures to address U.S. federal and state budget deficits; S&P's downgrade of U.S. long-term sovereign debt; unpredictability of U.S. legislation on healthcare, tax reform and infrastructure; economic stimulus by the Japanese central bank; steep declines in oil prices; social, political, and economic instability in Europe; persistently low or negative interest rates; securities overvaluation; dramatic changes in currency exchange rates; and China's economic slowdown. In addition, increased investment in passive investment vehicles may affect the value of the Funds' holdings. Conditions in the U.S. and many foreign economies have resulted, and may continue to result, in fixed income instruments experiencing unusual liquidity issues, increased price volatility and, in some cases, credit downgrades and increased likelihood of default. These events have reduced the willingness and ability of some lenders to extend credit, and have made it more difficult for borrowers to obtain financing on attractive terms, if at all. In some cases, traditional market participants have been less willing to make a market in some types of debt instruments, which has affected the liquidity of those instruments. As a result, the values of many types of debt securities, including, but not limited to, mortgage-backed, asset-backed, and corporate debt securities, have declined. During times of market turmoil, investors may look to the safety of securities issued or backed by the U.S. Treasury, causing the prices of these securities to rise and their yields to decline.

The reduced liquidity in fixed-income and credit markets may negatively affect many issuers worldwide. In addition, global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. In response to the crisis, the U.S. and other governments and the Federal Reserve and certain foreign central banks have taken steps to

support financial markets. Where economic conditions are recovering, they are nevertheless perceived as still fragile. Withdrawal of government support, changes in political parties, failure of efforts in response to the crisis, or investor perception that such efforts are not succeeding, could adversely impact the value and liquidity of certain securities. The severity or duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations, including changes in tax laws. In particular, the impact of U.S. financial legislation, and the potential reversal of such legislation, on the markets and the practical implications for market participants may not be fully known for some time. In addition, political events within the U.S. and abroad, such as the recent U.S. Presidential election and the expected transition of a new President into office, and further geopolitical instability in Europe, may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy, perhaps suddenly and to a significant degree. High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty. Although the U.S. Government has honored its credit obligations, it remains possible that the United States could default on its obligations. While it is impossible to predict the consequences of such an unprecedented event, it is likely that a default by the U.S. would be highly disruptive to the U.S. and global securities markets and could significantly impair the value of a Fund's investments. Uncertainty surrounding changes in imports or exports, changes in governmental or EU regulations on trade, changes in the strength of the U.S. dollar, the exchange rate of the euro or other foreign currencies, the default or threat of default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, and/or an economic recession in an EU member country may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of EU member countries and their trading partners.

There is continuing uncertainty regarding the terms of the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union after its exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as "Brexit"). Effective January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom ceased to be a member of the European Union and entered into a transition period, during which the European Union and the United Kingdom Government have engaged in a series of negotiations regarding the terms of the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union. The transition period expired on December 31, 2020. There remains significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit's ramifications, and the range and potential implications of the possible political, regulatory, economic, and market outcomes are difficult to predict. Moreover, the uncertainty about the ramifications of Brexit may cause significant volatility and/or declines in the value of the euro and the British pound. The end of the Brexit transition period may cause greater market volatility and illiquidity, currency fluctuations, deterioration in economic activity, a decrease in business confidence, and an increased likelihood of a recession in the United Kingdom.

This uncertainty may affect other countries in the European Union and elsewhere, and may cause volatility within the European Union, triggering prolonged economic downturns in certain countries within the European Union. Brexit may also adversely affect United Kingdom based financial firms that have counterparties in the European Union or participate in market infrastructure (trading venues, clearing houses, settlement facilities) based in the European Union. These consequences may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as discussed above. Political events, including nationalist unrest in Europe, uncertainties surrounding the sovereign debt of a number of European Union countries and the viability of the European Union (or the euro) itself, also may cause market disruptions. If one or more additional countries leave the European Union or the European Union dissolves, the world's securities markets likely will be significantly disrupted.

There is also a greater risk in China than in many other countries of currency fluctuations, currency non-convertibility, interest rate fluctuations and higher rates of inflation as a result of internal social unrest or conflicts with other countries. Accounting, auditing, financial, and other reporting standards, practices and disclosure requirements in China are different, sometimes in fundamental ways, from those in the United States and certain Western European countries. For example, financial reporting by companies domiciled in China does not have as much regulatory oversight as reporting by companies in the United States.

Government Intervention in Financial Markets. Instability in the financial markets has led the U.S. government and governments across the world to take a number of unprecedented actions designed to support certain financial institutions and segments of the financial markets that have experienced extreme volatility, and in some cases a lack of liquidity, including the U.S. government's enaction of a broad-reaching regulatory framework over the financial services industry and consumer credit markets. In addition, Federal, state, and other governments, their regulatory agencies, or self-regulatory organizations may take actions in response to other current or future events that affect the regulation of the instruments in which a Fund invests, or the issuers of such instruments, in ways that are unforeseeable. Legislation or regulation may also change the way in which a Fund itself is regulated. Such legislation or regulation could limit or preclude a Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective.

The value of each Fund's holdings is also generally subject to the risk of future local, national, or global economic disturbances based on unknown weaknesses in the markets in which the Fund invests. In the event of such a disturbance, issuers of securities held by a Fund may experience significant declines in the value of their assets and even cease

operations, or may receive government assistance accompanied by increased restrictions on their business operations or other government intervention. Future events may cause governments or their agencies to acquire distressed assets from financial institutions and acquire ownership interests in those institutions. The implications of government ownership and disposition of these assets are unclear, and such a program may have positive or negative effects on the liquidity, valuation and performance of a Fund's portfolio holdings. In addition, it is not certain whether the U.S. government or any other governments will intervene in response to a future market disturbance and the effect of any such future intervention cannot be predicted. It is difficult for issuers to prepare for the impact of future financial downturns, although companies can seek to identify and manage future uncertainties through risk management programs.

<u>Political, Social and Economic Uncertainty Risk</u>. Social, political, economic and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) that occur from time to time will create uncertainty and may have significant impacts on issuers, industries, governments and other systems, including the financial markets, to which a Fund and the issuers in which it invests are exposed. As global systems, economies and financial markets are increasingly interconnected, events that once had only local impact are now more likely to have regional or even global effects. Events that occur in one country, region or financial market will, more frequently, adversely impact issuers in other countries, regions or markets, including in established markets such as the United States. These impacts can be exacerbated by failures of governments and societies to adequately respond to an emerging event or threat.

Uncertainty can result in or coincide with: increased volatility in the global financial markets, including those related to equity and debt securities, loans, credit, derivatives and currency; a decrease in the reliability of market prices and difficulty in valuing assets; greater fluctuations in currency exchange rates; increased risk of default (by both government and private issuers); further social, economic, and political instability; nationalization of private enterprises; greater governmental involvement in the economy or in social factors that impact the economy; greater, less or different governmental regulation and supervision of the securities markets and market participants and increased, decreased or different processes for and approaches to monitoring markets and enforcing rules and regulations by governments or self-regulatory organizations; limited, or limitations on the, activities of investors in such markets; controls or restrictions on foreign investment, capital controls and limitations on repatriation of invested capital; inability to purchase and sell assets or otherwise settle transactions (i.e., a market freeze); unavailability of currency hedging techniques; substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation, which can last many years and have substantial negative effects on markets as well as the economy as a whole; recessions; and difficulties in obtaining and/or enforcing legal judgments.

For example, the global outbreak of novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and related disease (COVID-19) is currently creating significant economic and social uncertainty throughout the world. In addition to widespread disease, including COVID-19 and other pandemics and epidemics, natural or environmental disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis and other severe weather-related phenomena, generally have been, and can be, highly disruptive to economies and markets, adversely impacting individual companies, sectors, industries, markets, currencies, interest and inflation rates, credit ratings, investor sentiment, and other factors affecting the value of each Fund's investments. The impact of infectious diseases and natural or environmental disasters in developing or emerging market countries may be greater due to limited health care and other resources. Given the increasing interdependence among global economies and markets, conditions in one country, market, or region are increasingly likely to adversely affect markets, issuers, and/or foreign exchange rates in other countries, including the United States. These disruptions could prevent each Fund from executing advantageous investment decisions in a timely manner and negatively impact each Fund's ability to successfully execute its investment strategy or achieve its investment objectives. Any such event(s) could have a significant adverse impact on the value and risk profile of each Fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in closing borders, enhanced health screenings, healthcare service preparation and delivery, quarantines, cancellations, and disruptions to supply chains, workflow operations and customer activity, as well as general concern and uncertainty. The impact of this coronavirus may be short-term or may last for an extended period of time and has resulted in a substantial economic downturn. The impact of this outbreak, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could continue to negatively affect the worldwide economy, as well as the economies of individual countries, individual companies, including Fund service providers and issuers of the Fund's investments, and the market in general in significant and unforeseen ways. Any such impact could adversely affect a Fund's performance, the performance of the securities in which a Fund invests and may lead to losses on your investment in a Fund.

The United States has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic distress with fiscal and monetary stimulus packages. In late March 2020, the government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"), a stimulus package providing for over \$2.2 trillion in resources to small businesses, state and local

governments, and individuals that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, in mid-March 2020 the U.S. Federal Reserve ("Fed") cut interest rates to historically low levels and announced a new round of quantitative easing, including purchases of corporate and municipal government bonds. The Fed also enacted various programs to support liquidity operations and funding in the financial markets, including expanding its reverse repurchase agreement operations, adding \$1.5 trillion of liquidity to the banking system; establishing swap lines with other major central banks to provide dollar funding; establishing a program to support money market funds; easing various bank capital buffers; providing funding backstops for businesses to provide bridging loans for up to four years; and providing funding to help credit flow in asset-backed securities markets. The Fed also plans to extend credit to small- and medium-sized businesses.

Structured Investments. A structured investment is a security having a return tied to an underlying index or other security or asset class. Structured investments generally are individually negotiated agreements and may be traded OTC. Structured investments are organized and operated to restructure the investment characteristics of the underlying security. This restructuring involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity, such as a corporation or trust, of specified instruments (such as commercial bank loans) and the issuance by that entity or one or more classes of securities ("structured securities") backed by, or representing interests in, the underlying instruments. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly issued structured securities to create securities with different investment characteristics, such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of such payments made with respect to structured securities is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. Because structured securities typically involve no credit enhancement, their credit risk generally will be equivalent to that of the underlying instruments. Investments in structured securities are generally of a class of structured securities that is either subordinated or unsubordinated to the right of payment of another class. Subordinated structured securities typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated structured securities. Structured securities are typically sold in private placement transactions, and there currently is no active trading market for structured securities. Investments in government and government-related and restructured debt instruments are subject to special risks, including the inability or unwillingness to repay principal and interest, requests to reschedule or restructure outstanding debt and requests to extend additional loan amounts.

Certain issuers of structured investments may be deemed to be "investment companies" as defined in the 1940 Act. As a result, a Fund's investment in these structured investments may be limited by the restrictions contained in the 1940 Act. Structured investments are typically sold in private placement transactions, and there currently is no active trading market for structured investments.

<u>Negative Interest Rates</u>. Certain European countries have experienced negative interest rates on deposits and debt instruments have traded at negative yields. A negative interest rate policy is an unconventional central bank monetary policy tool where nominal target interest rates are set with a negative value (i.e., below zero percent), intended to help create self-sustaining growth in the local economy. Negative interest rates may become more prevalent among non-U.S. issuers, and potentially within the U.S. For example, if a bank charges negative interest, instead of receiving interest on deposits, a depositor must pay the bank fees to keep money with the bank.

These market conditions may increase a Fund's exposures to interest rate risk. To the extent a Fund has a bank deposit or holds a debt instrument with a negative interest rate to maturity, the Fund would generate a negative return on that investment. While negative yields can be expected to reduce demand for fixed-income investments trading at a negative interest rate, investors may be willing to continue to purchase such investments for a number of reasons including, but not limited to, price insensitivity, arbitrage opportunities across fixed-income markets or rules-based investment strategies. If negative interest rates become more prevalent in the market, it is expected that investors will seek to reallocate assets to other income-producing assets such as investment grade and high-yield debt instruments, or equity investments that pay a dividend. This increased demand for higher yielding assets may cause the price of such instruments to rise while triggering a corresponding decrease in yield and the value of debt instruments over time.

<u>Participation on Boards and Creditor Committees Risk.</u> Although neither Fund intends to invest in companies for the purpose of effecting change or influencing or controlling management as a principal investment strategy, the Adviser may from time to time engage in certain strategies when, in its view, such engagement may protect or enhance the value of the Funds' shares. The Adviser may directly participate in the governance of an issuer in which the Funds invest as a means of effecting change with respect to such issuer. In addition, the Adviser may participate in creditor committees to negotiate with or participate in the restructuring or workout of issuers of securities held by the Funds. Such strategies may cause the Funds to incur expenses, which may include, but are not limited to, attorneys' fees. There is no guarantee that the Adviser will be successful in implementing these strategies. The Adviser's evaluation of such issuers or such objectives may prove incorrect, or its efforts with respect to issuers in which the Funds invest may not be successful, or

even if successful, may have unintended effects or cause the Funds' investments to lose value. There may also be instances where the Adviser obtains material, non-public information with respect to such issuers, and the Funds will become subject to trading restrictions pursuant to the internal trading policies of such companies or as a result of applicable law, regulations, or internal compliance policies. Such restrictions may have an adverse effect on the Funds. Participation on creditor committees may also expose the Funds to potential liabilities under bankruptcy laws or other laws governing the rights of creditors and debtors. It is also possible that the Adviser may become involved in litigation, which entails expense and the possibility of claims for damages against the Funds.

<u>Material Non-Public Information</u>. The Adviser may come into possession of material non-public information with respect to an issuer, as a result of another fund's or account's investment, or otherwise. Should this occur, the Adviser would be restricted from buying or selling securities, derivatives, or loans of the issuer on behalf of the Funds until such time as the information becomes public or is no longer deemed material.

Zero-Coupon and Pay-in-Kind Securities. Each Fund may invest in zero coupon and pay-in-kind ("PIK") securities. Zero coupon securities are debt securities that pay no cash income but are sold at substantial discounts from their value at maturity. PIK securities pay all or a portion of their interest in the form of additional debt or equity securities. Because such securities do not pay current cash income, the price of these securities can be volatile when interest rates fluctuate. While these securities do not pay current cash income, federal income tax law requires the holders of zero coupon and PIK securities to include in income each year the portion of the original issue discount (or deemed discount) and other non-cash income on such securities accrued during that year.

<u>Cash Position Risk.</u> If a Fund invests a substantial portion of its assets in cash, money market instruments, or money market funds for extended periods of time, particularly during a strong market, the Fund may experience lower returns and "cash drag," i.e., the opportunity cost of not being fully invested. While government money market funds seek to transact at a \$1.00 per share stable net asset value, certain other money market funds transact at a fluctuating net asset value, and it is possible to lose money by investing in money market funds. Further, certain money market funds may impose a fee upon redemption or may temporarily suspend redemptions if the fund's liquidity falls below required minimum because of market conditions or other factors. Investments in money market funds are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency.

# Non-Principal Investment Strategies and Risks of the Funds

# Non-Principal Investment Strategies

Each Fund also may invest its assets in trade claims, municipal bonds, and auction market preferred security loans, of, in the case of the Worldwide Fund, U.S. and foreign companies, and in the case of the International Fund, primarily foreign companies. Other asset classes with different correlations to the economy or the stock market will be considered to enable each Fund further diversification and, where possible, to provide downside protection in a difficult stock market. These include distressed debt securities and real estate interests.

In addition, each Fund may invest in currencies, warrants, options or other similar rights, in asset-backed securities, collateralized debt or loan obligations or other "structured securities" in which the value is linked to the price of an underlying instrument, such as a currency, commodity or index, or purchase or sell contracts for future delivery of commodities, currencies, indices or securities. Each Fund may invest in swaps, including rate caps, floors and collars, credit default swap contracts, total return swaps and currency swaps, for hedging purposes or to gain exposure to a credit which the Funds may otherwise invest, as well as other derivative instruments, including products that have yet to be developed. Each Fund may invest in mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. Each Fund may, subject to a number of restrictions, hold securities issued by other investment funds or trusts as well as securities issued by private investment funds. Each Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. Each Fund may also invest in securities of foreign issuers directly or in the form of Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs") or European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs").

# **Non-Principal Investment Risks**

<u>Adjustable Rate and Auction Preferred Stocks</u>. Typically, the dividend rate on an adjustable rate preferred stock is determined prospectively each quarter by applying an adjustment formula established at the time of issuance of the stock. Although adjustment formulas vary among issues, they typically involve a fixed premium or discount relative to rates on specified debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury. Typically, an adjustment formula will provide for a fixed premium or discount adjustment relative to the highest base yield of three specified U.S. Treasury securities: the 90-day Treasury bill, the 10-year Treasury note and the 20-year Treasury bond. The premium or discount adjustment to be added to or

subtracted from this highest U.S. Treasury base rate yield is fixed at the time of issue and cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of the stock. The dividend rate on other preferred stocks, commonly known as auction preferred stocks, is adjusted at intervals that may be more frequent than quarterly, such as every 49 days, based on bids submitted by holders and prospective purchasers of such stocks, and may be subject to stated maximum and minimum dividend rates. The issues of most adjustable rate and auction preferred stocks currently outstanding are perpetual, but are redeemable after a specified date at the option of the issuer. Certain issues supported by the credit of a high-rated financial institution provide for mandatory redemption prior to expiration of the credit arrangement. No redemption can occur if full cumulative dividends are not paid. Although the dividend rates on adjustable and auction preferred stocks generally are adjusted or reset frequently, the market values of these preferred stocks still may fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. Market values of adjustable preferred stocks also may substantially fluctuate if interest rates increase or decrease once the maximum or minimum dividend rate for a particular stock is approached.

<u>Asset-Backed Securities</u>. Each Fund may invest in asset-backed securities that, through the use of trusts and special purpose vehicles, are securitized with various types of assets, such as automobile receivables, credit card receivables and home-equity loans in pass-through structures similar to the mortgage-related securities described above. In general, the collateral supporting asset-backed securities is of shorter maturity than the collateral supporting mortgage loans and is less likely to experience substantial prepayments. However, asset-backed securities are not backed by any governmental agency.

<u>Bank Loans</u>. Each Fund may invest in bank loans. By purchasing a loan, a Fund acquires some or all of the interest of a bank or other lending institution in a loan to a particular borrower. A Fund may act as part of a lending syndicate, and in such cases would be purchasing a "participation" in the loan. A Fund also may purchase loans by assignment from another lender. Many loans are secured by the assets of the borrower, and most impose restrictive covenants that must be met by the borrower. These loans are typically made by a syndicate of banks, represented by an agent bank which has negotiated and structured the loan and which is responsible generally for collecting interest, principal, and other amounts from the borrower on its own behalf and on behalf of the other lending institutions in the syndicate, and for enforcing its and their other rights against the borrower. Each of the lending institutions, including the agent bank, lends to the borrower a portion of the total amount of the loan, and receives the corresponding interest in the loan.

A Fund's ability to receive payments of principal and interest and other amounts in connection with loan participations held by it will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower (and, in some cases, the lending institution from which it purchases the loan). The value of collateral, if any, securing a loan can decline, or may be insufficient to meet the borrower's obligations or difficult to liquidate. In addition, a Fund's access to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or other insolvency laws. The failure by a Fund to receive scheduled interest or principal payments on a loan would adversely affect the income of the Fund and would likely reduce the value of its assets, which would be reflected in a reduction in the Fund's NAV. Banks and other lending institutions generally perform a credit analysis of the borrower before originating a loan or participating in a lending syndicate. In selecting the loans in which a Fund will invest, however, the Adviser will not rely solely on that credit analysis, but will perform its own investment analysis of the borrowers. The Adviser's analysis may include consideration of the borrower's financial strength and managerial experience, debt coverage, additional borrowing requirements or debt maturity schedules, changing financial conditions, and responsiveness to changes in business conditions and interest rates. The Adviser generally will not have access to non-public information to which other investors in syndicated loans may have access. Because loans in which a Fund may invest generally are not rated by independent credit rating agencies, a decision by the Fund to invest in a particular loan will depend almost exclusively on the Adviser's, and the original lending institution's, credit analysis of the borrower. Investments in loans may be of any quality, including "distressed" loans, and will be subject to a Fund's credit quality policy. The loans in which a Fund may invest include those that pay fixed rates of interest and those that pay floating rates (i.e., rates that adjust periodically based on a known lending rate), such as a bank's prime rate.

Investing directly in loans or other direct debt instruments exposes a Fund to various risks similar to those borne by a creditor. Such risks include the risk of default, the risk of delayed repayment, and the risk of inadequate collateral. Investments in loans are also less liquid than investment in publicly traded securities and carry less legal protection in the event of fraud or misrepresentation. Unlike debt instruments that are securities, investments in loans are not regulated by federal securities laws or the SEC. In addition, loan participations involve a risk of insolvency by the lending bank or other financial intermediary.

<u>Borrowing</u>. Borrowing creates an opportunity for increased return, but, at the same time, creates special risks. Furthermore, if a 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 Restrictions" below, a Fund may be permitted to borrow for temporary purposes and/or for investment purposes. Such a practice will result in the leveraging of a Fund's assets and may cause a 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 a Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (that is, total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed, with an exception for borrowings not in excess of 5% of the Fund's total assets made for temporary administrative purposes. Any borrowings for temporary administrative purposes in excess of 5% of a Fund's total assets will count against this asset coverage requirement. If the 300% asset coverage should decline as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, a Fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio holdings within three days (excluding Sundays and holidays) 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 a Fund's NAV 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. A 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.

From time to time, the Trust may enter into, and make borrowings for temporary purposes related to the redemption of shares under, a credit agreement with third-party lenders. Borrowings made under such a credit agreement will be allocated between the Funds pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board.

<u>Covered Option Writing</u>. Each Fund may write "covered" calls and "covered" puts on equity or debt securities and on stock indices in seeking to enhance investment return or to hedge against declines in the prices of portfolio securities or may write put options to hedge against increases in the prices of securities which it intends to purchase. A call option is covered if a Fund holds, on a share-for-share basis, either the underlying shares or a call on the same security as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written (or greater than the exercise price of the call written if the difference is maintained by a Fund in cash, treasury bills or other high grade short-term obligations in a segregated account with its custodian). A put option is "covered" if a Fund maintains cash, treasury bills or other high grade short-term obligations with a value equal to the exercise price in a segregated account with its custodian, or holds on a share-for-share basis a put on the same equity or debt security as the put written where the exercise price of the put held is equal to or greater than the exercise price of the put written, or lower than the exercise price of the put written if the difference is maintained in a segregated account with its custodian.

<u>Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs")</u>. Each Fund may invest in ETFs, which are investment companies or special purpose trusts whose primary objective is to generally achieve the same rate of return as a particular market index while trading throughout the day on an exchange ("passively managed ETFs"). Each Fund may also invest in actively managed ETFs that do not seek to replicate the performance of a specified index. The Funds will purchase and sell individual shares of ETFs in the secondary market. These secondary market transactions require the payment of commissions.

ETF shares are subject to the same risks as other investment companies, as described above. Certain risks of investing in a passively managed ETF are similar to those of investing in an indexed mutual fund, including tracking error risk (the risk of errors in matching the ETF's underlying assets to the index); and the risk that because an ETF is not actively managed, it cannot sell poorly performing stocks as long as they are represented in the index. Other ETF risks include the risk that ETFs may trade in the secondary market at a discount from their NAVs, the risk that ETFs may not be liquid and the risk that an ETF may redeem its shares in-kind at a time that the values of the underlying portfolio securities are less than the market value of the ETF. Furthermore, there may be times when the exchange halts trading, in which case a Fund owning ETF shares would be unable to sell them until trading is resumed. In addition, because ETFs often invest in a portfolio of common stocks and generally "track" a designated index, an overall decline in stocks comprising an ETF's benchmark index could have a greater impact on the ETF and investors than might be the case in an investment company with a more widely diversified portfolio. Losses could also occur if the passively managed ETF is unable to replicate the performance of the chosen benchmark index. Other risks associated with ETFs include the possibility that: (i) an ETF's distributions may decline if the issuers of the ETF's portfolio securities fail to continue to pay dividends; and (ii) under certain circumstances, an ETF could be terminated. Should termination occur, the ETF could have to liquidate its portfolio when the prices for those assets are falling. In addition, inadequate or irregularly provided information about an ETF or its investments could expose investors in ETFs to unknown risks.

<u>Exchange-Traded Notes ("ETNs")</u>. An investment in an ETN involves risks, including possible loss of principal. ETNs are unsecured debt securities issued by a bank that are linked to the total return of a market index. Risks of investing in ETNs also include limited portfolio diversification, uncertain principal payment, and illiquidity. Additionally, the investor

fee will reduce the amount of return on maturity or at redemption, and as a result the investor may receive less than the principal amount at maturity or upon redemption, even if the value of the relevant index has increased.

<u>Investment in Blank Check Companies</u>. Each Fund may invest a maximum of 10% of total assets in equity securities of so-called "blank check" companies. These are companies that raise commitments from investors that enable the company to identify and negotiate an acquisition of an operating company, obtain shareholder approval of the transaction and then close on the acquisition. There is a risk that the company will not be able to identify a suitable acquisition candidate or negotiate a transaction or obtain approval and close on the transaction, in which case, a Fund may miss other investment opportunities. If the company closes on an acquisition, it will have similar risks to other operating companies with similar characteristics operating in a similar industry or market.

<u>Investment in Other Investment Companies</u>. Each Fund may invest in unaffiliated investment funds that invest principally in securities in which that Fund is authorized to invest. Under the 1940 Act, a Fund may invest a maximum of 10% of its total assets in the securities of other investment companies. In addition, under the 1940 Act, not more than 5% of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one investment company and a Fund may not purchase more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of such investment company. New Rule 12d1-4 (the "Fund of Fund Rule"), was adopted by the SEC on October 7, 2020, that permits a fund to invest in unaffiliated investment funds in excess of these limitations, subject to certain conditions.

Investing in other investment companies involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying securities, but may involve additional expenses at the investment company level. To the extent that a Fund invests in other investment funds, the Fund's shareholders will incur certain duplicative fees and expenses, including investment advisory fees. The return on such investments will be reduced by the operating expenses, including investment advisory and administration fees, of such investment funds, and will be further reduced by fund expenses, including management fees; that is, there will be a layering of certain fees and expenses. Investments in investment companies also may involve the payment of substantial premiums above the value of such companies' portfolio securities.

Despite the possibility of greater fees and expenses, investment in other investment companies may be attractive for several reasons, especially in connection with foreign investments. Because of restrictions on direct investment by U.S. entities in certain countries, investing indirectly in such countries (by purchasing shares of another fund that is permitted to invest in such countries) may be the most practical and efficient way for a Fund to invest in such countries. In other cases, when a Fund's portfolio manager desires to make only a relatively small investment in a particular country, investing through another fund that holds a diversified portfolio in that country may be more effective than investing directly in issuers in that country. The Funds do not intend to invest in such vehicles or funds unless the Adviser determines that the potential benefits of such investment justify the payment of any applicable premiums.

<u>Investment in Relatively New Issuers</u>. Each Fund intends to invest occasionally in the common stock of selected new issuers. Investments in relatively new issuers (*i.e.*, those having continuous operating histories of less than three years) may carry special risks and may be more speculative because such companies are relatively unseasoned. Such companies also may lack sufficient resources, may be unable to generate internally the funds necessary for growth and may find external financing to be unavailable on favorable terms or even totally unavailable. Those companies will often be involved in the development or marketing of a new product with no established market, which could lead to significant losses. The securities of such issuers may have a limited trading market, which may adversely affect their disposition and can result in their being priced lower than might otherwise be the case. If other investors who invest in such issuers trade the same securities when a Fund attempts to dispose of its holdings, the Fund may receive lower prices than might otherwise be the case.

<u>Lending of Securities</u>. Each Fund may lend securities if such loans are secured continuously by liquid assets consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or other appropriate securities or by a letter of credit in favor of the Fund at least equal at all times to 100% of the market value of the securities loaned, plus any accrued interest. While such securities are on loan, the borrower has the right to vote the securities on any matter in which the securities are entitled to be voted. During the existence of the loan, a Fund will receive from the borrower amounts equivalent to any dividends, interest or other distributions on the loaned securities, as well as interest on such amounts. If a Fund receives a payment in lieu of dividends (a "substitute payment") with respect to securities on loan pursuant to a securities lending transaction, such income will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction (the "DRD") for corporate shareholders. The DRD is discussed more fully in this SAI under "Tax Status."

Loans may be terminated by the lending Fund or the borrower and shall be affected according to the standard settlement time for trades in the particular loaned securities. Borrowed securities must be returned to the lending Fund when a loan is

terminated. If a loan is collateralized by U.S. Government securities or other non-cash collateral, the lending Fund receives a fee from the borrower. If a loan is collateralized by cash, the lending Fund typically invests the cash collateral for its own account in short-term, interest-bearing securities and pays a fee to the borrower that normally represents a portion of the Fund's earnings on the collateral. Any gain or loss in the market price of the borrowed securities that occurs during the term of the loan inures to the lending Fund. A Fund may incur custodial fees and other costs in connection with loans. In addition, the Funds' lending agent receives a fixed fee from the Funds, representing a percentage of the securities loaned. Each Fund may, in the future, appoint and pay compensation to additional securities lending agents. Each Fund will loan no more than one-third of its total assets.

Securities lending involves counterparty risk, including the risk that the loaned securities may not be returned in a timely manner and/or a loss of rights in the collateral if the borrower or the lending agent defaults or fails financially. This risk is increased when a Fund's loans are concentrated with a single or limited number of borrowers. There are no limits on the number of borrowers to which a Fund may lend securities and a Fund may lend securities to only one or a small group of borrowers.

In lending their portfolio securities, the Funds consider all facts and circumstances, including the creditworthiness of the borrowing financial institution, and the Funds will not make any loans for terms in excess of one year. The Funds will recall a loaned security in order to vote the shares on a material proxy issue. Neither Fund will lend its portfolio securities to any director, trustee, officer, employee, or any other "affiliated person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust, the Adviser, State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), the Funds' administrator (the "Administrator"), or Foreside Fund Services, LLC, the Fund's distributor (the "Distributor"), unless permitted by applicable law.

<u>Mortgage-Backed Securities</u>. Each Fund may invest in mortgage-backed securities and derivative mortgage-backed securities, and also may invest in "principal only" and "interest only" components. Mortgage-backed securities are securities that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property.

As with other debt securities, mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. However, the yield and maturity characteristics of mortgage-backed securities differ from traditional debt securities. A major difference is that the principal amount of the obligations may normally be prepaid at any time because the underlying assets (i.e., loans) generally may be prepaid at any time. The relationship between prepayments and interest rates may give some mortgage-backed securities less potential for growth in value than conventional fixed-income securities with comparable maturities. In addition, in periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayments tends to increase. During such periods, the reinvestment of prepayment proceeds by each Fund generally will be at lower rates than the rates that were carried by the obligations that have been prepaid. If interest rates rise, borrowers may prepay mortgages more slowly than originally expected. This may further reduce the market value of mortgage-backed securities and lengthen their durations. Because of these and other reasons, a mortgage-backed security's total return, maturity and duration may be difficult to predict precisely. Mortgage-backed securities come in different classes that have different risks. Junior classes of mortgagebacked securities protect the senior class investors against losses on the underlying mortgage loans by taking the first loss if there are liquidations among the underlying loans. Junior classes generally receive principal and interest payments only after all required payments have been made to more senior classes. If a Fund invests in junior classes of mortgage-related securities, it may not be able to recover all of its investment in the securities it purchases. In addition, if the underlying mortgage portfolio has been overvalued, or if mortgage values subsequently decline, a Fund may suffer significant losses.

Investments in mortgage-backed securities involve the risks of interruptions in the payment of interest and principal (delinquency) and the potential for loss of principal if the property underlying the security is sold as a result of foreclosure on the mortgage (default). These risks include the risks associated with direct ownership of real estate, such as the effects of general and local economic conditions on real estate values, the conditions of specific industry segments, the ability of tenants to make lease payments and the ability of a property to attract and retain tenants, which in turn may be affected by local market conditions such as oversupply of space or a reduction of available space, the ability of the owner to provide adequate maintenance and insurance, energy costs, government regulations with respect to environmental, zoning, rent control and other matters, and real estate and other taxes. If the underlying borrowers cannot pay their mortgage loans, they may default and the lenders may foreclose on the property. Finally, the ability of borrowers to repay mortgage loans underlying mortgage-backed securities will typically depend upon the future availability of financing and the stability of real estate values.

For mortgage loans not guaranteed by a government agency or other party, the only remedy of the lender in the event of a default is to foreclose upon the property. If borrowers are not able or willing to pay the principal balance on the loans, there is a good chance that payments on the related mortgage-related securities will not be made. Certain borrowers on

underlying mortgages may become subject to bankruptcy proceedings, in which case the value of the mortgage-backed securities may decline.

<u>Municipal Bonds</u>. Municipal bonds are debt obligations issued by the states, possessions, or territories of the United States (including the District of Columbia) or a political subdivision, public instrumentality, agency or other governmental unit of such states, possessions, or territories (*e.g.*, counties, cities, towns, villages, districts and authorities). For example, states, possessions, territories and municipalities may issue municipal bonds to raise funds for various public purposes such as airports, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, water and sewer works. They also may issue municipal bonds to refund outstanding obligations and to meet general operating expenses.

Municipal bonds may be general obligation bonds or revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from revenues derived from particular facilities, from the proceeds of a special excise tax or from other specific revenue sources. They are not usually payable from the general taxing power of a municipality.

In addition, certain types of "private activity" bonds may be issued by public authorities to obtain funding for privately operated facilities, such as housing and pollution control facilities, for industrial facilities and for water supply, gas, electricity and waste disposal facilities. Other types of private activity bonds are used to finance the construction, repair or improvement of, or to obtain equipment for, privately operated industrial or commercial facilities. Current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of certain of such issues. In certain cases, the interest on a private activity bond may not be exempt from federal income tax or the alternative minimum tax.

<u>Options Transactions</u>. The Adviser believes that certain transactions in options on securities and on stock indices may be useful in limiting each Fund's investment risk and augmenting its investment return. The Adviser expects, however, the amount of each Fund's assets that will be involved in options transactions to be small relative to the Fund's assets. Accordingly, it is expected that only a relatively small portion of each Fund's investment return will be attributable to transactions in options on securities and on stock indices. Each Fund may invest in put and call options transactions involving options on securities and on stock indices that are traded on U.S. and foreign exchanges or in the OTC markets.

Securities and options exchanges have established limitations on the maximum number of options that an investor or group of investors acting in concert may write. It is possible that the Funds, other investment vehicles advised by the Adviser and other clients of the Adviser may be considered such a group. Position limits may restrict a Fund's ability to purchase or sell options on particular securities and on stock indices.

Index prices may be distorted if trading in certain stocks included in the index is interrupted. Trading in the index options also may be interrupted in certain circumstances, such as if trading were halted in a substantial number of stocks included in the index. If this occurred, a Fund would not be able to close out options which it had purchased or written and, if restrictions on exercise were imposed, might be unable to exercise an option it held, which could result in substantial losses to a Fund.

<u>Options on Futures</u>. Each Fund may use options on futures contracts. Each Fund may also purchase and write call and put futures options. Futures options possess many of the same characteristics as options on securities and indexes (See "Futures"). A futures option gives the holder the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a long position (call) or short position (put) in a futures contract at a specified exercise price upon expiration of, or at any time during the period of, the option. Upon exercise of a call option, the holder acquires a long position in the futures contract and the writer is assigned the opposite short position. In the case of a put option, the opposite is true.

Each Fund is required to deposit and to maintain a margin with respect to put and call options on futures contracts written by it. Such margin deposits will vary depending on the nature of the underlying futures contract (and the related initial margin requirements), the current market value of the option and other futures positions held by the Fund.

<u>Options on Stock Indices</u>. Each Fund will write call options on broadly based stock market indices only if at the time of writing it holds a portfolio of stocks. When a Fund writes a call option on a broadly based stock market index, it will segregate or put into escrow with its custodian any combination of cash, cash equivalents or "qualified securities" with a market value at the time the option is written of not less than 100% of the current index value times the multiplier times the number of contracts. A "qualified security" is an equity security that is listed on a securities exchange or on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations ("NASDAQ") against which a Fund has not written a call option and which has not been hedged by the sale of stock index futures.

<u>Limitations on Use of Futures Options</u>. When purchasing an option for a futures contract, the purchaser or seller of an option for a futures contract is not required to deliver or pay for the underlying instrument unless the contract is held until the delivery date. However, both the purchaser and seller are required to deposit "initial margin" with an FCM, when the contract is entered into. If the value of either party's position declines, that party will be required to make additional "variation margin" payments to settle the change in value on a daily basis.

This process of "marking to market" will be reflected in the calculation of open positions computed in a Fund's NAV per share. The party that has a gain is entitled to receive all or a portion of this amount. Initial and variation margin payments do not constitute purchasing securities on margin for purposes of a Fund's investment restrictions. In the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of an FCM that holds margin on behalf of a Fund, the Fund may be entitled to return of margin owed to it only in proportion to the amount received by the FCM's other customers, potentially resulting in losses to the Fund. Each Fund will be required to comply with asset coverage requirements pursuant to SEC guidelines. See "Asset Segregation."

The requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company under the Code, also may limit the extent to which a Fund may enter into futures options.

<u>Risks Associated with Futures Options</u>. There are several risks associated with the use of futures options. There can be no guarantee that there will be a correlation between price movements in the futures options and in the securities or index positions covering them. In addition, there are significant differences between the securities and indexes and futures markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between the markets. The degree of imperfection of correlation depends on circumstances such as variations in speculative market demand for futures options on securities or indexes, including technical influences in futures options, and differences between the financial instruments held by a Fund and the instruments underlying the standard contracts available for trading in such respects as interest rate levels, maturities and creditworthiness of issuers. A decision as to whether, when and how to employ futures options involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even well-conceived uses may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected interest rate trends.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist at a time when a Fund seeks to close out a futures option position, and the Fund would remain obligated to meet margin requirements until the position is closed. In addition, many of the futures contracts previously discussed are relatively new instruments without a significant trading history. As a result, there can be no assurance that an active secondary market will develop or continue to exist.

OTC Options and Futures Transactions. Each Fund may invest in options, futures, swaps and related products. Each Fund may enter into interest rate, currency and index swaps and the purchase or sale of related caps, floors and collars. Each Fund may enter into these transactions to preserve a return or spread on a particular investment or portion of its portfolio, to protect against currency fluctuations or to protect against any increase in the price of securities it anticipates purchasing at a later date. Swaps may be used in conjunction with other instruments to offset interest rate, currency or other underlying risks. For example, interest rate swaps may be offset with "caps," "floors" or "collars." A "cap" is essentially a call option, which places a limit on the amount of floating rate interest that must be paid on a certain principal amount. A "floor" is essentially a put option, which places a limit on the minimum amount that would be paid on a certain principal amount. A "collar" is essentially a combination of a long cap and a short floor where the limits are set at different levels.

A Fund usually will enter into swaps on a net basis; that is, the two payment streams will be netted out in a cash settlement on the payment date or dates specified in the instrument, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. To the extent obligations created thereby may be deemed to constitute senior securities, the Fund will maintain required collateral in a segregated account consisting of U.S. Government securities or cash or cash equivalents.

If a Fund were assigned an exercise notice on a call it has written, it would be required to liquidate portfolio securities in order to satisfy the exercise, unless it has other liquid assets that are sufficient to satisfy the exercise of the call. When a Fund has written a call, there is also a risk that the market may decline between the time the Fund has a call exercised against it, at a price that is fixed as of the closing level of the index on the date of exercise, and the time it is able to sell securities in its portfolio. As with stock options, a Fund will not learn that an index option has been exercised until the day following the exercise date but, unlike a call on stock where it would be able to deliver the underlying securities in settlement, a Fund may have to sell part of its securities portfolio in order to make settlement in cash, and the price of such securities might decline before they can be sold. For example, even if an index call which a Fund has written is "covered" by an index call held by the Fund with the same strike price, it will bear the risk that the level of the index may decline

between the close of trading on the date the exercise notice is filed with the Options Clearing Corporation and the close of trading on the date the Fund exercises the call it holds or the time it sells the call, which in either case would occur no earlier than the day following the day the exercise notice was filed.

OTC transactions differ from exchange-traded transactions in several respects. OTC transactions are transacted directly with dealers and not with a clearing corporation. Without the availability of a clearing corporation, OTC transaction pricing is normally done by reference to information from market makers, which information is carefully monitored by the Adviser and verified in appropriate cases.

As OTC transactions are transacted directly with dealers, there is a risk of nonperformance by the dealer as a result of the insolvency of such dealer or otherwise. An OTC transaction may only be terminated voluntarily by entering into a closing transaction with the dealer with whom a Fund originally dealt. Any such cancellation may require a Fund to pay a premium to that dealer. In those cases in which a Fund has entered into a covered transaction and cannot voluntarily terminate the transaction, the Fund will not be able to sell the underlying security until the transaction expires or is exercised or different cover is substituted. The Funds intend to enter into OTC transactions only with dealers that agree to, and that are expected to be capable of, entering into closing transactions with the Funds. There is also no assurance that a Fund will be able to liquidate an OTC transaction at any time prior to expiration.

The Funds' administrator is entitled to rely upon prices received from a reputable pricing service. In addition, and with respect to securities valued by the Adviser, the administrator is entitled to rely without inquiry upon the valuations submitted to it by the Adviser and has no responsibility to determine the accuracy or otherwise thereof.

Private Investment Funds. Each Fund may invest in private investment funds ("Hedge Funds") managed by various investment managers ("Managers") that use a variety of investment strategies, including investment in other Hedge Funds. By investing in Hedge Funds indirectly through the Fund, an investor indirectly bears a portion of the asset-based fees, incentive-based allocations and other expenses borne by a Fund as an investor in Hedge Funds, in addition to the operating expenses of a Fund. The incentive-based allocations assessed by Managers and borne directly by a Fund may create an incentive for Managers to make investments that are riskier or more speculative than those that might have been made in the absence of incentive-based allocations. Because the Managers value the Hedge Funds they manage, which directly affects the amount of incentive-based allocations they receive, Managers face a conflict of interest in performing such valuations. Various risks are associated with the securities and other instruments in which Hedge Funds may invest, their investment strategies and the specialized investment techniques they may use. Hedge Funds are not registered as investment companies under the 1940 Act. Therefore, a Fund, as an investor in Hedge Funds, will not have the benefit of the protections afforded by the 1940 Act to investors in registered investment companies, such as mutual funds. To the extent a Fund invests in a Hedge Fund that allows its investors to effect withdrawals only at certain specified times, a Fund may not be able to withdraw its investment in such Hedge Fund promptly after it has made a decision to do so, which may result in a loss and adversely affect a Fund's investment return. To the extent a Fund invests in a Hedge Fund that is permitted to distribute securities in kind to investors making withdrawals, upon a Fund's withdrawal of all or a portion of its interest in such Hedge Fund a Fund may receive securities that are illiquid or difficult to value.

<u>Repurchase Agreements</u>. Each Fund may invest a maximum of 10% of its total assets in 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 a Fund the opportunity to earn a return on temporarily available cash at relatively low market risk. The manager monitors 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. Each Fund requires 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, a Fund would attempt to exercise rights with respect to the underlying security, including possible disposition in the market. However, a 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. Each Fund may enter into "reverse" repurchase agreements to avoid selling securities during unfavorable market conditions to meet redemptions. Each Fund may invest a maximum of 10% of its total assets in reverse repurchase agreements. Pursuant to a reverse repurchase agreement, a Fund will sell portfolio securities and agree to repurchase them from the buyer at a particular date and price. Whenever a Fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, it will establish a segregated account in which it will maintain liquid assets in an amount at least equal to the repurchase price marked to market daily (including accrued interest) and will subsequently monitor the account to ensure that such equivalent value is maintained. A Fund pays interest on amounts obtained pursuant to reverse repurchase agreements. Reverse repurchase agreements are considered to be borrowings by a Fund.

<u>Stock Connect Risk.</u> A Fund investing in China A-shares (equity securities of companies listed in China) that are accessible through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect program or the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program (together, "Stock Connect") is subject to trading, clearance, settlement, and other procedures, which could pose risks to the Fund. Trading through the Stock Connect program is subject to daily quotas that limit the maximum daily net purchases on any particular day, each of which may restrict or preclude a Fund's ability to invest in China A-shares through the Stock Connect program. Trading through Stock Connect may require pre-validation of cash or securities prior to acceptance of orders. This requirement may limit a Fund's ability to dispose of its A-shares purchased through Stock Connect in a timely manner.

A primary feature of the Stock Connect program is the application of the home market's laws and rules applicable to investors in China A-shares. Therefore, a Fund's investments in Stock Connect China A-shares are generally subject to the securities regulations and listing rules of the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), among other restrictions. Stock Connect can only operate when both PRC and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banking services are available in both markets on the corresponding settlement days. As such, the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets may be open at a time when Stock Connect is not trading, with the result that prices of China A-shares may fluctuate at times when a Fund is unable to add to or exit its position, which could adversely affect the Fund's performance.

Changes in the operation of the Stock Connect program may restrict or otherwise affect a Fund's investments or returns. Furthermore, any changes in laws, regulations and policies of the China A-shares market or rules in relation to Stock Connect may affect China A-share prices. These risks are heightened generally by the developing state of the PRC's investment and banking systems and the uncertainty about the precise nature of the rights of equity owners and their ability to enforce such rights under Chinese law. An investment in China A-Shares is also generally subject to the risks identified under "Foreign Securities," and foreign investment risks such as price controls, expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, and nationalization may be heightened when investing in China.

# Swap Agreements.

General. Each Fund may engage in total return, credit default and currency swaps. Each Fund's use of swap agreements entails certain risks, which may be different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the securities and other investments that are the referenced asset for the swap agreement. Swaps are highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques, risk analyses, and tax planning different from those associated with stocks, bonds, and other traditional investments. The use of a swap requires an understanding not only of the referenced asset, reference rate, or index, but also of the swap itself, without the benefit of observing the performance of the swap under all the possible market conditions. Because some swap agreements have a leverage component, adverse changes in the value or level of the underlying asset, reference rate, or index can result in a loss substantially greater than the amount invested in the swap itself. Certain swaps have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the initial investment.

The greatest risks associated with swaps include: credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

Total Return Swaps. Each Fund may enter into total return swap contracts for investment purposes. Total return swaps are contracts in which one party agrees to make periodic payments based on the change in market value of the underlying assets, which may include a specified security, basket of securities or security indexes during the specified period, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate of the total return from other underlying assets. Total return swap agreements may be used to obtain exposure to a security or market without owning or taking physical custody of such security or market, including in cases in which there may be disadvantages associated with direct ownership of a particular security. In a typical total return equity swap, payments made by a Fund or the counterparty are based on the total return of a particular reference asset or assets (such as an equity security, a combination of such securities, or an index). That is, one party agrees to pay another party the return on a stock, basket of stocks, or stock

index in return for a specified interest rate. By entering into an equity index swap, for example, the index receiver can gain exposure to stocks making up the index of securities without actually purchasing those stocks. Total return swaps involve not only the risk associated with the investment in the underlying securities, but also the risk of the counterparty not fulfilling its obligations under the agreement.

Credit Default Swaps. Each Fund may enter into credit default swap agreements for investment purposes. A credit default swap agreement may have as reference obligations one or more securities that are not currently held by the Funds. A Fund may be either the buyer or seller in the transaction. Credit default swaps also may be structured based on the debt of a basket of issuers, rather than a single issuer, and may be customized with respect to the default event that triggers purchase or other factors. As a seller, a Fund generally receives an up-front payment or a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the swap, which typically is between six months and three years, provided that there is no credit event. If a credit event occurs, generally the seller must pay the buyer the full face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference obligations that may have little or no value. If a Fund is a buyer and no credit event occurs, the Fund recovers nothing if the swap is held through its termination date. However, if a credit event occurs, the buyer may elect to receive the full notional value of the swap in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable obligations of the reference obligation that may have little or no value.

A Fund also may purchase credit default swap contracts in order to hedge against the risk of default of the debt of a particular issuer or basket of issuers, in which case the Fund would function as the counterparty referenced in the preceding paragraphs. This would involve the risk that the investment may expire worthless and would only generate income in the event of an actual default by the issuer(s) of the underlying obligation(s) (or, as applicable, a credit downgrade or other indication of financial instability). It also would involve the risk that the seller may fail to satisfy its payment obligations to a Fund in the event of a default. The purchase of credit default swaps involves costs, which will reduce a Fund's return.

Currency Swaps. Each Fund may enter into currency swap agreements for investment purposes. Currency swaps are similar to interest rate swaps, except that they involve multiple currencies. A Fund may enter into a currency swap when it has exposure to one currency and desires exposure to a different currency. Typically the interest rates that determine the currency swap payments are fixed, although occasionally one or both parties may pay a floating rate of interest. Unlike an interest rate swap, however, the principal amounts are exchanged at the beginning of the contract and returned at the end of the contract. In addition to paying and receiving amounts at the beginning and termination of the agreements, both sides will also have to pay in full periodically based upon the currency they have borrowed. Change in foreign exchange rates and changes in interest rates, as described above, may negatively affect currency swaps.

Interest Rate Swaps. Each Fund may enter into interest rate swap agreements for investment purposes. An interest rate swap is an agreement between two parties where one stream of future interest payments is exchanged for another based on a specified principal amount. Interest rate swaps often exchange a fixed payment for a floating payment that is linked to an interest rate. Interest rate swaps are generally used to limit or manage exposure to fluctuations in interest rates, or to obtain a marginally lower interest rate than it would have been able to get without the swap. The purchase of interest rate swaps involves risks including interest rate risk if interest rate movements do not match expectations and credit risk if the other party in the transaction defaults on its responsibilities.

<u>Trade Claims</u>. Each Fund may invest a maximum of 10% of total assets in trade claims. Trade claims are interests in amounts owed to suppliers of goods or services and are purchased from creditors of companies in financial difficulty and often involved in bankruptcy proceedings. For purchasers such as the Funds, trade claims offer the potential for profits since they are often purchased at a significant discount from face value and, consequently, may generate capital appreciation in the event that the market value of the claim increases as the debtor's financial position improves or the claim is paid.

An investment in trade claims is very speculative and carries a high degree of risk. Trade claims are illiquid instruments, which generally do not pay interest, and there can be no guarantee that the debtor will ever be able to satisfy the obligation on the trade claim. The markets in trade claims are not regulated by federal securities laws or the SEC. Because trade claims are unsecured, holders of trade claims may have a lower priority in terms of payment than certain other creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding.

<u>Treasury Obligations</u>. Treasury obligations may differ from other issuances in their interest rates, maturities, times of issuance and other characteristics. Similar to other issuers, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of a government may cause the value of a Fund's Treasury obligations to decline. A downgrade of the ratings of U.S. Government debt obligations, which are often used as a benchmark for other borrowing arrangements, could result in

higher interest rates for individual and corporate borrowers, cause disruptions in the international bond markets and generally have a substantial negative effect on the U.S. economy. In 2011, S&P downgraded U.S. Treasury securities from AAA rating to AA+. A downgrade of Treasury securities from another ratings agency or a further downgrade below a AA+ rating by S&P may cause the value of a Fund's Treasury obligations to decline.

<u>Warrants</u>. Each Fund may invest in warrants, which are instruments that give a Fund the right to purchase certain securities from an issuer at a specific price (the "strike price") for a limited period of time. The strike price of warrants typically is much lower than the current market price of the underlying securities, yet they are subject to similar price fluctuations. As a result, warrants may be more volatile investments than the underlying securities and may offer greater potential for capital appreciation as well as capital loss. Warrants do not entitle a holder to dividends or voting rights with respect to the underlying securities and do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuing company. Also, the value of the warrant does not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities and a warrant ceases to have value if it is not exercised prior to the expiration date. These factors can make warrants more speculative than other types of investments.

In addition to warrants on securities, each Fund may purchase put warrants and call warrants whose values vary depending on the change in the value of one or more specified securities indices ("index warrants"). Index warrants are generally issued by banks or other financial institutions and give the holder the right, at any time during the term of the warrant, to receive upon exercise of the warrant a cash payment from the issuer based on the value of the underlying index at the time of exercise. In general, if the value of the underlying index rises above the exercise price of the index warrant, the holder of a call warrant will be entitled to receive a cash payment from the issuer upon exercise based on the difference between the value of the index and the exercise price of the warrant; if the value of the underlying index falls, the holder of a put warrant will be entitled to receive a cash payment from the issuer upon exercise based on the difference between the exercise price of the warrant and the value of the index. The holder of a warrant would not be entitled to any payments from the issuer at any time when, in the case of a call warrant, the exercise price is greater than the value of the underlying index, or, in the case of a put warrant, the exercise price is less than the value of the underlying index. If a Fund were not to exercise an index warrant prior to its expiration, then the Fund would lose the amount of the purchase price paid by it for the warrant.

Each Fund normally will use index warrants in a manner similar to its use of options on securities indices. The risks of a Fund's use of index warrants are generally similar to those relating to its use of index options. Unlike most index options, however, index warrants are issued in limited amounts and are not obligations of a regulated clearing agency, but are backed only by the credit of the bank or other institution which issues the warrant. Also, index warrants generally have longer terms than index options. Index warrants are not likely to be as liquid as certain index options backed by a recognized clearing agency. In addition, the terms of index warrants may limit a Fund's ability to exercise the warrants at such time, or in such quantities, as the Fund would otherwise wish to do.

When-Issued or Delayed-Delivery Securities. Each Fund may purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. For example, delivery of and payment for these securities can take place a month or more after the date of the purchase commitment. The purchase price and the interest rate payable, if any, on the securities are fixed on the purchase commitment date or at the time the settlement date is fixed. The value of such securities is subject to market fluctuations and, in the case of fixed income securities, no interest accrues to a Fund until settlement takes place. When purchasing a security on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, a Fund assumes the rights and risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield fluctuations. Accordingly, at the time a Fund makes the commitment to purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, it will record the transaction, reflect the value of such securities in determining its NAV and, if applicable, calculate the maturity for the purposes of average maturity from that date. At the time of its acquisition, a when-issued security may be valued at less than the purchase price. A Fund will make commitments for such when-issued transactions only when it has the intention of actually acquiring the securities. To facilitate such acquisitions, each Fund will maintain with State Street, the Funds' custodian (the "Custodian") a segregated account with liquid assets, consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or other appropriate securities, in an amount at least equal to such commitments. On delivery dates for such transactions, each Fund will meet its obligations from maturities or sales of the securities held in the segregated account and/or from cash flow. If, however, a Fund chooses to dispose of the right to acquire a when-issued security prior to its acquisition, it could, as with the disposition of any other portfolio obligation, incur a taxable capital gain or loss due to market fluctuation. Also, a Fund may be disadvantaged if the other party to the transaction defaults. It is the current policy of each Fund not to enter into when-issued commitments exceeding in the aggregate 25% of the market value of the Fund's total assets, less liabilities other than the obligations created by when-issued commitments.

<u>Consumer Discretionary Sector Risk</u>. The success of consumer product manufacturers and retailers is tied closely to the performance of domestic and international economies, interest rates, exchange rates, competition, consumer confidence, changes in demographics and consumer preferences. Companies in the consumer discretionary sector depend heavily on disposable household income and consumer spending, and may be strongly affected by social trends and marketing campaigns. These companies may be subject to severe competition, which may have an adverse impact on their profitability.

<u>Technology Sector Risk.</u> Technology companies face intense competition, both domestically and internationally, which may have an adverse effect on profit margins. Technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of technology companies may face obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introductions, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. Companies in the technology sector are heavily dependent on patent and intellectual property rights. The loss or impairment of these rights may adversely affect the profitability of these companies.

# **Investment Restrictions**

# Fundamental Investment Restrictions of the Worldwide Fund and International Fund

The investment restrictions set forth below are fundamental policies of the Funds and may not be changed with respect to a Fund without shareholder approval by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of that Fund. Under these restrictions, each Fund:

- (1) may not issue senior securities, except as permitted borrowings or as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act<sup>1</sup>;
- (2) may not borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (see "Borrowing" above);
- (3) may not underwrite securities issued by other persons except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio investments, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under federal securities laws;
- (4) may not concentrate 25% or more of the value of its total assets in any one industry or group of industries<sup>2</sup>;
- (5) with respect to 75% of its total assets (exclusive of cash, cash items, and government securities), may not invest in securities of any issuer if, immediately after such investment, more than 5% of the total assets of the Fund (taken at current value) would be invested in the securities of such issuer;
- (6) with respect to 75% of its total assets, may not acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any issuer;
- (7) may not purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, including securities of real estate investment trusts, and may purchase securities which are secured by interests in real estate;
- (8) may not make loans, except by purchase of debt obligations in which the Fund may invest consistent with its investment policies, by entering into repurchase agreements, or by lending its portfolio securities. A Fund may loan no more than one-third of its total assets; and
- (9) may not purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options, may enter into foreign exchange contracts, and may enter into swap agreements and other financial transactions not requiring the delivery of physical commodities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Fund may purchase or sell up to 25% of its total assets in precious metals directly, and purchase or sell precious metal commodity contracts or options on such contracts in compliance with applicable commodities laws.

In determining whether a transaction is permitted under the 1940 Act, restriction (1) above will not be construed to prohibit any transaction that is permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time.

For purposes of Investment Restriction (9), the commodities in which the Funds will invest directly have robust, deep and liquid markets. The Funds' investments in precious metals can be readily liquidated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Section 18(f)(1) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits registered open-end investment companies from issuing senior securities other than with respect to bank borrowings. Section 18(g) defines "senior security," in pertinent part, as "any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness, and any stock of a class having priority over any other class as to distribution of assets or payment of dividends."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Funds use the term "industry" as a classification that refers to a group of companies related in terms of their primary business activities.

In addition, under normal circumstances, each Fund will invest in at least three foreign countries.

Notwithstanding the foregoing investment restrictions, each Fund may purchase securities pursuant to the exercise of subscription rights. Japanese and European corporations frequently issue additional capital stock by means of subscription rights offerings to existing shareholders at a price substantially below the market price of the shares. The failure to exercise such rights would result in a Fund's interest in the issuing company being diluted. The market for such rights is not well developed in all cases and, accordingly, a Fund may not always realize full value on the sale of rights. The exception applies in cases where the limits set forth in the investment restrictions would otherwise be exceeded by exercising rights or would have already been exceeded as a result of fluctuations in the market value of a Fund's portfolio securities with the result that a Fund would be forced either to sell securities at a time when it might not otherwise have done so, or to forego exercising the rights.

# Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions of the Worldwide Fund and International Fund

Notwithstanding the foregoing investment restrictions, as a non-fundamental restriction, neither Fund may purchase additional securities while it has outstanding borrowings exceeding 5% of its total assets.

Notwithstanding the foregoing investment restrictions, as a non-fundamental restriction, each Fund may pledge, mortgage, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber any of its assets to secure borrowings; provided that such amount shall not exceed one-third of its total assets. This restriction shall not prohibit the Funds from engaging in options, futures, and foreign currency transactions.

### Portfolio Turnover

Purchases and sales of portfolio investments may be made as considered advisable by the Adviser in the best interests of the shareholders. Each Fund's portfolio turnover rate may vary from year to year, as well as within a year. A 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 a Fund. See "Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage" in this SAI.

For reporting purposes, a 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.

Set forth below are the Funds' portfolio turnover rates for the two most recently completed fiscal years.

<u>Fund</u>	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2019
Worldwide Fund	48.8%	39.9%
International Fund	27.7%	25.3%

### DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Board has adopted, on behalf of the Funds, policies and procedures relating to disclosure of each Fund's portfolio securities. These policies and procedures are designed to protect the confidentiality of each Fund's 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 addition, the Funds have policies in place to regulate the Board's oversight of the disclosure of portfolio holdings.

Each Fund may disclose portfolio holdings information as required by applicable law or as requested by governmental authorities. Portfolio holdings of each Fund also will be disclosed on a quarterly basis on forms required to be filed with the SEC as follows: portfolio holdings as of the end of each Fund's second and fourth fiscal quarters will be filed as part of the annual or semi-annual report filed on Form N-CSR, and portfolio holdings as of the end of each month will be filed quarterly on Form N-PORT. The Trust's Form N-CSRs and Form N-PORTs will be available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.ivafunds.com/us-investors/mutual-funds.approximately">www.sec.gov</a> and the Trust's website at <a href="https://www.ivafunds.com/us-investors/mutual-funds.approximately">https://www.ivafunds.com/us-investors/mutual-funds.approximately</a> 60 days after

the end of each respective quarter. The Trust also discloses to the general public top positional holdings and portfoliorelated statistical information on the Trust's website at http://www.ivafunds.com/us-investors/mutual-funds no earlier than 15 days after the end of each calendar month. Once a portfolio holding has been publicly disclosed in a regulatory filing or on the Trust's website, it is no longer considered confidential.

Disclosure of a Fund's portfolio holdings information that is not publicly available ("Confidential Portfolio Information") is periodically made to the Adviser and to the Custodian and sub-custodians, transfer agent (DST Asset Manager Solutions, Inc. is the transfer agent for the Funds (the "Transfer Agent")), administrator, financial printers, pricing services, proxy voting services, the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm, and counsel that require access to such information in order to fulfill their contractual duties with respect to the Funds ("Financial Service Providers") and to facilitate the review of a 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 a Fund believes is reasonably necessary in connection with the services to be provided. Except to the extent permitted under the Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures, Confidential Portfolio Information may not be disseminated for compensation or other consideration. Financial Service Providers and Rating Agencies must sign a non-disclosure agreement unless otherwise approved by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust (the "CCO"), are required to keep such information confidential, and are prohibited from trading based on the information or otherwise using the information except as necessary in providing services to the Funds.

Before any disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Information to Financial Service Providers or Rating Agencies is permitted, the CCO (or an officer designated by the CCO) must determine that, under the circumstances, the disclosure is being made for a legitimate business purpose and is in the best interest of shareholders. Furthermore, the recipient of Confidential Portfolio Information by a Financial Service Provider or Rating Agency must be subject to a written confidentiality agreement that prohibits any trading upon the Confidential Portfolio Information or the recipient must be 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 CCO will attempt to uncover any apparent conflict between the interests of Fund shareholders and the Adviser, underwriter and their affiliates. Any conflict of interest that may arise as a result of a request for Confidential Portfolio Information will be resolved by the CCO in the best interests of Fund shareholders.

Exceptions to these procedures may only be made if the CCO (or an officer designated by the CCO) determines that the disclosure is being made for a legitimate business purpose, and must be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis.

The Adviser has primary responsibility for ensuring that a Fund's portfolio holdings information is disclosed only in accordance with these policies. 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.

Separate account clients of the Adviser have access to their portfolio holdings and are not subject to the Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure policies. Some of the separate accounts managed by the Adviser may have investment objectives and strategies that are substantially similar or identical to the Funds', and therefore potentially substantially similar, and in certain cases nearly identical, portfolio holdings, as the Funds.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS

# **Board of Trustees**

The business and affairs of each Fund are managed under the direction of the Board. The Board meets at least quarterly to review the investment performance of each Fund and other matters, including policies and procedures with respect to compliance with regulatory and other requirements. The Board held five meetings during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

Currently, none of the Trust's Board members are "interested persons" of the Adviser, including its affiliates, or the Trust (the "Independent Trustees"). The Independent Trustees interact directly with the senior management of the Adviser at scheduled meetings and at special meetings, as appropriate. The Independent Trustees regularly discuss matters outside of the presence of management and are advised by their own experienced independent legal counsel. The Board's independent legal counsel participates in Board meetings and interacts with the Adviser. Each Independent Trustee also is a member of the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee and from time to time one or more Independent Trustees may be designated, formally or informally, to take the lead in addressing with management or the

Board's independent legal counsel matters or issues of concern to the Board. The Board and its committees have the ability to engage other experts as appropriate.

The Board has appointed Adele R. Wailand, an Independent Trustee, to act as Chair of the Board. The Chair's primary responsibilities are: (i) to preside at all meetings of the Board; (ii) to act as the Board's liaison with management between meetings of the Board; and (iii) to act as the primary contact for Board communications. The Chair may perform such other functions as may be requested by the Board from time to time. Except for any duties specified herein or pursuant to the Trust's Declaration of Trust or Amended and Restated By-laws, the designation as Chair does not impose on such Independent Trustee any duties, obligations or liability that is greater than the duties, obligations or liability imposed on such person as a member of the Board, generally.

The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the services that the Adviser and the Adviser's affiliates provide to the Trust and potential conflicts of interest that could arise from these relationships. The Board evaluates its performance on an annual basis.

Board's Oversight Role in Risk Management. The Board's role in the risk management of the Trust is oversight. As is the case with virtually all investment companies (as distinguished from operating companies), service providers to the Trust have responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Funds, which includes responsibility for risk management (including management of investment performance and investment risk, valuation risk, issuer and counterparty credit risk, compliance risk and operational risk). As part of its oversight, the Board, acting at its scheduled meetings, or the Chair, acting between Board meetings, regularly interacts with and receives reports from senior personnel of the Adviser and other service providers, the Trust's and the Adviser's CCO and portfolio management personnel. In discharging its oversight responsibilities, the Board considers risk management with the assistance of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee periodically reviews with the Funds' independent auditors matters relating to the Funds' financial reporting, and presents reports to the Board, which may prompt further discussion of issues concerning the oversight of the Funds' risk management. The Board also receives periodic presentations from senior personnel of the Adviser regarding risk management generally, as well as periodic presentations regarding specific operational, compliance or investment areas. The Board also receives reports from counsel to the Trust or counsel to the Adviser and the Board's own independent legal counsel regarding regulatory compliance and governance matters. The Board has adopted policies and procedures designed to address certain risks to the Funds. In addition, the Adviser and other service providers to the Funds have adopted a variety of policies, procedures and controls designed to address particular risks to the Funds. Different processes, procedures and controls are employed with respect to different types of risks. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks applicable to the Funds. The Board's oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Funds' investments or activities.

**Information About Each Board Member's Experience, Qualifications, Attributes or Skills**. Board members of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships, are shown below. Unless otherwise noted, each Trustee has held each principal occupation and board membership indicated for at least the past five years. Each Trustee's mailing address is c/o International Value Advisers, LLC, 717 Fifth Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10022.

## **Independent Trustees** (1)

Other Directorships /

Name (Birth Year)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office <sup>(2)</sup> and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in the Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Trusteeships Held by Trustee During the Past 5 Years
Adele R. Wailand (1949)	Trustee and Chair of the Board	since 2008	Consultant (2011 to present). Corporate Secretary (prior to 2017) and previously Vice President and General Counsel, Case Pomeroy & Company, Inc. (real estate and investments).	·	None.
Manu Bammi (1962)	Trustee	since 2008	Senior Advisor (2021 to present), and previously Founder and Chief Executive Officer, SmartAnalyst, Inc. (provider of research and	2	None.

			analytics and decision support to businesses).		
Ronald S. Gutstein (1971)	Trustee	since 2008	Institutional Trader and Market Maker, Access Securities (an institutional broker-dealer).	2	None.
William M. Rose (1945)	Trustee	since 2013	Member, Investment Advisory Committee, CYMI, Inc. (family office) (prior to 2015).	2	Director, International Ocean Institute-Canada (2013-2020) (a Canadian non- governmental organization based in Halifax, NS).

<sup>(1)</sup> Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust as defined in the 1940 Act.

The Board believes that the significance of each Trustee's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills is an individual matter (meaning that experience that is important for one Trustee may not have the same value for another) and that these factors are best evaluated at the Board level, with no single Trustee, or particular factor, being indicative of Board effectiveness. However, the Board believes that Trustees need to have the ability to critically review, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, and to interact effectively with Trust management, service providers and counsel, in order to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties; the Board believes that all of the Trustees satisfy this standard. The following discusses each Trustee's particular experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that contribute to the Board's operations:

Adele R. Wailand - Through her positions as a senior officer, general counsel and corporate secretary, Ms. Wailand has senior management experience in legal compliance, corporate governance, board operations and business transactions. She has additionally served as a member of a number of private corporate and not-for-profit boards.

Manu Bammi – From his time as founder and CEO of SmartAnalyst, Inc., Mr. Bammi has senior management experience in the financial research and analytics industry.

Ronald S. Gutstein - As an institutional trader and market maker with Access Securities, Mr. Gutstein has experience in asset management and securities markets.

William M. Rose – Through his position as Chief Investment Officer of a registered investment advisor and other senior management positions, Mr. Rose has experience in strategic investment planning, financial and treasury management and board oversight. In addition, Mr. Rose has experience as a Certified Public Accountant and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Additional Information About the Board and its Committees. The Trust has an Audit Committee and a Nominating and Governance Committee. The members of both the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Governance Committee consist of all the Independent Trustees, namely Manu Bammi, Ronald S. Gutstein, William M. Rose and Adele R. Wailand.

In accordance with its written charter, the Audit Committee's primary purposes are to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for oversight of the integrity of the accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices of the Funds, the qualifications and independence of the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm, and the Funds' compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Audit Committee reviews the scope of the Funds' audits, the Funds' accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and its internal controls. The Audit Committee approves, and recommends to the Independent Trustees for their ratification, the selection, appointment, retention or termination of the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm and approves the compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm and all permissible non-audit services provided to the Funds' by the independent registered public accounting firm and all permissible non-audit services provided by the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm to the Adviser and any affiliated service providers if the engagement relates

<sup>(2)</sup> Each Trustee serves until resignation, removal or retirement from the Board. The current retirement age is 75 but the Board is permitted to make exceptions to its Retirement Policy if it finds it is in the best interests of the Board and the Trust.

directly to the Funds' operations and financial reporting. The Audit Committee held two meetings during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

The Nominating and Governance Committee operates pursuant to a written charter. The principal functions of the Nominating and Governance Committee are to: (i) make nominations for Independent Trustee membership on the Board; (ii) periodically review Board governance practices and procedures and to recommend to the Board any changes deemed appropriate; (iii) periodically review Independent Trustee compensation and recommend to the Board any changes deemed appropriate; (iv) review on an annual basis committee chair assignments and committee assignments; (v) review on an annual basis the responsibilities and charter of each committee of the Board, whether there is continuing need for each committee, whether there is a need for additional committees of the Board, and whether committees should be combined or reorganized, and to make recommendations for any such action to the Board; (vi) plan and administer the Board's annual self-evaluation process; (vii) consider on an annual basis the structure, operations and effectiveness of the Nominating and Governance Committee annually; and (viii) evaluate on at least an annual basis the independence of counsel to the Independent Trustees, to make recommendations to the Independent Trustees regarding their determination of such counsel's status as an "independent legal counsel" under applicable SEC rules, and to supervise such counsel. In making nominations for Independent Trustee membership on the Board, the Nominating and Governance Committee may consider potential nominees in light of their professional experience, education, skill, and other individual qualities and attributes that contribute to Board heterogeneity. The Nominating and Governance Committee, as it deems appropriate and when a vacancy becomes available, will consider nominees recommended by a shareholder. Shareholders who wish to recommend a nominee should send recommendations to the Fund's Secretary that include all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for the election of Trustees. A recommendation must be accompanied by a written consent of the individual to stand for election if nominated by the Board and to serve if elected by the shareholders. The Nominating and Governance Committee held one meeting during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

**Trustee Ownership of the Funds.** The following table sets forth, for each Trustee, the aggregate dollar range of equity securities owned of the Funds and of all funds in the Fund Complex overseen by each Trustee as of December 31, 2020.

		Range of Equity ies in the Funds	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
<b>Independent Trustees</b>			
Adele R. Wailand	Over \$100,000	(Worldwide Fund)	Over \$100,000
	None	(International Fund)	
Manu Bammi	Over \$100,000	(Worldwide Fund)	Over \$100,000
	None	(International Fund)	
Ronald S. Gutstein	Over \$100,000	(Worldwide Fund)	Over \$100,000
	None	(International Fund)	
William M. Rose	None	(Worldwide Fund)	Over \$100,000
	Over \$100,000	(International Fund)	

As of January 4, 2021, the Trustees and officers of each Fund, individually and as a group, owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each Fund.

Compensation of Board Members. The Trust pays each Independent Trustee an annual retainer of \$70,000 and an attendance fee of \$7,500 for each regular quarterly Board meeting attended. The Chair is paid an additional annual retainer of \$15,000. Independent Trustees are reimbursed for travel and out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending such meetings. The Funds do not pay retirement benefits to its Trustees and officers. Officers of the Funds are not compensated by the Funds. Michael Malafronte, an interested trustee and President of the Funds prior to December 14, 2020, was also not compensated by the Funds.

The following table summarizes the compensation for the Independent Trustees for the 12-month period ended September 30, 2020.

			Estimated	
	Aggregate	Pension or Retirement	<b>Annual Benefit</b>	ts Total Compensation
	Compensation	Benefits Accrued as Part of	i Upon	From Fund Complex
<b>Independent Trustees</b>	From Trust	Funds Expenses	Retirement	Paid to Trustee
Adele R. Wailand	\$115,000	None	None	\$115,000
Manu Bammi	\$100,000	None	None	\$100,000
Ronald S. Gutstein	\$100,000	None	None	\$100,000
William M. Rose	\$100,000	None	None	\$100,000

#### Officers of the Trust

Name (Birth Year) and Address (1)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(2)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years
Charles de Vaulx (1961)	President	Since December 2020	Chief Investment Officer of the Adviser (since 2008).
Shanda Scibilia (1971)	Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary	since 2008	Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, the Adviser (since 2008).
(17/1)			
Stefanie J. Hempstead	Treasurer	since 2008	Chief Financial Officer, the Adviser (since 2008).
(1973)			
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Christopher Hine	Assistant Treasurer	since 2010	Director of Accounting, the Adviser (since 2009).
(1978)			
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Philip F. Coniglio	Assistant Secretary	since 2011	Chief Information Security Officer, the Adviser (since 2018); Director of Fund Operations, the Adviser (since
(1981)			2014); Director of Information Technology, the Adviser (2014-2018); and Fund Operations Manager, the Adviser (2009-2014).
			,

<sup>(1)</sup> Each officer's mailing address is c/o International Value Advisers, LLC, 717 Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

**Sales Loads**. In recognition of the limited sales support and servicing required for certain accounts, current and former Trustees and other affiliated persons of the Trust qualify for a waiver of the Class A sales charge.

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

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attached as Appendix A is the summary of the guidelines and procedures 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. This summary of the guidelines gives a general indication as to how the Adviser will vote proxies relating to portfolio securities on each issue listed. However, the guidelines do 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 guidelines presented. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adviser always endeavors to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities in accordance with the Funds' investment objectives. Information on how the Funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent prior 12-month period as of June 30 is available without charge, (1) upon request, by calling (866) 941-4482, and (2) on the SEC's website at http://www.sec.gov.

<sup>(2)</sup> The term of office of each officer is indefinite. Length of time served represents time served as an officer of the Trust, although various positions may have been held during the period.

# CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

Persons beneficially holding more than 25% of the outstanding shares of a Fund may be deemed to "control" (as that term is defined in the 1940 Act) that Fund and may be able to affect or determine the outcome of matters presented for a vote of the shareholders of that Fund.

As of January 4, 2021, the following shareholders held of record (but not beneficially) more than 5% of the outstanding shares of the Funds:

Fund Worldwide Fund – Class A	Name and Address on Account Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customer 1 New York Plaza, Floor 12 New York NY 10004 1065	% of Shares 16.77%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	New York, NY 10004-1965 Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For The Exclusive Benefit of Customer 2801 Market Street	14.47%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	St. Louis, MO 63103-2523  Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith  For the Sole Benefit of its Customers  4800 Deer Lake Drive E	10.31%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484 Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St.	9.46%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	San Francisco, CA 94105-1905 UBS WM USA 1000 Harbor Blvd Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	6.66%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0001	6.46%
Worldwide Fund – Class A	Raymond James Omnibus for Mutual Funds Attn Courtney Waller 880 Carillon Pkwy St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	5.58%
Worldwide Fund – Class C	Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Dr. E Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	20.51%
Worldwide Fund – Class C	Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For The Exclusive Benefit of Customer 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103-2523	16.69%
Worldwide Fund – Class C	Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	11.59%
Worldwide Fund – Class C	UBS WM USA 1000 Harbor Blvd Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	11.48%
Worldwide Fund – Class C	Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0001	6.28%

<b>Fund</b> Worldwide Fund – Class I	Name and Address on Account Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St.	<b>% of Shares</b> 17.06%
Worldwide Fund – Class I	San Francisco, CA 94105-1905 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers 1 New York Plaza, FL 12 New York, NY 10004-1965	7.72%
Worldwide Fund – Class I	Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive E Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	7.27%
Worldwide Fund – Class I	Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For The Exclusive Benefit of Customer 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103-2523	6.02%
Worldwide Fund – Class I	TD Ameritrade Inc. For the Exclusive Benefit of Our Clients PO Box 2226 Omaha, NE 68103-2226	5.19%
Worldwide Fund – Class I	UBS WM USA 1000 Harbor Boulevard Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	5.12%
International Fund – Class A	Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For The Exclusive Benefit of Customer 2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103-2523	17.73%
International Fund – Class A	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers 1 New York Plaza, FL 12 New York, NY 10004-1965	16.22%
International Fund – Class A	Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0001	10.17%
International Fund – Class A	Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105-1905	9.39%
International Fund – Class A	Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive E Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	9.30%
International Fund – Class A	UBS WM USA 1000 Harbor Boulevard Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761	6.85%
International Fund – Class C	Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith For the Sole Benefit of its Customers 4800 Deer Lake Drive E Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	16.36%
International Fund – Class C	Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399-0001	15.89%

<b>Fund</b> International Fund – Class C	Name and Address on Account UBS WM USA 1000 Harbor Boulevard	% of Shares 13.89%
International Fund – Class C	Weehawken, NJ 07086-6761 Wells Fargo Clearing Services LLC Special Custody Acct For The Exclusive Benefit of Customer	11.96%
International Fund – Class C	2801 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103-2523 Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St.	6.61%
International Fund – Class C	San Francisco, CA 94105-1905 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC For the Exclusive Benefit of its Customers 1 New York Plaza, FL 12	5.23%
International Fund – Class I	New York, NY 10004-1965 Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn. Mutual Funds 211 Main St.	35.65%
International Fund – Class I	San Francisco, CA 94105-1905 Raymond James Attn: Courtney Waller 880 Carillon Parkway St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1100	5.77%

#### INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

## The Adviser

International Value Advisers, LLC is the investment manager of the Funds. The Adviser was organized as a Delaware limited liability company in 2007. The managing member of the Adviser is IVA Holdings, LLC. Charles de Vaulx, Chief Investment Officer of the Adviser, Stefanie Hempstead, Chief Financial Officer of the Adviser, and Shanda Scibilia, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, are affiliated persons of the Trust.

IVA serves as the investment manager of each Fund pursuant to an investment advisory agreement dated as of August 21, 2008, as amended from time to time. The investment advisory agreement had an initial term of two years from its effective date and continues in effect with respect to each Fund (unless terminated sooner) if its continuance is specifically approved annually by (a) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on approval, and (b) either (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the affected Fund, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the Board. The investment advisory agreement is terminable with respect to a Fund by vote of the Board, or by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of a Fund, at any time without penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Adviser. The Adviser also may terminate its advisory relationship with respect to a Fund without penalty on 60 days' written notice to the Trust, as applicable. The investment advisory agreement terminates automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The investment advisory agreement provides that the Adviser shall manage the operations of each Fund, subject to policies established by the Board. Pursuant to the investment advisory agreement, the Adviser manages each Fund's investment portfolio, directs purchases and sales of portfolio securities and reports thereon to a Fund's officers and Board regularly. The Adviser also provides the office space, facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to perform the following services for each Fund: SEC compliance, including record keeping, reporting requirements and registration statements and proxies; supervision of Fund operations, including custodian, accountants and counsel and other parties performing services or operational functions for each Fund; certain administrative and clerical services, including certain accounting services, facilitation of redemption requests, exchange privileges, account adjustments, development of new shareholder services and maintenance of certain books and records; and certain services related to each Fund's shareholders, including assuring that purchases and redemptions are completed efficiently, responding to shareholder

inquiries, and maintaining a flow of information to shareholders. In addition, the Adviser pays the compensation of each Fund's officers, employees and Trustees affiliated with the Adviser. Each Fund bears all other costs of its operations, including the compensation of its Independent Trustees.

As compensation for its services, each Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at an annual rate of 0.80% of the Fund's average daily net assets annually up to \$5 billion; 0.75% of the Fund's average daily net assets annually in excess of \$5 billion and up to \$10 billion; and 0.70% of the Fund's average daily net assets annually in excess of \$10 billion. For the period prior to June 3, 2019, the management fee of each of the Worldwide Fund and the International Fund was 0.90% of each Fund's average daily net assets.

Under the terms of the investment advisory agreement, neither the Adviser nor its affiliates shall be liable for losses or damages incurred by a Fund, unless such losses or damages are attributable to the willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of either the Adviser or its affiliates or from reckless disregard by it of its obligations and duties under the management contract ("disabling conduct"). In addition, the Funds will indemnify the Adviser and its affiliates and hold each of them harmless against any losses or damages not resulting from disabling conduct.

Set forth below are the advisory fees the Funds paid for the stated periods.

Fund	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2019 Advisory Fees	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018 Advisory Fees
Worldwide Fund	\$34,015,340	\$58,160,100	\$74,026,844
International Fund	\$16,278,167	\$27,497,351	\$37,107,866

#### Portfolio Manager

Charles de Vaulx, the portfolio manager, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Funds. Mr. de Vaulx also serves as Chief Investment Officer of the Adviser. Mr. de Vaulx also supervises an investment team comprised of analysts and traders. Mr. de Vaulx has a been portfolio manager of the Funds since their inceptions. The following tables set forth certain additional information. The information is as of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, unless otherwise noted.

## Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Manager

In addition to the Funds, the table below identifies, for the portfolio manager, the number of accounts for which he has 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. Mr. de Vaulx did not manage any accounts for which the advisory fee was based on performance.

	0	d Investment npanies		er Pooled ent Vehicles	Other	r Accounts
	Number of		Number of		Number of	
Portfolio Manager	Accounts	<b>Total Assets</b>	Accounts	<b>Total Assets</b>	Accounts	<b>Total Assets</b>
Charles de Vaulx	0	\$0	3*	\$471 million*	1*	\$662 million*

<sup>\*</sup>Effective December 31, 2020, Mr. de Vaulx managed one other pooled investment vehicle with \$193 million in total assets. Also effective December 31, 2020, Mr. de Vaulx did not manage any other accounts.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Because the portfolio manager manages other accounts, that may include accounts that pay higher fees or accounts that pay performance-based fees, potential conflicts of interest exist, including potential conflicts between the investment

strategy of a Fund and the investment strategy of the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager and potential conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities between a Fund and the other accounts.

The Adviser and the Funds have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to avoid, mitigate, monitor and oversee areas that could present potential conflicts of interest. The Adviser attempts to address these potential conflicts of interest through various compliance policies that are generally intended to place all accounts, regardless of fee structure, on the same footing for investment management purposes. For example, the Adviser seeks to minimize the effects of competing interests for the time and attention of the portfolio manager by assigning the portfolio manager to manage funds and accounts that share a similar investment style. The Adviser has also adopted trade allocation procedures that are designed to facilitate the fair allocation of limited investment opportunities among multiple funds and accounts. The Adviser's trade allocation policies generally provide that each day's transactions in securities that are purchased or sold by multiple accounts are, insofar as possible, averaged as to price and allocated between such accounts (including the Funds) in a manner, which, in the Adviser's opinion, is equitable to each account and in accordance with the amount being purchased or sold by each account. Certain exceptions exist for specialty, regional or sector accounts. Trade allocations are reviewed on a periodic basis as part of the Adviser's trade oversight procedures in an attempt to ensure fairness over time across accounts and to monitor whether any account is systematically favored over time. There is no guarantee, however, that the policies and procedures adopted by the Adviser and the Funds 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. The 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 the portfolio manager have different investment strategies.

Allocation of Limited Investment Opportunities. If the 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, the 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. The portfolio manager 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 accounts that they supervise. In addition to executing trades, some brokers and dealers provide the portfolio manager with brokerage and research services (as those terms are defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (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.

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 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 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, the 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.

## **Portfolio Manager Compensation**

The portfolio manager is a member (partner) of the Adviser. The compensation of the portfolio manager consists of a partnership interest in the Adviser's profits. The compensation program does not disproportionately reward outperformance by higher fee/performance fee products. The Adviser membership interest is the primary incentive for the portfolio manager. The Adviser believes this is the best incentive to maintain stability of portfolio management personnel.

## Portfolio Manager Securities Ownership

The table below identifies ownership of Fund securities by the Portfolio Manager as of September 30, 2020.

		Dollar Range of
Fund	Portfolio Manager	Ownership of Securities
Worldwide Fund	Charles de Vaulx	Over \$1,000,000
International Fund	Charles de Vaulx	Over \$1,000,000

# **Principal Underwriter**

Subject to the conditions described in the "Shareholder Information" section of the Prospectus, shares of the Funds are offered on a continuous basis through the Distributor, located at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101, as distributor pursuant to a distribution agreement (the "Distribution Agreement") between the Distributor and the Funds. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor shall devote its best efforts to distribute shares of the Funds but shall not be obligated to sell any certain number of shares. Other than payments pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 plans discussed below, the Distributor receives no compensation from the Funds for distribution of the Funds' shares.

#### Rule 12b-1 Plans

As described in the Prospectus, the Funds have adopted Rule 12b-1 plans ("Plans") for their Class A and Class C shares. The Plans, among other things, permit the Class A and Class C share classes to pay the Distributor quarterly fees, other than in exceptional cases, at annual rates not exceeding 0.25% and 1.00%, respectively, of the assets of the Class A and Class C share classes as compensation for its services as principal underwriter of the shares of such classes. Pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, each Plan (together with the Distribution Agreement) was approved by the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Funds (as defined in the 1940 Act) and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operations of the Plans or the Distribution Agreement. The principal types of activities for which payments under these Plans may be made include payments to intermediaries for shareholder servicing, for "no transaction fee" or wrap programs, and for retirement plan record keeping. Payments under the Plans also may be made for activities such as advertising, printing and mailing the Prospectuses to persons who are not current shareholders, compensation to underwriters, compensation to broker-dealers, compensation to sales personnel, and interest, carrying or other financing charges. The Trust believes that the Plans may benefit the Trust by increasing net sales of the Funds (or reducing net redemptions), potentially allowing the Funds to benefit from economies of scale.

Each Plan may be terminated by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the relevant class of shares of the relevant Fund. Each Plan may be amended by a vote of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose. Any change in either Plan that would materially increase the fees payable thereunder by the relevant class of shares of the relevant Fund requires approval by a vote of the holders of a majority of such shares outstanding. The Board reviews quarterly a written report detailing the costs and the purposes for which such costs have been incurred.

The Plans will continue in effect for successive one-year periods, provided that each such continuance is specifically approved (i) by the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees and (ii) by the vote of a majority of the entire Board cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding securities of the relevant class

Set forth below, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020, are the fees paid to the Distributor pursuant to the Plans for the Class A and Class C shares of the Funds, as well as the contingent deferred sales charges ("CDSCs") to which redemptions are subject.

	Class A Shares Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020		Class C Shares Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020	
Fund	Distribution Fees	Fees CDSCs Distribution and Servicing Fees CD		CDSCs
Worldwide Fund	\$1,957,354	\$14,231	\$2,561,796	\$14,498
International Fund	\$241,999	\$1,325	\$165,020	\$152

The amounts paid to the Distributor under the Plans during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020 were spent on the following categories of payments:

Fund Worldwide Fund	Trail Commissions to Dealers \$4,289,490	Promotional Events and Materials \$110	Prospectus/ Shareholder Reports \$5,034	Sales Literature \$11,781
International Fund	\$384,759	\$10	\$475	\$1,592
	Subscriptions	Other Distribution Expenses	Trail Commissions to A Share Financier	Trail Commissions to C Share Financier
Worldwide Fund	\$15,415	\$33,540	\$14,103	\$180,730
International Fund	\$1,900	\$2,004	\$4,559	\$7,856

The Plans compensate the Distributor regardless of its expenses.

No interested person of the Funds nor any Independent Trustee has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plans except to the extent that the Distributor, the Adviser or certain of their employees may be deemed to have such an interest as a result of benefits derived from the successful operation of the Plans.

#### **Other Service Providers**

## Administrator

The Trust has entered into an administration agreement dated August 21, 2008, with State Street, 100 Summer Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA 02111, pursuant to which State Street provides administrative services to the Funds. The Administrator is responsible for (i) the general administrative duties associated with the day-to-day operations of the Funds; (ii) conducting relations with the custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel and other service providers; (iii) providing regulatory reporting; and (iv) providing necessary office space, equipment, personnel, compensation and facilities for handling the affairs of the Funds. In performing its duties and obligations under the Administration Agreement, the Administrator shall not be held liable except in the case of its gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of its duties. For providing these services, State Street receives a fee which is calculated daily and paid monthly at an annual rate based on the average daily net assets of the Funds as follows: 0.035% on the first \$1.0 billion of net assets, 0.03% on the next \$1.0 billion of net assets over \$2.0 billion.

Set forth below are the fees the Funds paid to the Administrator for the periods indicated.

Fund	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2020	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2019	Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2018
Worldwide Fund	\$626,667	\$857,575	\$963,873
International Fund	\$315,701	\$408,358	\$488.852

## Transfer Agent/Dividend Disbursing Agent

DST Asset Manager Solutions, Inc. is the Transfer Agent for the Funds' shares and the dividend disbursing agent for payment of dividends and distributions on Fund shares. The principal business address of the Transfer Agent is 2000 Crown Colony Drive, Quincy, MA 02169.

## Custodian

State Street, located at One Heritage Drive, Quincy, MA 02171-2105, serves as the custodian for the Funds. As such, the Custodian holds in safekeeping certificated securities and cash belonging to each Fund and, in such capacity, is the registered owner of securities in book-entry form belonging to each Fund. Upon instruction, the Custodian receives and delivers cash and securities of each 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 Funds and calculates the total NAV, total net income and NAV per share of each Fund.

## **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Ernst & Young LLP ("EY") serves as each Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. EY provides audit services, tax return review and assistance and consultation in connection with the review of SEC filings. EY is located at 200 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116-5072.

The financial statements and financial highlights of the Funds appearing in the Funds' Annual Report to Shareholders have been audited by EY, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been incorporated by reference in this SAI and the financial highlights have been included in the Prospectus in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

#### Counsel

K&L Gates LLP serves as counsel to the Funds, and is located at State Street Financial Center, One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111-2950.

### **Additional Information**

The Funds have entered into contractual arrangements with various parties that provide services to the Funds, including, among others, the Adviser, the Administrator, the Transfer Agent, and the Custodian, as described above. Fund shareholders are not parties to, or intended to be "third-party" beneficiaries of, any of these contractual arrangements. These contractual arrangements are not intended to, nor do they, create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right, either directly or on behalf of a Fund, to either: (a) enforce such contracts against the service providers; or (b) seek any remedy under such contracts against the service providers.

This SAI provides additional information concerning each Fund. Each of the Funds' Prospectus, this SAI, or any contract that is an exhibit to the Funds' registration statement, is not intended to, nor does it, give rise to an agreement or contract between the Funds and any investor. Each such document also does not give rise to any contract or create rights in any individual shareholder, group of shareholders, or other person, other than with respect to any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

### REVENUE SHARING

The Adviser or an affiliate may, from time to time, out of its (or their) own resources, make substantial cash payments sometimes referred to as "revenue sharing" - to broker-dealers or financial intermediaries for various reasons in addition to any Rule 12b-1 payments described elsewhere in this SAI. (Such payments may include any other payment requirement of a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary, including certain agreed upon "finder's fee" commissions, which are described in the Prospectus under "Initial Sales Charges-Class A Shares.") These payments may support the delivery of services to the Funds or to shareholders in the Funds, including, without limitation, transaction processing and sub-accounting services. The recipients of such payments may include other affiliates of the Adviser, and broker-dealers, financial institutions, plan sponsors and administrators and other financial intermediaries through which investors may purchase shares of a Fund. In some circumstances, such payments may create an incentive for an intermediary or its employees or associated persons to recommend or sell shares of a Fund to you, rather than shares of another mutual fund.

Please contact your financial intermediary or plan administrator or sponsor for details about revenue sharing payments it may receive.

As of September 30, 2020 the following broker-dealers that are registered with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") have arrangements with the Adviser or an affiliate pursuant to which the member firm is entitled to a revenue sharing payment. Each member firm may receive up to 0.25% of revenue sharing:

Ameriprise Financial Services	RBC Wealth Management
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	UBS Financial Services Inc.
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC	Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

The Distributor may have arrangements with intermediaries that are not members of FINRA.

Certain financial intermediaries may provide services to their Fund shareholder clients, which services otherwise would be provided by or are analogous to those provided by the Transfer Agent. These services, commonly referred to as "subtransfer agency" services, include producing and mailing client statements, tax reporting, order-processing and client relations. As a result, these third parties charge the Funds for these services. Arrangements involve a per-account fee, an asset-based fee, a sales-based fee, or, in some cases, a combination of the three. These fees are directly attributable to subtransfer agency services performed by the relevant party. The Adviser or an affiliate at its or their own expense and out of its or their legitimate profits have agreed to pay fees in excess of what the Funds have agreed to pay. While the Adviser considers these to be payments for services rendered, they represent an additional business relationship between these brokers or other third parties and the Funds that often results, at least in part, from past or present sales of Fund shares by the brokers or other third parties or their affiliates. Sub-transfer agency fees will vary according to a number of factors (including, for example, numbers of shareholder accounts serviced).

## PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND EXCHANGE OF SHARES

The methods of buying and selling shares and the sales charges applicable to purchases of shares of a Fund are described in the Prospectus. As stated in the Prospectus, shares of each Fund may be purchased at NAV by various persons associated with the Trust, the Adviser, certain firms providing services to the Trust or affiliates thereof for the purpose of promoting good will with employees and others with whom the Trust has business relationships, as well as in other special circumstances. Shares are offered to other persons at NAV in circumstances where there are economies of selling efforts and sales related expenses with respect to offers to certain investors.

The Funds reserve the right to make payment in securities or other portfolio investments rather than cash. If a Fund deems it advisable for the benefit of all shareholders that a redemption payment wholly or partly in-kind would be in the best interests of the Fund's remaining shareholders, the Fund may pay redemption proceeds to you in whole or in part with securities held by the Fund. A redemption-in-kind could occur under extraordinary circumstances, such as a very large redemption that could affect a Fund's operations. Securities used to redeem Fund shares will be valued as described in the Funds' Prospectus. A Fund is obligated to redeem shares solely in cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of its net assets during any 90-day period for any one shareholder. A shareholder will bear market risk for the securities received as a result of a redemption-in-kind and a shareholder may pay brokerage charges on the sale of any securities received as a result of a redemption-in-kind.

#### COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

As described in the Prospectus under the heading "How Fund Share Prices Are Calculated," the NAV of a Fund's shares of a particular class is determined by dividing the total value of the Fund's portfolio investments and other assets attributable to that class, less any liabilities, by the total number of shares outstanding of that class. The Prospectus further notes that Fund shares are valued on each day that a purchase or redemption order is received in good order and the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open (a "Business Day"), and describes the time (the "Valuation Time") as of which Fund shares are valued. Each Fund may not calculate its NAV on a daily basis but each Fund will do so any day there is purchase or redemption activity. The Trust expects that the holidays upon which the NYSE will be closed are as follows: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Each Fund's liabilities are allocated among its share classes. The total of such liabilities allocated to a class plus that class's distribution and/or servicing fees and any other expenses specially allocated to that class are then deducted from the class's proportionate interest in the Fund's assets, and the resulting amount for each class is divided by the number of shares of that class outstanding to produce the class's NAV. Under certain circumstances, NAVs of classes of shares of the Funds with higher service and/or distribution fees may be lower than NAVs of the classes of shares with lower or no service and/or distribution fees as a result of the relative daily expense accruals that result from paying different service and/or distribution fees. Generally, for Funds that pay income dividends, those dividends are expected to differ over time by approximately the amount of the expense accrual differential between a particular Fund's classes. In accordance with regulations governing registered investment companies, a Fund's transactions in portfolio securities and purchases and sales of Fund shares (which bear upon the number of Fund shares outstanding) are generally not reflected in the NAV determined for the Business Day on which the transactions are effected (the trade date), but rather on the following Business Day.

The Board has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of the Funds' portfolio securities and other assets (including any fair value pricing) and the Funds' NAVs to the Administrator, pursuant to valuation policies and procedures approved by the Board (the "Valuation Procedures"). The Administrator has, in turn, delegated several of these responsibilities to the Custodian, and other agents. The Trustees have established a Pricing and Fair Valuation Committee, comprised of officers of the Adviser, to which they have delegated responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Valuation Procedures and fair value determinations made on behalf of the Board. As described in the Prospectus, for purposes of calculating NAV, the Funds' investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market value. The following summarizes the methods used by the Funds to determine market values for the noted types of securities or instruments (although other appropriate market-based methods may be used at any time or from time to time):

Listed equity securities and equity securities listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange generally are valued at the last sale price on the exchange that is the primary market for such securities (or, if available in the case of NASDAQ securities, the NASDAQ Official Closing Price ("NOCP")). If no sales or closing prices are reported during the day, equity securities are generally valued at the mean of the last available bid and asked quotations on the exchange or market on which the security is primarily traded, or using other market information obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers or pricing services. If there is only a bid or only an asked price on such date, valuation will be at such bid or asked price for long or short positions, respectively. Other OTC equity securities are generally valued at the mean of the last available bid and asked quotations on the exchange or market on which the security is primarily traded, or using other market information obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers or pricing services. If there is only a bid or only an asked price on such date, valuation will be at such bid or asked price for long or short positions, respectively.

Precious metals are valued at the spot price at the time trading on the NYSE closes (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time).

Debt securities, other than commercial paper, for which market quotations are readily available are generally valued at the evaluated mean primarily based on the last bid and asked prices received from an independent pricing service. When no asked price is available, debt securities are valued at the evaluated bid price alone. Commercial paper is generally valued at the evaluated bid price provided by an independent pricing service. An evaluated price may include a variety of factors including the issue's coupon rate, maturity, credit rating, yield, trade data, quoted price of similar fixed income securities, and any other relevant market or security specific information.

Forward currency contracts are valued at the current cost of offsetting such contracts. Futures contracts are generally valued at the settlement price determined by the exchange on which the instrument is primarily traded or, if there were no trades that day for a particular instrument, at the mean of the last available bid and asked quotations on the market in which the instrument is primarily traded.

Exchange-traded options are generally valued at the mean of the bid and asked quotations on the exchange at closing. Exchange-traded options also may be valued at their national best bid and offer from participant exchanges ("NBBO") reported by the Options Price Reporting Authority. OTC options not traded on an exchange are valued at the mean of the bid and asked quotations. If there is only a bid or only an asked price on such date, valuation will be at such bid or asked price for long or short options, respectively.

Swap agreements are generally valued using a broker-dealer bid quotation or on market-based prices provided by approved pricing sources.

Portfolio securities and other assets initially valued in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted to U.S. dollars using exchange rates obtained from pricing services. The value of any investment that is listed or traded on more than one exchange is based on the exchange or market determined by the Adviser to be the primary trading venue for that investment. A quotation from the exchange or market deemed by the Adviser to be the secondary trading venue for a particular investment may be relied upon in instances where a quotation is not available on the primary exchange or market.

As described in the Prospectus, if market quotations are not readily available (including in cases where available market quotations are deemed to be unreliable), the Funds' investments will be valued as determined in good faith pursuant to the Valuation Procedures (so-called "fair value pricing"). Fair value pricing may require subjective determinations about the value of a security or other asset, and fair values used to determine a Fund's NAV may differ from quoted or published prices, or from prices that are used by others, for the same investments. Also, the use of fair value pricing may not always result in adjustments to the prices of securities or other assets held by a Fund. The Prospectus provides additional information regarding the circumstances in which fair value pricing may be used and related information.

## TAX STATUS

Taxation of the Funds: In General

The following discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of investment in a Fund is based on the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations, and other applicable authority, as of the date of the preparation of this SAI. These authorities are subject to change by legislative or administrative action, possibly with retroactive effect. The following discussion is only a summary of some of the important U.S. federal tax considerations generally applicable to investments in a Fund. There may be other tax considerations applicable to particular shareholders. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding their particular situation and the possible application of foreign, state and local tax laws.

Each Fund has elected to be treated and intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code. In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, each Fund must, among other things:

- (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from (i) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and 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 (ii) net income derived from interests in "qualified publicly traded partnerships" (as defined below);
- (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of the quarter of each Fund's taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the market value of each Fund's total assets consists of cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested (x) in the securities (other than those of the U.S. Government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or (y) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined below); and
- (c) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid generally taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and 90% of its net tax-exempt interest income, for such year.

For purposes of the 90% gross income requirement described in (a) above, income derived from a partnership will 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" will be treated as qualifying income. A "qualified publicly traded partnership" is defined as a partnership (i) interests in which are traded on an established securities market or readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof, (ii) that derives at least 90% of its income from the passive income sources defined in Code section 7704(d), and (iii) that derives less than 90% of its income from the qualifying income described in (a)(i) above. In addition, although in general the passive 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.

Gains from foreign currencies (including foreign currency options, foreign currency swaps, foreign currency futures and foreign currency forward contracts) currently constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 90% good income test, described in (a) above. However, the Treasury Department has the authority to issue regulations (possibly with retroactive effect) excluding from the definition of "qualifying income" a Fund's foreign currency gains to the extent that such income is not directly related to the Fund's principal business of investing in stock or securities.

For purposes of the diversification requirements described in (b) above, in the case of a Fund's investment in loan participations, the Fund shall treat both the financial intermediary and the issuer of the underlying loan as an issuer. Also, for purposes of (b) above, the term "outstanding voting securities of such issuer" will include the equity securities of a qualified publicly traded partnership.

Each Fund may invest in certain assets that do not give rise to qualifying income and do not constitute "securities" for purposes of the regulated investment company qualification tests referred to above. Each Fund also may invest in other assets, such as various derivative and structured investment products, the status of which as "securities" for the above purposes may not be fully settled.

For example, income derived from investing or trading in precious metals is not qualifying income for purposes of the 90% good income requirement, unless the investment in metals is made for purposes of hedging a Fund's investment in securities of issuers engaged in metals-related businesses, such as mining companies. Also, under an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") revenue ruling effective after September 30, 2006, income from certain commodities-linked derivatives is not considered qualifying income for purposes of the 90% good income test.

In general, if a Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, that Fund will not be subject to federal income tax on income distributed in a timely manner to its shareholders in the form of dividends (including Capital Gain Dividends, as defined below).

By contrast, if a Fund were to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company in any taxable year, that Fund would be subject to tax on its taxable income at corporate rates. In addition, 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 dividend income. Some portions of such distributions may be eligible for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders or may be treated as qualified dividend income to individual shareholders. Finally, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company.

Each Fund intends to distribute at least annually to its shareholders all or substantially all of its investment company taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends-paid deduction) and may distribute its net capital gain. Investment company taxable income that is retained by the Fund will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates. If a Fund retains any net capital gain, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. However, a Fund may designate the retained capital gain amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who (i) will be required to include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their share of such undistributed amount, and (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds on a properly-filed U.S. tax return to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. For federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal under current law to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's gross income and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence.

Except as provided in Treasury regulations, a regulated investment company may treat any net capital loss, net long-term capital loss, or net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31, as well as any late-year ordinary loss, as if it had been incurred in the succeeding year.

If a Fund fails to distribute in a calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of 98% of its ordinary income for such year and 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the one-year period ending October 31 of such year, plus any retained amount from the prior year, that Fund will be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the under-distributed amounts. For these purposes, a 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. A dividend paid to shareholders in January of a year

generally is deemed to have been paid by a Fund on December 31 of the preceding year, if the dividend was declared and payable to shareholders of record on a date in October, November or December of that preceding year. Each Fund intends generally to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax, although there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so.

## Fund Distributions

Except in the case of certain shareholders eligible for preferential tax treatment (e.g., qualified retirement or pension trusts) shareholders of each Fund generally will be subject to federal income tax on Fund distributions. Distributions are taxable whether shareholders receive them in cash or reinvest them in additional shares through a dividend reinvestment plan.

Distributions are taxable to shareholders even if they are paid from income or gains earned by a Fund before a shareholder's investment (and thus were included in the price the shareholder paid for his or her shares). Such distributions are likely to occur in respect of shares purchased at a time when the Fund's NAV reflects gains that are either unrealized, or realized but not distributed. Such realized gains may be required to be distributed even when a Fund's NAV also reflects unrealized losses.

Distributions by a Fund of investment income generally will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. Taxes on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long the Fund owned the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned his or her shares. Distributions of net capital gains from the sale of investments that the Fund owned for more than one year and that are properly designated by the Fund as capital gain dividends ("Capital Gain Dividends") will be taxable as long-term capital gains. Distributions from capital gains are generally made after applying any available capital loss carryovers. Current long-term capital gain rates applicable to individuals are 20%, 15%, and 0% for individuals having different levels of income. Distributions of gains from the sale of investments that the Fund owned for one year or less will be taxable as ordinary income.

Distributions of investment income designated by a Fund as derived from "qualified dividend income" will be taxed in the hands of individuals at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain, provided that both the shareholder and the Fund meet certain holding period and other requirements. Specifically, in order for some portion of the dividends received by a Fund shareholder to be "qualified dividend income," the Fund must meet certain holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet certain holding period and other requirements with respect to the Fund's shares. A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (2) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the U.S. (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation that is readily tradable on an established securities market in the U.S.) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC").

In general, distributions of investment income designated by a Fund as derived from qualified dividend income will be treated as qualified dividend income by a shareholder taxed as an individual, provided the shareholder meets the holding period and other requirements described above with respect to the Fund's shares. If the aggregate qualified dividends received by the Fund during any taxable year are 95% or more of its gross income (excluding net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), then 100% of the Fund's dividends (other than dividends properly designated as Capital Gain Dividends) will be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income.

Dividends of net investment income received by corporate shareholders of each Fund will qualify for the 50% dividends received deduction generally available to corporations to the extent of the amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations for the taxable year. A dividend received by a Fund will not be treated as a qualifying dividend (1) if the stock on which the dividend is paid is considered to be "debt-financed" (generally, acquired with borrowed funds), (2) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held for less than 46 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (less than 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date in the case of certain preferred stock) or (3) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to

make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the dividends received deduction may be disallowed or reduced (1) if the corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its shares of the Fund or (2) otherwise by application of the Code.

A portion of the interest paid or accrued on certain high yield discount obligations owned by a Fund may be treated as a dividend for purposes of the corporate dividends received deduction. In such cases, if the issuer of the high yield discount obligations is a domestic corporation, dividend payments by the Fund may be eligible for the dividends received deduction to the extent of the deemed dividend portion of such accrued interest.

If a Fund makes a distribution to a shareholder in excess of the Fund's 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 such shareholder's tax basis in its shares, and thereafter as capital gain. A return of capital is not taxable, but it reduces a shareholder's tax basis in its shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent taxable disposition by the shareholder of its shares.

An investor should also be aware that the benefits of the reduced tax rate applicable to long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income may be impacted by the application of the alternative minimum tax to individual shareholders.

Certain net investment income received by an individual having modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$200,000 (or \$250,000 for married individuals filing jointly) are subject to a tax of 3.8%. Undistributed net investment income of trusts and estates in excess of a specified amount are also subject to this tax. Dividends paid by a Fund constitute investment income of the type subject to this tax.

# Sales, Redemptions, and Exchanges

The sale, exchange or redemption of Fund shares may give rise to a gain or loss. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than 12 months. Otherwise, the gain or loss on a taxable disposition of Fund shares 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. 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 Fund 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.

# Foreign Taxes and Investments

Income received by a Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of a Fund's assets at year end consist of the securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may elect to permit shareholders to claim a credit or deduction on their income tax returns for their pro rata portions of qualified taxes paid by the Fund to foreign countries in respect of foreign securities that the Fund has held for at least the minimum period specified in the Code. In such a case, shareholders will include in gross income from foreign sources their pro rata share of such taxes. A shareholder's ability to claim a foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of foreign taxes paid by a Fund may be subject to certain limitations imposed by the Code, which may result in the shareholder's not getting a full credit or deduction for the amount of such taxes. Shareholders who do not itemize on their federal income tax returns may claim a credit (but not a deduction) for such foreign taxes. The Funds have filed tax refund claims in various EU countries to recover taxes withheld on dividend income based upon certain provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Legal decisions by the European Court of Justice have determined that the application of certain withholding taxes to European-source dividends paid to U.S. regulated investment companies was discriminatory and that such taxes should be refunded. Collection of such tax refund claims, however, remains uncertain. Current IRS guidance indicates that if tax refunds are received for which a Fund has, in previous tax years, elected to permit shareholders to claim a credit or deduction on their income tax returns for their pro rata portions of qualified taxes paid by the Fund, the Fund may reduce the pass-through of current foreign taxes to shareholders in such year. If the tax refunds received in a given taxable year exceed the amount of the foreign taxes in such year, the Funds may also potentially reduce the passthrough of foreign taxes in future years or may request a closing agreement with the IRS addressing the treatment of the

A Fund may invest in one or more PFICs. A PFIC is generally any foreign corporation if, for any year in the Fund's holding period, (i) 75 percent or more of the income of the corporation is passive income, or (ii) at least 50 percent of the assets of the corporation (generally by value, but by adjusted tax basis in certain cases) produce or are held for the

production of passive income. Generally, passive income for this purpose means dividends, interest (including income equivalent to interest), royalties, rents, annuities, the excess of gain over losses from certain property transactions and commodities transactions, and foreign currency gains.

Investments by a Fund in a PFIC could potentially subject the Fund to a U.S. federal income tax (including interest charges) on distributions received from the PFIC or on proceeds received from the disposition of shares in the PFIC. This tax cannot be eliminated by making distributions to Fund shareholders. However, a Fund may make elections to avoid the imposition of such taxes. For example, a Fund may be able to elect to treat a PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" (*i.e.*, make a "QEF election"), in which case the Fund will be required to include its share of the PFIC's income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives any distribution from the PFIC. A Fund also may make an election to mark the gains (and to a limited extent losses) in a PFIC "to the market" as though it had sold and repurchased its holdings in the PFIC on the last day of the Fund's taxable year. Such gains and losses are treated as ordinary income and loss. The QEF and mark-to-market elections may accelerate the recognition of income by the Fund (without the receipt of cash) and increase the amount required to be distributed by the Fund to avoid taxation. Making either of these elections therefore may require the Fund to liquidate other investments (including when it is not advantageous to do so) to meet its distribution requirement, which also may accelerate the recognition of gain and affect the Fund's total return. Dividends paid by PFICs will not be eligible to be treated as "qualified dividend income."

Finally, a Fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures 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 foreign currency concerned.

## Certain Investments in Debt Obligations

If a Fund purchases a debt obligation with acquisition discount or original issue discount ("OID"), the Fund may be required to include the acquisition discount or OID in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. A Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt obligations having acquisition discount or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income by the Fund. The Fund may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount which is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary. The Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger distributions than they would in the absence of such transactions.

Payment-in-kind securities will also give rise to income which is required to be distributed even though the Fund holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. In addition, investments in certain ETNs may accrue interest which is required to be distributed to shareholders, even though the Fund may not receive any interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

Investments in debt obligations that are in the lowest rating categories or are unrated, including debt obligations of issuers at risk of or in default present special tax issues for the Funds. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when a Fund may cease to accrue interest, OID 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 interest. These and other related issues will be addressed by each Fund when, as and if it invests in such securities, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its status as a regulated investment company and does not become subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

### Derivative Transactions

If a Fund engages in derivative transactions, including transactions in options, futures contracts, forward contracts, swap agreements, foreign currencies and straddles, other Section 1256 contracts or other similar transactions, including for hedging purposes, it will be subject to special tax rules (including mark-to-market, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the Fund, defer losses to the Fund, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Fund's securities, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

A Fund's transactions in foreign currency-denominated debt instruments and certain of its derivative activities may produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If the Fund's book income exceeds its taxable

income, the distribution (if any) of such excess generally will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the Fund's remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in its shares, and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset. If the Fund's book income is less than the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the Fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company and to eliminate fund-level income tax.

## Certain Investments in Real Estate Investment Trusts

If a Fund invests in equity securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), such investments may require the Fund to accrue and distribute income not yet received. In order to generate sufficient cash to make the requisite distributions, a Fund may be required to sell securities in its portfolio (including when it is not advantageous to do so) that it otherwise would have continued to hold. A Fund's investment in REIT equity securities may at other times result in the Fund's receipt of cash in excess of the REIT's earnings. If a Fund distributes such amounts, such distribution could constitute a return of capital to the Fund's shareholders for federal income tax purposes. Dividends received by a Fund from a REIT generally will not constitute qualified dividend income. Effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 and before January 1, 2026, the Code generally allows individuals and certain non-corporate entities a deduction for 20% of qualified REIT dividends. Regulations allow a regulated investment company to pass the character of its qualified REIT dividends through to its shareholders.

A Fund may invest directly or indirectly in residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") or equity interests in taxable mortgage pools ("TMPs") or REITs that invest in TMPs. Under a notice issued by the IRS and Treasury regulations that have not yet been issued, but may apply retroactively, a portion of a Fund's income (including income allocated to the Fund from a REIT or other pass-through entity) that is attributable to a residual interest in a REMIC or an equity interest in a TMP (referred to in the Code as an "excess inclusion") will be subject to federal income tax in all events. This notice also provides, and the regulations are expected to provide, that excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as the Funds, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related interest directly.

In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") to entities (including a qualified pension plan, an individual retirement account, a 401(k) plan, a Keogh plan or other tax-exempt entity) subject to tax on unrelated business income, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax.

# Tax-Exempt Shareholders

Under current law, the Funds generally serve to "block" (that is, prevent the attribution to shareholders of) UBTI from being realized by tax-exempt shareholders. Notwithstanding this "blocking" effect, a tax-exempt shareholder of a Fund could realize UBTI by virtue of its investment in a Fund if shares in that Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Code Section 514(b). A tax-exempt shareholder also may recognize UBTI if a Fund recognizes "excess inclusion income" derived from direct or indirect investments in residual interests in REMICS or equity interests in TMPs (as described above). Any investment by a Fund in residual interests of a collateralized mortgage obligation (a "CMO") that has elected to be treated as a REMIC can create complex tax problems, especially if the Fund has state or local governments or other tax-exempt organizations as shareholders.

In addition, special tax consequences apply to charitable remainder trusts ("CRTs") that invest in regulated investment companies that invest directly or indirectly in residual interests in REMICs or equity interests in TMPs. Under legislation enacted in December 2006, a CRT, as defined in section 664 of the Code, that realizes UBTI for a taxable year must pay an excise tax annually of an amount equal to such UBTI. Under IRS guidance issued in November 2006, a CRT will not recognize UBTI solely as a result of investing in a Fund that recognizes "excess inclusion income" (which is described earlier). Rather, as described above, if at any time during any taxable year a CRT (or one of certain other tax-exempt shareholders, such as the U.S., a state or political subdivision, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, and certain energy cooperatives) is a record holder of a share in a Fund that recognizes "excess inclusion income," then such Fund will be subject to a tax on that portion of its "excess inclusion income" for the taxable year that is allocable to such shareholders at the highest federal corporate income tax rate. The extent to which the IRS guidance in respect of CRTs remains applicable in light of the December 2006 CRT legislation is unclear. To the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, the

Funds may elect to allocate any such tax specifically to the applicable CRT, or other shareholder, and thus reduce such shareholder's distributions for the year by the amount of the tax that relates to such shareholder's interest in the Fund. CRTs are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the consequences of investing in a Fund.

## Backup Withholding

Each 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 fails to properly furnish the Fund with a correct taxpayer identification number ("TIN"), who has under-reported dividend or interest income, or who fails to certify to the Fund that he or she is not subject to such withholding. The backup withholding tax rate is 24%.

#### Non-U.S. Shareholders

In general, dividends (other than Capital Gain Dividends, certain interest-related dividends, and certain short-term capital gain dividends) paid by a Fund to a shareholder that is not a "U.S. person" within the meaning of the Code (such shareholder, a "foreign person") are subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30 percent (or lower applicable treaty rate) even if they are funded by income or gains (such as foreign-source dividend and interest income) that, if paid to a foreign person directly, would not be subject to withholding.

For a shareholder that is a non-U.S. entity, a withholding tax (known as "FATCA") was imposed on distributions paid after June 30, 2014, unless such shareholder enters into an information sharing agreement with the IRS or a governmental authority in the shareholder's own country with respect to the shareholder's direct and indirect U.S. owners or qualifies for an exception from entering into such agreement. Proposed regulations (which have current effect while pending) would eliminate a withholding tax on investment sale proceeds that was scheduled to go into effect in 2019.

Under U.S. federal tax law, a beneficial holder of shares who is a foreign person is not, in general, subject to U.S. federal income tax on gains (and is not allowed a deduction for losses) realized on the sale of shares of a Fund or on Capital Gain Dividends, certain interest-related dividends, and certain short-term capital gain dividends unless (i) such gain or dividends are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business carried on by such holder within the U.S. or (ii) in the case of an individual holder, the holder is present in the U.S. for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or dividends and certain other conditions are met. If a shareholder is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty, any effectively connected income or gain will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis only if it is also attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the shareholder in the U.S.

In order for a foreign investor to qualify for an exemption from the backup withholding and to claim tax treaty benefits, the foreign investor must comply with special certification and filing requirements. Foreign investors in the Funds should consult their tax advisers in this regard. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS.

A beneficial holder of shares who is a foreign person may be subject to state and local tax and to the U.S. federal estate tax in addition to the federal tax on income referred to above.

# Tax Deferred Plans

Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the suitability of shares of a Fund as an investment through such plans and the precise effect of such an investment on their particular tax situation.

#### Tax Shelter Reporting

Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to shareholders of most or all regulated investment companies. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers as to the state or local tax consequences of investing in a Fund.

### Tax Basis Information

The Funds (or their administrative agent) are required to report to the IRS and furnish to Fund shareholders the cost basis information and holding period for Fund shares purchased on or after January 1, 2012, and redeemed on or after that date. The Funds permit Fund shareholders to elect from among several permitted cost basis methods, including average cost. In the absence of an election, the Funds use a First-In First-Out method. The cost basis method a shareholder elects (or the cost basis method applied by default) may not be changed with respect to a redemption of shares after the settlement date of the redemption. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisors to determine the best permitted cost basis method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the cost basis reporting rules apply to them.

## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

# Investment Decisions and Portfolio Transactions

Investment decisions for the Funds are made with a view to achieving their respective investment objectives. Investment decisions are the product of many factors in addition to basic suitability for the particular client involved (including the Funds). Some securities considered for investment by the Funds also may 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. If a purchase or sale of securities consistent with the investment policies of a Fund and one or more of these clients is considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities will be allocated among the Fund and clients in a manner deemed fair and reasonable by the Adviser. Particularly when investing in less liquid or illiquid securities of smaller capitalization companies, such allocation may take into account the asset size of a Fund in determining whether the allocation of an investment is suitable. The Adviser may aggregate orders for the Funds with simultaneous transactions entered into on behalf of its other clients, so long as price and transaction expenses are averaged either for the portfolio transaction or for that day. 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. It also sometimes happens that two or more clients simultaneously purchase or sell the same security, in which event each day's transactions in such security are, insofar as possible, averaged as to price and allocated between such clients in a manner which in the Adviser's opinion is equitable to each and in accordance with the amount being purchased or sold by each. 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 Funds.

## Brokerage and Research Services

There is generally no stated commission in the case of securities traded on a principal basis in the OTC markets, but the price paid by the Funds usually includes an undisclosed dealer commission or markup. In underwritten offerings, the price paid by the Funds includes a disclosed, fixed commission or discount retained by the underwriter or dealer. Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges and other agency transactions involve the payment by the Funds of negotiated brokerage commissions. Such commissions vary among different brokers. Also, a particular broker may charge different commissions according to such factors as the difficulty and size of the transaction. Transactions in non-U.S. securities generally involve the payment of fixed brokerage commissions, which are generally higher than those in the U.S. The purchase by a Fund of participations or assignments may be pursuant to privately negotiated transactions pursuant to which a Fund may be required to pay fees to the seller or forego a portion of payments in respect of the participation agreement.

The Adviser places orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, options and futures contracts and buys and sells such securities, options and futures for a Fund through a substantial number of brokers and dealers. In so doing, the Adviser uses its best efforts to obtain for the Fund the most favorable price and execution available, except to the extent it may be permitted to pay higher brokerage commissions as described below. In seeking the most favorable price and execution, the Adviser, having in mind a Fund's best interests, considers all factors it deems relevant, including, by way of illustration, price, the size of the transaction, the nature of the market for the security, the amount of the commission, the timing of the transaction taking into account market prices and trends, the reputation, experience and financial stability of the broker-dealer involved and the quality of service rendered by the broker-dealer in that or other transactions.

The Adviser places orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio investments for a Fund's accounts with brokers or dealers selected by it in its discretion. In effecting purchases and sales of portfolio securities for the accounts of the Funds, the Adviser will seek the best price and execution of the Funds' orders. In doing so, a Fund may pay higher commission rates than the lowest available when the Adviser believes it is reasonable to do so in light of the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker effecting the transaction, as discussed below. Although the Funds may use a broker-dealer that sells Fund shares to effect transactions for the Funds' portfolios, the Funds will not consider the sale of Fund shares as a factor when selecting broker-dealers to execute those transactions.

It has for many years been a common practice in the investment advisory business for advisers of investment companies and other institutional investors to receive research and brokerage products and services (together, "services") from broker-dealers which execute portfolio transactions for the clients of such advisers. Consistent with this practice, the Adviser receives services from many broker-dealers with which the Adviser places the Funds' portfolio transactions. These services, which in some cases also may be purchased for cash, may include, among other things, such items as general economic and security market reviews, industry and company reviews, evaluations of securities, recommendations as to the purchase and sale of securities, and services related to the execution of securities transactions. The Adviser may also obtain research services by entering into commission sharing arrangements ("CSAs"). Under a CSA, the Adviser may execute a transaction through a broker-dealer and request that the broker-dealer allocate a portion of the commission to another broker-dealer that provides valuable research. The advisory fees paid by the Funds are not reduced because the Adviser receives such services even though the receipt of such services relieves the Adviser from expenses they might otherwise bear. Research and brokerage services provided by broker-dealers chosen by the Adviser to place the Funds' portfolio transactions may be useful to the Adviser in providing services to the Adviser's other clients, although not all of these services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing the Funds. Conversely, research and brokerage services provided to the Adviser by broker-dealers in connection with trades executed on behalf of other clients of the Adviser may be useful to the Adviser in managing the Funds, although not all of these services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing such other clients.

In reliance on the "safe harbor" provided by Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act, the Adviser may cause a Fund to pay a broker-dealer which provides "brokerage and research services" (as defined for purposes of Section 28(e)) to the Adviser an amount of commission for effecting a securities transaction for the Fund in excess of the commission which another broker-dealer would have charged for effecting that transaction if the Adviser determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by the broker-dealer viewed in terms of either a particular transaction or the Adviser's overall responsibilities to the advisory accounts for which it exercises investment discretion.

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 a Fund on a securities exchange if the commissions paid to such an affiliated broker-dealer by a 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."

The table below shows information on brokerage commissions paid by each Fund for the periods indicated, all of which were paid to entities that are not affiliated with the Funds or Adviser.

	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended	Fiscal Year Ended
<u>Fund</u>	<b>September 30, 2020</b>	<b>September 30, 2019</b>	<b>September 30, 2018</b>
Worldwide Fund	\$1,876,644	\$1,483,336	\$1,751,123
International Fund	\$1,165,952	\$907,435	\$1,437,447

Regular Broker Dealers. Each Fund is required to identify the securities of its regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) or their parent companies held by the Fund as of the close of their most recent fiscal year and state the value of such holdings. As of September 30, 2020, the Worldwide Fund held \$18,489,889 of securities issued by UBS Group AG, \$63,998,592 of securities issued by Barclays Bank PLC, and \$49,699,307 of securities issued by Societe Generale. As of September 30, 2020, the International Fund held \$9,960,219 of securities issued by UBS Group AG.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST

The Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of each series. Each share of each Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in such Fund with each other share of that Fund and is entitled to a proportionate interest in the dividends and distributions from that Fund. The Declaration of Trust further permits the Board to divide the shares of each series into any number of separate classes, each having such rights and preferences relative to other classes of the same series as the Board may determine. When you invest in a Fund, you acquire freely transferable shares of beneficial interest that entitle you to receive dividends as determined by the Board and to cast a vote for each share you own at shareholder meetings. The shares of each Fund do not have any preemptive rights. Upon termination of either Fund, whether pursuant to liquidation of the Trust or otherwise, shareholders of each class of that Fund are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets attributable to that class of shares of that Fund available for distribution to shareholders. The Declaration of Trust also permits the Board to charge shareholders directly for custodial, transfer agency, and servicing expenses.

Shares of each Fund are currently divided into three classes, designated Class A, Class C and Class I Shares.

The assets received by each class of a 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 a Fund are segregated and are charged with the expenses with respect to that class of the Fund and with a share of the general expenses of the relevant Fund and Trust. Any general expenses of the Trust that are not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular class of a Fund are allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable. While the expenses of the Trust are allocated to the separate books of account of each Fund, certain expenses may be legally chargeable against the assets of all of the Funds in the Trust.

The Declaration of Trust also permits the Board, without shareholder approval, to subdivide either a Fund or series or class of shares into various sub-series or sub-classes with such dividend preferences and other rights as the Trustees may designate. The Board also may, without shareholder approval, establish one or more additional series or classes or merge two or more existing series or classes without shareholder approval. Shareholders' investments in such an additional or merged series would be evidenced by a separate series of shares (*i.e.*, a new "Fund").

The Declaration of Trust provides for the perpetual existence of the Trust. The Trust or either Fund, however, may be terminated at any time by vote of at least two thirds of the outstanding shares of each Fund affected. Similarly, any class within a Fund may be terminated by vote of at least two thirds of the outstanding shares of such class. The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Board also may without shareholder approval terminate the relevant Trust or Fund upon written notice to its shareholders.

*Voting Rights.* Shareholders of both Funds are entitled to one vote for each full share held (with fractional votes for each fractional share held) and may vote (to the extent provided therein) on the election of Trustees and the termination of the Trust and on other matters submitted to the vote of shareholders.

All classes of shares of the Funds have identical voting rights except that each class of shares has exclusive voting rights on any matter submitted to shareholders that relates solely to that class, and has separate voting rights on any matter submitted to shareholders in which the interests of one class differ from the interests of any other class. Each class of shares has exclusive voting rights with respect to matters pertaining to any distribution or servicing plan or agreement applicable to that class. Matters submitted to shareholder vote will be approved by each series separately except (i) when required by the 1940 Act, shares shall be voted together and (ii) when the matter does not affect all series, then only shareholders of the series affected shall be entitled to vote on the matter. Consistent with the current position of the SEC, shareholders of all series and classes vote together, irrespective of series or class, on the election of Trustees and the selection of the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, but shareholders of each series vote separately on most other matters requiring shareholder approval, such as certain changes in investment policies of that series or the approval of the investment advisory and any subadvisory agreement relating to that series, and shareholders of each class within a series vote separately as to the Rule 12b-1 plan (if any) relating to that class.

There will normally be no meetings of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees, except that, in accordance with the 1940 Act, (i) the Trust will hold a shareholders' meeting for the election of Trustees at such time as less than a majority of the Trustees holding office have been elected by shareholders, and (ii) if there is a vacancy on the Board, such vacancy may be filled only by a vote of the shareholders unless, after filling such vacancy by other means, at least two-thirds of the Trustees holding office shall have been elected by the shareholders. In addition, Trustees may be removed

from office by a written consent signed by the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares and filed with the Trust's custodian or by a vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares at a meeting duly called for that purpose.

Except as set forth above, the Trustees shall continue to hold office and may appoint successor Trustees. Shareholder voting rights are not cumulative.

The affirmative vote of a majority of shares of the Trust voted (assuming a quorum is present in person or by proxy) is required to amend the Declaration of Trust if such amendment (1) affects the power of shareholders to vote, (2) amends the section of the relevant Declaration of Trust governing amendments, (3) is one for which a vote is required by law or by the Trust's registration statement or (4) is submitted to the shareholders by the Trustees. If one or more new series of the Trust is established and designated by the Trustees, the shareholders having beneficial interests in the Funds shall not be entitled to vote on matters exclusively affecting such new series, such matters including, without limitation, the adoption of or any change in the investment objectives, policies or restrictions of the new series and the approval of the investment advisory contracts of the new series. Similarly, the shareholders of the new series shall not be entitled to vote on any such matters as they affect the other Funds.

Shareholder and Trustee Liability. Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. However, the Declaration of Trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in each agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or the Trustees. The Declaration of Trust provides for indemnification out of each Fund's property for all loss and expense of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund by reason of owning shares of such Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is considered remote since it is limited to circumstances in which the disclaimer is inoperative and a Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Board will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. However, nothing in the Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability to which the Trustee would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. The Declaration of Trust of the Trust provides for indemnification by the Trust of Trustees and officers of the Trust, except with respect to any matter as to which any such person did not act in good faith in the reasonable belief that his or her action was in the best interests of the Trust. Such persons may not be indemnified against any liability to the Trust or the Trust's shareholders to whom he or she would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office.

Redemptions at the Option of the Trust. The Trust shall have the right at its option and at any time to redeem shares of any shareholder at the NAV thereof: (i) if at such time such shareholder owns shares of any series or class having an aggregate NAV of less than an amount determined from time to time by the Trustees; (ii) to the extent that such shareholder owns shares equal to or in excess of a percentage determined from time to time by the Trustees of the outstanding shares of the Trust or of any series or class; (iii) if the Trustees determine that such shareholder is engaging in conduct that is harmful to the Trust or any series or class; or (iv) if the Trustees otherwise determine such redemption to be necessary or appropriate.

#### **SECURITIES RATINGS**

The rating of a rating service represents the service's opinion as to the credit quality of the security being rated. However, the ratings are general and are not absolute standards of quality or guarantees as to the creditworthiness of an issuer. Consequently, the Adviser believes that the quality of debt securities in which a Fund invests should be continuously reviewed. A rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security, because it does not take into account market value or suitability for a particular investor. When a security has received a rating from more than one service, each rating should be evaluated independently. Ratings are based on current information furnished by the issuer or obtained by the ratings services from other sources, which they consider reliable. Ratings may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of such information, or for other reasons.

The following is a description of the characteristics of ratings used by Moody's and S&P.

## Moody's Ratings

- Aaa—Bonds rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest 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. Although 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 bonds.
- Aa—Bonds rated Aa are judged to be 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 bonds or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than in Aaa bonds.
- **A**—Bonds 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 which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.
- **Baa**—Bonds 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 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 rated B generally lack characteristics of the 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 rated Caa are of poor standing. Such bonds may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.
- **Ca**—Bonds rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such bonds are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.
- C—Bonds rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

# **S&P Ratings**

- AAA—Bonds rated AAA have the highest rating. Capacity to pay principal and interest is extremely strong.
- **AA**—Bonds rated AA have a very strong capacity to pay principal and interest and differ from AAA bonds only in small degree.
- **A**—Bonds rated A have a strong capacity to pay principal and interest, although they are somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than bonds in higher-rated categories.
- **BBB**—Bonds rated BBB are regarded as having an adequate capacity to pay principal and interest. Whereas they normally exhibit protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay principal and interest for bonds in this capacity than for bonds in higher-rated categories.
- **BB—B—CCC—CC—Bonds A-1—A-rated BB, B, CCC, CC** and C are regarded, on balance, as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation.
- **BB** indicates the lowest degree of speculation among such bonds and C the highest degree of speculation. Although such bonds will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions.

**D**—An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation, including a regulatory capital instrument, are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless it is believed 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 similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' upon completion of a distressed exchange offer, whereby some or all of the issue is either repurchased for an amount of cash or replaced by other instruments having a total value that is less than par.

#### APPENDIX A

## PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board of Trustees of the Funds has delegated the authority to develop policies and procedures relating to proxy voting to the Adviser. The Adviser has adopted a set of proxy voting policies and procedures (the "Policies") to ensure that the Adviser votes proxies relating to equity securities in the best interest of clients.

In voting proxies, the Adviser is guided by general fiduciary principles and seeks to act prudently and solely in the best interest of clients. The Adviser attempts to consider all factors that could affect the value of the investment and will vote proxies in the manner that it believes will be consistent with efforts to maximize shareholder values. The Adviser may utilize an external service provider to provide it with information and/or a recommendation with regard to proxy votes. However, such recommendations do not relieve the Adviser of its responsibility for the proxy vote.

In the case of a proxy issue for which there is a stated position in the Policies, the Adviser generally votes in accordance with such stated position. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is a list of factors set forth in the Policies that the Adviser considers in voting on such issue, the Adviser votes on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the general principles set forth above and considering such enumerated factors. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is no stated position or list of factors that the Adviser considers in voting on such issue, the Adviser votes on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the general principles set forth above. Issues for which there is a stated position set forth in the Policies or for which there is a list of factors set forth in the Policies that the Adviser considers in voting on such issues fall into a variety of categories, including election of trustees, ratification of auditors, proxy and tender offer defenses, capital structure issues, executive and trustee compensation, mergers and corporate restructurings, and social and environmental issues. The stated position on an issue set forth in the Policies can always be superseded, subject to the duty to act solely in the best interest of the beneficial owners of accounts, by the investment management professionals responsible for the account whose shares are being voted. Issues applicable to a particular industry may cause the Adviser to abandon a policy that would have otherwise applied to issuers generally. The Adviser's policy is to vote all proxies from a specific issuer in the same way for each client absent qualifying restrictions from the client.

In furtherance of the Adviser's goal to vote proxies in the best interest of clients, the Adviser follows procedures designed to identify and address material conflicts that may arise between the Adviser's interests and those of its clients before voting proxies on behalf of such clients. To seek to identify conflicts of interest, the Adviser reviews its relationship with the issuer of each security to determine if the Adviser or any of its employees has any financial, business or personal relationship with the issuer. The Adviser is also sensitive to the fact that a significant, publicized relationship between an issuer and a non- affiliate might appear to the public to influence the manner in which the Adviser decides to vote a proxy with respect to such issuer.

The Adviser's CCO reviews and addresses conflicts of interest brought to her attention. A proxy issue that will be voted in accordance with a stated position on an issue or in accordance with the recommendation of an independent third party is not brought to the attention of the CCO for a conflict of interest review because the Adviser's position is that to the extent a conflict of interest issue exists, it is resolved by voting in accordance with a pre-determined policy or in accordance with the recommendation of an independent third party. With respect to a conflict of interest brought to its attention, the CCO first determines whether such conflict of interest is material. A conflict of interest is considered material to the extent that it is determined that such conflict is likely to influence, or appear to influence, the Adviser's decision-making in voting proxies.

If it is determined by the CCO that a conflict of interest is not material, the Adviser may vote proxies notwithstanding the existence of the conflict. If it is determined by the CCO that a conflict of interest is material, the CCO is responsible for determining an appropriate method to resolve such conflict of interest before the proxy affected by the conflict of interest is voted. Such determination is based on the particular facts and circumstances, including the importance of the proxy issue and the nature of the conflict of interest. Methods of resolving a material conflict of interest may include, but are not limited to, disclosing the conflict to clients and obtaining their consent before voting, or suggesting to clients that they engage another party to vote the proxy on their behalf.